



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

7 May 2006

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Holy Communion both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship
 Preacher -- Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
 Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry
 Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship
 Preacher - -- Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
 Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper
 Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

14 May - Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.30 Service of Holy Communion
9.30am St Mark's Church – Morning Worship
 Preacher - Mr C Izzard
 Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams
 Intercessions - Mr John Tatman
11.00am Putnoe Heights— Morning Worship
 Preacher - Mr C Izzard
 Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
 Intercessions - Mrs Betty Wyatt

Reading 1 : Acts 8: 26-40
Reading 2 : 1 John 4: 7-21
Reading 3 : John 15: 1-8

Annual Congregational Meetings Today

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Kath Hooley in loving memory of her husband, Ron

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

Prayer for Sunday

Risen Christ,
 faithful Shepherd
 of your Father's sheep:
 teach us to hear your voice
 and to follow your command,
 that all your people
 may be gathered into one flock,
 to the glory of God the Father.
 Amen.

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
 107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
 266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
 (Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM
 (Day off Friday)
 12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE
 326643 Mobile -07917 356062 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)
 30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
 Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)
 The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
 309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Youth and Children's Worker
 Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 12 noon Monday & Friday
9am - 5pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101
Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428
 Treasurerph@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592
Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Partnership News is also archived on our church website
www.ThisisChurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school Mrs Janet Smith 326685

8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

9.00 am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.

Mini-Strikers Sport for Children at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or www.ministrikers.co.uk

12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

4pm Story Box Plus at St. Marks for 4 -11 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments & games, then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church the 1st Sunday of each month. Lots of fun. Free. Contact Liz 302349

4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044

4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.15pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next 15 May Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

9.30am -12.30 & 4 - 9pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg 351223

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

2 - 5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 9 May Revd. C. Royden, Contact Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 9 May with Women's Fellowship. contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Mary Stubbs 406784.

3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792

7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's. Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.

7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr on 360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Dog and Puppy Training at Putnoe Heights. Contact Lynn Southwell 07974 743240

7.45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 16 May 7.30pm Charity Evening Bedford Town Band.£5 inc. refreshments. In aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong. Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

Wednesday

9.30am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949

9.30am - Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787.

9.00 a.m. Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 17 May Putnoe 365630

1 - 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights . Mrs Webster 856966

4.15pm - Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Mr James 07711 687449

6.00 pm Brownies at St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden 219731

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge at St. Mark's. Brian Sallows 407725

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting . Sylvia Woods 365095
7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073
7.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips 01582 485333

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

1.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's 267444

12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 302349

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe. Geraldine Skeel 406828

1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group. Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Radmila Dancer 404811

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11 year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349

5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.

Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7pm Street Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild at St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby 344442

7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr 360188

7.45pm. Housegroup- Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole Maunder 301325

9.00 am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.

1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

2pm U3A Gardening Group at Putnoe Heights.

6pm Self Defence at Putnoe. Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18 at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatre Train at St Mark's - dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe. Meets monthly next meeting. Philip Jones 350295

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's

9.30 - 10.30 at St.Mark's

11-12 at Putnoe Heights.

1 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council 14 June, 11 Oct
Circuit Meeting

St Mark's Leadership Team - 6 June, 12 Sept
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 2 May

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

Putnoe Heights Management - 15 May,

Putnoe Church Council 12 June, 9 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - 5 June 11a.m

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting - .

Partnership Council - 19 Sept

Brickhill Parish Council -

Deanery Meeting St Mary's Eucharist 22 June, 14 September, 16 November

Annual Congregational Meetings 7 May 2006
 3pm St Mark's, 4pm Putnoe Heights

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - , 28 June

Calendar dates appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Verse of Scripture The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing. Psalm 23 v 1

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in Him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where He reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading - Acts 4: 5 - 12

The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the

people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

(Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 John 3: 16 - 24

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

(Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - John 10: 11 - 18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

(Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)



Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father; you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in His love for us to lay down His life and rise again: keep us always under His protection, and give us grace to follow in His steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise*)

1. The King of love my shepherd is, 649
2. Majesty 454
3. The Lord's my shepherd 660
4. Fill thou my life 146
5. I will sing a wondrous story, 315

Commentary

One Shepherd, One Sheep Herd

In today's Gospel Jesus says twice "I am the good shepherd." The context is the continuation of the discussions Jesus is having with the Pharisees after He has healed a man who was born blind. This man, who was blind, first heard the voice of Jesus and through believing in that voice came to believe and that was his sight. The implication is clear: the Pharisees are blinded by what they see and so are impaired of hearing and therefore do not believe. Hearing and believing becomes the central message of Jesus' saying that he is the "Good Shepherd." And, as the good shepherd He will stay faithful whilst the "hired," or the Pharisees, turn away and have turned away from their vocation of tending and leading their "flock." The Pharisees hear that they are interested only in being paid and so have made that their mission rather than caring and guiding their flock.

In identifying Jesus as a "good shepherd" John also sets up the contrast not just between Himself and the present day Pharisees but between Himself and the self-serving and corrupt "shepherds" of Israel's past, the wicked kings and leaders whose lack of concern for their people resulted in internal decay and external ruin. Indeed, the corruption of Israel's kings so disgusted God that Ezekiel had prophesied how God would personally come to be their shepherd. Thus in Jesus we see God's desire to shepherd His people personally being fulfilled. What Ezekiel expected to be exercised by God is now accomplished in Jesus. Jesus' care for his sheep is total: He shepherds the flock at the cost of laying down his own life for them. In some ways this is the reverse of what we might expect. Ordinarily in biblical times it was the sheep that were sacrificed. But in Jesus we have no ordinary shepherd!

The good shepherd not only lays down his life for the sheep, He knows the sheep and the sheep know him, not just through some kind of superficial knowledge but through deep experience and a relationship. Jesus, the good shepherd knows His sheep (that's us!) because, as John tells us at the beginning of His gospel, He "became flesh and lived among us". Jesus knows his own, because he has lived in our skin and has experienced our joys and sorrows.

The ministry of the shepherd is threefold: to protect the sheep, preserve the unity of the flock, and to lead them. The shepherd does whatever he can to protect the sheep from harm and from being scattered. The response of the sheep to such a shepherd is to hear his voice and to follow where he leads. As Christians we have a responsibility to shepherd the community in which we live and to be the sheep that faithfully follow the voice of Christ. It is not enough to go through the motions of being a Christian, Christ wants more than lip service, He wants our hearts.

Contained in the message of the good shepherd there is a clear message regarding all our roles in leadership within the community of faith. Just as it berates the failure of Israel's spiritual leaders and attacks the 'professionals', who are in ministry for the job and not as a calling, it emphasises that without personal commitment to God there can be no real leadership within the church. It's a reminder to all who seek to lead, in any walk of life, that they need real commitment to the cause and that they need to keep close to those they seek to lead.

John's gospel also illustrates that the role of the true shepherd is not only to be inward looking and

care for the flock already in their charge, but to be outward looking and bring in sheep who are not already part of the flock. Sheep who might be very different from ourselves. We have one shepherd, we should be one Sheep Herd.

Jesus' way of winning people was to be attractive to them and to care and provide for them, whatever their background or heritage. To lay aside by choice His self ego, and become a door through which they could be nurtured and enter into fellowship with God and each other. Just as Peter was called by Jesus to feed and nurture His sheep, so are we. And in Jesus we have a model which He invites us to follow. To be leaders and shepherds, caring, feeding and nurturing for those in our community whatever flock they may come from. Sam Cappleman

Meditation

Go now with your trust in the good shepherd, and let us love, not just in words, but in truth and action. Believe in the name of Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he has commanded us. And may God be at your side, even in valleys of death. May Christ Jesus be the cornerstone of your life. And may the Holy Spirit abide in youand tend you with love and mercy all the days of your life. Nathan Nettleton www.laughingbird.net

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Amen

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Father God, we are thankful for Jesus. We know Him and He knows us. Thank you for all those who have been our shepherds. We ask that you would help us to be your good shepherds. Amen.

Living God, you have given us a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead: grant that we, being risen with Him, may fix our hearts on heavenly things and share eternal life. Amen

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do His will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen

My natural mother, my gracious mother, my most precious mother, have mercy on me. I have made myself dirty and unlike you, and I may not and cannot make it better, except with your secret help and your grace. *Julian of Norwich (c.1342-c.1416)*

Grant to us, O Lord, to pass this day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain, that reaching the eventide victorious over all temptation, we may again praise you, the eternal God, blessed over all things now and for ever. Amen *Mozarabic Sacramentary, 10th century*

News, Views and Information

Annual Moody & Sankey Evening at Park Road on Sunday 4 June at 6.30pm. If you would like to choose a hymn let Bill Davies or Jenny Clifford (404644) know by 29.5.06. If you would like to say a few words about your choice you are welcome to but it is not compulsory. Everyone is welcome to come for a rousing sing. Jenny Clifford.

Examine your vocation. Today is Vocations Sunday. It is a chance to consider the issue of vocation in general and to focus on specific forms of vocation through accredited and authorised ministry within the church such as the ministry of Reader, evangelist, deacon or priest, whether in a traditional setting or in 'fresh expressions'. Resources are available on the Diocesan website: www.stalbans.anglican.org/xtiandevlopment/vocation.html

Setting the Standards. Do you expect high standards from your local councillors? Can you make a positive contribution? If the answer is yes then Bedford Borough Council would like to hear from you. The council is seeking to appoint an independent member to its Standards Committee. There are four meetings each year. Telephone 221609 for an information pack (Michael Gough), or visit www.bedford.gov.uk to download documents.

Bridge Cottage sold. The sale of Bridge Cottage has now taken place for £275,000. The sale was delayed whilst we pursued development potential for the site to ensure that maximum saleable value was realised. Having done this we are now pleased that after costs have been deducted and loans repaid, which were necessary to make outright purchase, we will have a large gift to advance the work of our church. A detailed breakdown of costs will be made available. The money will now be lodged with Methodist Trustees and released to Putnoe Heights Church in accordance with criteria which determines fit expenditure. This precludes using the capital for normal operating costs but would allow for special projects as deemed appropriate by the Church Council. We are extremely grateful to Jack and Alice Pitts for this generous gift which will allow us extraordinary mission opportunities. Please do consider the possibility of remembering your church in your will. Legacies are a way of really making a difference to the long term vision of our church.

London NW District Women's Network

Celebration Service Saturday 20 May at 2.30 pm at West London Mission, Hinde Street, London.

NCH –A social evening for NCH with music by "Sounds Instrumental" will be held at Kempston East

Methodist Church on Saturday 13th May at 7.30pm. There will be songs from the 60's to the 90's and refreshments, a gift stall, competitions and a sing-a-long. Tickets £3.00 available from Margaret Standley or Vera Pearson.

Tuesday Club Charity Evening -On Tuesday May 16th at Putnoe Heights Church. A concert by Bedford Town Band in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Cost £5 (including refreshments). Please support our annual charity event. All welcome.

Putnoe Heights grass cutting rota is on the notice board. Anyone who can help please sign up, it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Footprints Rambling Group invite you to join them Sunday 21 May for a 4 mile circular walk around Stevington. Meet at 2.30pm in car park of the Royal George. As car parking is limited, please share cars where possible. Sue & Richard Butler 354183.

Stella Brooks would like to thank all her friends at Church who sent cards, messages & visited during her stay in hospital & since. She hopes to be back with you shortly.

Christian Aid Week. 14 - 20 May If you are able to help distribute and collect the envelopes please collect a bundle from the table in the foyer and write your name on the list located on the table. Many thanks.

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her supporters for their donation of £100 raised at their last Whist Drive.

Stables Christian Centre. We have tickets for an open morning to the Stables Christian Centre on May 13. It would be good to send church members especially any members of the Church Leadership Teams to represent our churches.

Car Boot Sale Thanks to everybody who helped last week. The threat of rain reduced our car booters dramatically, even though it never came. In the end we still managed to raise over 800 pounds.

Swedish Night Thanks to Ian Farthing and Janet Day and all of the helpers who organised another fantastic themed Swedish Evening. The next event will be a Mediterranean evening with Vittorio on 23 September

Christian Aid Week 14—20 May 2006. There are many envelopes waiting to be delivered and collected. If you would like to help in this way then please do take one this week.

Nomination Paper

Representatives to the Church Council for the year May 2006 – April 2007

If there is a Church Member whom you consider would be a benefit to the Church Council, please obtain their consent and add a seconder. Then hand the paper in to the Church Office. All Church Councils are 'open meetings', but we have to keep a list of Council members, and only members are allowed to vote at meetings.

The Church Council is made up as follows (extract from our Constitution): "There shall be a Church Council for each Centre which shall be responsible for the organisation of the Centre and to oversee local arrangements. The Church Councils shall be made up of the members of the Ministerial Team, the Church Leadership Team of the church, the church Treasurer, the leader of any Sunday School/Junior Church, the Co-ordinator of groups appointed by the Church Council, the Deanery Synod Representative, a Circuit Steward, together with a number of church members, not exceeding the number of lay members, elected at a properly convened meeting of the congregation. A Minutes Secretary [non-voting] shall be appointed by the Council."

I wish to nominate

To the Church Council for one year from May 2006.

Proposer

Secunder

Agenda Annual Congregation Meeting 2006

To take place at St. Mark's 3.00pm
& Putnoe Heights 4.00pm

Opening prayers

Appointment of minute secretary to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Record of number of persons present

(Please note that no record is required of names of those present or apologies from the congregation for absence)

Expressions of thanks to any leaving office

Elections to Office

1. Election of Church Leadership Team
2. Election of Deanery Synod representative
3. Election of Church Council representatives

Presentations

1. Presentation of Terrier and Inventory
2. Presentation of current church policy documents
3. Presentation of August church accounts
4. Presentation of membership lists
5. Presentation of review by Church Leadership Team and presented in written document form

Closing Prayers

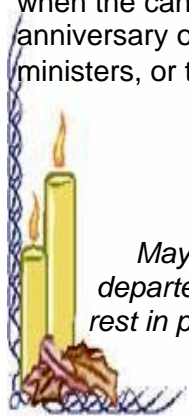
Please note that there will not be 'any other business.' Matters concerning the life of the church should be referred to members of the Church Leadership Team for their attention, to be brought subsequently to Church Council .

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

Sam Johnson

May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.'



Safeguarding. Anybody who has contact with children or vulnerable adults must have CRB clearance. When telephoning to seek documentation please remember that your employer is either St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church - it is not one of our groups such as Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.

Rest in Peace



The funeral of Mr David John Anstee will take place at the chapel, St Mark's Church on Wednesday 17 May 2006 at 2.30pm