



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

8 January 2006

Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows

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 Communion
**9.30am St Mark's Church - Covenant Service with
renewal of Baptism Vows**

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

**11.00am Putnoe Heights - Covenant Service with
renewal of Baptism Vows**

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

15 January 2006

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher - Dr Veronica Moss (Mildmay)
Leadership - Mr Ian Farthing
Intercessions - Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Dr Veronica Moss (Mildmay)
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Reading 1 : Samuel 3: 1-10 **Reading 2** : Rev 5: 3: 1-10
Reading 3 : John 1:43-51

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Margot Partner in celebration of her 90th birthday.

Congratulations to Margot we send her all our love and best wishes from her friends at both churches.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate 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

Grant to me, O Lord,
a gentle spirit open to you;
a generous mind open to all others
and a loving heart
worthy of being your dwelling place;
through Christ our Lord. Amen

John of Kronstadt, 1829 -1908

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 - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen 407264

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 - 5pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592

treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Children's and Youth Worker-Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Frid Putnoe Heights Pre-school Mrs Janet Smith 326685
9.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Frid 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.
10.00am Supple Strength at Putnoe Heights. Louise Woodcock 270302
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
4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 400987
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 16 January 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. Val Careless 345213.
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895
2 - 5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.
1.30pm Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 10 January -Mr & Mrs Willis, Salvation Army. Betty Wyatt 350188.
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. 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.
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 Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr on 360188 or 07866775515
7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly.at 7.45pm Next meeting 10 January 2006 Talk on Wildlife in Churchyards by Anne Doody Madge Walsh 359088
8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) - Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

9.30am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
9.30am Bedford U3A at Putnoe Heights meets bi-monthly. Next meeting . Jenny Coggins 266379
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 11 January 2006 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
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. Pam Holley 771964
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

8.45-9.45pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) starting Mr F Steele 355937

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 1234 302349

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

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

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Celia Maddison 782901

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Heights. 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. 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 Heights. Helga Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Pat Stidolph 345247

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

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

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs K Sage 771525

Bibleway Church 7.30—9.30-Putnoe Heights 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 meets at St Mark's 3 Thursday each month. 1 Thursday as from January 2006 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.

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

7. 30pm Bibleway Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 360188

Saturday

9.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517

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

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe Heights. 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- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway 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

8 February 2006

Circuit Meeting 16 March 2006

St Mark's Leadership Team - 2006 17 January, 24 April, 6 June,

12 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 16 Jan 2006

Putnoe Church Council 6 February 2006

Pastoral Group Meeting - 6 February 2006 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

18 January 2006 7.30p.m. at 14 Flint Way..

Partnership Council - 24 January 2006

Brickhill Parish Council - 12th January

Joint Deanery Circuit 18 January 2006

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Mission Group Meeting - 18 January 2006, 7pm at 14 Flint Way.

Calendar dates appear also on our church website www.ThisChurch.com.

Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Bible Notes

Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows

Verse of Scripture Joshua 24:14

Fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

God of grace, through the mediation of your Son, you call us into a new covenant. Help us therefore to draw near with faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading Exodus 24:3-11

When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Additional Reading Read by a Minister Jeremiah 31: 31-34

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading Romans 12: 1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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

Gospel Reading John 15:1-10 Please stand

(After the Gospel is announced All: 'Glory to Christ our Saviour')

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. (Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ - **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, with these Holy gifts you have strengthened us in Jesus Christ your Son. Guide us on our way, that with all your faithful people we may come to share the feast of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns (*Please distribute Covenant and Renewal Booklets and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. All praise to our redeeming Lord 753 (Tune Lucius)
2. Praise him on the trumpet (Mission Praise 558)
3. Take my life and let it be 705
4. O happy day 702

Commentary

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

If you had been alive the middle of the seventeenth century, which side would you have been on? Roundheads or Cavaliers? King Charles or Parliament? I think you can tell quite a lot about people from the side they choose. Can you guess which side I would have been on? The Royalists have got the lovely clothes, they have the culture, Rubens, Van Dyck, great musicians and architects worked for the King. He certainly had good taste. However Charles I was an absolutist monarch who believed in bullying tactics to get his own way and was prepared to dispense with silly old Parliament when it didn't do what he wanted. But on the other side the Parliamentarians had very dull clothes, dodgy haircuts. ...as Charlie told us last year, they abolished the celebration of Christmas. They got rid of maypoles and tried to ban FUN. But the puritan faction had very exciting, progressive ideas about personal freedom, about men and women having a personal relationship with their Maker. If they didn't like dancing and drinking, the Puritans had idealism. They loved language, wave upon wave of wonderful preaching, extempore prayer, writing about God and the way that His people could serve Him. What the Puritan position boils down to is summed up in just two words: discipline and commitment.

Wesley was influenced by many traditions. We know of his interest in the Moravians, for example, and also his love of early Anglican writers. But for this service, Wesley turned back to one of his passionate loves, the Puritan writers. In particular he admired Joseph Alleine's great book on the Old Testament Covenant and his linking that covenant with the people of his own age, who were to be the new Chosen Race. Wesley borrowed from Alleine's magnificent language, prophetic warnings and Apocalyptic threats. What Wesley achieved was a linguistic balance between his source and the needs of his own, Methodist people. You will see from the prayers in Partnership News this week that very similar thoughts occurred to the devout Catholic Ignatius of Loyola.

Writing on "The Character of a Methodist" Wesley tried to sum up what Methodism was not and then, more demandingly, set out what it was to be. "...the one desire of his life" (a Methodist's) shall be "to do not his own will, but the will of Him that sent him; his one intention at all times and in all things is, not to please himself, but Him whom his soul loveth. He has the single eye." I really like that phrase, the single eye, suggesting as it does, an ability to focus on just one thing, the most important thing.

It is a very real problem when you have a great many material possessions, as most of us do, that our attention is constantly being distracted from important matters. We have television, DVDs, video, radio, the telephone, the kids have texts and email and the Internet. We live at a highly privileged time in history. We don't for the most part have to worry much about lack of food, we certainly don't have to forage for it, or hunt or grow it. We aren't under pressure about the rains failing or the health of the harvest. We live longer and healthier lives than any generation before us. But are we making use of the time that our culture has allowed us? Do not most of us live in constant search of distraction, from reality television, soap operas, music, shopping, gossip? All these ephemeral things absorb our interest only fleetingly before we flit off to the next temporary preoccupation.

I expect people in the Puritan era or Wesley's eighteenth century had their distractions too. I expect, instead of watching soaps, people gossiped about the aristocracy. Instead of watching Celebrity Big Brother they went to a bearbaiting or a cockfight. Perhaps the banning of dancing and Christmas was an attempt to make people focus on God and important things. The trouble is that kind of bullying doesn't work. I don't think God wants forced recruits, He wants volunteers. You can't shove other people into a right relation with God. And so the Covenant service offers us a space to make our own choice. To gently bring our minds back to the essentials. To make again the commitment to love and serve God.

The original Covenant service was prepared for in a three hour catechism and self-examination, in which symptoms of back-sliding, spiritual laziness and weakness of oral life were rooted out, thoroughly addressed and later repented of. Psychologically I suppose these exercises were absolutely right, that they involved real self examination, the gaining of self-knowledge and a determination to begin again. Now I am not proposing a three hour confession of sin, but it does make you wonder whether it might not be helpful for us to allocate time to ask deep questions about the way we live.

I am going to take some time now to analyse what Wesley is saying in the prayer of Dedication, to help us focus on what he meant and what it might mean to us. I am no longer my own but yours. The first line is about letting go of control and acknowledging God's power over our lives. What that really means in practical terms is explored in the next sentence. **"Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will"** these lines remind us of one of the preoccupations of the eighteenth century, with social rank, mixing in the right society. In our age we have other obsessions, more to do with wealth than class. But for Wesley's age, loss of rank was truly terrifying, and the willingness to be placed in the wrong order of society was a brave, heroic self-sacrifice.

"put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you". These lines further submit to God's will in how and where we serve him. It acknowledges the possibility that God might seem not to want our service! A friend who was ordained with me, had ME for about six months and wrote to tell me that he had found Wesley's words very helpful, that inactivity might as much a part of God's plan as activity. That God might desire our willingness to be patient and wait upon Him.

Let me be **"exalted for you or brought low for you"** these few sparse words are rich in content, hinting at the whole issue of success and suggesting that they are not of any importance, that it is for God to decide what constitutes success not the admiration of the world. Obsessed as we all are by self-esteem and seeming in control, this phrase cuts us down to size.

"Let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing" these words are very clever because they could just be about having possessions, or life's blessings, they could also be about health, spiritual and mental.

The last lines in this section of the passage pack the decisive punch **"I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal"**. It marks a total giving over of self into God's hands, to be used or not as He chooses. It takes incredible courage to acknowledge that God has the power over us and courage to offer ourselves, not just as and when we feel like it, but as God requires.

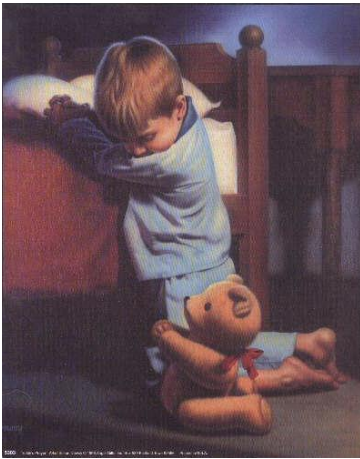
The final section is a kind of drawing together, reminding one almost of a marriage service, an exchange of selves. **"Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen"**. We don't just give in this service we also receive. We gain, in exchange for our self-giving, the presence of God. We gain far more than we are giving. The great conundrum of self-giving is that we gamble ourselves and always win. But giving over of power takes courage. Right at the end of the Indiana Jones and the Holy Grail film, Indie, the hero, has to step out into what appears to be an empty space, over a bottomless canyon. Only faith and courage allows him to do anything so stupid, but of course he is right to make the leap of faith and so are we. In the words we say collectively, we promise again to make the leap of faith and to give ourselves without knowing the outcome, what it will mean, where it might take us. But we have our tradition, the experience of those who have gone before us, to encourage us to step out into the future. *Joan Crossley*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all that I have and possess. Thou hast given all to me. To Thee, O Lord, I return it all. All is Thine; dispose of it wholly according to Thy Will. Give me Thy love and Thy grace, for this is sufficient for me. For with these I am rich enough and desire nothing more. Amen (Ignatius of Loyola)

My Lord God I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Thomas Merton

O Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon thy holy will. In every hour of the day reveal thy will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul, and with firm conviction that thy will governs all. In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that all are sent by thee. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray thou thyself in me. Amen. *Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow*



All Age Teddy Bear Service

Bring your Teddy to church

Sunday 5 February 2006

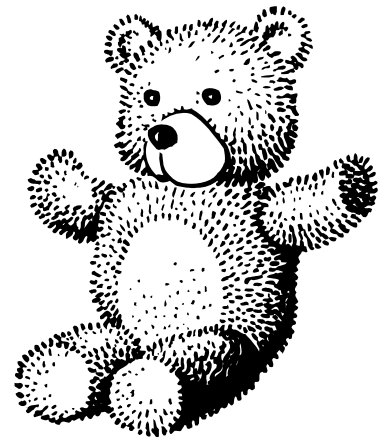
9.30am at St Mark's Church

11.00am at Putnoe Heights Church

Followed by teddy bear treats and drinks

'Teddy bear, teddy bear,
say your prayers'

For details please speak to Liz Spavins
Partnership Children's Worker 01234 302349



News, Views and Information

Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch 1pm Sunday 15 January Tickets now available £8 (£4.50 children under 10). 3 courses, wine, coffee & seasonal festive atmosphere. Proceeds to Mildmay Charity and Putnoe Church Funds.

Diocesan Resources Locate to St Mark's. We are delighted to announce that the Diocese of St Albans Education Department has decided to relocate their educational resources to St Mark's. New furniture will be provided in the chapel to display books and materials, which can be browsed in the special environment which the chapel provides of peace and tranquillity. Since St Mark's is open all day it provides an ideal location for anybody wanting to drop in and see what is available. In supporting this move the church council have embarked upon an exciting new venture into the area of Christian education. We will make an announcement when resources start to be moved to St Mark's.

Footprints Sunday 22 January 2pm Meet at Clapham (Shopping Parade) for 4mile circular walk through Clapham Park, across the golf course and

Twinwoods with good views across the Ouse Valley. Further details from Sue 407264

'Sounds Instrumental' (Keyboard Ensemble) A Concert at Houghton Conquest Village Hall on Saturday 14 January at 7.30pm. Tickets £2 available from Peter Frost 01234 212560. Refreshments & raffle. Proceeds to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice.

Christmas Card Box This year £50 was raised, which was sent to The National Children's Homes. Thank you all very much. Joy & Peter Parker.

Sale of Unwanted Christmas Gifts at Putnoe following the Teddy Bear All Age Service on Sunday 5 February. Proceeds to Church Funds. Please see Liz for more details.

Putnoe Junior Church ' Help' rota is now on the notice board in the welcome area. If you would like to join us one Sunday & see what we get up to please put your name down. We look forward to welcoming you. Liz & Sam.



Mildmay 'Continuing the mission of Jesus'

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

Mark 1 v 14 - 42.

Thank you for your gifts for the Mildmay appeal. We have already now collected over £1,000. Please continue to give generously to this appeal. Mildmay is a Christian charity which works with victims of Aids in London and sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe. We will conclude the appeal in February. On 15 January our speaker at both churches will be Dr Veronica Moss who is Mildmay's Chief Executive and Chief Medical Officer which is great news. Please support this important fundraising effort and help us make a difference for the men, women, children and babies who are afflicted by this terrible disease in our own country and across the world. **Sam**

What you gifts can do

£10 buys minibus fuel, to bring in sick children to our centre in Uganda

£28 pays for intensive counselling to help UK patients overcome the trauma of AIDS illnesses

£49 pays for the crucial services provided by our pastoral care team in Uganda

£75 pays for vital physiotherapy to get Ugandan patients back on their feet again after illness

£100 provides expert medical care at our UK hospital to keep patients free of pain and monitored for side-effects from strong anti-HIV drugs

£250 provide a special air-cushioned mattress to make a chronically ill patient more comfortable

£500 pays for a whole day's nursing care for 'family admissions' at our UK hospital

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.

**Joan Elizabeth Voce
Tim Herbert Judd**

*May the souls of all the faithful
departed through the mercy
of God, rest in peace and*

Confirmation/Membership Course 2006 We shall be holding a five week course for those wishing to be Confirmed or admitted to full Methodist church membership. Bishop Richard will be coming to conduct the Confirmations on Sunday March 12th. Neil will perform the Methodist section of the service. We already have a number of people, young and more mature, wishing to take part. But there are still places available The classes will be held on Sunday mornings during the 11am service at Putnoe. The first class will begin on 29 January **29 January.** We begin with a brief history of the Anglican and Methodist traditions. Where are they similar and what defines them? We will also talk about the identity of the partnership. (Neil and Joan) **5 February** 'So why do you want to be confirmed/ admitted to Membership' (Neil) **12 February** 'What difference does being a Christian make?' **19 February** Using and understanding the Bible. **26 February** Prepared for change. **12 March** Confirmation and admission service 11am Putnoe.

A Hymn for Sunday

Praise Him on the trumpet the psaltery and harp
Praise Him on the timbrel and the dance,
Praise Him with stringed instruments too.
Praise Him on the loud cymbals,
Praise Him on the loud cymbals,
Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!

Hallelujah, praise the Lord.
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.
Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord.
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.
Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord.

Rest in Peace

Forthcoming funerals
to be taken by our Ministers

The funeral of Mrs Doris Wilson will take place at 10.00am on Monday 9 January at Bedford Crematorium. *Royden*

The funeral of Douglas Bland will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 17 January at 9.15am *Royden*

The funeral of Evelyn May Ingram will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 17 January at 11.30am