



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

11 December 2005

Third Sunday of Advent - Christingle

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 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Howard Connell

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am -Putnoe Heights -Morning Worship

Preacher- Mr Howard Connell

Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt

Intercessions - Mrs Betty Wyatt

18 December

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church -

Preacher - The Reverend Neil Bramble Chapman

Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe Heights

Preacher - The Reverend Neil Bramble Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Mr Edward Peck

Next Week's Bible Readings

1 Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-11

2 Reading - Romans 16:25-37

3 Reading - Luke 1:26-38

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Sylvia Cohen and family in loving memory of Ken Cohen, and by Vincent and Pearl James in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Catherine Corfield in memory of her husband John.

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 for Sunday

Advent God, you draw close to us,
and beckon us to listen
to the gentleness of your voice
obscured by the noise of our restlessness and strife.
Illuminate our lives
with the light of your redeeming love
That we might bear witness
to the joy of living in your presence. 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 - 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 Pre-school (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).

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 19 December St. Marks 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

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

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

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

12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm 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 3 January -Revd Sam Cappleman

Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 3 January with Ladies 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 13 December Christmas 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. Christmas Meal on 14 December 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.*

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings at St Mark's

2.00pm—3.00pm. Clinic at St Marks 267444

1.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's from 5.1.06 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 4-11year 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

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 - 19 December 2pm

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

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

Partnership Council - 24 January 2006

Brickhill Parish Council - 24 November 2005

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

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B



Verse of Scripture James 1:17

'Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.'

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray.

God of mercy and power, whose Son rules over all, grant us so to live In obedience to your holy will, that at his appearing we may be raised to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading – Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed." I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute special service sheets and Hymns and Psalms*)

On Jordan's Bank 84, How lovely on the mountains (Service sheet 249 Mission Praise), When Jesus came to Jordan, The orange of christingle, Lord of the Church we pray for our renewing

Commentary Advent

The readings from Isaiah and from Paul to the Thessalonians encourage us to rejoice. This is appropriate at a time of year when we sing about joyfulness and truthfully most people desperately seek the fulfilment which results in the ability to live a joyful life.

So how do we arrive at a position whereby we can be joyful? The secret is surely to learn to be content within ourselves. I am not a great fan of so many of the television programmes these days which seek to reward the winner with great fame and recognition. Not because there is anything wrong with wanting to sing, just that so many people are led to believe that money, fame, success are avenues to happiness. When we look at the drug filled, lonely lives of pop stars it is transparently obvious that stardom, being regarded as an idol is no road to happiness.

Happy people are able to enjoy what they are, they are not always trying to be something or somebody else. One television programme has a catch phrase 'tonight I am going to be.' At which the performer goes off to make themselves look and sound like their pop look alike. At one level it is all a bit of fun, but at a more sinister level it is quite dreadful. Many people spend their lives trying to be somebody else, chasing an allusive dream, on the misapprehension that they would be happy if only they could.....

To be happy we must not want to be somebody else, not long for the moment when we can attain fame or fortune. We are best able to rejoice when we are content with being ourselves. We are to be encouraged to like ourselves more, not desire to be like another person but to have self-esteem.

Perhaps that is what John the Baptist was like. He was a rugged and wild character, poor and living a frugal life. He was completely free of pretence and more than content to point away from himself to another. He must have been very secure within himself and confident to be able to do this. John is modest, free from pretension and desires no great status or privilege.

Society is full of people who are having difficulty and we proclaim that they need to 'find themselves.' It is no wonder that so many relationships are on the rocks, how can we get on with others when we have so much trouble getting along with ourselves? With John there was no ambiguity, no longing to be different, just a willingness to serve God where he was.

Perhaps the most important journey which any of us make is that one inside ourselves. The ability to look deep within and ask questions knowing that there is no point lying to ourselves, that we have to see ourselves as we really are and learn to be pleased about it. It is not that we see our faults and think them to be good things, that we need no correction. Rather it is learning to accept ourselves, without pretension, no need to be artificial or put on a show. We all need to be less ashamed and more free to take a pride in our individuality, God would not have made us all so different if he wanted us to conform.

The good news is that this is how God sees us. God knows us better than we know ourselves and yet still he loves and accepts us. He doesn't need us to look like Kylie or sing like Robin Williams, we have his approval just as we are.

I said I love you and that's forever, and this I promise from the heart.
I could not love you any better, I love you just the way you are. *Billy Joel*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

O good Jesus, radiant in your glory and tender in your compassion, cherish me, I pray, as one of your family; embrace me as your lover; rule me as your subject and welcome me as your friend, now and for ever. Amen *Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179*

O God of all hope, we thank you for your promises which find their fulfilment in your Son. We rejoice in His coming in the flesh and look for His coming in glory. By your word, sacraments and Holy Spirit make us ready to receive Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and with thankfulness praise Him, now and for ever.

Lord Jesus, redeemer and judge of all people, who came that we might have life eternal, you have taught us that you will come again in great glory to take account of your servants and reward their faithful service; help us to live as people who wait for their master, prepared, engaged in service, and ready for action; that we might not be ashamed before you at your coming so that we might enter into your eternal joy. Amen



Christmas Services



St Mark's

Saturday December 17 at 6.30pm
Traditional Carols By Candlelight

Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December

Children's Crib Service 3.00pm
Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day
9.30am Family Worship

Putnoe Heights

Sunday December 18 at 6.30pm
Traditional Carols By Candlelight

Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December

Children's Crib Service 4.00pm
Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day
11.00am Family Worship

Congratulations

To everybody at St Mark's who has worked so hard towards our entry in the National Village Hall and Community Centre Challenge. We heard on Saturday morning that St Mark's is one of the five winning contestants. This means that St Mark's goes through to the next round with a guaranteed prize of at least £125,000 and possibly one of the three prizes of up to £250,000.

After several years of fundraising to build our new centre and hundreds of grant applications, it is extremely rewarding to have hit the big time with such a large grant which secures the future of our project. Indeed this is our biggest ever grant award towards a building appeal and represents an outstanding achievement for everybody concerned with the management of the Centre and the delivery of first class community services. The award panel were particularly impressed by the number of community groups and charities based at St Mark's. They were encouraged by the presence of the local police station, the partnership with Brickhill Parish Council and the proposed provision of youth services. The initiatives to develop sustainability policies and engage in activities which reduce waste and minimise the effect of emissions are of fundamental importance to WREN and received particular praise. At this round of the competition the judges had shortlisted 70 entries and the five finalists were all projects which demonstrated high levels of self help, this was considered to be a strong indicator of need and sustainability. So a special thank you to all the volunteers at the Centre and to those who have been engaged in fundraising activities and giving donations up until now. Without this the grant would not have been possible.

The next stage of the competition will be in March and prizes will be awarded at the House of Commons on 9 May. It will be important now to work to ensure that our project is developed further to try and secure one of the top prizes.

Last week, in the hope of success in the competition, Church Council and Leadership Team members met and agreed the immediate move of Autism Bedfordshire from the Portakabin into the main building of the church. Autism Bedfordshire have been struggling badly over recent months in the confines of the Portakabin and it is important to take steps immediately to relieve their predicament. We are grateful to Dave Allen and his team who worked over the weekend to make building alterations to enable a new suite of offices to be created in the back of the church. As a temporary move the back rooms of the church will now be out of use until the new building has been completed. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause to our existing users and church members. It has been encouraging to see the willingness of other users to offer support and special thanks to Helen and Debbie and all the staff of Pres-school and Toddlers who were so co-operative in spite of losing their cupboards.

Help Wanted

On Monday we are moving Autism Bedfordshire out of their Portakabin and into the main church building. We would very much appreciate offers of help moving the stuff. There are lots of small items which can be moved by ladies, as well as desks and cupboards which the big strong boys will carry. We will start at 9.00am and hope to be finished before lunch.

News, Views and Information

Amazing Savings With Amazon.

If you are buying presents this year, then why not purchase them through Amazon. Every time you log on to Amazon, please do so by clicking the link on the church website. This will mean that 5% of your spending will be credited to us.

Please Remember You must go to Amazon through the link on the church website first.

Mildmay Mission Thank you to all those who have responded so generously to the Mildmay Mission project. To date we have raised a magnificent total of over £1000 including Smartie Tubes and gift aid on the donations to date. This is an outstanding start and a great encouragement to ourselves and to Mildmay who can use this money to fund much needed services to children and adults in need both locally in the UK and further afield in Africa. If you haven't taken an envelope and would like to do so please pick one up at the back of church today. Thank you once again for your magnificent generosity to this deserving cause which get us up and running on this project in such a positive manner. *Sam Cappleman*

Christmas Card Delivery Service. Local Scouts, Guides and Boys Brigade will deliver to Bedford, Bromham, Clapham & Kempston, 15p per card. Last collection 15 December guaranteed delivery 17-24 December. Nearest Post Box St Mark's Church

Christmas Wreaths Orders now being taken for door wreaths made of fresh greenery & seasonal decorations, £6 each. Please speak to Marion, or ring 303254 to place an order. Delivery will be the 16 December

Tuesday Club invite you to a Christmas Celebration at Putnoe Heights on Tuesday 13 December at 7.45pm. The programme includes carols, readings, drama and refreshments. Do come and join us. No entry charge but a collection will be taken in aid of local charities for homeless.

Kempston Musical Society are presenting two Christmas Concerts. On 17 December at Kempston East Methodist Church with Kempston Junior Concert Band, and on 19 December at Elstow Abbey, in aid of The League of Friends of Elstow Abbey. Both concerts start at 7.30pm & tickets are available at the door.

Christmas Post Box—We will be placing the Box in the Welcome Area at Putnoe on December 11th

so that you may post your cards to friends within Putnoe Heights Church. The donation for this is 10p a card or 12 for a £1. The money raised will be given to 'National Children's Home this year. Please put the money in the wooden 'flower' box. Thank You. Joy and Peter Parker

Christmas Cards Invitations to Christmas Services are available this week at Putnoe Heights. We have modified our distribution area this year. Please take a bundle to deliver & tick off the area concerned. If you wish to deliver to a particular area which is no longer on the list please do so & write the name of the road on the list.

Odd Job Dave. Decorating, Carpentry and all your odd jobs! No job too small, call for a free quote. Cheap rates for OAP's 01234 401184 / 07788 862609

2005 Partnership Advent Course

12 December The Reverend Charles Royden 'Christmas and the New Testament stories'

19 December The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman 'The Second Advent of Jesus'

Footprints New Year Walk Monday 2 January 2006. Meet at Sharnbrook Methodist Church at 10.30 for coffee followed by 3 mile circular walk (may be muddy). Please park carefully in the village. Optional lunch afterwards at the Bedford Arms Souldrop. All welcome.

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.

Putnoe Provender last Sunday raised £215 which was a record total & will be shared between St. Mark's Autism Bedfordshire Appeal & Putnoe Heights Church Funds. Thank you to everyone who supported the sale. Sally & John Gunning.

Many, many thanks for the surprise gift last Sunday. The engraved bowl has pride of place in the living room. But many thanks are also due to the ladies who have laboured over the years to execute what crazy ideas I've been able to come up with, keeping standards of workmanship high, and protests low! The working party's tradition of putting the world to rights whilst fingers were busy made the monthly meetings very special, & I thank you all. *Marion*

St Mark's Church Office will be closed from Saturday 24 December and re-open Wednesday 4 January 2006.



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

In October 2003, our Jajja's Home Children's Programme also expanded with the opening of a new residential hospital and training centre – Kiddukiro House.



This has fourteen beds and will enable children in need of intensive rehabilitation or terminal care to receive this at our programme rather than having to be moved to another hospital with unfamiliar faces. Training courses will also be run for a range of child related professionals dealing with all aspects of paediatric care and counselling.

Our children's work in Uganda has been such a success, we have opened a similar centre, just for children, in Zimbabwe which opened this year. Zimbabwe has no other HIV specialist centres for children despite having the largest number of HIV positive children in the world. The Harare Children's Hospital – Mildmay Centre is the first



We are eager to encourage our supporters to learn more about this exciting programme and ways to get involved. Here is just one of the 300 children already registered at our clinic with one of our local volunteers in Zimbabwe.

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.

Ann Ryan

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

Rest in Peace. Forthcoming funerals to be taken by our Ministers

The funeral of Edwin Harold Barnett will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 13 December at 2.30pm (Royden)

The funeral of Alexander Michael Lowden-Smith will take place at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 14th December at 2.30pm (Royden)

The funeral of Sidney Snelling will take place at Norse Road Cemetery on Wednesday 14th December at 11.30am (Royden)

The funeral of Mr Harris Will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 21 December at 1.45pm (Royden)