

Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

12 December 2004

## Third Sunday of Advent

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



Church of  
England

### Church Services Today



#### 8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

**9.30am St Mark's Church**— Morning Worship

Preacher - Miss Kate White

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

**11.00am Putnoe Heights** – Morning Worship

Preacher – Miss Kate White

Leadership Team—Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

### 19 December

#### 8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

**9.30am St. Mark's Church** –Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions— Mr Mike Elliott

**11.00am Putnoe Heights** – Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team –Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Pearl and Vincent James to mark their wedding anniversary, and by Julia Bailey in memory of her parents and Bill's parents.

We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe

### Prayer for Sunday

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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 -07740 865167 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 News is now available each week on the  
Partnership Website - [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.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 [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)**

**Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630**

**Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188**

**Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428**

[treasurerph@Thisischurch.com](mailto:treasurerph@Thisischurch.com)

**Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186**

**Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058**

### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5pm)

**Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)**

**Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613**

[Wendy@thisischurch.com](mailto:Wendy@thisischurch.com)

**Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day—295592**

**Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 [treasurer@Thisischurch.com](mailto:treasurer@Thisischurch.com)**

**Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605**

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# 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).
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 400987
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 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
- 7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 20 December St. Mark's Christmas Whist Drive. Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

## Tuesday

- 9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
- 10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** Contact 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 Contact Val Careless 345213.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting - 4 January 2005 Revd. Sam Cappleman Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 4 January 2005 Revd. Sam Cappleman Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
- 2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church** Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact

Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129

- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church.** Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 7.30- 9.00pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Next meeting – December 14th - Christmas Service Meets fortnightly. Contact Sheila Cracknell 217009
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

## Wednesday

- 10.00 am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 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
- 12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church** Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 15 December Contact St. Mark's 342613
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
- 6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies** at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm St. Mark's Church** Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
- 7-10pm Putnoe Guild** - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
- 7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
- 7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

## Thursday

- 9.30am Thursday Prayer Group** at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
- 10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic** at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
- 10.00am - 11.30am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970
- 12 - 1.00 pm Storybox** at St Mark's Church. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities,

songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

**1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.**  
Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

**1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.**  
Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe** Mrs S Lewis 300198

**7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000** Putnoe 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

**6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

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

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild** St Mark's– 3rd Thursday month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

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

**8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle** meets at St Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

## Friday

**10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church  
Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

**6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

**7. 30 - 9.30pm** Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

**7.30pm Music Group** St. Mark's Church/monthly

**6.30pm –8.30 pm Dog Training Classes** at St. Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

## Saturday

**10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St Mark's** –dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 304865

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

**Peace Project Saturday School** at Putnoe Heights.  
For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

## Sunday

**1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

# News, Views and Information

## The Calendar

**Putnoe Centre Management -**

**St Mark's Church Council** Feb 1 2005

**Churchyards Committee**

Next meeting on Monday 17 Jan at 10am

**St Mark's Centre Management Meeting**

Wednesday 19th January 2005

**St Mark's Leadership Team**

Next meeting on 12 Jan home of Ian Farthing,4 May

**Deanery Synod** 10 Feb

**Partnership Council** 18 Jan

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team**

25 April 2005 at 7.30pm

**Putnoe Church Council**

7 Feb 2005 13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

**Pastoral Group Meeting** January 24 at 2.00pm

Calendar dates now appear on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com). Please advise us if you have a date to be added to the church calendar

## Wednesday Bereavement Drop in Group.

The group will start again on Wednesday 12 January at 2.30pm., with a talk by Sonia Minney from the Guildhouse, followed by tea & an opportunity to talk with friends & members of the Pastoral Team until 4pm. The group will continue meeting on the first Wednesday of each month from 2.30 to 4 pm with the same format, talk, tea and chat. We are considering changing the name to 'Tea and Friendship,' & would be grateful for any other ideas..

**Coming Soon Storybox Plus is an After School Club** for 4—9 year olds which will be starting in January from 4.00 to 5.00pm on Thursdays. The group will rehearse a short drama and make the props and costumes for a performance at the Family Service at Putnoe.

Volunteers will be needed to make refreshments, help with the crèche and support the group. Please ring Joan on 344536.

**Church Christmas Papers** are available for delivery to homes in the neighbourhood. Please help with the delivery by taking papers from the foyer today. They advertise Christmas services and information from our churches. Leadership Team, please check and proof copy before we go to print with a church specific edition at each church office.

**Congratulations** to Delia Shepherd on her appointment as Clerk to Brickhill Parish Council. We wish Delia well in her new position

**Putnoe Heights are welcoming a church from America to Putnoe** on 20 February next year. Thank you to all of those who have offered accommodation. However we still need another 11 offers to take 2 students each. Offers from people from both churches would be greatly appreciated



## Bible Notes Advent 3 (Purple)

### Verse of Scripture Luke 1:46

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.  
My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour

### 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 35: 1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendour of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God)**

### Second Reading– James 5: 7-10

.Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord  
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Reading – Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: " 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. <sup>11</sup>I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

They shall  
see the  
glory of  
the LORD,  
the majesty  
of our God.

Isaiah 35.2



## Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks O Lord for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face: who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen

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

1. Joy to the world 393. 2. The trumpets sound 667 3. On Jordan's bank 538, 4. What child is this (on page 8 ) 5. All earth was dark 8

## Commentary What do we do when God is a disappointment?

In Acts Chapter 16 Paul and Silas are in prison. But not for long! By the super powerful work of the Holy Spirit an earthquake opened the prison doors and they walked free! So - is that what we can expect from God, someone who will always rescue and protect us? A short answer - no.

In the reading from Matthew Chapter 11 today, John the Baptist is in prison. Josephus (Ant.18.5.2)tells us that John was imprisoned at Machaerus, Herod's wilderness palace, East of the Dead Sea. It is from this remote prison that John begins to question within himself who Jesus is. Verse 3: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

We need to understand what was behind this loss of faith which in John had in Jesus. John the Baptist was a good man. He had no time for the wicked and he cared little for his personal safety. He was unafraid to take on the bad guys, even if that meant going head to head with King Herod himself. He would not bow to intimidation, threat or force. John was a special man, Luke's Gospel tells us that even before John and Jesus were born, Mary visited her relative Elizabeth, John's mother. Matthew tells us that when John preached, Jesus presented himself to John for baptism, and that after the baptism, the heavens opened, the Spirit of God descended like a dove, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (3:17). But after the baptism of Jesus, John must have been devastated. He had called people to repent telling them that imminent judgement was at hand. "Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees." He saw bad people and believed that God was about to burn them with "unquenchable fire." This is good old traditional fire-and-brimstone stuff. But, instead of God swinging the axe, John finds himself locked up in prison. Surely if Jesus was the Messiah, then why was John behind bars? Ultimately John would be beheaded by Herod, did that mean that Jesus was a complete and utter failure? John wanted and expected a God of fire and brimstone and what he got was Jesus, who preached full and endless forgiveness to the very "chaff" John expected to see burned. Jesus had spectacularly failed to live up to expectations. Instead of calling down fire and brimstone, Jesus had been all too forgiving. He pronounced blessings on the poor in spirit, the meek, and peacemakers (5:1-11). He called his disciples to love their enemies (5:42-48). He warned disciples not to judge others (7:1-5). Jesus was more interested in healing than using that axe.

People like John wanted a powerful leader, a Messiah, who would restore the image of Israel. Jesus did show anger at some things, like hypocrisy. But his ministry was much more to be characterised by binding up the weak. Bringing the poor good news sounds quite dull compared to axe swinging justice, but Jesus was convinced, it was the poor, the oppressed, the brokenhearted, who really mattered to Jesus. Captives and prisoners were important but not necessarily the ones behind physical iron bars.

There are powerful lessons for us to learn today. **The first and most obvious truth** is that we can be really sincere in serving God and still get our heads chopped off. Loyal service and faithfulness to God does not make us immune from wickedness in the world. Yes, the Kingdom of Jesus is with us, but we still live in a very nasty world where dreadful things happen.

**This brings us to the second truth.** We can feel really badly let down by God when we come face to face with the reality of suffering and death. John the Baptist had to try and understand this paradox, the existence of a Saviour God and yet the ongoing presence of evil.

John wanted Jesus to explain why he had not done something to stop the rot. Today we might ask the same kind of question, if God exists then why does he allow good people to suffer? Jesus tells John that his power has a different way of working. The response of Jesus is to draw attention to the characteristics of his ministry "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." The ministry of Jesus is less about judgement and more about forgiveness. The implication is clear, if we put our trust in Jesus hoping for someone who will make bad things go away, we are sure to have our hopes dashed. Jesus is the leader who ended up on the cross. This might have implications for our prayers *Charles Royden*

**Meditation** Do you ever wonder why certain things can possibly happen if Jesus is God? Are you prepared to find God in the unexpected?

## Prayers for Advent and the week ahead.

Pour upon us, O Holy Spirit, your sevenfold gifts: of understanding that we may be enlightened; of counsel that we may follow in your footsteps; of courage that we may face the enemy; of knowledge that we may discern the good; of piety that we may be compassionate; of fear that we may draw back from evil, and of wisdom that we may taste the sweetness of your love. Amen *St Bonaventure, 1217-1274*

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, O Promised One: Once again we come to this time of Advent and await your presence. Give us patience to seek the meaning of these busy days. Give us courage to wait in times of pain and trouble. Give us the compassion to wait for one another. Give us the faith to wait for the Messiah when we are threatened by the Herods of this world. Give us the hope to wait for the Saviour even when we cannot hear the angels singing. Give us the love that does not wait when it meets Christ in our neighbour . Amen.

O God to those who have hunger give bread. And to us who have bread give the hunger for justice..  
*Modern prayer from Latin America*

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;  
Where knowledge is free;  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;  
Where words come out of the depth of truth;  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;  
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action —  
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.  
*Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) India.*

Lord teach me to forgive with real forgiveness, which forgets even where the hatchet was buried.

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### Third Candle - The Candle of Love John The Baptist

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

Leader: Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love. Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

*(A person now lights the Candles of Hope, and Peace.)*



Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show Gods love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

*(A person now lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love here)*

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: Lord God, your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him.**

# News, Views and Information



## Advent Course Wednesday of This week

**Kate Charles**

The evening begins with refreshments at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Each evening will finish at 9.00pm.

**Cards for Christmas:** Handmade Christmas cards for sale at Putnoe Heights Church in the Welcome Area, before and after service. Third of profits go to charity. Aiming to raise £100 for NCH this Christmas. Thank you for your continuing support. Cards can be made to order. T: 267567 Margaret & Claire Peck

**Network - Spring Celebration** on 7 March 2005 at The Square Methodist Church, Dunstable. Tickets £1, limited to two per church. Please order ASAP but not later than the end of December from Eleanor Mackirky Tel 360271. See poster in foyer for more details.

**Christmas Cards.** Once again we will provide boards at St Mark's on which you may post a card to all members of the congregation. Then please consider making a donation towards the Autism Building Extension Appeal.

**Office Closure** St Mark's Church Office & Putnoe Heights Church office will be closed for the Christmas Period from Thursday 5.00pm, 23rd December and will re-open on Tuesday 4th January

**Putnoe Ramblers** New Year walk at 10.30 on Saturday 1 January at Kempston Mill for a short level walk to Biddenham & back. It will include a coffee stop & the opportunity for lunch in Kempston on our return. Putnoe Ramblers are looking to rebrand themselves with a new name in the New Year...Suggestions please. Further details from Sue Allen. 407264

**Putnoe Provender** Last Sunday's sale raised the magnificent sum of £180 which will be donated to the new extension for Autism Bedfordshire at St. Mark's. Grateful thanks to all who supported the sale. John & Sally Gunning.

**Christmas Post Box at Putnoe Heights Church**  
Please use the box this week and next to send cards to all your friends within the Church. As usual the price is 10p per card or 12 cards for a £1. Please put the Christian name and Surname of the recipient so that we can deliver them if necessary. Cards posted by 19th December will be delivered before Christmas Day where necessary. All donations will be given to NCH. Joy and Peter Parker

**St. Mark's Clubhouse Project.** Two support workers required working with adults with learning disabilities. 18 hours a week, 3 days 9am to 3pm. Salary £7 per hour. No experience necessary as training will be given to the right candidate. For application form please contact Mr. Norman Arnold, St. Mark's Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford, MK41 7UY Tel. 342613. or email [clubhouse@ThisisChurch.com](mailto:clubhouse@ThisisChurch.com) [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com). Closing date for applications 31 December 2004.

**TNT this week,** our 9-12 year olds, will be Carol Singing, so wrap up warm and bring a torch with you. We will start at 6pm at Putnoe Church, visiting Puttenhoe Home and a couple of elderly housebound members and will finish at the home of Julia Bailey, 29 Stancliffe Rd, who has kindly invited us to share in a little Christmas Party. Parents, please collect your loved ones from Julia's! Thanks, Neil.

**Kisiisi Hospital News.** Kisiisi is now a leading institution for mental health in S.W. Uganda. It has a radio programme & the school library is now open. Please read the full newsletter on the welcome area notice board at Putnoe Heights.

## Fundraising Spectacular Weekend 5th and 6th February 2005 A note for your diaries.

We have arranged 2 exciting fundraising events in aid of the Autism Building Extension at St Mark's.  
**Saturday Night 5th February, 7-30pm** our ever popular themed evening this time taking in the music and flavours of Spain, book early to avoid disappointment

**Sunday 6th February  
4pm to 5.30pm** at Bedford High School Swimming Pool, Battle of the Sexes



Swimathon, 2 teams, 5 men and 5 women have laid down a challenge to win this spectacular race and raise the most sponsorship money- who will win? Come and offer your support. The men's team will include Neil and Charlie! Please join us in our fundraising through these events and help us to make our dream of the new building into a reality.

**Storybox** Could you spare 2 hours every 6—8 weeks to help with Storybox lunches on Thursday at St. Mark's. If you can spare some time . Please contact Patricia Izzard 212164.

**Kempston Musical Society** present two Christmas Concerts. Monday December 13th at Elstow Abbey 7.30pm and Saturday December 18th at Kempston East Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Tickets available at the door.

**Christmas Tree and Crib Festival** at Priory Methodist Church. Friday 10th December 11.30am—8pm, Saturday 11th 10am-6.30pm, Sunday 12th 12.30-4pm. Admission £2, including refreshments. Accompanied children 16 and under free.



**Please help us raise money with Amazon.co.uk**

For every pound that you spend with Amazon, ThisChurch.com can receive 5%. Simply go to Amazon by clicking on the link on the homepage of our church website. Then buy all of your Christmas gifts, electrical items, computer software, DIY tools etc. Amazon prices are usually very low and delivery is free over £19. So you have nothing to loose and who knows we might make a few pounds! Please tell us if you order and we can say thank you.

So far we have raised £50 over the past few weeks - Thank you

**A Hymn For Sunday**

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud  
the babe, the son of Mary.
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians fear: for sinners here,  
the silent word is pleading:  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.
- 3 So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king to own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him:  
Raise, raise the song on high  
the Virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born  
the babe, the son of Mary.

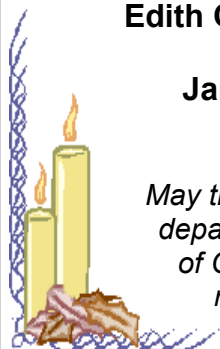
**Partnership Singers** will be rehearsing for their Christmas contribution to the Carol Service. Friday 17 December 7.00pm at St Mark's

**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.

**Edith Constance Mabel Solly  
Kenneth Wood  
Jane Lilian May Lane  
Alexander Jack**

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



**Rest In Peace**

**The funeral of James William Winter** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 14 December at 1.45pm

**The funeral of Rowland Howes** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 17 December at 10.45am

We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

