

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

13 December 2009

Advent 3 - Christingle



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

20 December - Advent 4

9.30am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr B Owen
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr B Owen
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Claire Peck

Readings

1. Micah 5: 2-5a 2. Hebrews 10: 5-10
3. Luke 1: 39-45

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Vincent and Pearl James on the occasion of their wedding anniversary, and by Sylvia Cohen in memory of her dear husband Ken.

The flowers in church at St Mark's this week have been given by Mr & Mrs Burton to celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Love is your meaning, O Lord. Before ever you made us you loved us. Your love has never slackened nor ever shall. In love all your works have been begun, by love you sustain them and our life in your love is everlasting. So let the beginning and ending of all our loving be to see our God for ever; and this may Jesus grant us. Amen.

Julian of Norwich (c. 1343-c. 1417)

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)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
vicar@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 News is also archived on our church website www.ThisIsChurch.com

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 Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

1.30pm U3A History Group St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474

2pm U3A Drama St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747 or 07881730747

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting December 21 Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

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

Tuesday

9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Sally Banks ☎ 870357

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting January 12 2010. Betty Wyatt ☎350188. **2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885

7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting December 15 Christmas Celebrations. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.

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

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

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10am U3A Card Making, St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Contact Janet King 313946

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 6 January Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823

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

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎ 347073
7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎ 348378
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎ 214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting December 16 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎ 406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎ 215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎ 325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎ 343424 There will be no meetings on 24 & 31 December. As usual on 7 January *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎ 244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Starts again on 7 January 2010 Emma Strangwick ☎ 211070
 11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.
12pm Storybox St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎ 211070
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's ☎ 267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎ 325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎ 345991
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎ 272470 Next meeting 24 September
4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎ 349179
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎ 01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎ 07786508351
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎ 825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎ 825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎ 406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎ 301550
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎ 01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎ 219607
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎ 346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎ 346397
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎ 315460.
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St

Mark's Joyce Fields ☎ 353086
12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎ 354183
5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎ 295862 or ☎ 07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎ 356875
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎ 782360
 6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎ 07984427854
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎ 01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎ 01234 782414
Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792
7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎ 212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.
1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎ 360188 or ☎ 07866775515
6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎ 302349 .



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –
St Mark's Leadership Team – 19 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – , 8 Feb
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 18 Jan 7.45pm
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 Jan 2010,
Putnoe Church Council - 15 February
Pastoral Group Meeting - 19 January
Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group—Weds 6th Jan at 14 Flint Way at 7.30pm
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting
Circuit/Treasurers Review meeting at St. Mark's
Circuit Meeting 8 March at Oakley
Woodland Burial Trustees – 6th December
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 18th Jan

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Opening Verses of Scripture—James 1:1-17

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

Collect Prayer for the Day - *Before we read we pray*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Common Worship

First Bible Reading - Zephaniah Chapter 3:14-20

Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honour in every land where they were put to shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honour and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD

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

Second Reading— .Philippians Chapter 4:4-7

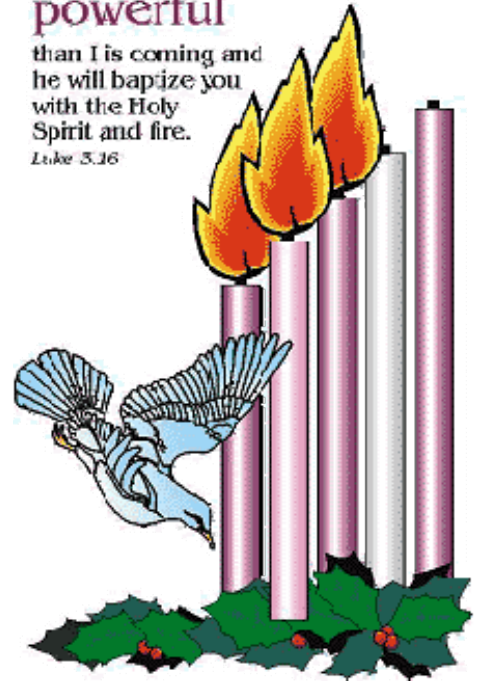
Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

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

One who is more
powerful

than I is coming and
he will baptize you
with the Holy
Spirit and fire.

Luke 3:16



Gospel Reading - Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely--be content with your pay." The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

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

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Meditation

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas—star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus: but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine, love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign. *Christina Rossette (1830 - 94)*

Hymns (*Please distribute Christingle Special Service Sheet*)

Come now with awe, Make way, Thou who wast rich, the orange of christingle, Now praise the Father

Commentary

We have optimistic readings this week to encourage us with unexpected light and joy. The coming of Christ is not something to fear, but to anticipate with great delight and enthusiasm. Zephaniah's ministry was in the time of King Josiah (just over 600BC). He talks in his writings about Gods judgement on Israel, but at the end we have this call to the faithful to rejoice in Gods' victorious kingship. He alone will be king and it is stressed that it is the lame and the outcast whom he will bring in as his subjects, having ousted their oppressors. Zephaniah has been described as a "radical prophetic book" a charter for the 'little people' of all corrupt societies. The glad word to us all is, as verse 20 says, that God will gather us and bring us home. So we can rejoice! Pauls' letter to the Philippians is quite possibly in the context of trouble (nothing new there!). In our reading he is confident that, no matter what, the cure is to recall the people to the joy they knew when they first came to faith. This is what William Barclay has to say "Rejoice," says Paul. "I will say it again - Rejoice!" It is as if he said, "Rejoice!" And suddenly there flashed into his mind a picture of all that was to come. He himself was lying in prison with almost certain death awaiting him; the Philippians were setting out on the Christian way, and dark days, and dangers, and persecutions inevitable lay ahead. So Paul says, "I know what I'm saying. I've thought of everything that can possible happen. And still I say it - Rejoice!" The Christian joy is independent of all things on earth, because the Christian joy has its source in the continual presence of Christ. So we are not to worry about anything, easier said than done, but we recall

that Jesus asked “Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Instead of worrying, Paul says, we should pray. He stresses that we can take everything to God in prayer, for there is nothing too great for God’s power and nothing too small for his fatherly care. William Barclay suggests that when we pray we should remember the love of God that wants only the best for us; the wisdom of God that knows what is best for us; and the power of God that really can deliver! And the end result is the wonderful promise that “the peace of God that passes all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (V7). Indeed a cause for joy. Our gospel reading has large crowds following John, asking him what to do to escape condemnation. What he tells them reflects some important ethical requirements of groups of people who were especially able to exploit others. Those who have plenty are to share, tax collectors are not to abuse their authority and soldiers are not to exploit their powers. Hints here for MP’s and bankers in our times! And there is challenge and food for thought for us all too. How, consistent, honest and compassionate are we in our dealings with other people? And what of our instant judgements of others? Do our lives bear testimony to the love and grace of God? John says that he is not the Messiah. He points to one whose shoes he is not even fit to lace up—one far greater than himself. Jesus who comes in light and love “Joy to the world” indeed. Good news of great joy for you, for me, for all our loved ones and all humankind. *Richard Ledger*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

At Advent we should try the key to our heart’s door. It may have gathered rust/ If so, this is the time to oil it, in order that the heart’s door may open more easily when the Lord Jesus wants to enter at Christmas time! Lord, oil the hinges of our hearts’ doors that they may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming. (*Prayer of a New Guinea Christian*)

Father, through John the Baptist you tried to prepare your people for the coming of Jesus. Will you try to prepare us too? Prepare our hearts and minds that we may know what to look for in the coming of Jesus Christ into our world. May we show the joy of the Advent message in our lives day by day. Through him who came at Christmas time. Amen (*from Prayers Before Worship*)

With this Christingle, a symbol of God’s love for us, we will remember and pray for children who have little light in their lives: children who are runaways, trying to escape from conflict at home, children who have become refugees, seeking safety but meeting with prejudice; children who are bullied, but teased, often for no reason at all. Loving God, source of all light, help us to shine your light into their darkness, so that they may see a future and have hope. Amen (*Prayer of the Children’s Society*)

The Child of Glory, The Child of Mary, born in a stable the King of all, who came to the wilderness and in our stead suffered. Happy they are counted who to him are near. (*Celtic prayer*)
Richard Ledger

Nativity Scenes. On Saturday December 19 we are holding a nativity festival at Putnoe Heights, that is if there are nativities to show! So far I have one from South Africa, the promise of another African one and a huge banner, designed by a good friend of mine. But I'd like more! This is where you come in, if you have a nativity scene that is special to you or your family in some way, and you are willing to lend it to us for the weekend before Christmas, please could you let me know! It doesn't matter what it looks like, is there one someone knitted for you? Is there a slightly tatty one with teeth marks of a over enthusiastic child in (or maybe a character is missing)? Is there one that has been part of your families for so long it wouldn't seem like Christmas without it? Is there one from a particular holiday, or maybe there's one from a difficult time in your life that you'd be willing to share? Whatever the story I think it would be great to share it, I hope to be able to display a wide variety, and produce a 'programme' which has a little 'story' about each one. Although I don't need them until the day, I'd like to have any stories ASAP and idea of numbers by the previous week, to enable the production of the programme! *Jane Mason*

Christmas Post Box at Putnoe Heights. Please post your Christmas cards to friends who are members of the Church in the box. As usual, the cost is 10p per card or 12 for £1. This year, regrettably, cards which remain at the church on Christmas Day will be left there until they are collected after Christmas. Happy posting from Joy and Peter.

Putnoe Heights Card Sales A big thank you for continuing to support us by buying our hand made cards. A third of what we make continues to go towards a range of different charities. This Christmas we are hoping to raise £100 to go to NSPCC (National Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Children). Cards can always be made to order. Please contact Margaret on 267567. Margaret and Claire Peck

Carol Singing in aid of Action for Children will be taking place at the Railway Station on 14 December between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. Please join us for all or some of the time, if you are able.

St Mark's will be conducting a Carol Service at Highfield Home on Sunday 20 December at 2.30pm. Please feel free to join us if you are able.

Putnoe Heights Carols at Library Walk Saturday 19 December, 11– 12noon. Will singer/ musicians Please meet at 10.15am in the Small Hall for tea/ coffee and seasonal eats. The more the merrier !

Tuesday Club

You are invited to join our 'Christmas Celebration' at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday December 15 at 7.30pm.

Putnoe Heights Coffee. For some time I have organised the Sunday morning coffee rota and purchased the necessary provisions. I have decided that I would like to step down from carrying out this duty and so I am looking for somebody else to replace me. If you are interested in carrying out this role or have any questions please contact me on 266408. Thank you Claire Peck

Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch Sunday 10th January 2010 at 1.00pm A festive lunch with 3 courses inclusive of drinks. All proceeds to church funds. Tickets (from Putnoe Office) £8.00 (£4.50 for children under 10)

Telecare: It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down on the Telecare scheme, please do so.

Christmas Home Communion. We have a small team of people who assist the ministers in bringing

Holy Communion to those who are unable to come to church. If you are genuinely housebound then we are more than pleased to bring communion to you in your home before Christmas. Please telephone one of the ministers and we will be arrange a visit before Christmas.

Would anyone like a 2-drawer filing cabinet—wood effect— as new and put £25 into the Kings Arms Project. Tel Doreen Denny on Bedford 405840.

From Doreen Denny My grandson Jamie Cruickshank is making a skydive in aid of the Alzheimers Charity. If anyone would like to sponsor him please go to his website which explains fully : <http://www.justgiving.com/Jamie.Cruickshank>

Vicarage Party for the Partnership Council. We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday 20 December. Please would you RSVP if you have not already done so to help the caterers.

Advent Course. Many thanks to Sam for opening our Advent Course this year with an introduction to Matthew . The series will continue on December 17 when Charlie will be looking at the nativity stories of Luke and comparing them to Matthew

St. Mark's Church Office will close at 5pm on Wednesday 23 December and re-open on Monday 4 January.

BEH Women's Network District Residential Weekend 19 - 21 February 2010 at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. Further details and booking form from Pam Seymour 305695

Women's Fellowship After the last meeting of 2009, please note that the first meeting in 2010 will be on the 12 January - not 5th as per the 2009 programme.

Putnoe Provender Last Sunday's sale raised the record amount of £247. 80, which will go to this year's charity, The King's Arms Project. Many thanks to all who contributed in anyway. John & Sally Gunning

St Mark's Junior Church Would appreciate the cellophane wrappers from Quality Street & any other suitable cellophane. Thank you Yanna.

Women's Fellowship First meeting of the New Year will be on 12 January, not the 5th as the programme.

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Partnership Christmas Services



St Mark's Church

Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 19 December 6.30pm

A traditional service of nine carols and readings, accompanied by our organist and Bedford Town Brass Band

Crib Service

3.00pm Thursday 24 December

A service especially for the young and the young at heart. We will have fun building a crib and singing carols. Come early to get a seat.

Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

A traditional midnight mass late service to welcome Christmas

Christmas Day

9.30am Morning Family Worship

Putnoe Heights Church

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 20 December 6.30pm

A traditional service of nine carols and readings. Followed by refreshments, including mince pies!

Christmas Crib Service

Thursday 24 December 4.00pm

A service especially for the young and the young at heart. We will have fun building a crib and singing carols. Come early to get a seat.

Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

A traditional midnight mass late service to welcome Christmas

Christmas Day

Morning Family Worship 11.00am

One of the happiest days of the church year is reflected in this joyous morning family worship

Kempston Musical Society - Christmas Concert

Monday 14th December. 7.30pm at St Mark's Church, admission by programme or at the door £7.

Tickets also available from church offices. Monies raised will be donated to the King's Arms Project which works with and helps the homeless in Bedford. For further information contact St Mark's Church Office or Alan Bayliss on 01234 268101



**A real treat
for Christmas!**

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.

**Jean Eleanor Fensome
Michael Hardiman**

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



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Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mr Harold

Kenneth Whitlock will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am on Monday 21 December

