

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

15 November 2009

2nd before Advent



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 - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion

Preacher Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Ministers

Sunday 22 November Christ The King

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr John Bassill
Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr John Bassill
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Readings 1 Daniel 7: 9-10.2. Rev 1: 4b-8
3. John 18: 33-37

Thank You

The flowers in church at St Mark's this week have been given by Mrs. Doris Cooper in memory of her husband Marshall.

The flowers in the chapel at St Mark's have been given by Doreen Denny in loving memory of her dear husband Len, and by Mrs M Wisdich in memory of her dear mother, Charlotte Ramsay, on her birthday.

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

Eternal God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in justice and peace your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

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
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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 November 16 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 November 17 Members 'Favourite Hymns' . 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 November 17 Claire Peck 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 - 25 November 2009 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 18 November. 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
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. 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 19 Nov,
Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's
Circuit Meeting 8 March at Oakley
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 18th Jan

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

Sunday 15th November

2nd before Advent

Opening Verses of Scripture

Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.



When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. *Jesus*

Collect Prayer for the Day

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Common Worship

First Bible Reading - Daniel Chapter 12:1-3

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading— Hebrews 10: 11-25

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds. Then he adds: Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more. And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading—Mark 13: 1-8

As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be

fulfilled?" Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

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

Meditation

Let us’ This inviting phrase is used five times in verses 19 to 25 of Hebrews Chapter 10: Let us draw near to God; Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful; Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds; Let us not give up meeting together; Let us encourage one another’.

As we ponder on these phrases let them flow through us; let them warm our hearts; let them challenge us; let them strengthen us; let them move us forward as fellow pilgrims on our journey of faith. *Wendy Waters*

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise*)

1. Praise my soul the King of Heaven 560
2. God's working his purpose out 189
3. There's a wideness in God's mercy 683
4. Christ whose glory fills the skies 79
5. Forth in thy name I go 159

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Commentary

Both the reading from Daniel and Mark challenge us to consider our understanding of ‘the end times’. Emphasis on the ‘end times’ and the fear associated with it has often been a tactic of some Christians, probably since Christianity began. We have only to look at some of the great masterpieces of religious art to experience this, with images of hell fire and damnation alongside those of Christ's birth, life and death. But this has never been my understanding of what God has to offer us and as we look closer at the passages set for today we can see that they do in fact present us with a bigger picture.

The book of Daniel has been likened to a ‘spiral staircase’ which moves round the same point time and again and brings us to a higher vantage point from which we can gain clear and fuller view of things’. Well here in Chapter 12 we are almost at the top of the spiral stairs in the final chapter of the book. The Book of Daniel is generally agreed to have been written at a time when the Jews were in a distressed state, although there are two schools of thought when it was written. Either 600 years before Christ, when the Hebrews were in exile, or about 160 years before Christ when the Hebrews were fighting for the survival of their faith. So bearing this in mind we can see that the Daniel Chapter 12 verses 1 - 3, are words not to make the Hebrews fearful but words of encouragement within verse 1 the reassurance that ‘all those who believed would be delivered from the distress, many who have died will be given everlasting life’, and ‘those who are wise will shine like brightness of the heavens’.

A year or two ago there was a trend in some Christian training to use the abbreviations:

WWJT, WWJS and WWJD: standing for ‘What would Jesus Think; What Would Jesus Say; What Would Jesus Do?’

This morning's Mark passage is perhaps the place to look for ‘What would Jesus say about the ‘end time’. Jesus is with four of his closest friends Peter, James, John and Andrew. One of them has just admired the magnificence of Herod's, still incomplete, temple. Having, seen some of the huge foundation stones under the wall around where the temple stood, I am not surprised at his comments. But Jesus did not share his friend's wonder, and predicted the time when the temple would be destroyed. It seems that, whilst perhaps puzzling over Jesus' strange response, the friends continued their walk down out of the temple and up the hill opposite to the Mount of Olives, before Andrew ‘asked him privately’ ‘when these things would happen?’ Interesting that he asked Jesus ‘privately’. Was Andrew embarrassed not to have understood Jesus? Then Jesus answers his friend with warnings about being on guard against deception by those who falsely claim to be him. But he tells them not to be alarmed when they ‘hear about wars and rumours of wars’ Jesus says these things ‘must happen’ but is not the ‘end’. Jesus

explains further that there will be natural disasters but again he does not say this is the 'end', like many would have us believe. No he equates this to birth-pains. Perhaps this seems an odd analogy when speaking to four men, but they would have been very aware of what women in labour went through, there was little privacy in family life in those days as their homes were very close together. Many men today choose to be with the mother's of their children as they give birth, they want to share in the pain the excitement and the joy. They know that birth pains do not last for ever and are not something to be feared and, in most cases, are not the sign of something coming to an end, but the promise and start of something new, new life, and in this case new life in Jesus.

So if this is what Jesus says about the future let us not be fearful, let us not be anxious, but do as the writer urged the Hebrews to in Chapter 10 verse 23: 'Hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful'. *Wendy Waters*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord when we hear of wars and rumours of wars let us not be alarmed but draw us closer to you and one another trusting in your promise of new life in you. Protect we pray those who are innocent victims of war and those who are prepared to risk their own lives in the service of others. Amen

Forgive us Lord when we want proofs of our faith, and demand absolute certainty before we commit ourselves to you. Strengthen our trust in you, so that we, who have not seen you, may still believe, and in believing may be blessed with the fullness of joy, now and always. *Angela Ashwin*

In darkness and in light, in trouble and joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love, to serve your purpose and to praise your name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

I am two men; one is longing to serve thee utterly, and one is afraid. O Lord, have compassion on me. I am two men; one will labour to the end, and one is already weary. O Lord, have compassion upon me. I am two men; one knows the suffering of the world, and one knows only his own. O Lord, have compassion upon me.

And may the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ Fill my heart and the hearts of all men everywhere.

Used by Prebendary Austen Williams (1912-2001)

Hold fast to hope for Prisons Week

Churches across Great Britain are being encouraged to hold pray during Prisons Week from 15-21 November. We live in a troubled world where it is easy for some to lose hope, and that can be particularly true for those affected by the reality of crime. The challenge of Prisons Week 2009 is to "hold fast to hope" – a hope that is not just a fanciful optimism but one that is rooted in the Christian hope that the divine spark is in all people, that no-one is beyond redemption and that change does and can take place.

The theme for Prisons Week this year is Hold Fast to Hope, encouraging Christians to focus on real stories of hope and redemption from around the world. Revd David Gamble, President of the Methodist Conference, said; "Prisons week reminds us of the harsh realities of crime and imprisonment, but it also speaks of hope in dark places. This is a time to pray for those in prison and those affected by crime as we seek a better future for all. It's also a time to give thanks for and remember the contribution made by chaplains to the lives of those living and working in prisons." The Prisons Week website (www.prisonsw.org) offers a range of free resources, including prayers, sketches and stories of hope from the UK and further afield. Revd Alan Ogier, Superintendent Methodist and Free Church Chaplain to the Prison Service, said; "The Christian message is one of real hope for all – not just shallow optimism. This is a solid belief that no one is beyond redemption, that change can and does happen."

The Prisons Week Prayer

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Almighty God, your son Jesus Christ has set us free from the bonds of sin and daily calls us out of darkness to live in your light. We hold before you our prisons and all who work in them. Grant to all prison governors, officers, staff, agencies and volunteers a new experience of your justice, mercy and hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre

There are only 1 week left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 21st November 2009. We would be grateful for help with the following:-

Tombola – Any NEW unwanted gifts\Christmas present etc. for our Tombola stall.

Raffle – Raffle books are now available as for Sunday 25th October. It would be appreciated if you could take a few books to sell to family and friends. We would also be grateful for any new items suitable for the raffle.

Cake Stall - Milly is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Milly via the Church Office.

Refreshments – We would very much appreciate donations of tray bakes to sell with tea and coffee. Ploughman's lunches will be on sale at lunchtime as usual. Volunteers to help in the kitchen on the day would be very much appreciated. To put your name down please see Avril Williams or Trudy Bunday. Any help gratefully received.

Secondhand Book Stall - Delia has very kindly volunteered to co-ordinate the secondhand book stall again this year so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books.

Indoor Plant Stall -This year we are planning to have an Indoor Plant Stall. If you have any indoor plants or have split any plants and would like to donate them to our stall we would be very grateful. Also if anyone is willing and able to run the stall for us please contact Avril Williams or contact the Church Office. All donated items for the above stalls can be bought up to Church anytime week beginning 16 November. **We will need lots of help on the day** especially when the Fayre finishes at 3.30p.m. Many hands make light work and it would certainly be appreciated.

This is one of our main fundraising events of the year and we are hoping to make it an even bigger success than last year, with your help I am sure we can achieve this.

Leaflets promoting our Christmas Craft Fayre on 21 November are available for house to house delivery after the service. Please take as many streets as possible to promote what is our biggest fund raising event. Any help you are able to give is very much appreciated.

London Road Methodist Church are hosting a concert given by The Miller Entertainment Group on Saturday November 14 at 7.30pm. Entry £3 on door.

Shoebox Appeal Thank you to everyone who supported the Shoebox Appeal. As a partnership we have sent over 100 packed boxes to Operation Christmas Child (70 more than last year). A special thanks goes to all the children for the packing. .

Mary and Joseph Our travelling Mary and Joseph will be looking for homes to visit during Advent. If you can provide accommodation for them one evening please see Liz at Putnoe.

Putnoe Heights Church invites you to join our mini Christmas Tree Festival

Collect a cardboard Christmas tree from the youth team and as an individual, family or church/ community group decorate the tree for us, telling us who you are, and we will display them in the church during December. Trees must be left at the church office before Sunday 6th December.

More details for collecting your tree from Liz on 01234 302349 youth @ thischurch.com

Partnership Advent Course Putnoe Heights Church 8 p.m.

3 December Christmas According to Luke
17 December Christmas According to Matthew



Traditionally the symbols attributed to the Gospel writers are Matthew a winged man, Mark a lion, Luke an Ox and John an Eagle. The image attributed to Matthew is a divine man. His Gospel is concerned to show the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to

the King David (14 generations) and from David to the deportation into Babylon (14 generations) and from the exile in Babylon to the Messiah a further 14 generations. Matthew is seen as the Gospel of Christ's humanity and His humbleness and humility is highlighted throughout the book.

The image attributed to Luke is that of a winged ox. A calf or indeed oxen were used in sacrifices in the Temple.

The opening of Luke's Gospel begins with the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zechariah a priest in the Temple who was offering sacrifice there. The winged ox is seen as a reminder of the priestly character of Jesus and of his sacrificial death for the sins of all mankind.



Winter Concert by Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 5th December at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 (£5 concessions) on the door or Central Box office 269519.

Bedford Messiah Choir presents Handel's Messiah at the Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, on Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm, in aid of the Beds branch of Alzheimer's Society. Admission by programme from Central Box Office or Tourist Information Centre. Adults £8. 50, Concession £7.

Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra Winter Concert will be held at Putnoe Heights on Saturday December 5 at 7.30pm More information contact info@bcco.org.uk or visit www.bcco.org.uk Tickets from Central Box Office or Putnoe Church Office :Adults £7, concessions £5.

Kempston Musical Society perform a **Christmas Concert** on Monday 14th December at 7.30 pm at St Mark's Church admission by programme or at the door £7.00. Monies raised from this popular event will be donated to the Kings 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.

Fruitful Vine Would anyone like a lot of bunches of grapes - small, black and sweet - we have lots and lots of them on our vine going over one of the pergolas? We have never had anything like as many as this year. Mary Stubbs

Footprints Planning Meeting Planning evening for 2010 walking programme at Sue and Richard Butler's, 1 Mitford Close at 7.30 p.m. Please bring walk leaflets, maps etc as appropriate.

Thank you Jennie Cooper would like to say a very big thank you to everybody who has enquired, sent cards or letters while she is in Lister Hospital. She hopes to be back in circulation soon.

Climate Change Copenhagen and us
Speakers: Tony Juniper, Former Director, Friends of the Earth Patrick Hall MP, Bedford & Kempston
Chair: Hazel Mitchell
Secretary, Bedfordshire Climate Change Forum
7.15 pm Friday 20 November
Harpur Suite, Harpur Square, Bedford
Why is this important?
After 30+ years of uncertainty, reputable scientists and world leaders now agree that man-made Climate Change is a proven fact. The World Health

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Organisation claims that annually 150,000 people in the poorest countries die because of it. Increasingly lavish use of fossil fuel energy and heat is the cause. Man-made climate change can be prevented from getting worse, but it requires big reductions in greenhouse gas emissions world-wide in the next ten years, and even bigger changes before 2050. How is this to be done?

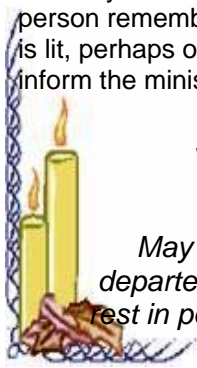
The UK government has led the way with a Climate Change Act which promises to cut UK emissions by 80 % by 2050. Other countries need to agree similar promises at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this December. Sceptics argue that the speed of change in history is slow and the changes required are unlikely to be made before 2050. But hope replies, "Consider the many unforeseen changes that have successfully occurred in our lifetimes." Concerned people throughout the country, of all political parties and faiths, are beginning to rally to the challenge. It is hoped that this public meeting will gather a wide range of interest groups together.

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.

John William Parker
John Tappenden

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



Mission Update

Thank you to all who took an envelope with them last Sunday for this year's mission project in support of the King's Arm project. Thank you too for those of you who have already returned them! If you were away last week or did not pick up an envelope with details how to support the project. and would like to do so, please pick one up from the back of church today.



Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funerals this week