



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

17 December 2006

3rd Sunday in Advent

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Holy Communion at Putnoe Heights

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr John Stubbs

Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr John Stubbs

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

24 December

8.30 Holy Communion at St Mark's

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Reading 1 : Micah 5: 2 - 5a

Reading 2 : Hebrews 10: 5 -10

Reading 3 : Luke 1: 39 - 45



Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Pat Pollard in memory of her mother.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

Prayer for Sunday

**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.**



Christmas Services

St Mark's Church

Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 23 December at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve

Morning Service 9.30am

Crib Service at 3.00pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm

Christmas Morning

Family Worship at 9.30am

Putnoe Heights Church

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 17 December at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve

Morning service 11.00am

Crib Service at 4.00pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm

Christmas Morning

Family Worship at 11.00am

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school Mrs Janet Smith 326685

8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**

(See website for more details)

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

Mini-Strikers Sport for Children at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or www.ministrikers.co.uk

12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

4pm Monday Club at St. Marks for 3—8 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments , between 4 & 5 Bible story, craft activities & songs. Lots of fun. Contact Liz 302349

4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044

4.15 - 6.00pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.15pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month next 18 December Contact Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.

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

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

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

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

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 9 January 2007 Contact Betty Wyatt

350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. For details of next meeting contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129

7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's - Jan Gregory 214107.

Tuesday - 7pm-9pm MT Karate [all ages] at Putnoe Heights. Please

contact Karen King 07941 264885

7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718

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

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 12 December Members Christmas meeting. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong. Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

Wednesday

9.30am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949

9.30am - Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787.

9.00 a.m. Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

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

10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 10 January 2007 contact Putnoe 365630

1 - 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

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

4.15pm - 6pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

6.15pm - 7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation at Putnoe Heights. contact Racheall Monton 01234 297138

6.30 - 7.30 at St Mark's Karate contact Karen 079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge at St. Mark's. Brian Sallows 407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Sylvia Woods 365095
7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073
7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips 01582 485333
9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970
1.30pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's 267444
12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 302349
1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe Geraldine Skeel 406828
1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group. Debbie Coppenhall 356828.
2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991
4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11 year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349
5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.
6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521
6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr & Mrs Pike 823795
7pm Street Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147
7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992
7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597
7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild at St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby 344442
7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Bible Studies every 2 Thursday— Pastor Tarr 360188
8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.00 am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.
1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe.

Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468
2pm U3A Gardening Group at Putnoe Heights Contact Eve Whitehead 356875
7 - 10pm Bedford Arts Society meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Contact Malcolm Smith 01234 400741
7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18 at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468
10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain at St Mark's – dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414
5 - 7pm Bethesda Church . Contact Pastor Denis Baka 07944 749357
7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's
9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's
11-12 at Putnoe Heights.
1 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515
6-7.30pm T.N.T. for 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. At Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349.
6 -7.30pm T.X.T for 13 + fortnightly , join us for fellowship , debate & discussion at Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –6th February 07
Circuit Meeting -
St Mark's Leadership Team – 22nd January 07
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -
 19 February 2007 at Wendy's house
St Mark's Church Management Meeting -
 12.30pm 6 December
Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 15 January
Putnoe Church Council 29 January 07
Pastoral Group Meeting – 31 January 07
Churchyard Committee - 15 February 07
Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting – 7.30pm
 17 January 07, at 14 Flint Way
Partnership Council - 20 February 07 at St Mark's
Brickhill Parish Council -
Deanery Meeting
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth—

Calendar dates appear on our church website
www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's
Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Third Sunday in Advent

Verse of Scripture - Malachi 3:1

“See I will send my messenger who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord who you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come.” Says the Lord Almighty

Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Common Worship & Methodist 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.

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

Third Reading - Luke Chapter 3:7-18 (Please stand for the Gospel reading.)

When the Gospel is announced. **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

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 Gospel of Christ. **All: Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

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.

Hymns (Please distribute Holy Communion and Hymns and Psalms)

1. Long ago prophets knew. **83**
2. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry. **84**
3. Be known to us in breaking bread. **597**
4. Thy kingdom come, O God. **783**

Commentary

Biblical timescale, or put another way, God's calendar is not like ours. The early church lived in the expectation of Jesus' imminent return, which we know now was not to be the case. And the prophets had promised the Messiah and people were awaiting his coming, for God had made known his way through the prophets. But prophecy had been silent for four centuries. The coming of John the Baptist, appearing dramatically in the Judean wilderness was like the proverbial bolt from the blue. This was the prophet who was to prepare the way for God's decisive action, the signal of the coming of the New Age, the coming of the End Time. St. Luke underlines this fact by describing John's call in the same words as the calls of the earlier prophets as well as by setting John's coming in its historical framework.

John came to a people who were convinced of their status. Judgement would fall on the Gentiles, when the kingdom came, but the Sons of Abraham would escape by virtue of their birthright. But John demanded that everyone repent, effectively excommunicating the whole nation. Furthermore his message was emphasised by virtue of the fact that he did not preach in Jerusalem but out in the desert. It was a clear break with current Judaism.

The sign of being a child of Abraham was circumcision. The sign of membership of the new order was repentance and baptism, and that baptism was expected to show a deep inner change of heart.

The call to repentance was not in one sense revolutionary. People were encouraged to think about their lives and to begin to live them with honesty and integrity, not abusing their positions or exploiting their neighbours. It was a call which echoed the prophets who over the years had in God's name demanded justice and a care for the poor, the widows and the fatherless. And by coming to baptism in Jordan Jesus had endorsed that call, as he continued to do throughout his ministry. John's challenge to lifestyle is still relevant today for us, and the true enjoyment and rejoicing at Christmas should perhaps be grounded in a fresh re-ordering of our priorities and actions in our daily lives. The good news John preached to the people comes out of such re-ordering. *John Stubbs*

Meditation

Wilderness is the place of Moses,

a place of no longer captive and not yet free, of letting go and learning new living.

Wilderness is the place of Elijah,

a place of silence and loneliness, of awaiting the voice of God and finding clarity

Wilderness is the place of John,

a place of repenting, of taking first steps on the path of peace.

Wilderness is the place of Jesus,

a place of preparation of getting ready for the reckless life of faith.

We thank you, God, for the wilderness. Wilderness is our place. As we wait for the land of promise, teach us new ways of living, lead us to where we hear your word most clearly, renew us and clear out the wastelands of our lives, prepare us for life in the awareness of Christ's coming when the desert will sing and the wilderness blossom as the rose.

Francis Brien

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Almighty God who in many and various ways didst speak to thy chosen people by the prophets, and has given us, in thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, the fulfilment of the hope of Israel: hasten we beseech thee, the coming of the day when all things shall be subject to him, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Church of South India

Third Candle - Jesus the Lamb of God

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 a candle to remember Jesus the Lamb of God. Last Sunday we lit two candles to remind us of Jesus the Son of David, and Jesus the Prince of Peace. *(A person now lights the two candles)*

Today as we light the third candle, we remember Jesus who John the Baptist called 'The Lamb of God.'

Scripture John Chapter 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Commentary

In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. When John called Jesus 'The Lamb of God,' he brought to mind the greatest act of salvation in the history of the Jewish people, the release of the people from captivity in Egypt. This was celebrated every year in Passover. Jesus was led like a lamb to the slaughter, he is our Passover lamb, sacrificed for us, once for all. We have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus. When John called Jesus the Lamb of God, he saw him as a Saviour who would take away the sin of the world. As we light this candle we remind ourselves that Jesus is God's final sacrifice for the sins of the world.

(A person now lights the third candle for Jesus the Lamb of God.)

Leader Jesus is the Lamb of God

All Jesus the name high over all

Leader Let us pray, using the words of the Agnus Dei

**All Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant us peace. Amen.**

News and Information

4th Putnoe Brownies are looking to recruit new members. Meeting Thursday, term time, between 18.15 and 19.45. Large Hall at Putnoe Heights.

British Cardiac Patients Association next meeting Thursday 21 December at 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights. This will be a Christmas Party with entertainment by Bedford Town Band. Everyone is welcome to come and join us, please bring a wine glass. There will be a raffle and refreshments. More details, contact Eileen Marriott 303834.

Magnet Some members in Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Churches enjoy the 'Magnet' magazine. It costs £2 quarterly or £8 annually. This is the time of year when the 2007 magazines are ordered. Please contact Mrs Hilda Hicks or Mrs Margaret Standley to order your copies before the 18th December. If you find it difficult to read now and would prefer it in tape form quarterly, that can be arranged.

Could you give a child a chance? Integrated Services Programme (ISP) is an independent, childcare organisation providing foster care to children with a wide range of emotional and behavioural needs. They are currently looking to expand into Bedfordshire and the surrounding areas. ISP looks after children from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds including white UK, African, African-Caribbean, Asian and dual heritage. They offer full training, 24 hour support and a professional fee from £433 per week. For an information pack please contact their Chesham Team on 01494 792999 or 0800 085 7989 or visit www.ispchildcare.org.uk

Putnoe Provender –at last Sunday's sale the sum of £180-45 was raised for the Kisiizi Hospital Appeal. Many thanks to all who supported the sale. John and Sally Gunning.

Footprints New Years Day Walk Monday 1.1.07 at 10.30am. Meet at Milton Ernest Garden Centre for coffee followed by an easy circular walk suitable for all the family (some stiles) Option for a pub lunch afterwards. Contact Sue on 407264.

Gwen and Peter Beswick wish to thank everyone most sincerely for their kind thoughts and prayers. They wish all at Putnoe Heights and St. Mark's a very blessed Christmas. A donation will be made, in lieu of cards, to St John's Moggerhanger.

St Albans to Taize 2007. Join this year's pilgrimage 21st - 30th July. If you are aged between 15 & 30 and would like to take part come along to a meeting

on Saturday 31st March at Christ Church, Goldington Road, Bedford at 7.30pm. www.taize.fr

Joyce Quarrington. We have received news that Joyce Quarrington, formerly of Stokesay Close, has passed away.

Job Advert- BRASS is a local charity supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Bedfordshire through advice, social support and English language tuition. We have been awarded a grant from the Bedford Charity to employ a Co-ordinator 21 hours From £20, 895 - £23175 pro rata You will oversee the delivery of BRASS activities and explore opportunities for development. Experience of working in the refugee and or advice field would be an advantage but is not essential. This new post is funded initially for one year. Hours and job base can be flexible although the drop in sessions on Tuesday s and Wednesday s from 10 – 2pm must be covered. For more information and a job pack, please phone :tel 350459 or email brec@fsmail.net Closing date for applications: 12 noon Mon 5 February 2007

St Mark's Youth Group. The youth club at St Mark's meets at 7.00pm on Friday evening and is attracting up to 50 young people. It is run by Bedfordshire Police officers who give of their own free time for this community activity. They do need help from volunteers, if you have any time which you could spare then please give PC Dave Hawkey a call at St Mark's.

The Methodist Church has launched an innovative booklet in health clubs, play centres and bars. Peace in Your Pocket is a thought provoking 16-page booklet the size of a postcard, and 75,000 copies are available in hundreds of venues nationwide until early January. The booklet contains poems, pictures and thought-provoking points as it explores the issue of peace, and what it means today. It contains brief meditations for busy people, as well as pointers for those who wish to look further into the topic. This booklet is for anyone who is asking questions, particularly people who would not normally go to church but who feel the need to think reflectively about peace." The booklet contains quotations from Desmond Tutu, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Satish Kumar, amongst others. It aims to provide readers with a few moments of calm, as well as challenging them to take further action to promote peace. The booklet has an accompanying website, www.peaceinyourpocket.org.uk.



Woodland Burial. Progress is being made on establishing the woodland burial site at Keysoe. A booklet is now available which can be downloaded from the church website, www.thischurch.com/woodland. Alternatively contact our administrator Mrs Linda Parry at St Mark's Church office or by Email, woodland@thischurch.com

Priory Methodist Church Christmas Tree & Crib Festival Sunday 17 December 12—4pm Admission £2 includes light refreshments, (Accompanied children under 16 free) Proceeds to be shared between Kariburi Trust & Church Development Projects.

Books. Please save your books for our Mission Group Book Sale, planned for the end of February at Putnoe Heights Church. More details in the New Year, Sylvia Cohen 34342

Kisiizi Mission Project - An Outstanding Response

Thank you to all who have given so generously to this year's Kisiizi Mission Appeal. When we add the totals from events such as coffee mornings, Putnoe Provender, Christmas voices, Smartie Tubes and other fundraising efforts together with the significant amount of direct giving and the gift aid we are able to reclaim, across the Partnership we have raised an amazing total of £6250, far above the target of £3600 we set for ourselves at the end of October. This is the biggest response we have ever had to a mission project and the money we have raised will make a huge difference in the care that can be offered through the mission hospital in Kisiizi, providing support for doctors, nurses and drugs for months ahead. Advent and Christmas are times of reflection and hope and through your generosity you have provided immense hope for all those involved with the work of Kisiizi. Thank you for what is truly an outstanding and deeply moving response to our mission project. *Sam Cappleman*



Please Order your presents through Amazon

Amazon.co.uk sell everything, with free delivery and really low prices. When you access Amazon through thischurch.com we receive a percentage of the cost usually 5%. Please only ever access Amazon directly through the link on thischurch.com

Please order now for Christmas!

Special Offer

If you order good through thischurch.com then you may arrange with Amazon for the goods to be delivered to St Mark's Church. This should be appreciated by busy working families—every little helps.

Chapel Chairs. Buy a chair for St Mark's chapel. Chairs can be donated for a cost of £60 which includes a plaque with inscription

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.

**Cyril Janes
Eva May Norman**

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 Margaret Leggatt will take place Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 19 December at 12.15pm. *Crossley*

The Funeral of Derek Lloyd will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 20 December at 10am. *Crossley*