



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

1 February 2009

Candlemas



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– Candlemas Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions – Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Candlemas Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team – Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Sunday 8 February

9.30am St Mark's– Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership– Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mr Chris Izzard

11.00am Putnoe Heights –Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions—Mr Eddy Peck

Readings 1 Isaiah 40: 21-31 2. Cor 9:16-33
3.Mark 1: 29-39

Thank You

The flowers in St Marks church have been given by Gill Williams in memory of her husband David and in the chapel by Barbara Pinney in memory of her husband Keith.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Gill Williams in memory of her husband David, and by Mr & Mrs Capeling on the occasion of the wedding of their daughter Julie to Stephen Simmonds.

Bring and Buy Cake Stall

After the service today at Putnoe following All Age Worship. Proceeds toward Youth Church funds.

A Prayer for Sunday

O Lord Jesus Christ, as a child you were presented in the Temple and received with joy by Simeon and Anna as Redeemer of Israel: mercifully grant that we like them, may be guided by the Holy Spirit to acknowledge and love you until the end of our lives. Amen

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

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 Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
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 - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30-12.00pm 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 ☎ 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Playreading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 11am - 12. The Right Track** at St Mark's. 3rd week
Signpost information for people with learning difficulties.
Gina Barton ☎07999859980
- 12.00pm Story box** 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
- 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 Lena Holland ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 16 February 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 ☎07790206016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella

Atkinson ☎325293.

- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week . 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. Mrs C Allen ☎363878
- 2pm U3A Photography Group.** St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 3 February 2009 Rev. Sam Cappleman. 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.
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pmChartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 10 February 2009 Mission Aviation Fellowship Rosa Stocking. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 9.15am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Hanrahan ☎824475
- 9.30am Childminding Support Group** Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949
- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎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
- 10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.
- Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 4 February 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch** St Mark's 2nd week in month. Next meeting 11th February Chris Izzard ☎212164
- 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** monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2pm 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
6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073
7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Week. Mr Farish ☎824984
7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 4 February Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594
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.
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. r Emma Strangwick ☎211070
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
5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521
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
7.30pm 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 & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
9.30am U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month.

Val Scrivener ☎346397
10am U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086
9.30am U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Val Scrivener ☎346397
12.15pm U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183
1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414
; Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198
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
4pm B.A.M.A.A. at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922
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 – , 2 Feb, 22 June, 9 Nov
St Mark's Leadership Team – 24 Feb
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 9 Feb
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 20 Apr, 13 Jul
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 18 March
Putnoe Church Council - 15 Jun, 5 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting - May 5th 4.30pm
Annual Congregational Meetings 3 May
Churchyard Committee -
Putnoe Heights Mission Group –
Partnership Council -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 5 Feb, 5 March
Deanery Meeting 5 Feb, 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,
Circuit/Deanery Meeting
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Mission Group Meeting -
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Candlemas

Opening Verse - Luke 2 Verse 32

A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

Collect Prayer -Before we read we pray

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



First Bible Reading – Malachi Chapter 3:1-5

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

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

Second Reading - Hebrews Chapter 2:14-18

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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

Third Reading - Luke Chapter 2:22-40

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her

husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

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

Hymns (*Please distribute Candlemas Family Service and Mission Praise*)

1. Christ is made, 73, 2. Come on and celebrate 99, 3. Faithful vigil ended 125, 4. Like a mighty river 419, 5. Lord of the Church 442

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Commentary

This special Sunday has been called 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple', 'The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary', and 'Candlemas.' Candlemas celebrates the many themes of these events, presentation, purification and light for the world. The presentation of Jesus in the Temple took place 40 days after his birth. For us 40 days after Christmas Day falls on February 2, but it is celebrated in church on the Sunday nearest that date. Candlemas is a watershed in the church year, it marks the point at which we take a last look back at Christmas and then turn our minds firmly towards the Easter cross. We have been working through the Sundays of Epiphany, now we leave them behind and soon it will be Lent, for this reason it has been called a 'bitter-sweet Sunday.' This feast of Candlemas which we celebrate today can be traced to at least 543. The Feast of Lighted candles is mentioned by Bede and St. Eligius, who was bishop of Noyon from 640 to 648.

So today we remember Jesus as just 40 days old and taken to the Temple by Mary, as ordered by the Jewish Law. Since Jesus was a boy, it was 40 days after Mary gave birth that she attended at the Temple to bring a sacrifice. Now we are led to understand from Luke, that Mary did not bring a year old lamb, the reading mentions 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons,' one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. This implies that Mary presented the option for poorer people, so we may suppose that Joseph and Mary were not very wealthy. Nevertheless as faithful Jews they did their religious duty and observed the Law of Moses when it came to such things as childbirth, circumcision, and other rituals.

Luke is careful to point out that Jesus was a Jew who had his roots in the Old Testament. But clearly in this passage we see that Luke makes the point that with Jesus there is more than just a following of the old order of law. Candlemas is a time when we remember the old recognised Jesus, who brings in the new. Luke shows that the story of Jesus was confirmed by two prophets, Simeon and Anna, who spoke of Jesus under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We have this marvellous story of Simeon to whom it had been revealed "that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord.' Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and spoke the beautiful words which we know as the *The Nunc Dimittis*

Simeon says that God is setting him free as a slave is granted liberty. He is now free to die (for the Spirit's revelation to him is now fulfilled), and Israel is free of bondage. God has saved Israel, as he promised to "all peoples". God's salvation is for Gentiles as well as Israel. The old could pass away because the new had come and the future for us all would be safe in his hands.

But, Simeon finishes with some disturbing words. This marvellous salvation through Jesus had a dark side. Not everyone will take kindly to Jesus, there will be a falling as well as a arising of many in Israel. Jesus will be a sign that will be spoken against, he will cause a crisis in Israel. Decisions will have to be made for him or against him. The sword of Jesus will divide, discriminate, and judge the thoughts, attitudes, and relationships of all people. Mary the mother of Jesus will go through the same crisis, everyone must decide what to do with Jesus. Simeon recognised something special in Jesus and he knew that he had indeed seen the Lord's Christ, and that young or old he could depart in peace, for the eyes of faith had seen God's salvation: perhaps not the salvation he was expecting, the vindication of a particular

people: but something bigger and better, the salvation which God had prepared before the face of all people. *Charles Royden*

Meditation Today we focus on Luke's story of the meeting between the Child Jesus and the aged Simeon. In the Greek-speaking world the feast was called HYPAPANTI (the encounter). In this juxtaposition of the Child and the old man. Simeon could be expressing his hope for someone with a new determination to do better. But it is not just passing all of our hopes onto a new generation - we made a mess of it but were sure that you will do better - they won't, they will be just as bad as we were. At Candlemas the Church sees the encounter between the world without Christ and the world with a new beginning in Christ, between the fading age of the Old Covenant embodied in the curse of Leviticus and the new era of the Church of all nations. Simeon calls Jesus "a light to enlighten the Gentiles." Accordingly this day was made into a feast of candles. The warm candlelight is meant to be a tangible reminder of that greater light which, for and beyond all time, radiates from the figure of Jesus. We ourselves are reminded of the need to be prepared to burn brightly ourselves in the midst of this dark world. We take a light, but it is not our own light, no light of our own would be bright enough, rather it is the light of Christ. The light which at the beginning of creation shined in the darkness and which no darkness, no blindness, could overcome. This light was a light to lighten the gentiles, the nations, all the nations and races and culture of people. *Charles Royden*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

O God, who in the work of creation commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may shine into the hearts of all your people, dispelling the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, and revealing to them the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Let the flame of your love never be quenched in our hearts, O Lord. Waking or sleeping, living or dying, let us delight in your presence. Let the flame of your love brighten our souls and illumine our path, and let the majesty of your glory be our joy, our life and our strength now and for ever. Amen Johann Arndt, 1555-1621

Let us all hasten to meet Christ, we who honour and venerate the divine mystery we celebrate today. Everyone should be eager to join the procession to share in this meeting. Let no one refuse to carry a light. Our bright shining candles are a sign of the divine splendour of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ. The God-bearer the most pure virgin, carried the true Light in her arms and brought him to help those who lay in darkness. In the same way we too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him. *Sophronius of Jerusalem*



Help us Cut Carbon and win £37,000!!

We all have to do our bit to stop climate change and global warming. St Mark's is hoping to install solar panels on the roof of the community centre. Our roof is located brilliantly to face the sun and collect free power, even when the sun isn't that bright. This will provide free hot water and also electricity.

We have entered a competition to win £37,000 for solar panels. One obvious

benefit will be saving money, but we will also be taking another step to making St Mark's a low carbon facility, saving on our carbon use and CO2 emissions. Please will you join our efforts and support our project by registering on our 'Cut your Carbon' community webpage? Just go to www.cutyourcarbon.org/group/stmarks and register. Please take your own carbon footprint test as this will increase our standing with the judges.

Join us in making the world a better place. So far 50 people have registered, we want to reach 100 quickly so please help!

Pastoral Visiting *Some helpful comments written by Mary Stubbs.*

The Partnership Ministry is covered in various ways, first and foremost by the excellent ministry of our clergy. There is also the visiting and caring which is carried out informally by members of the church when they are aware of a special or long term need. These are generally much appreciated, but may not be known about and therefore unrecognised generally. We want to say 'thank you' for this love and care and prayerful support. There is also the ministry formally undertaken on behalf of the church through the Pastoral

Support Team. This was set up originally primarily for visiting bereaved families whose family funerals were taken by one of our ministers. This involved a contact with families, about two months after the death and funeral, to express the church care and ascertain whether any particular help was needed. This kind of contact continues by telephone initially, and possibly by a home visit. Because of the use of the garden of Remembrance and chapel by some families from other churches or known through the undertakers, this can lead to a wider ministry of initial support.

The team is also involved in the care of sick people, maybe through some short term need, e.g. hospital visiting, or through long-term contact with people who gradually become more housebound or forgetful. We try to meet these requests, but they do depend on receiving information (and accepting that some people forget that they have had visitors). In addition, about 50 people are telephoned regularly by the Telecare Team who can pass on information, initially to Charlie. This is a large parish and of course our ministry can be patchy and there is always room for improvement. We want to do the best we can because this is part of our Christians service.

Please would you remember in your prayers the pastoral ministry of the whole church, led by Charlie and Sam, and the present members of the Partnership Pastoral Support Team, Sue Allen, Jean bank, Valerie Capon, Sylvia Cohen, Sally Gunning, Richard Ledger, Margaret Standley, Wendy waters, (Doris Cooper, Pat Gregory and Kathleen Stennet, by telephone occasionally) and Mary Stubbs.

Diary Date. We are planning an after Christmas Table Top Sale at Putnoe on Saturday 28th February. Tables can be pre booked if you would like to sell your own items or there will be a church table. Please come along and support us and enjoy some lunch refreshment. Help on the day would be appreciated. Further details to follow please see Liz or Linda, thank you.

Putnoe Winter Grapevine. Following the success of the summer edition I am looking for articles for the next issue please let Liz have your news by Sunday 25th Jan.

Saturday 7 March 6.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church. Tickets for the Confessions of a Pantomime Dame will be available in the Church Office. Supper with a choice of Hot Dogs, Chilli Con Carne or Cottage Pie (meat or vegetarian) will be served from 5p.m. onwards or after the entertainment. Soft drinks will be supplied or bring your own alcohol. The cost of a ticket is Adults—£7.50 Children £5.00. Tickets for the entertainment without food can be bought at Adults £6.00 Children £3.50. It will be a fund raising event in aid of Putnoe Heights Church funds. For more information see Jenny Emsley.

Give a dog a home We are looking for a home for two lovely dogs.

Chloe is a Samoyed Springer Spaniel cross. White with tan markings. 'I am 11 years old with all vaccinations, I get on with other dogs and I like children. The only thing I don't like is cats (*this dog has taste*). I am obedient and know all the proper commands, breakfast, dinner, sit, lay, wait, paw, treaties and garden. Please can you give me a home, and take me for walks, because I am fir and happy and like exercise despite my age.'

Daisy. 'People tell me I am gorgeous, but I am only 5 and I badly need somebody who can look after me. I am well behaved and I really need a friend right now because my owners are emigrating. Please let me into your home and you will discover why Rotties are the best dogs in the world—ask Charlie who would love to have me himself but he would have to get a bigger car, which is just not possible. I am spayed, vaccinated, good off a lead, like children and I adore cuddles.'

Please call Grace Foster if you can help these dogs 215053



A picture of the lovely Rotty
5 year old Daisy

**St Marks and Putnoe Heights
Lent Course 2009
The Life, Meaning and Teachings of Jesus**

Title: The Teaching of Jesus

- What did Jesus really teach? - How did He teach? -
What did He mean? Date: Tuesday 10 March 2009
Leader: Paul Fricker

Title: The Parables of Jesus

- Why did Jesus tell parables? - What do they
mean? - How should we understand the parables of
Jesus Date: Tuesday 17 March 2009
Leader: Revd Charles Royden

Title: The Miracles of Jesus

- Why did Jesus do miracles? - Who were they for?
- How do we interpret them now? Date: Tuesday 24
March 2009 Leader: Claire Peck

Title: The Passion of Jesus

- What did Jesus say about His passion?
- What does it mean?
- Why did He think it was necessary?
Date: Tuesday 31 March 2009
Leader: Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Evening Outline

- Each session takes place at Putnoe Heights Church
- Evening starts at 7:30 pm for 8:00 pm with coffee and biscuits
- Talk starts at 8:00 pm for approximately 45 minutes
- Questions and discussion for approximately for 15 minutes
- Evening closes at 9:00 pm

Clubhouse at St Mark's would be grateful if anyone has any spare 4mm needles and double knitting wool. Thank you.

Women's Network - The annual Daffodil Day celebration will be held on Monday 2 March, 1.45pm at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Please see notice in the Church Foyer for more information.

BRASS, a local charity supporting refugees and asylum seekers seeks to employ a co-ordinator for 30 hours per week, salary £18977. For more information and a job pack phone 01234 350459 or email brecnews@hotmail.com. Closing 9 Feb

Wanted Part-time Schools Worker (20hours) to help expand the Christian faith in Middle & Upper schools in the Bedford area. The person should be a committed Christian, with good communication skills and experience of working with school age children .Closing date 27.2 09, interview 28.3.09. More details & application form from : Miss Heather Travers, 132 Mallard Hill , Bedford, MK41 7QT, 01234 360634 or E: heathertravers@talktalk.net

Sir William Harpur House A service of Holy Communion takes place on the first Monday of each month at 10.00am. All welcome.

Walk February 1st at Roxton commencing 2pm. Meet at Roxton Parish church for gentle 2 1/2 mile walk around the pleasant village of Roxton. Further details from Margaret & Eddy Peck 267567

Bedford Deanery Meeting February 5 at St Peter's Chapter House 7.30pm

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.

**Mavis Tearle
Vera Marsh
Jessie Yates
James Smith
Violet Merryman**

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



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Edith Joyce Taylor will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 5 February at 2.30pm

The funeral of David Johnson will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 6 February at 11.30am

The funeral of Mr Joel Delaney will take place at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground on Wednesday 4 February at 12 noon.

The funeral of Mr William Stanley Lowndes (Stan) will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Wednesday 11 February