



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

20 November 2011

Christ the King



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

### 20 November -Christ the King

#### 9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden  
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher – Rev Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

### 27 November Advent 1

#### 9.30am St Mark'-Morning Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank  
Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship & Baptism

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk  
Intercessions – Ministers

### Bible Readings 1.Isaiah 64: 1-9 2 1 Corinthians

1:3-9 3.Mark 13: 24 -37

### Midweek Worship Holy Communion at St Mark's

Chapel every Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mrs Jean McKercher in loving memory of her husband Eric

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Doreen Smart in loving memory of her husband, George.

The flowers in the chapel last week were given by Gill Williams in memory of her husband David on his 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 the Week

Stir up, O Lord,  
the wills of your  
faithful people,  
that they bringing forth  
the fruit of good works,  
may by you  
be richly rewarded:  
through Jesus Christ  
Our Lord. Amen

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a Vice President for Hewlett Packard)

### Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 Mobile 07807 146535  
jane@thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
309175 Mobile 07973 113861  
vicar@thisischurch.com

### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://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 Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs. Linda Hoare 782717  
**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** John Hitt 404186  
**Youth Worker** Emma Gordon email - 07593266091 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** - Laura Farthing 210892  
**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 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

Head teacher 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)*

**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955

**10.30am U3A Play reading** (see contact details below)

**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - (see contact details below)**3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities. Emma Gordon 07593266091 or 365630

**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

☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15 - 8.15pm

**6.15pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's Sam Thompson

☎07766421000

**7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

**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

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

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

**8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507

**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** (see contact details below)

**1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** (see contact details below)

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

**2.00pm U3A** (see contact details below)

**2pm U3A Photography** St. Mark's (see contact details below)

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 22 November Rev. Eric Royden. ' For more details contact 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-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

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

**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

**7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting November 29 Craft Evening Details call Janet King 313946

**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

## Wednesday

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

**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters ☎342613.

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

**10am U3A Card Making,** (see contact details below)

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 23 November 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** (see contact details below)

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

**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834

**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

**6.00pm Shooting Stars.** Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

**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 will be 30 November 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624 Restarts on 8 September.

**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 Jaana Swaby ☎363283

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays** St. Mark's ☎267444

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

**1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights** £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games** (see contact details below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

**2- 4pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎275229

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 857850 or 07919402797 .

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** (see contact details below)

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

**8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

**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. Pauline Hooper ☎350079

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** ((see contact details below)

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** (see contact details below)

**5-8pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**5.50-7.05pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

**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 ☎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

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice [www.bedfordtkd.com](http://www.bedfordtkd.com) or [bedfordtkd@googlemail.com](mailto:bedfordtkd@googlemail.com).

**U3A** For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 21 February 2012

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 22 November 2011, 16 February 2012

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 25th Jan 2012 7.30pm at 24 Loring Rd. Sharnbrook.

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** - Mon. 23rd Jan 2012 7.30 Putnoe Meeting Room

**St Mark's Forum Meeting** -

**Putnoe Church Council** - 13 February 2012

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Circuit meeting** - 8 February 2012 @ Kempston East Deanery Meeting

**Woodland Burial Trustees** – 27 November

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** – 16 January 2012

# Christ the King

## Opening Verse of Scripture—Proverbs 19:17

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full

## Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who 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 - Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24

" 'For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. " 'Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

## Second Reading - Ephesians 1: 15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (This is the Word of the Lord — **All: Thanks be to God**)

## Gospel Reading - Matthew 25:31-48

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

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on



Icon of Jesus Christ as Pantocrator  
'Ruler over all'

his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (This is the Gospel of Christ--**Praise to Christ our Lord** )

### Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

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

1. Stand up stand up for Jesus 617 (Tune Webb)
2. Majesty 454
3. Thou didst leave (Tune Margaret) 154 697
4. Rejoice the Lord is King! (Gopsal) 575

### Commentary -

Perhaps the first thing to say about the reading from Matthew today is that it is like a warning message. Matthew puts it at the end of a large section of teaching, just before he starts to look at the events leading up to the crucifixion. Jesus speaks using words which immediately attract attention, there will be a judgement day, everybody will be called to account, they will be gathered to await the verdict at the end of time and there will be a separation. The reading today is a conclusion to the teaching of Jesus and it is a warning. If you ignore what Jesus has said then there are consequences. His teaching is not just a good idea, it is imperative that you take notice and listen.

Jesus uses language which reinforces the seriousness of his message. Of course Jesus never imagined that we 2,000 years later would be listening to his teaching in England, in our very different culture. Jesus expected that the conclusion of world history would be very soon. And he spoke to an audience of people who were largely Jewish. He used language which would be understood by the Jews. In the Jewish consciousness.

The Jews always believed that the Messiah would come and judge and the imagery which Jesus of a shepherd separating the sheep from the goats would have been instantly familiar to his hearers. It was always believed by the Jews that the Messiah would come and be a judge. Often that work of judgement was thought of as the Messiah being like a shepherd (Ezekiel 34:11,23). But Jesus tells his audience that the rules of division have been changed. No longer is it a case of Jews on one side, separated from everybody else. There is still a division, but from now on the basis for that division is Jesus himself. As the Messiah, Jesus has changed the goal posts.

But remember that what we have is an image, one chosen for his audience. Over the years Christian teaching has taken the imagery used in passages like this and made it into literal doctrines. Eternal judgement and eternal life have been described with spectacular realism and attention to detail.

Nobody can say what judgement will be like, we must leave such things to God, however what we can say is that Jesus wants his hearers to take his words with great seriousness. His warning is this. His favour rests upon those who decide to do the work he has given us to do. Those who choose to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison, these are the ones who will find blessing. There will be many people who consider themselves to be the righteous ones, but they will be found not to be living the way of Christ at all. They choose to ignore the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and those in prison.

The teaching of Jesus throughout the Gospels is that we must show acts of love towards all people and so this is entirely consistent with the understanding that Jesus is asking for us to treat all people with acts of kindness.. We must treat kindly everybody with acts of mercy, even our enemies.

The faithful will see everyone as a brother or sister in Christ and will respond to the need to care for all God's children. The unfaithful will keep to themselves and cling to what they have, remaining safe from the risk of contamination by the vulnerable and unwashed. This was not the way of Jesus, who went out of his way to befriend those society treated as outcasts or immoral.

Judgement is an interesting thing, we do not have to wait for a coming judgement, judgement is something which we bring upon ourselves, and we do it now, while we are living, there is no need to wait until we are dead. We are judged in this life, there is no need to wait for the next. The rewards are great for those who seek to do the will of God. Those who embrace the kingly purpose, receive power and meaning in their lives. They will walk their days with a Saviour King who transforms them again and again into a people who take joy in helping others. This is why it is said that to be perfect is to have changed often. They will delight in working to change oppressive systems and human structures that fail to serve the needy and work against relieving troubled lives and broken spirits.

Very often Christians have taught that when we stand before God, we will be asked what we believed, how true our theology was, or how often we worshipped in church. Jesus sounds a warning today in not even mentioning religious practice or belief. Rather we will be confronted with a record of how well we cared for others. We should not be surprised that God is so concerned about social justice. We have a Messiah who was born in stable. Seeking justice is not an option for the Christian it is our inescapable duty. Poor and vulnerable people have a special place in God's heart. And those who help them do as well. As Christians, we are called to respond to the needs of all people, but those with the greatest needs require the greatest response. This gospel teaching reminds us that ultimately, we will be judged by how well we live out the social teaching of Jesus Christ. We will be judged by whether we have responded to the call to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger, serve those who are ill, and visit those who are in prison.

We must not forget that we are also called to work for social change in the structures of our world and for empowerment of those in need. We are called to ask why people are hungry or thirsty or homeless or refugees or without medical care or in prison. We are called to look at the structures that keep people from earning the food they need, the policies that keep people in the developing world from a healthy water supply, the economic forces that have some people living in substandard homes, the government rules that make life hard for refugees and immigrants, the failure of some to see basic medical care as a human right, for all the injustices in our criminal justice system.

At some time we have all been sheep and we have perhaps all been goats. We are seldom all good and all bad, I am sure Jesus knows how to work this one out. But the serious point is that God notices what goes on and he cares. God thinks that the lives we lead here on earth are of consequence, they matter. Therefore the way that we treat others has importance to God, he takes note. In so much as we show kindness and mercy, we demonstrate the presence of God within us and we are citizens of the Kingdom of Jesus. For this reason we might one day be surprised as to who is a sheep and who is a goat.

We often end our service with the words go in peace to love and serve the lord, in the name of Christ.

The two go together, love and service. It is the love of Christ which we see when people care for each other. Care for others is self validating, it does not have to have a Christian badge on it, it is good in itself a holy act. God has a people who are known to him alone, his friends are characterised by their actions towards those in need.

*Charles Royden*

### **Prayer**

We pray for the Church throughout the world, that she may be a voice for those who lack even the basic necessities of life, tirelessly serving them and calling for change. We pray for the world's leaders, that they may not hide behind their power or abuse it, but work for the good of all humanity, particularly the poor throughout the world. We pray for our local community, that we may show our love through our respect for each other and for our environment, gladly sharing what we have with those in need.

### **Meditation**

To Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love  
All pray in their distress  
And return these virtues of delight  
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy has a human heart,  
Pity a human face,  
And Love--the human form divine,  
And Peace, the human dress.  
And all must love the human form,  
In Heathen, Turk or Jew;  
Where Mercy, Love and Pity dwell  
There is God dwelling too.

*William Blake*

**Mission Appeal** 'A time to give thanks, for things we take for granted' Thank you to those who have already given gifts for our Mission Appeal this year BeCHaR. (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) Please note that you can continue to give over the coming weeks using the envelopes provided and placing them on the offering plates or delivering to the church offices. Cheques may be made out either to St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church.

**Footprints.** Footprints planning meeting (for next years programme) Tuesday 22 November 2011 at 7.30pm at the home of Alison and Warwick Tel 403551

**Putnoe Provender** Sunday 4 December. Sales of the ever popular Christmas puddings, cakes, mince pies, jams, marmalades, chutneys and much more in the Welcome Area after morning service. Proceeds in aid of BeCHaR, our autumn mission project. (Contributions gratefully received). Sally & John Gunning 305925.

**Missions Group** at Putnoe Heights church have sent a cheque for £150 to the British Red Cross for the Turkey earthquake appeal.

**Advent Texts and Emails-** This Advent the Diocese of St Albans is offering a very special kind of Advent calendar. They will send you every day a text or email with a special religious thought for Christmas. It will help you to take time to pause each day to prepare for Christmas. You can sign up by visiting [www.livethechallenge.co.uk](http://www.livethechallenge.co.uk) where you can also download stories and activity sheets

**St Mark's Weekly Offering Envelopes** Replacement sets of Weekly Offering Envelopes are available after the service this morning. If you don't current use the envelope scheme or would like to find out more about regular giving to the Church please contact Jim Williams tel 01234 360605.

**Bedford Messiah Choir** present Handel's Messiah on Saturday 26 November 2011 at 7.30pm at Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford in aid of Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. Entry by programme Adults £8.50 Concessions £7.50 including seasonal refreshments. Some programmes are available at St Mark's Church Office.

**Anjulita Court** Christmas Fayre. Saturday 26 November 11.00 am-3pm. Gifts, cards, cakes, treats, raffle and refreshments. Admission 50p. Bramley Way, North Brickhill.

**Stevenage Male Voice Choir in Concert** - Soloist Minika. Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 26th November at 7.30pm Tickets £5 - proceeds to Karibuni Trust.

**Magnet Magazine.** £10 will cover the cost of Magnet Magazine for the coming year with three copies being issued; Easter, Harvest and Christmas. It would be a pity to miss out on this inspirational and beautifully illustrated magazine. Order yours through Hilda Hicks (Putnoe) or Margaret Standley (St Mark's) or the Church Office before December 18

**"Putnoe Heights Cleaning Rota** - After many years sterling work Joy Parker has stepped down from organising the church cleaning rota. I'm taking over and would welcome any new volunteers who would like to join the rota. It involves less than an hour on a Saturday morning every 5 or 6 weeks. If you can help please contact me. Diana Johnson tel 828773"

**Vicarage Christmas Party.** The Partnership Council Christmas party will be held at the Vicarage on Sunday 18 December from 2.00pm

**Christmas cards as shown below** are now available for purchase in aid of our charity Bechar, which provides essential care for the homeless and rootless in Bedford. The cards are priced at 25p each with packs of 5 for £1.00. This is a way to have great looking cards and know that your money is going towards such an important charity. Orders can be made by telephoning St Mark's Office on 342613

**Thank You** To all of those who helped and supported the Christmas Fayre at St Mark's Church this year. It was another tremendous event taking just one pound more than last year ! Profit from the event should reach about £2,400. A really great effort and special thanks to Avril and her team of volunteers.



**Words & Music for Christmas".** Come & enjoy a seasonal celebration of amusing & nostalgic prose & poetry from our Putnoe readers with music from members of the Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra at Putnoe Heights on Friday 9th December at 7.30pm. Mulled wine & mince pies. Admission £4 - tickets in advance from Putnoe Heights Church Office or at the door. Proceeds in aid of the BeCHaR appeal.

**Women's Network/ MWiB** –Circuit Advent Service on 27th November at 4pm at Priory Methodist Church. All Welcome. See notice board in foyer.

**Gift Fair & Pampering Evening** in aid of Sue Rider Friday 25 November from 6 - 9pm at St. Mark's Church. Gift, Food Items and refreshment stalls. A selection of various taster pampering treatments. Entrance Fee £1 per adult includes entry to prize draw. Enquiries email: [brickhill2011@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brickhill2011@yahoo.co.uk)

**Footprints Walk Sunday 4 December 2.00pm**  
Meet by the lake in Bedford Park for 3 mile circular walk on good paths through Brickhill and Clapham Park. A note for your diary - as New Year's Day 2012 will fall on a Sunday, the New Year Walk will be held on Monday 2nd January at 10.30am. Further details from Sue Allen

## Christmas Services at Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church

### Putnoe Heights Church

**Sunday 4 December 11.00am**

Christingle Service. A children's favourite with decorated oranges

**Sunday 18 December 6.30pm**

Carols by Candlelight

**Saturday 24 December  
Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Children's Crib Service  
A special half hour service  
for little ones

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

**Sunday 25 December 11.00am**

Family Morning Worship  
A perfect start to Christmas Day  
for all the family

### St Mark's Church

**Sunday 4 December 9.30am**

Christingle Service. A children's favourite  
with decorated oranges

**Saturday 17 December**

6.30pm carols in the car park  
With free mulled wine and mince pies  
Singing with Bedford Town Brass Band

**Saturday 24 December  
Christmas Eve**

3.00pm Children's Crib Service  
A special half hour service  
for little ones

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight  
With Bedford Town Brass Band

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

### 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.

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

**Sunday 25 December 9.30am**

Family Morning Worship  
A perfect start to Christmas Day  
for all the family

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Virtue is not far from us, nor is it without ourselves, but it is within us, and is easy if only we are willing' (*Anthony the Great*).

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**No Forthcoming Funerals**