



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

21 December 2008

4th Sunday in Advent



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership Team - - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions-Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights—Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership Team – Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Ministers

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service at St Mark's
4.00pm Crib Service at Putnoe Heights
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion at St Mark's
and Putnoe Heights Church

Christmas Day

9.30am Family Worship at St Mark's
11.00am Family Worship at Putnoe Heights

Sunday 28 December

8.30am Holy Communion at St Mark's
9.30am Morning Worship at St. Mark's Church
11.00am Morning Worship at Putnoe Heights
Preacher at both services Mrs Claire Peck

Partnership Council Christmas Party

Please arrive at Vicarage after 1.00pm today

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights have been given by Patricia Pollard in loving memory of her mother.

The flowers at St. Marks have been arranged and donated by the regular team, but one arrangement is specially donated by Catherine Corfield and family in memory of her husband.

Thank You

Our grateful thanks to all who have helped decorate our churches for Christmas.

A Prayer for Sunday

God of Glory, present in all places and filling all things, treasury of blessings and source of life: come and dwell with us, cleanse us from all sin and grant us your salvation. Amen.

Liturgy of St John Chrysostom, 4th century

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 Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

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

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

11am - 12. The Right Track at St Mark's. 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

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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 every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact 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 each month. Next meeting 19 January 2009 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

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

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

9.40 -12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Philips 01582 485333

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

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

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 6 January 2009 Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

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

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group

St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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 of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 6 January 2009 Afternoon tea. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎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 7 January 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. 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 Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

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

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

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 Wednesday of the month. 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. Next meeting 7 January 2009 Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

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 weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at 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

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.30—4.30pm Art Society at St Mark's

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 of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. Marriot 303834

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

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.

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 -7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

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

1.30pm 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

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – ,
2 February, 22 June,
9 November 2009

St Mark's Leadership Team –
24 February

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting- 19 January, 20

April, 13 July

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -
21 January 2009

Putnoe Church Council - Monday 26 January,
Monday 15 June, Monday 5 October

Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 20 January
4.30pm

Annual Congregational Meetings 26 April

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees

Mission Group Meeting - Weds 7th January 2009 at
7.30pm Sylvia 14 Flint Way 343424

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

4th Sunday in Advent

Opening Verses of Scripture -Isaiah 9: 6

Unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Collect Prayer

God our Redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and

reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever Amen. *Common Worship*



First Bible Reading - 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you." That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. 'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'

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

Second Reading- Romans 16: 25-27

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

Gospel Reading - Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the

angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ- **All: Thanks be to God**)

Commentary

The gospel reading deals with the Virgin birth of Jesus and this what Bishop Tom Wright has to say on the topic. "The angel gives what looks like a double explanation for the whole event. The **Holy Spirit** will come upon Mary, enabling her (as the Spirit always does) to do and be more than she could by herself. But at the same time 'the power of the Most High' will overshadow her. This is something different: God himself, the creator, will surround her completely with his sovereign power. All this sounds extremely peculiar but we should remember that in the Bible and in Jewish and Christian thought at their best, the true God is the one in whose image humans were made in the first place. We aren't talking about a pagan god intervening roughly and inappropriately in the affairs of mortals, but about the one who, as St Augustine said, made us for himself. When he takes the initiative, it is always a matter of love, love which will care for us and take us up into his saving purposes.' Of course, no one is likely to be convinced of Luke's story who isn't already in some sense open to the possibility that Jesus, though certainly a fully human being, was also the one in whom Israel's God had made his personal appearance on the stage of history. And it's important to say that neither Luke nor Matthew (the two writers who speak about Jesus' conception directly) suggest that this is the most important thing about Jesus. In all of Paul's writings, he never mentions that there had been anything unusual about Jesus' conception or birth. Jesus' death and resurrection remain, for him, far more significant. But to those who have come to some kind of faith in the crucified and risen Jesus, whose minds are thus opened to God being uniquely present in him, there is a sense of appropriateness, hard to define, easy to recognise, about the story Luke and Matthew tell. It isn't what we would have expected, but it somehow rings true." Far more important though is the royal meaning of the event. The child to be born will be the Messiah, the King of the House of David who would reign for ever over all the world, and would be in some sense 'God's Son.' William Barclay sees this as something unique. He writes: with the coming of Jesus something unique happened. With His coming eternity invaded time. With His coming God emerged on earth. His coming was the hinge of history. It was the event to which all history was working up; and it is the event from which all subsequent history flows. The plain fact is that after the coming of Christ the world could never be the same again. Something happened which cannot be disregarded. The coming of Jesus was the central fact of history, so that, indeed, men count all time from the time before Christ came, and the time after He came. It is as if with His coming, life and the world began all over again.' The Cowboy Carol has the line "There's a new world beginning from tonight." May the earth-shattering event inspire our prayers and our lives. Richard Ledger

Meditation

The angel said (Luke 1 v 37) " Nothing is impossible for God" As we contemplate a broken world, beset by so many deep-seated problems and hatreds, do we believe the angel's words? In our intercessions, when we pray for peace and justice and reconciliation we sometimes feel that it is a hopeless cause—a real uphill struggle. But Jesus taught his disciples to use the words "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven" We can pray in confidence, in the light of Christmas for "the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours. Now and for ever."

Richard Ledger

Post Communion Prayer Eternal Father, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at the feet of Jesus Christ your son. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise)

1. Where do Christmas Songs begin (On Partnership News)
2. It came upon a Midnight Clear 345
3. Infant Holy 342
4. Shepherds watch and wise men wonder (On Partnership News. Tune 'Festival')



This poster will be seen at bus stops across the UK

It is a 4ft by 6ft reproduction of an oil painting by Royal Academy Gold medal winner, Andrew Gadd. The poster shows Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, with halos, in an urban bus shelter. The shepherds and wise men are replaced with fellow passengers waiting for a bus. Some are watching the nativity intently; others appear oblivious and are checking the bus timetable and flagging down a bus. The Bus Stop Nativity campaign is part of an attempt by the Churches Advertising Network to promote awareness of the Nativity story at Christmas. The campaign, which challenges people to Be Part of the Action at Church this Christmas, also includes radio ads, that are currently being broadcast nationally.

If you spot the poster let SEE ROUND know via email at: comms@stalbans.anglican.org You can download your own copy of the poster



Canterbury Cathedral Gift Shop is selling these Archbishopal tree ornaments. www.cathedral-enterprises.co.uk



Church Nativity Animation

By visiting thischurch.com you can see the link to a nativity cartoon animation produced by churchads.org.uk Great fun for kids and grown ups

Fourth Candle - The Candle of Joy (Pink candle) Mary the Mother of Jesus

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

(A person lights the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Love)

Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy.

We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

(A person lights the Fourth Candle the Candle of Joy)

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.



Christmas Posting Box is in the Welcome Area ready for you to post your cards to friends who attend Putnoe Heights church. The price is 10p per card or £1 for 12. Please put the money in the wooden 'flower' box. The money will be donated, as always, to NCH. Thank you Joy & Peter Parker

Chat and Play at St Mark's restarts on 8th January 2009 after church alterations.

Office closures - St Mark's Church office will close for Christmas from Tuesday evening 22 December and will re-open Monday morning 5 January 09

Putnoe Heights Church Office will close at 1pm on Wednesday 24 December and re-open at 9am on Monday 5 January 2009.

St Mark's Christmas Card Screen. This will be in place at the back of the church from Sunday 7 December for all to give their greetings to friends at St Marks. Please hand the card in at the office, or to one of the Leadership team, with any donation you may wish to give to our MAFF Mission project and they will affix with Velcro strips.

New Years Day Walk 1 January. Meet at 10.30am in Priory Methodist Church car park, Newnham Avenue. 3 mile circular walk around the marina and riverside area. All welcome to join in our traditional start to the New Year. After the walk a jacket potato lunch will be served at Putnoe Heights Church. Please contact Sue 407264 with an indication of numbers for lunch.

Flowers at Putnoe Anyone wishing to donate flowers for a Sunday in the first six months of 2009, please enter your name on the rota in the welcome area, or speak to Jennie Cooper or Ann Hitt.

Shoebox Appeal The youth groups would like to thank everyone who supported our shoebox appeal. We packed and sponsored 30 boxes.

Thank you very much to everyone who has sent cards, flowers and supported me over recent weeks with thoughts and prayers. This Christmas my greetings are through Partnership News with a donation to charity. Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas. Gwen Beswick

Mission Update A enormous thank you to everyone who has given so generously to this Autumn's mission project for MAF. To date between the churches we have raised a magnificent total of over £3500 including a record breaking contribution of over £200 from the Putnoe Provender stall last week. Through a range of events from Christmas Voices through to coffee mornings, the Provender contributions, selling

Christmas cards and many others, a huge number of people have worked hard and given generously to make this project such as success. We will be sending our contributions to MAF shortly so if you haven't yet contributed and would like to do so please pick up an envelope at the end of the service and return it as soon as possible. Thank you once a gain for all your contributions which shows in a tangible manner the mission heart of the Partnership and will make a significant difference to those who benefit from the work of MAF as they demonstrate God's love and concern for all His world by His people. Sam

To 'Magnet' subscribers. The annual subscription remains at £10 for 4 copies through the year, and is now due. Do spread the word about 'Magnet' to your friends. For those with impaired sight, or registered blind, tapes of the magazines contents can be sent regularly. Contact Hilda Hicks or Margaret Standley.

Putnoe New Year Lunch Sunday 11 January 1.00 pm. Tickets now available from Putnoe Office or Sue Allen (407264). Adults £8.00, Children under 10 £4.50. 3 courses all inclusive of wine, coffee and all the trimmings. Vegetarians please pre-order. This year all proceeds to Church Funds.

There will be no Junior Church or YPF at Putnoe on Sunday 28 December. Mat activities in Church will be available at the All age service on Sunday 4th January and our new term will begin on Sunday 11th January. We look forward to seeing you all soon. Liz and Sam

Thank You Pearl and Vincent would like to thank the Ministers at Putnoe Heights Church for the Blessing and Prayers on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary; and all the friends for their cards and good wishes.

St Mark's Refurbishment. The work to refurbish our hall, foyer and church office is nearly complete. We ran out of money and were not going to finish off the foyer flooring, however thanks to the offer of a kind donation from a church member we are now expecting this work to take place immediately after Christmas. The new information screens do not yet display the calendar correctly we are awaiting new software!

Please remember to buy all your Christmas presents through Amazon, by clicking on the link at thisischurch.com



Hymns for Sunday

1 Repeat the last two lines of each verse.

Where do Christmas songs begin
By the stable of an inn
Where the song of hosts on high
Mingled with a baby's cry.
There for joy and wonder smiled
Man and maid and holy child.
Christmas songs begin with them,
Sing the songs of Bethlehem!

Who is this, whose human birth
Here proclaims him child of earth?
He it is who formed the skies,
Saw the new-made stars arise;
Life immortal, light divine,
Blinking in the candle-shine;
Born our darkness to dispel,
God with us, Emmanuel.

Only love can answer why
He should come to grieve and die,
Share on earth our pain and loss,
Bear for us the bitter cross.
Love is come to seek and save,
Life to master death and grave,
So in Christ is all restored,
Risen and redeeming Lord!

Praise we then, in Christmas songs,
Him to whom all praise belongs.
Here the angel host reply,
'Glory be to God on high,
Joy and peace to mortals given,
Peace on earth and peace with heaven!'
Join we now, as one with them;
Sing the songs of Bethlehem!
Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,
Monarchs scorn and angels sing;
such a place as none would reckon
Hosts a holy helpless thing;
Stabled beasts and passing strangers
Watch a baby laid in hay;
God surprises earth with heaven
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Who would think that was needed
To transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army,
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
That a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven,
Coming here on Christmas Day.
Iona Community

We publish the banns and pray for the marriages of

Massimo Ciampi and Diana Maria Mignacca
both of this parish and on electoral roll of All Saints Tudeley 3rd time of asking

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

John Frederick Goldby

'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 Jessie Pink will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 30 December at 2.30pm

The funeral of Michael Trevor Hardiman will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45 on Friday 2 January

The funeral of Mr Horace Tatum will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10-45am on Wednesday 31 December

The funeral of Mr Donald Charles Rich will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45p.m Monday 5 January

The funeral of Mr John Edward Kinns will take place at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground at Tuesday at 12 noon (*family only*)

Tributes left in the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's will be left out and then removed on twelfth night, evening of the 5th January