



# Partnership News

24 January 2010



## Third Sunday in Epiphany

### 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 – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Claire Peck  
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher – Mrs Claire Peck  
Leadership – Mrs Linda Hoar  
Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen

### 31st January 2010 Candlemas

#### 9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - The Rev Stephen Copson  
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions – Mr Warwick Holden

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher – The Rev Stephen Copson  
Leadership – Mrs Sam Ware  
Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

**Readings** 1.Mal 3:1-5 2.Hebrews 2: 14-end 3.  
Luke 2: 22-40

We welcome next week the Reverend Stephen  
Copson of the Central Baptist Association

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church last week were given by Norma Taylor and family in loving memory of their mother and sisters, and by Dorothy Jacks in memory of Fred Jacks.

The flowers at St. Mark's this week have been given by Valerie Edwards in memory of her parents.

The flowers in the chapel have been donated by Brian Waters in memory of his mother Phyllis

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

### Prayer for Sunday

As the beautiful, dew covered rose rises from amongst its thorns, so may my heart be so full of love for you my God, that I may rise above the storms and evils that assail me, and stand fast in trust and freedom of spirit. Amen.

*Hadewijch of Brabant - 13th Century*

#### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

#### Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 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.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

#### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com  
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

#### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417  
**Leadership Team** Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** - Mr John Hitt 404186  
**Youth & children's worker** - Mrs Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

#### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

- 9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**  
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Liz ☎ 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's. David Fowler ☎ 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. Liz Spavins ☎302349
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting February 15 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
- 8.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** at St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Sadler ☎01767 651767

## Tuesday

- 9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461
- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting January 26 2010 Revd. 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.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting January 26 'Poetry' Frank Batt Details from Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043
- 8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st week Next meeting 2 February Shirley Sadler ☎ 01767 651767

## Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 10am U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Contact Janet King ☎313946
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 3 February Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden

☎219731

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

**6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

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

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎ 347073

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 3 February 2010 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

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

**7.45 for 8pm God talk** - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424 .

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

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

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.

**12pm Storybox** . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 01234 363283

**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. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

**4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

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

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

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

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

**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. Julie Nicholson ☎353642

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

**12.15pm U3A Photography** (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

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

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

**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

**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 – 9 February**

**St Mark's Leadership Team –**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –** , 8 Feb at 70 Brecon Way

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting ;** 24 May

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -** 16 Mar 2010,

**Putnoe Church Council -** 15 February

**Pastoral Group Meeting -**

**Churchyard Committee -** 26 January 2010, 11am

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group—**

**Partnership Council—**TBA

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings**

**Deanery Meeting** 4 February

**Circuit/Treasurers** Review meeting at St. Mark's

**Circuit Meeting** 8 March at Oakley

**Woodland Burial Trustees –** Sunday 21st March

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –**

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

## 3rd Sunday in Epiphany

### Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 19 v 7 - 10

The law of the LORD is perfect, the precepts of the LORD are right, the fear of the LORD is pure, and the ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

### Collect Prayer for the Day - *Before we read we pray*

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with the Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. Common Worship Shorter Collect

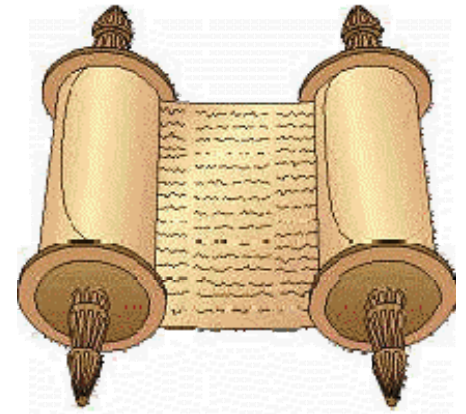
### First Bible Reading -Chapter 8 v 1 - 3, 5 –6, 8-10

All the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

### Second Reading -1 Corinthians Chapter 12 v 12 –31a

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are un-presentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured,



He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.”**

**Luke 4.17-18**

every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

### **Gospel Reading** - Luke Chapter 4 v 14 – 21

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord- **All: Thanks b to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty Father, who's 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

### **Hymns** (*Please distribute Mission Praise and Special Morning Worship sheet*)

1. All praise to our redeeming Lord – MP 19
2. For I'm building a people of power – MP 151
3. Take my life and let it be – MP 624
4. Lord of the church – MP 442
5. Christ is made the sure foundation – MP 73

### **Commentary**

To read today's reading from 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 31a without some understanding of what comes before it is difficult for verses 1 - 11 are so woven into the later verses of the chapter. During my preparations for today I came across some thoughts by a lady called Michaela Youngson in a book called 'The Weaver, the Word and Wisdom' which I thought I would share with you. Her thoughts cross the whole of chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians.

It is tempting to treat the passage from 1 Corinthians 12 about spiritual gifts and 'one body – many parts' as an easy commentary about Christian unity. We are familiar with the tone and the idea. We each have something special to offer to the life of the Church and we should be willing to offer what we have for the common good. But there is a stronger message here. It seems that Paul is cross with the Christians at Corinth. They are allowing jealousy and prejudice to get in the way of their fellowship and witness. Some were boasting about the spiritual gifts they claimed to have received and using these to gain higher regard and status within the Christian community. As a group they were making distinctions between believers with a Jewish or Gentile background and between free people and the slaves that were part of the fellowship.

The writer makes it clear that this is unacceptable and demands a different standard from the people there. Any gift of merit will be recognized because it is for the 'common good'. If so it can be seen to be of God's Spirit. The Greek and Roman members of the group would have traditions of numerous gods and may have been claiming that their gifts were given by different 'spirits of God'. Paul makes it very clear that there is one Spirit. Furthermore, that Spirit makes possible the baptism of all believers into one body. If all are part of the same body then they should be equally regarded and no prejudice of nationality or status should get in the way. The standard that God calls for in the Christian community is that of love.

We exist in a very different time from that of those early Christians at Corinth. Yet many of the things that Paul was concerned about have contemporary resonances. Jealousy and issues of status are still present within church communities. Expectations abound that the gifts of ministry are focused in the minister or priest, so that the gifts of others are not released or encouraged for the common good. The body is not

one, but lies broken along lines of doctrine, tradition, prejudice and politics.

Can we discover the baptismal understanding of the Early Church? 'For in one Spirit we are all baptised into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.' This is as challenging a call to the Body of Christ today as it was to the Corinthians 2,000 years ago.

So as we approach the end of the week of prayer for Christian unity may our prayer be that our hearts and minds may be opened to one another and to all God's people. May we be filled with fresh vision and purpose, guided in our individual witness and in our work together, so that our lives may be a living witness to God's love and a testimony to His renewing grace. Claire Peck

**Meditation**, The search for unity: throughout the year

The traditional period in the northern hemisphere for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January. Those dates were proposed in 1908 by Paul Wattson to cover the days between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul, and therefore have a symbolic significance. In the southern hemisphere where January is a vacation time churches often find other days to celebrate the week of prayer, for example around Pentecost (which was suggested by the Faith and Order movement in 1926), which is also a symbolic date for the unity of the church. Mindful of this flexibility concerning the date, we encourage you to understand the material presented here as an invitation to find opportunities throughout the whole year to express the degree of communion which the churches have already received, and to pray together for that full unity which is Christ's will.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** The Bedford-Wide United Service this year will be held at St Paul's on Sunday 24 January at 6.30.p.m. The preacher will be the Rev. Geoffrey Colmer, who is the Regional Minister of the Central Baptist Association. A short Lunchtime Service is being held on Monday 25 January at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue. This service starts at 12.30.p.m. Tea/coffee will be provided and you are encouraged to stay, bringing your own sandwiches if you wish. These services, too, will provide an excellent opportunity to have a chat with other Bedford Christians.

**Haiti Earthquake** An Appeal from the Bishop of St Albans

The earthquake in Haiti on January 12th has devastated the country. Estimates of the numbers killed and injured are staggering. The urgent need to help survivors is evident in every news broadcast.

The offices of the UN, as well as those of some of the aid agencies, have been damaged, hampering the efforts of those best placed to spearhead the relief effort. The weak State, and their lack of resources are also making the task of rescue and reconstruction harder. The people of Haiti are our neighbours: Haiti is near the Diocese of North East Caribbean and Aruba, to which our Diocese of St Albans is linked. I am, therefore, asking parishes, church schools and chaplaincies throughout the diocese to pray fervently and to give generously. Christian Aid and Tear Fund, both members of the Disasters Emergency Committee, have started appeals. Details of these may be found at <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/> and [www.tearfund.org/haiti](http://www.tearfund.org/haiti) In addition, Christian Aid has a telephone donation line: 08080 004 004. This information is also available on the front page of the diocesan website or at <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/World-Development/Haiti-Emergency>. Please join with me in this prayer for the people of Haiti:

O God, our refuge and strength, we hold before you the nation and people of Haiti,  
and pray for healing in the midst of tragedy and devastation.

Give comfort to the homeless, the bereaved and the suffering, courage to survivors,  
wisdom to those who seek to help, and light to all who live in the shadow of death.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our rock and our salvation. Amen.

+Alan St Albans 15th January 2010 (Bishop of St Albans)

**Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

Living God, we pray for all people: For those women shut off from a full life by tradition and practice, for those people who are oppressed and exploited, for those denied their freedom and dignity by systems and authorities, for those forced to leave their homelands because of their ideologies, for those seeking answers and meaning to their lives within their own cultures and religions, for those who labour too long and too hard only to barely feed and clothe themselves and their families, for those forced to sell their bodies to survive, for those women and men who live lives of quiet desperation at the hands of the powerful and prestigious, for these and all who suffer. We pray, asking that the Church may once again give joyful expression to your creative love which breaks down barriers and unites person to person and community to community, which gives meaning and hope to empty lives and allows us to reach out to each other in generous self-giving, which makes us more fully alive. O God, fulfill your promise in us for the sake of all human beings through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Two New Courses from Belief

**Praying with your eyes open** - Icons in prayer and worship. The Revd David Ridgeway, Vicar of St Stephen's, St Albans Wednesday 27 January 2010  
**The art of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation** The Revd Dr Joan Crossley, Assistant Chaplain, Westminster School Wednesday 3 February 2010

**Newly New Sale** at Putnoe Sunday 31 January following Morning service. Please bring in your unwanted items to the office for Liz or Carolyn. Proceeds to Samaritans Purse to support their children's work in Haiti.

**Luncheon Club** at Putnoe urgently needs an regular driver to transport the less mobile to and from the fortnightly Wednesday lunches. If you can help with much appreciated community outreach, please advise Putnoe Church Office or Peta Pearson. Tel: 356878.

**Bedford Deanery Synod.** You are invited to St Andrew's Church on Thursday 4 February at 7.30pm to hear a presentation by Rev Canon Stephen Lake, Sub Dean of St Albans Abbey and Chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Committee to listen to a presentation 'Transforming Worship.'

Words of Challenge,  
Words of Life



### Words of Challenge, Words of Life

'I'm giving up chocolate this Lent – I need to lose a bit of weight anyway.' Many people think that Lent is about simply giving things up, as though God delights in making our lives more difficult. The true focus of Lent is actually about making more space for God in our lives. We give things

up to get rid of the clutter that gets in God's way, so that He can inhabit us more fully. Lent is about hearing afresh God's life-giving words to us. It's about renewing our discipleship of Jesus Christ, which is why we are inviting Christians this Lent to engage in three things.

**First, to join a Lent group** and reflect with others on the gospel readings which are set for each Sunday.

We have written a course which we hope will both inspire and encourage you in your faith. If your church or chaplaincy is not arranging groups, see if you can find one or two other Christians (perhaps from other denominations) to meet together each week to follow this course. The course is set out below, along with some ideas about how you might use the material. For those who would like a bible commentary to give extra background material, we

are recommending Wansbrough's Luke: The People's Bible Commentary published by BRF (£7.99). The course website is at: [www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Lent-Course-2010](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Lent-Course-2010)

**Second, you may like to participate in Challenge**, which complements the Lent Course. We are asking as many people as possible to join us during Lent in daring to make a difference by living the words of Jesus. The idea is to learn some of the words of Jesus Christ by heart each day and then pray that God will give us the chance to put them into action. Read it, learn it, pray it, do it! The short daily passages, all taken from the Gospel of Luke, will be downloadable from the internet and can be distributed to members of the youth group or congregation (or in the case of schools, to the pupils). Alternatively you can opt to receive them by text message, email, Twitter or RSS. You will be able to register on the Challenge website at [www.challenge2010.org](http://www.challenge2010.org) from Advent Sunday. We hope that this challenge will be taken up by people in the churches, as well as seekers and enquirers who would like to explore the words of Jesus Christ. It would be great, for example, to advertise it at Christmas services. The Challenge website will give further details and ideas about how to make the Challenge a shared exercise within your congregation or among your friends. In particular you will be able to write comments on the website and upload short video clips, via YouTube, so that you can share with others what the passage means to you and how you have lived it out that day.

**Third, you are invited to come and join** the Easter Monday Pilgrimage on 5th April at the Cathedral in St Albans. This year we are delighted that the community choir from South Oxhey (as featured on the television programme The Choir, led by Gareth Malone) will be with us. You can come by yourself, or with a group. We are inviting all the Lent Groups and those who have done the Challenge to be involved in the Pilgrimage and to make it a way to celebrate and to bring to God all that has been learned, all that has been done and pledges of future action. This will be a wonderful way to express our individual and our corporate commitment to our risen Lord and Saviour, in whose resurrection life we dare to make a difference in our communities and in the world. Details of the day may be found at [www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Easter-Monday-Pilgrimage](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Easter-Monday-Pilgrimage), and on the Challenge website at [www.challenge2010.org](http://www.challenge2010.org)  
Written by the Bishops of St Albans, Hertford and Bedford

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Bless to us, O God, the road that is before us, bless to us, O God, the family and friends who are around us, bless to us O God, the love that is within us, bless to us, O God, the light that leads us home.

## Appeal launched to help thousands struck by devastating Haiti earthquake

The Partnership Churches have donated £500 towards the Haiti appeal for help. Our churches are also pleased to assist in receiving donations which will be administered through the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. Donations can be made at either church office and cheques should be made payable to 'MRDF (Haiti emergency)'

**Michael & Wendy Ovenden** & family would like to thank everyone from St Mark's and Putnoe Heights for their thoughts, prayers & messages of sympathy both during Mums illness and subsequent passing away. We are truly upheld and blessed during this difficult time. Thank you also to all at St. Mark's who prepared the Church for Mums funeral.

**Rocking Rachel's Rocking Bingo.** Rachel Spavins fund raising idea for Haiti Earthquake Appeal. At Putnoe today choose a lucky number square for 50p if you choose the winning square you win £10.00 !!!!

**Footprints** Our next walk will begin at 2.00pm on Sunday 7 February from the signposted car park at Moggerhanger Park. The 3 mile route passes through the snowdrop woods then out into open country with wide views across the Ouse valley. Details from Sue & Gerry Allen Tel 407264

**Messy Church.** Lucy Moore, founder of Messy Church, will be attending a St Albans Diocesan training even on February 20. If you would like to attend this event please speak with Charlie and we will get you a ticket.

**1st Putnoe Brownies** are looking for adult size plain round neck t- shirts to decorate for the blue peter appeal "Operation Smile". The T shirts are to be used as operation gowns for children undergoing cleft palate surgery in India. Please leave for Liz.

## Anjulita Court update January 2010

The Coffee Shop is now open 10am - 3pm Monday to Friday. Thanks to all who have volunteered to make this possible, though more volunteers would always be appreciated.



It has been a difficult winter in some ways, having to close to visitors over Christmas because of a bug then losing three residents in quick succession and several staff members leaving for a variety of personal reasons. However the remaining staff are a lovely bunch, working extra hard alongside some agency staff, to ensure the high level of personal care is maintained. The atmosphere feels very positive and there is a mountain of job applications to wade through for nurses, carers, administration activities co-ordinator and kitchen staff. This process takes a while, with interviews and CRB clearance to sort out, so any extra volunteers would really be appreciated at this time, especially to help provide activities for residents.

It is currently about half full, with about 32 residents and more due to move in soon. I am really enjoying being chaplain there, and am looking to pull together a chaplaincy team, to help run worship, lead bible studies, talk to residents and provide cover when I am away, please contact me if this is something you feel you could get involved in.

I am taking time off for the next two weeks, spending time with my family, especially as my Mum is back in hospital with what appears to be a second 'mini stroke' leaving her very week.

Your prayers would be appreciated for all at Anjulita Court and for my family. I look forward to spending more time with you on my return.

Yours in faith, Jane

## 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.

**Marlene Malins  
Phyllis Waters  
Florence Ovenden  
Fred Jacks**

*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 Mr Hubbard** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 5 February at 10.00am

**The funeral of Mr John Grant** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 3 February at 12.15pm