



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

27 January 2008

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions- Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe -Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters

Leadership Team - Mrs Sam Ware

Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Candlemas

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship

Preacher - The Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Laura Farthing

Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Family Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt

Intercessions - Ministers

Bible Readings.

1. Malachi 3: 1-5 2. Hebrews 2: 14-18

3. Luke 2: 22-40

Thank You

The flowers in the church at St Mark's this week have been given by Jean Bank in memory of her mother.

The flowers at Putnoe have been given by Norma Taylor and other family members in memory of their mother and sisters.

Prayer for Sunday

Jesus, abject and despised,
let us not be ashamed to follow you.
Jesus, hated and persecuted,
let us not be afraid to walk in your footsteps.
Jesus, blasphemed and condemned,
let us be counted your friends.
Jesus, mocked and scourged,
let us bear all things patiently.
Jesus, crowned and derided,
let us not be overwhelmed
by our injuries and grief. Amen.

John Wesley, 1703-1791

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 Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

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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 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604

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 L Parry 216724 Mob 07922053740

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.

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's
Mr Kellie ☎721063

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

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 ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month
Pat Nicholson ☎353518

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 18 February Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm Housegroup 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

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 29 January 2008 'Helpful Hints and Good Advice'.. 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

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 29January 'Talk about Railway Mission' by Richard Crane. 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 6 February 2008 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 Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

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 30 January 2008
Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

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 in the
quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

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

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-
school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

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 for first child. More details from St.
Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30pm-3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic. St. Mark's ☎267444

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson☎
325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's

Mr C Hill ☎772922

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 Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P
Housden ☎376597

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 Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

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 Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎
782360

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

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us
for fellowship, fun, games & outings .Next meeting 27
January' Liz ☎302349

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 29th Jan 08, 17th
June 08, 18 November 08

St Mark's Leadership Team – 5 February 2008,
13 May 2008

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 21st January
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee 21st
January 1.10pm

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th Jan.,
14th April and 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 11h March
12noon.

Putnoe Church Council - 28 January 2008

Pastoral Group Meeting – 4.30pm 15 January

Churchyard Committee - 11 June 2008

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Next meeting
Weds 16 Jan 2008 at 14 Flint Way 7.30pm

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 7 February

Deanery Meeting - 21 February, 12 June, 18
September, 13 November

Circuit Meeting - 10 March 2008, 12 June 2008

Woodland Burial Trustees - January 27th at
3.30pm 2008 in the Wren Room

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

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

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Opening Verse - Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen
a great light

Collect Prayer for the Day

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 - Isaiah 9: 1-4

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan- The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, I follow Paul; another, I follow Apollos; another, I follow Cephas; still another, I follow Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptised into the name of Paul? I am thankful that I did not baptise any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no-one can say that you were baptised into my name. (Yes, I also baptised the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptised anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the gospel— not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - Matthew 4: 12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali — to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. From that time on Jesus began to preach, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers; Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men. At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, reaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Commentary

Central to being a Christian is that sense of being 'called'. As the well know saying goes called to, 'See Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, know him more nearly'. For me and probably many others, the calling of the first disciples as recorded in the passage today Matthew 4: 12 – 23, or from one of the accounts in the other three Gospels, lies at the core of our calling. For me that calling came some 25 years ago during a Holiday Club, where I was a helper, held by a village church in Essex. The Holiday Club theme was 'Peter' (Simon) and on the first morning of a 5 days of Bible teaching, games and activities led by a group of Scripture Union young people Matthew 4: 12 -13 was the text for the day. During the morning we sung the children's song 'I will I make you Fisher's of men'. Unlike Peter, Andrew, James and John I did not leave my home and family and follow Jesus, but gradually over many years my faith deepened and that simple children's song resounded in my ears time and time again. Eventually some 20 years later, after several years part time training, I was licensed as a Reader in the Church of England. During those 20 years I was not idle, God called me to do many things within the church most without any training.

When Jesus called those first disciples they had no training as church leaders, they were good at what they did, and they had skills which Jesus could use. In modern terms what might be described as 'transferable skills'. As fishermen they had to have courage to withstand the sudden fierce storms that can occur on large expanses of a lake such as the Sea of Galilee. As followers of Jesus they would need significant courage to withstand the opposition Jesus would meet as they accompanied him on his preaching, healing and teaching expeditions. They would need even more courage as his journey to the Cross became inevitable and as we will learn during the run up to Easter that courage sometimes failed them. Then we see their courage come to the fore after Jesus' death and resurrection when they were on their own speaking up for Jesus and being 'fishers of men', and indeed women.

As fisherman they would have to have the 'patience of Job' (Job being an Old Testament character). I am always amazed by the patience of fisherman that sit for hours on end, often in the dark, on the banks of canals, lakes, rivers and the sea until they get that seemingly elusive catch. How that resonates with us today as we hope for that all elusive wide scale renewal of faith in Christ. How necessary it must have been for the disciples to be patient as they learnt about who Jesus was and what he expected of them. Once again we know that occasionally they lacked patience and Jesus rebuked them for it (Matt 20: 20 - 28.).

Another essential skill of a fisherman would be perseverance, a good catch may take many hours and the Gospel of Luke version of the calling of the first disciples records Simon (Peter) saying to Jesus: "Master we have worked hard all night and haven't caught anything" (Luke 5:5). Once out on the road with Jesus and throughout their ministry the disciples need to persevere in the face of opposition and indeed persecution would be tested time and time again.

We each start our Christian journey with a variety 'transferable gifts and skills' that God gave us and can use just as he used the gifts and skills of the first disciples. As we set out to follow Jesus we might be puzzled what those skills are, and indeed question if we have any. We can take strength from the fact that like the first disciples we have the Holy Spirit to bring out our skills, develop them, and amazingly show us ones we did not know we had. The question is do we have the courage, patience and perseverance to use them in God's service? *Wendy Waters*

Meditation

Paul's First letter to the Corinthians Chapter 1 verses 10 to 18 is an appeal for an end to divisions within that fledgling Church. 2000 years later the Church is still struggling with divisions. As we come to the end of the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,' which this year celebrated its 100th year, it is appropriate to reflect what divisions are acceptable and what are not. Last Sunday I, with 3 others from St Mark's, attended a celebration of this 100th anniversary in St Albans Abbey where we enjoyed a variety of worship. But we were also challenged by the preacher, a Roman Catholic Priest Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, who I understand is a preacher of some world wide renown. As he explored the ecumenical developments over the past 100 years he used the analogy of an engaged couple who get stuck in their relationship without actually fulfilling it. My son, who recently became engaged, expressed his desire to get married sooner rather than later because 'many engagements last longer than marriages these days!' What might this say about the 100 year long ecumenical engagement?

Fr Timothy went on to encourage all denominations grow in friendship acknowledging how alike we all are. In mature friendships it is also possible to face difference and to disagree without dissolving the relationship. He pointed out that Jesus loved to argue, Jacob wrestled with God and we have to wrestle with each other. Otherwise, he feared, we would get stuck with being nice to one another for another 100 years!

At first sight not quite what Paul was advocating in this section of his letter to the Corinthians, but look again. What concerned Paul was that they followed Christ not individual leaders. So too for the Church today the centrality of Christ and the Cross is what binds us together, let us pray that this bond will mature and let us each take responsibility for its development just as we would in our personal relationships. *Wendy Waters*

Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship*)

1. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind 111
2. Jesus call us; oe'r the tumult 359
3. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name - John Bell & Graham Mule
4. Father hear the prayer we offer 132
5. King of Glory, King of Peace 397

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Let there be no gap between us and Christ.

For if there is any gap, immediately we perish.

For the building stands because it is cemented together.

Let us not then merely keep hold of Christ,
but let us be cemented to him.

Let us cleave to him by our works.

He is the head, we are the body.

He is the foundation, we the building.

He is the vine, we the branches.

He is the bridegroom, we the bride.

He is the shepherd, we the sheep.

He is the way, we walk in it.

Again, we are the temple, he the indweller.

He is the only begotten, we the brothers and sisters.

He is the heir, we the heirs together with him.

He is the life, we the living.

He is the resurrection, we those who rise again.

He is the light, we the enlightened.

Homilies on First Corinthians, St. John Chrysostom, 4th century

Farewell to Bishop Christopher

The Rt Revd Christopher Herbert has announced today, 23rd January, that he will retire as Bishop of St Albans on 7th January 2009, his 65th birthday.

Bishop Christopher's ministry will continue publicly and fully until November 8th 2008 when the Diocese will say farewell to their bishop of thirteen years at a Service in St Albans Abbey. Shortly after that the Bishop, and his wife Jan, will begin the process of packing up at Abbey Gate House before taking a well-earned holiday.

The announcement comes during a typically busy week for Bishop Christopher. It began on Saturday, hosting two bishops and parishioners from Italy and Sweden for the celebration of 100 years of prayer for Christian Unity at the Abbey and providing a reception for 80 people, visiting a Deanery Chapter, giving a Lecture, chairing a Bishop's Council meeting and ending on Friday 25th January with the award of a Doctorate from Leicester University for his Thesis "English Easter Sepulchres: The History of an Idea". The coming months, will, if anything, be fuller and busier as he carries out many duties for the last time and makes his final contributions to debate in the House of Lords.

"I have always counted it a huge privilege to serve the people of the St Albans Diocese, from Bedfordshire and Luton through Hertfordshire to Barnet, helping Church and civic society to know each other and God better. As I look ahead to these last few months I realise how vibrant the diocese is and how much I have valued the tremendous variety of people in our communities and the many ways in which they express their thriving, living faith."

The next Children and Youth Meeting will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 21 April 2008

TNT/TXT next meet Sunday 27 January, 6pm at Putnoe. Could **ALL** interested parties, members & adults please try & come as we would like to plan the future of both groups.

Unwanted Gifts. Hold on to those unwanted gifts!!! We need them on Sunday 3 February at Putnoe for our fund raising stall. Half profits to Church Youth Funds & half to Keech Cottage.

Service of Holy Communion at Sir William Harpur House on the first Monday of every month at 10.00am, led by Charles Royden. Everybody is invited to attend, not just residents. Next Service February 4

Hazeldene Heights Preschool. Come & share in the activities with the children in our Preschool at Putnoe Heights. Please talk to Linda Hoar if you can spare a few hours each month or would like to know more about the group. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Linda Hoar 782717

Footprints Walking Group Meet 3 February at 2pm at Bedford Park end of Larkway for a 2hour ribbon walk 'Massey's Marvellous Mystery walk'. Our car will be at the end to transport drivers back to the start. Alan & Margaret 327219

Coffee Morning 2 February from 10 until 12 at Gwen Berwick's 6 Repton Close. Raffle, cakes etc. proceeds to Mission funds. All welcome. Offers & requests for transport ring Eddie & Irene McKenzie 311569

Putnoe Heights half term activities Monday 11 February : 12-1 **Storybox** for under 5's & their carers. Bible based story; games & singing. Lunch provided £1 per child.

1.15 –2.45pm Storybox Plus for 4-10yrs. Bible based story; craft activities & games. Light refreshments available. £1 per child.

Good News - Planning Permission has been granted on the kitchen improvement and the small hall extension at Putnoe Heights. We await news of our funding application in March.

Storybox really need volunteers to help with catering and assistance with setting up and clearing away. If we can get enough people it would only mean once every 4-6 weeks on a Thursday from 12-1.15pm. Emma would also like a few more storytellers. If you can help please contact Emma Strangwick (211070) or talk to Linda Parry.

Help Needed Jean Bank as a member of the congregation, is a volunteer at pre-school every Monday lunch time. She is going on holiday and we will need cover for Monday, Feb 18, 25, & March 3 & 10, from 12 until 1pm. If any member of the congregation at St. Marks is able to volunteer for all or any of these Mondays please let Helen Harpin, Sue Jones, or Janet Day know. We are a friendly bunch and there will be two regular members of staff present at all times.

St Mark's Coffee Shop Job Vacancy

We are looking to recruit a new person to look after Sunday afternoons from 1.30pm until 4.00pm. In the meantime the coffee shop will be run by volunteers. This afternoon Alex and Max Royden will be serving tea, coffee and cakes from 1.30pm.

Will you come and follow me.

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown?

Will you let my name be known,

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare

should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean

and do such as this unseen,

and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside

and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found

to reshape the world around,

through my sight and touch and sound in you

and you in me?

5. Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In Your company I'll go

where Your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you

and you in me.

'Friends for Life' launch 7.30pm Thursday 31 January at Priory Methodist church. Any one interested in this new North Bedfordshire churches project to support those living in care homes is invited to attend the launch but we do need to know how many people plan to be there. Please let Wendy Waters, Partnership link person for the project, know by Tuesday 29th if you intend to be there. Also if you would like to go but need a lift contact Wendy Waters. Phone: 01234 401834 or email wcwatersnoel@btinternet.com

Lent Book Reviews by Sam Cappleman

A Turning to God: Cardinal Basil Hume £6.99
 Basil Hume was Abbot of Ampleforth from 1963 until his appointment as Archbishop of Westminster in 1976 where he remained until his death in 1999. A turning to God is a phrase which comes from his 1977 homily for Ash Wednesday and is a theme which permeates much of his writing. This book, which is a compilation of previously unpublished material, offers a reading, a comment and a short prayer for each day of Lent. It is a simple yet deep book and perhaps a good one to choose if you have limited time or have not used a Lent book previously. The humility, peace and tranquillity of a man of God shines through this book as day by day the reader discovers how close we are to God and He is to us.

The Eight Words of Jesus: Michael Sadgrove £6.99

This Lent book, based on the passion according to the gospel of John, takes as its basis the eight statements of Jesus in the passion narrative and explores the significance of each of them in the context of the Jesus, the Word made flesh. Throughout the book the reader is reminded of the unity of the gospel of John and how John draws out this unity in the language and vocabulary he uses. But this book is more than just a bible study on John's gospel. Through his meditations and reflections Michael Sadgrove makes connections

between the passion and our ongoing daily Christian life of prayer, worship and service. The passion narrative ends as it has begun, in a garden. All is accomplished and all has just begun. Our Lent journey ultimately leads to Easter.

Life Conquers Death: John Arnold £8.99

This book, which is the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2008 Lent book offers meditations from the Garden of Eden, through the cross to the Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem based on Arnold's experiences as Dean Emeritus of Durham Cathedral, his work as an interpreter for the British Army and his lifelong work devoted to Christian Unity and reconciliation in Europe. His love of Russia and its heritage shines through this book, exemplified by quotes from Pasternak and Solzhenitsyn, one of which he uses for the sub title of the book, 'Life conquers death, and the past is overcome by the future' (Solzhenitsyn). This is a book to be read in Lent, rather than one that offers readings, prayers and comments for each day. A deep book which draws on both literature and art in its meditations and in the questions it poses to the reader.

Lent 2008

Ash Wednesday Our church Lenten observance will start with an Ash Wednesday Circuit Service on February 6 at St Mark's Church, the preacher will be Richard Ledger.

This year our Lent Course will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday evenings. Starting on Wednesday 20 February when Charlie will speak on the prophet Amos. The following three Wednesdays will include talks from Sam, Joan and Bishop Christopher.

Congregational Meeting Putnoe will now take place after morning service on Sunday 20 April instead of 4 May.

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

**Mabel Adelaide Wall
 Alice Hettie Chappel**

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



Rest in Peace

The funeral of Erika Bithell will take place on Tuesday 29th January at 11.30am at Bedford Crematorium. (Crossley)

The funeral of Daphne Parrott will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 31st January 4pm at Bedford Crematorium. (Crossley)