



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

27 November 2005

Advent Sunday

Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am -Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher- Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss

Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

4 December Second Sunday of Advent

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church – Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights– Family Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team—Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Next Week's Bible Readings

1 Reading - Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Reading - 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

3 Reading - Mark 1:1-8

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Dorothy Billingham in memory of her husband, Ridley.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

Prayer for Sunday

From Mary's sweet silence, come,
Word mutely spoken!

Pledge of our real life, come,
Bread yet unbroken!

Seed of the Golden Wheat, in us be sown.
Fullness of true Light, through us be known.

Secret held tenderly, guarded with Love,
Cradled in purity, child of the Dove,

Come! Amen

Sr. M. Charlita, I.H.M.

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 Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Mobile -07917 356062 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

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

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Youth and Children's Worker

Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@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 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 - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen 407264

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592

treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Children's and Youth Worker-Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).

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

10.00am Supple Strength at Putnoe Heights. Louise Woodcock 270302

12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, no charge. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

4pm Story Box Plus at St.Marks for 4 -11 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments & games, then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church the 1st Sunday of each month. Lots of fun. Free. Contact Liz 302349

4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 400987

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.15pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next 19 December St. Marks Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips 01582 485333

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Val Careless 345213.

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

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

1.30pm Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 29 November Members Christmas

Memories. Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 6 December Carols, Readings & Mince pies Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Mary Stubbs 406784.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792

7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's. Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.

7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718

7.30pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr on 360188 or 07866775515

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly.at 7.45pm Next meeting 29 November Paul Youngman - Deep Sea Fishermen. Madge Walsh 359088

8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) - Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

9.30am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949

9.30am Bedford U3A at Putnoe Heights meets bi-monthly. Next meeting . Jenny Coggins 266379

9.00 a.m. Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

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

10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 16 November Putnoe 365630

1- 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

4.15pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting . Sylvia Woods 365095

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Pam Holley 771964

7.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes at St Mark's.

Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867
8.45-9.45pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) starting Mr F Steele 355937

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at 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 at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings at St Mark's

2.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's 267444

12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, no charge. Contact Liz Spavins on 1234 302349

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.

Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Celia

Maddison 782901

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Heights. Radmila Dancer 404811

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11 year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun. Free. Liz Spavins 302349

5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.

Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights. Helga Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Height. Pat Stidolph 345247

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at

St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs K Sage 771525

Bibleway Church 7.30—9.30-Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2nd Thursday— Pastor Tarr 360188

7.45pm. Housegroup- Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's 3rd Thursday each month. 1st Thursday as from January 2006 Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole Maunder 301325

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

6pm Self Defence at Putnoe. Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30pm Bibleway Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 360188

Saturday

9.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatre Train at St Mark's – dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting. Philip Jones 350295

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's

9.30—10.30 at St.Mark's

11-12 at Putnoe Heights.

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

Diary Dates

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

St Mark's Church Council
8 February 2006

Circuit Meeting 16 March 2006

St Mark's Leadership Team –
2006 17 January, 21 February,

24 April, 6 June, 12 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team 21 November 2005 meet at Putnoe Heights Church

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 16 Jan 2006

Putnoe Church Council 6 February 2006

Pastoral Group Meeting – 6 February 2006 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee - 31 November 2005 10am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

18 January 2006 7.30p.m. at 14 Flint Way..

Partnership Council - 24 January 2006

Brickhill Parish Council - 24 November 2005

Joint Deanery Circuit 18 January 2006

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Mission Group Meeting - 18 January 2006, 7pm at 14 Flint Way.

Calendar dates appear also on our church website www.ThisChurch.com.

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

Bible Notes

First Sunday of Advent - Year B Starts Today



Verse of Scripture 1 Corinthians Chapter 1:8-9

He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading – Isaiah 64: 1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

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

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

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

Third Reading - Mark 13: 24-37

"But in those days, following that distress, " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

"At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but

only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' " (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

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 Hymns and Psalms)

- 1 O come o come Immanuel 85 (Veni Emmanuel)
- 2 He's got the whole world in his hands 25
- 3 The race that long in darkness pined 89
- 4 Tell out my soul 86
- 5 Lo! He comes with clouds descending

Commentary

Happy New Year! Today is the beginning of the new Christian calendar. We will be spending the next year hearing the story and teachings of Jesus predominantly through the Gospel according to Mark. In my sermon this morning (now on the website) I shall be reflecting upon what is distinctive about the Gospel. Theologians regard chapter thirteen of Mark's Gospel, from which today's reading is taken, as being one of the most Jewish passages of the New Testament. It calls upon traditions of thought and language from the Old Testament, the Hebrew Bible. To Jesus' hearers it would all have sounded very familiar, but it strikes a strange note with us, his modern readers. It is a vital chapter because it speaks of the Second Coming. I believe that many modern Christians are uncertain about whether they believe in the literal second coming of Jesus. Conversely, some strands of Christianity are so completely obsessed by watching for signs of the Rapture that they can barely focus on anything else. Disturbing though it is, we need to spend some time with the doctrine of the Second Coming, because we can only through it can we understand the salvic consequences of Jesus' incarnation.

The Jews had long seen themselves as the Chosen People. They knew that despite their suffering and struggles, they would, one day, be restored to God's favour in the eyes of the world. This time of God's intervention was called the Day of the Lord. It was prophesied to be a time of cataclysm and terror but it would inaugurate an age of glory and hope. It is thus an event which incited feelings of utmost fear and also joyful optimism. Jesus is explicitly tying himself to this Jewish tradition, using language and imagery that echoed writers which would have been familiar to his Jewish hearers. He moves from homely metaphors of plants and domestic life to awe-inspiring images of disaster and heavenly wrath, and then back again. The whole construction of the chapter is designed to thrill, to inspire fear and hope. Jesus' coming again is the signal of the new age. It is for us to watch for and to try and discern the warnings of the coming of the end times. We will never know when it is too late to amend our lives and to acknowledge Jesus. *Joan Crossley*

Meditation

I love Advent. If only there was more time to savour it! To have proper time to reflect on what the coming of Jesus means to us, means to the world. In the next four weeks we will be caught up in a frenzy of card writing, present shopping and food stock-piling. Let us make a resolution to take some time out this Advent to prepare spiritually. Jesus' teaching in Mark 13 reminds us that it is important not to be distracted from the important, eternal things. Take some time to come to the Advent lectures and listen more about the significance of this season of joyful anticipation.

Joan Crossley

Prayers

God who cares for us, the wonder of whose presence fills us with awe. Let kindness, justice and love shine in our world. Let yours secrets be known here as they are in heaven. Give us the food and the hope we need for today for today. Forgive us our wrongdoing as we forgive the wrongs done to us, Protect us from pride and from despair and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up. In you is truth, meaning, glory and power, while worlds come and go. Amen (Monica Furlong, version of the Lord's Prayer)

Dear God, I have written the cards and packed up the presents, hung up the stockings and bought the mince pies. But somewhere in the bustle I lost You. Come and find me, Lord Jesus, as the shepherds found you in the stable. Draw close to me this Adventide. Amen

What I don't want for Christmas: I do not want gadgets and junk mail, or hundreds of cards, nor mountains of waste paper and round robin letters from half-forgotten people.

What I want for Christmas: I want a bit of peace, time to spend with people I care about, somewhere warm to stay and things to eat. I want to know more about the coming of our Lord. (Robin Fisher)

Begotten of your love, O Father, we are made in your image. Cared for all our days, we are never beyond your sight. Enfolded in your heart, we are never out of your thoughts. To think of you is rest. To know you is eternal life. To see you is the end of all desire. To serve you is perfect freedom. To love you is everlasting joy. Amen. W E Orchard, 1877-1955

First Candle - The Candle of Hope The Patriarchs, Abraham, the Old Testament ancestors of Jesus

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth.

(A person lights the First Candle here)

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

New Ecumenical Website Launched

The Church of England and The Methodist Church have launched a website detailing the work of the Anglican-Methodist Covenant. The historic agreement, committing both churches to explore ways of working together, was signed in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 1 November 2003. The website - www.anglican-methodist.org.uk - contains resources for churches and individuals, stories of successful Covenant- inspired projects and material for joint acts of worship.

It also provide quick links to compare the positions of the two churches on key topics such as marriage and alcohol, as well as a diary section for upcoming events and the history of how the Covenant came to be signed. The website was created after it became apparent that Methodist and Church of England churches were working together on local projects that were not being publicised to others. The Church of England and The Methodist Church will also hold a series of workshops in the first half of 2006 to promote local work based on the Anglican-Methodist Covenant.

The workshops, with the theme "Living God's Covenant" are designed both to highlight the range of joint work already undertaken by the two churches, and to encourage Christians of both denominations to try new ways of working together. The workshops cost £12.50, which includes lunch.

News, Views and Information

Amazing Savings With Amazon.

If you are buying presents this year, then why not purchase them through Amazon. Everytime you log on to Amazon, please do so by clicking the link on the church website. This will mean that 5% of your spending will be credited to us.

Please Remember You must go to Amazon through the link on the church website first.



Magnet Magazine Would you like a free copy of Magnet Magazine ? Please give your name & address to the office & your local distributor will arrange this, or make a definite order for quarterly copies in 2006 which will cost £8 for the year, by 15 December.

Thank you to all who gave to the Harvest envelope appeal £304.55 was raised for Sue Ryder Care Home , St John's, Mogerhanger.

Faith in Action— Gifts with a Difference. It is now possible to donate to a specific FIA projects, in Malawi or an alternative gift for a special occasion. A card will be sent with a photograph of the type of project & information about your chosen gift. Information leaflets & forms can be seen at the Emergency Relief Fund Table before the service.

World AIDS Day 1 December service of prayer support and remembrance at St Paul's Bedford at 6.30pm (don't be put off by the Christmas Tree Festival which closes at 6.00pm) HIV/AIDS is on the increase in the UK. This annual reminder is not untimely

Putnoe Provender—Sunday 4 December
We shall be open for business on 4th December after the Morning Service. All offerings of cakes, jam, marmalade, chutney, fruit, vegetables etc. will be gratefully received. The ever popular Putnoe Christmas Puddings will also be on sale. Proceeds will be shared 50/50 between St Mark's Autism Bedfordshire Appeal and Putnoe Heights Church. Please give this your full support. John and Sally Gunning (305925)

Putnoe –Gift Service 4th December. This year we have decided to donate money to a local Children's Charity. Storybox Plus have been very busy decorating small boxes for you to take away after the service this morning, to fill and return on the 4 December.

The next meeting of the Trade Justice Network Bedford will be held on Monday 28 November at 8pm in St. Peter's Chapter House (to the left of the church entrance), De Parys Avenue, Bedford. The World Trade Organisation talks will be held at the start of December and it looks as though very little progress will be made

there even before they start. This means that it is even more important that we continue to work to keep the message of the need for Trade Justice firmly in the consciousness of both the politicians and local people. By pulling together we can effect change. So, come along to this meeting and help us plan ahead.

For sale - pair dark green leather armchairs, mahogany wood trim. As new rrp. £1200 sale price £500. Donation to church. Ring 750884

Bosch Classic slimline dishwasher-new condition. Only ninety pounds, with 20% of purchase price to go to the Autism centre project at St Mark's. Contact Alan or Diane Bayliss on 01234 268101.

Footprints The last walk of 2005 is a town walk to appreciate Bedford Christmas Lights, starting at the top of Castle Mound at 4.30pm on Sunday 27 November. All are welcome to join us. Sue Allen Tel 407264

Storybox Success! Congratulations to Liz and the Storybox team. St Mark's Storybox, which meets on a Thursday at 12, topped thirty children and thirty adults for the first time, Putnoe continues to be a roaring success with the same numbers. A big thank you to all the caterers, welcomers, singers and story tellers.

Christmas Card Delivery Service. Local Scouts, Guides and Boys Brigade will deliver to Bedford, Bromham, Clapham & Kempston, 15p per card. Last collection 15 December guaranteed delivery 17-24 December. Nearest Post Box St Mark's Church

Tuesday Club invite you to a Christmas Celebration at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday 13th December at 7.45pm. The programme includes carols, readings, drama and refreshments. Do come and join us . There is no entry charge but a collection will be taken in aid of local charities for the homeless.

Christmas Wreaths Orders now being taken for door wreaths made of fresh greenery & seasonal decorations, £6 each. Please speak to Marion, or ring 303254 to place an order. Delivery will be the 16 December.

Update on Putnoe Heights Finance
Sincere thanks to all those who have responded generously to the financial situation at Putnoe by increasing their giving. The response so far is very encouraging with many regular givers having increased their weekly or monthly offering which will go a long way towards meeting our financial targets for the coming year. However, the need remains for us to regularly review our offering. We will give you a monthly update of the figures. In the next Church year we can expect both the Anglican Share and the Methodist Assessment to increase significantly. Once again a big thank you to all who have increased their giving and a gentle prod to those who are still considering their response. We also understand that there are some for whom making an increase will be very difficult.



**St Mark's –
Mission Project**



Over the year 2003-4, over 10,000 attendances were made to our centre through this fund, predominantly children. Our attendances went up this year by about 20% with an extra 1000 children registering with us.

Picture shows Mildmay's new treatment room for children in London

This year's mission project at St Mark's will focus on the Mildmay Charity. Mildmay Hospital is a Christian organisation specialising in holistic HIV/AIDS care and education, with centres in East London, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Tanzania. Mildmay is dedicated to improving the lives of Men women and children challenged by the illnesses, disability, prejudice and deprivation that AIDS can bring. As a Christian charity, faith is translated into action by caring for body, mind and soul with unconditional compassion and concern.

Internationally, Mildmay has a special commitment to working in poor countries. An example of this commitment is the development of 'Jajja's Home' adjacent to the Mildmay centre in Kampala, Uganda. Jajja's home is a specialist children's day centre for orphans with symptomatic HIV/AIDS. Here a clinical team can dramatically improve the health of thousands of children each year.

Committed Christian staff tend to the child's longer-term care and support needs, dedicated to improving their quality of life, however long that may be. For adolescents, Jajja's home incorporates advice on healthy living, vocational training and income generation to help encourage financial independence.

Mildmay believes that the right to treatment should not depend on the carer's ability to pay; all children are treated for free, courtesy of a treatment and welfare fund, a fund which requires in excess of £100,000 per year to ensure the fund is there for whoever needs it.

In the UK, the Mildmay Hospital in East London provides vital support and care for people affected by HIV/AIDS on a residential basis and in the community. The Noah's Ark Nursery reaches out to children and families affected by the disease.

2005 Partnership Advent Course

28 November

The Right Reverend Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans

5 December

Professor Paul Crossley 'Poetry and the Bible'

12 December

The Reverend Charles Royden 'Christmas and the New Testament stories'

19 December

The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman 'The Second Advent of Jesus'

All take place at Putnoe Heights 7.30pm—9.00pm. Please put these dates in your diary and consider inviting friends who may appreciate considering the meaning of Christmas.

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.

**Kathleen Evelyn Lillian Kay
Davine Jane Stuart**

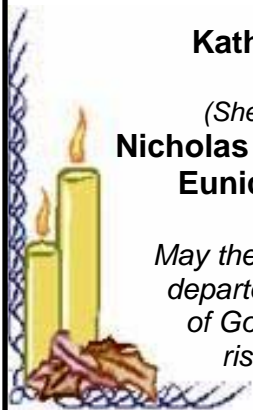
(She would have been 37 today)

Nicholas Charles Arthur Evans

Eunice Mary Shepherd

Jack Atkins

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



**Hearing
is Believing**



Some of you have noticed already that we are now putting audio recordings of sermons onto the church website. Thanks to Mike Elliott for assisting in the technical department. You should be able to listen to past sermons in the sermon archive with ease on your

Rest in Peace. Forthcoming funerals to be taken by our Ministers

No funerals next week