



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

28 January 2007

## Candlemas



Church of  
England

### Partnership Church Services Today

**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 Chapel.

#### 9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Jacqueline Owen  
Leadership - Mrs Linda Parry  
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

#### 11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Jacqueline Owen  
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper  
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

### 4th February—Teddy Bear Service

#### 9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper  
Intercessions - Mr Richard Ledger

#### 11.00am -Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss  
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Reading 1: Psalm 17: 6-9

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-7

Reading 3: John 15: 9-12

### Prayer for Sunday

O Lord Jesus Christ, as a child you were presented in the Temple and received with joy by Simeon and Anna as Redeemer of Israel: mercifully grant that we like them, may be guided by the Holy Spirit to acknowledge and love you until the end of our lives. Amen  
(Church of South India)

### The Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared  
before the face  
of all people;

To be a light  
to lighten the Gentiles,  
and the glory  
of thy people Israel.



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

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

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

#### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian 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 - 5.00pm)

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school** Mrs Janet Smith 326685  
**8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school** Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
*(See website for more details)*  
**9.00 am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.  
**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, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349  
**2.30 - 4.30pm** Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)  
**4pm Monday Club** at St. Marks for 3—8 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments , between 4 & 5 Bible story, craft activities & songs. Lots of fun. Contact Liz 302349  
**4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044  
**4.15 - 6.00pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190  
**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 364710  
**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 next 29 January '07 Contact 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. Judi Staughton 341821  
**10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230  
**1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4 - 9pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg 351223  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Mrs C Allen 363878  
**2 - 5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.  
**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 30 January 2007 Members ; Something Old, Something New. Contact Betty 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. For details of next meeting contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

**3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

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

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

**Tuesday - 7pm-9pm MT Karate** [all ages] at Putnoe Heights. Please contact Karen King 07941 264885

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

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr on 360188 or 07866775515

**7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 30 January Hearing Dogs for the Deaf Contact Audrey Wilkins 365068 or Margaret Gentle 309043

**8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong.** Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

## Wednesday

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

**9.30am - Body Control Pilates** at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787.

**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

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.

**Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 7 February 2007 contact 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

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

**4.15pm - 6pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

**6.15pm - 7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation** at Putnoe Heights. contact Racheall Monton 01234 297138

**6.30 - 7.30 at St Mark's Karate** contact Karen 079412 64885

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

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society**

meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Sylvia Woods 365095

**7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073

**7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

#### 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.*

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

**9.45am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

**1.30pm - 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, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 302349

**1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime** at Putnoe Geraldine Skeel 406828

**1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.** Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

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

**4.00 Story box Plus** at Putnoe Heights for 4-11year 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 And it's 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 Helga Nash 218521

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

**7.00pm Club 2000** at Putnoe Sheila Jakeman 261935

**7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** at St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderers' Guild** at St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby 344442

**7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr 360188

**7.45pm Housegroup meets fortnightly** Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

**8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle** at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse 740271

#### Friday

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

**1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

**2pm U3A Gardening Group** at Putnoe Heights Contact Eve Whitehead 356875

**7 - 10pm Bedford Arts Society** meets fortnightly at

Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Contact Malcolm Smith 01234 400741

**7.30pm Youth Club for age 10-15** at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

#### Saturday

**9.00 - 12.00 Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

**10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain** at St Mark's - dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

**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 Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

**6-7.30pm T.N.T.** for 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. At Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349.

**6 -7.30pm T.X.T** for 13 + fortnightly , join us for fellowship , debate & discussion at Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council – 6 February 07**

**Circuit Meeting -**

**St Mark's Leadership Team – 07**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**

19 February 2007 at Wendy's house

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 20**  
February 6.30pm

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management -**

**Putnoe Church Council 29 January 07**

**Pastoral Group Meeting – 31 January 07**

**Churchyard Committee - 15 February 07**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting – 7.30pm**  
17 January 07, at 14 Flint Way

**Partnership Council - 20 February 07 at St Mark's**

**Brickhill Parish Council -**

**Deanery Meeting -**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth-22 January -**  
1pm following Storybox

**Calendar dates appear on our church website**  
**www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's**  
**Church Office of the dates of your meetings.**

## Presentation of Christ - Candlemas

### Verse of Scripture - Psalm 118: 119

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

### Collect Prayer - *Before we read we pray*

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### First Bible Reading - Mal 3: 1-5

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

(Reader: This is the word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God)

### Second Reading - Hebrews 2: 14-18

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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

### Gospel Reading - Luke 2: 22-40

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law



Presentation of the Lord  
(Candlemas)

"Christ himself says,  
'I am the light of the world.'  
And we are the light...  
If we receive it from him...  
But how do we make it shine?...  
The candle tells us:  
by burning, and being  
Consumed in the burning."

—Pope Paul VI

required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

(This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

### **Hymns**

1. The Lord is King lift up thy voice 656 MP (Tune: Church Triumphant)
2. The light of Christ 652 MP
3. Faithful vigil ended 151 Mission Praise
4. Mary and Joseph On P News (Tune Buinessan)
- 5 I know not why God's wondrous grace. 279 MP

### **Commentary**

This special Sunday has been called 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple', 'The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary', and 'Candlemas.' Candlemas celebrates the many themes of these events, presentation, purification and light for the world. The presentation of Jesus in the Temple took place 40 days after his birth. For us 40 days after Christmas Day falls on February 2, but it is celebrated in church on the Sunday nearest that date.

As well as being mentioned clearly in Leviticus and Luke, this date also lies half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, so it marks the day upon which winter is half over! So you may see snowdrops appearing which are commonly called 'Candlemas bells.' Like many Christians festivals, including Christmas itself, Candlemas has roots which lie deep in pagan roots and an understanding of nature.

Candlemas is a watershed in the church year, it marks the point at which we take a last look back at Christmas and then turn our minds firmly towards the Easter cross. We have been working through the Sundays of Epiphany, now we leave them behind and soon it will be Lent, for this reason it has been called a 'bitter-sweet Sunday.' This feast of Candlemas which we celebrate today can be traced to at least 543. The Feast of Lighted candles is mentioned by Bede and St. Eligius, who was bishop of Noyon from 640 to 648.

So today we remember Jesus as just 40 days old and taken to the Temple by Mary, as ordered by the Jewish Law. Women were considered unclean after the birth of a child and were not permitted to enter the Temple to worship. This state of uncleanness lasted 40 days after the birth of a son and 80 days after the birth of a daughter. At the end of the 40 or 80 days, the mother was brought to the Temple or synagogue and ritually purified. After this she could once again attend religious services and go out in public.

Since Jesus was a boy, it was 40 days after Mary gave birth that she attended at the Temple to bring a sacrifice. Now we are led to understand from Luke, that Mary did not bring a year old lamb, the reading mentions 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons,' one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. This implies that Mary presented the option for poorer people, so we may suppose that Joseph and Mary were not very wealthy. Nevertheless as faithful Jews they did their religious duty and observed the Law of

Moses when it came to such things as childbirth, circumcision, and other rituals.

Luke is careful to point out that Jesus was a Jew who had his roots in the Old Testament. But clearly in this passage we see that Luke makes the point that with Jesus there is more than just a following of the old order of law. Candlemas is a time when we remember the old recognised Jesus, who brings in the new. Luke shows that the story of Jesus was confirmed by two prophets, Simeon and Anna, who spoke of Jesus under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We have this marvellous story of Simeon to whom it had been revealed "that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord." Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and spoke the beautiful words which we know as the *The Nunc Dimittis* Luke 2:29.

Simeon says that God is setting him free as a slave is granted liberty. He is now free to die (for the Spirit's revelation to him is now fulfilled), and Israel is free of bondage. God has saved Israel, as he promised to "all peoples". God's salvation is for Gentiles as well as Israel. The old could pass away because the new had come and the future for us all would be safe in his hands.

But, Simeon finishes with some disturbing words. This marvellous salvation through Jesus had a dark side. Not everyone will take kindly to Jesus, there will be a falling as well as a arising of many in Israel. Jesus will be a sign that will be spoken against, he will cause a crisis in Israel. Decisions will have to be made for him or against him. The sword of Jesus will divide, discriminate, and judge the thoughts, attitudes, and relationships of all people. Mary the mother of Jesus will go through the same crisis, everyone must decide what to do with Jesus. Simeon recognised something special in Jesus and he knew that he had indeed seen the Lord's Christ, and that young or old he could depart in peace, for the eyes of faith had seen God's salvation: perhaps not the salvation he was expecting, the vindication of a particular people: but something bigger and better, the salvation which God had prepared before the face of all people.

### **Meditation**

At Candlemas the Church sees the encounter between the world without Christ and the world with a new beginning in Christ, between the fading age of the Old Covenant embodied in the curse of Leviticus and the new era of the Church of all nations. Simeon calls Jesus "a light to enlighten the Gentiles." Accordingly this day was made into a feast of candles. The warm candlelight is meant to be a tangible reminder of that greater light which, for and beyond all time, radiates from the figure of Jesus. We ourselves are reminded of the need to be prepared to burn brightly ourselves in the midst of this dark world. We take a light, but it is not our own light, no light of our own would be bright enough, rather it is the light of Christ. The light which at the beginning of creation shined in the darkness and which no darkness, no blindness, could overcome, and this light was a light to lighten the gentiles, the nations, all the nations and races and culture of people.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

**Candlemas Prayer** Lord God, you are the source of everlasting light. Your son, our beloved Lord Jesus was presented in the temple 40 days after his birth. He was recognised by Simeon and Anna, and welcomed as the promised Messiah. May we like them, behold the glory of the Lord Jesus. Grant that we may stand before you with hearts cleansed by your forgiving love. May we serve you all our days and make your name known as we worship you as our Lord. So may we come by your grace to eternal life . Amen.

O God, who in the work of creation commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may shine into the hearts of all your people,  
dispelling the darkness of ignorance and unbelief , and revealing to them the knowledge of your glory  
in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let us all hasten to meet Christ, we who honour and venerate the divine mystery we celebrate today. Everyone should be eager to join the procession to share in this meeting. Let no one refuse to carry a light. Our bright shining candles are a sign of the divine splendour of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ. The God-bearer the most pure virgin, carried the true Light in her arms and brought him to help those who lay in darkness. In the same way we too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him. *Sophronius of Jerusalem*

# News and Information

## Kisiizi Support

We have received the following note of thanks for our donation to Kisiizi which was sent off to Sponsor a Nurse for Kisiizi earlier this month.

I have just received your wonderful donation to Kisiizi today and wanted, on behalf of the trustees of Sponsor a Nurse, to send our thanks immediately. I cannot begin to tell you how encouraging this is! We will make sure that the funds are allocated in accordance with your requests. Sponsor a Nurse has supported the running costs of Kisiizi for the past seven years, and this is one of the most generous donations we have received, so thank you all so much. Helen Smith

*Chairperson of Sponsor a Nurse.*

**Thank you** to all who supported Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch. A profit of £450 will be shared between Church funds & a charity.

**Gwen Beswick** and family would like to thank Everyone for all the help and loving support Given over this difficult time. Thank you also for The many letters, cards and donations.

**Book Sale** Saturday 24 February from 10– 12 Noon.. Admission 30p ,refreshments & raffle. Please save your books & bring them to the church On Friday 23 between 7 & 8pm. Offers of help Appreciated either or both days. Sylvia Cohen 343424. In aid of Mission Funds.

**Next Sunday. Teddy Service.** Time to get Teddy out of the loft and share in this special, child-centred service.

## Shared lives, changing lives

A new DVD shows how the Methodist Church brings hope, healing and reconciliation to communities around the world. "Shared Lives" is a short film that combines stories from projects that work for justice and to combat deprivation and poverty with stunning images captured by some World Church Office staff on visits to their partner churches. The 5-minute film shows how the Fund for World Mission is used to support people all over the world.

The film can be viewed online at [www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?](http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=pandw.content&cmid=907)

[fuseaction=pandw.content&cmid=907.](http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=pandw.content&cmid=907)

The DVD can be run through a normal DVD-Player to view the film, but when run through a computer DVD-drive, users can access a wide range of free resources, ideas and information that can be printed off for use. This includes posters, worship materials, Gift-Aid forms and 'Take Up Your Cross' – a self-denial pack for lent. There is also a guide to further

web-based material. The DVD is available free of charge and can be obtained from Mission Education, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR; email: [missioneducation@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:missioneducation@methodistchurch.org.uk), tel: 020 7467 5116.

## Pastoral Support Group

There will be a meeting of the pastoral support group on Monday 31 January in the chapel at St Mark's. This meeting will include a training session to which we have invited Trudy Bunday as our speaker.

**Church Attendance:** Figures for 2005 published by the Church of England, show a fall from 2004 of two per cent for Sunday worship and one per cent or less for weekly and monthly worship.

About 1.7 million people attend C of E services in churches and cathedrals monthly; 1.2 million weekly, on Sunday or a weekday; and just under one million (988,000) on Sundays.

The number attending monthly continued an upward trend, rising by one per cent to 441,000.

The most dramatic increase has been in Christmas Eve and Christmas Day church attendance: at 2,786,200, it was seven per cent higher than 2001, the highest figure since Millennium celebrations drew in 2.85 million in 2000. But Easter Eve or Easter Day communicants were down by seven per cent (1,019,200), and all-age attendance was down six per cent (1,417,800).

Infant baptism figures continue to decline — by four per cent from 2004, to 93,000 — but there was a rise in both child and adult baptism: five per cent in the latter case. Confirmations fell by two per cent to 29,800, but the figure for marriages and marriage blessings remained constant at 62,300 in 2005. The total number of funerals, in church and at crematoria, was also down two per cent, at 207,300. For every 50 people attending church on a typical Sunday, another nine attend during the week, and an extra 35 in total over a month.

**Footprints** The next walk is on Sunday February 4th. Meet at 2pm in Chapel Lane [at the end of Station Road, next to the entrance to Danish Camp] for a walk of 5 miles along the old railway line between the stations at Willington and Blunham, and back. No stiles, no fields, no hills, good walking whatever the weather! Details from Jenny or Barry 344417.

**“Tunes from Stage and Silver Screen”**

Wednesday 28 March at 7.15pm featuring the choirs of Hills and Hazeldene Lower schools.

“St George for England” Sunday 22 April at 3.00pm.

**Female Graduate** from Newcastle is seeking accommodation in our area, as a paying lodger. If interested please contact Putnoe Church office.

**St Albans to Taize 2007.** Join this year’s pilgrimage 21st - 30th July. If you are aged between 15 & 30 and would like to take part come along to a meeting on Saturday 31st March at Christ Church, Goldington Road, Bedford at 7.30pm. ww

**Putnoe Cleaning Teams** are 1 person short. If you can spare 1 hour every 6 weeks to assist in light cleaning duties, it would be much appreciated. More details, please contact Peter & Joy Parker 261736.

**Wine Bluffs for Wine Buffs.** 17 March at Putnoe Heights 7.30. An evening of wine tasting and food. In aid of NSPCC and Church funds. For tickets see Church Office or Jenny Emsley.

**Concert** by Chapel Choir of Christ’s College, Cambridge. Saturday 17 March at 7pm in St.Paul’s Church, Bedford. Programme to include Scarlatti’s Stabat Mater. Tickets £8 from : Heather Turnham 343477,/Central Box Office,/ Classic Music, Lime St,Bedford..

**Chapel Chairs.** The 20 new chapel chairs will arrive next week and we will arrange plaques with inscriptions. Thank you to those who have kindly offered to buy a chair.

**St Mark’s Church American Evening**

7.30pm 3rd February

**Line Dancing  
American entertainment**

Tickets are now available from the church office and members of the leadership team. Adults £6.50 Children (under 12 years ) £4. Book now to avoid disappointment!

**A Hymn for Sunday**

1 Mary and Joseph  
Came to the temple  
Brought the boy Jesus,  
Offered him there.  
People were waiting  
Wanting to greet him,  
Long had they sought him,  
Solace for care.

2 Anna had prayed there,  
Widowed, long waiting;  
Worshipping God by  
Day and by night.  
Now she is praising,  
Filled with elation;  
Here is God's promise,  
Christ is her light.

3 Simeon sings now  
God proffers blessing,  
Brilliantly gilding  
Dawn of his day;  
Light in the darkness,  
Never extinguished,  
Light of all nations,  
Light up our way.

*Tune: Bunesan*

**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.



**Ronald Karmen  
Ann Brown**

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



**Rest in Peace**

There are no funerals this coming week