

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

28 November 2004

First 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



8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church—Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions – Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team—Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions – Mr Eddy Peck

5 December

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St. Mark's Church –Family Gift Service

with Baptism and Christingle

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions— Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Gift Service

with Baptism and Christingle

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Alan Bayliss

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Dorothy Billingham in memory of her husband, Ridley, and by Sylvia Cohen and family in memory of Sylvia's husband, Ken.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by the Standley family with happy memories of Helen Hastings, Margaret's sister

Prayer for Sunday

O blessed Jesus, immortal and victorious,
by the sorrow you suffered when all the powers
of your heart failed you,
have mercy on us and help us in our days of
darkness and in our hours of weakness,
that we do not lose hold of you either in this life,
or in the life of the world to come;
and this we ask for your own name's sake. Amen
St Bridget of Sweden, 1303-1373

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 -07740 865167 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 News is now available each week on the
Partnership Website - www.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 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day—295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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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).
10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month. Next 29 November Christmas Whist Drive. Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime Contact 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 Contact Val Careless 345213.
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting - 30 November Advent Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 30 November Mr G Brown 'Peru' then 7 December Carols & mince pies. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129
6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
7.30- 9.00pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746
7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Next meeting November 30th –Christmas Flowers Meets fortnightly. Contact Sheila Cracknell 217009
8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

10.00 am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
10.00 am Day Care Centre Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
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
12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
Luncheon Club at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 1 December Contact St. Mark's 342613
1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 07711 687449
6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
7.00pm St. Mark's Church Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
7-10pm Putnoe Guild - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
10.00am - 11.30am Yoga at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970
12 - 1.00 pm Storybox at St Mark's Church. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities,

songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.
Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Contact Celia Maddison 782901

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Mrs S Lewis 300198

7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000 Putnoe 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Contact Mr Hatton 824988

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

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

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church
Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30 - 9.30pm Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

7.30pm Music Group St. Mark's Church/monthly

6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St. Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St Mark's -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 304865

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

Peace Project Saturday School at Putnoe Heights.
For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

News, Views and Information

The Calendar

Putnoe Centre Management -

St Mark's Church Council Feb 1 2005

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting on Monday 17 Jan at 10am

St Mark's Centre Management Meeting

Wednesday 19th January 2005

St Mark's Leadership Team

Next meeting on 12 Jan home of Ian Farthing,4 May

Deanery Synod 10 Feb

Partnership Council 18 Jan

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team

22 Nov 7.30pm at 70 Brecon Way

Putnoe Church Council

7 Feb 2005 13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting

January 24 at 2.00pm

Calendar dates now appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise us if you have a date to be added to the church calendar

Carers Rest a branch of the Alzheimer's Society invite you to a Christmas Concert & preview of the Christmas Tree Festival at St.Paul's Church Tuesday 30 Nov at 7pm, featuring the Risley Singers & Bedford Brass. Tickets £10(£8 concessions) from both Church Offices. In aid of Carers Rest & Christmas Tree appeal.This will be of special interest to flower arrangers. More details Deryck Cutler 354037.

Coming Soon Storybox Plus is an After School Club for 4—9 year olds which will be starting in January from 4.00 to 5.00pm on Thursdays. The group will rehearse a short drama and make the props and costumes for a performance at the Family Service at Putnoe.

Volunteers will be needed to make refreshments, help with the crèche and support the group. Please ring Joan on 344536.

Bereavement Support Group There will be a meeting of the Pastoral Group on Wednesday 1 December at 10.45 am at St.Mark's to discuss future planning.

Spanish Evening. Another fabulous themed evening has been planned for February 5 at St Mark's. Keep a place in your diary, you know that it will be great and all money raised will be put towards the Extension for Autism Bedfordshire.

Thank You to everybody who helped with the Christmas Fayre at St Mark's. The total raised now looks set to go well above £2,000, all money will be put towards the Extension for Autism Bedfordshire.

Garden Extension. The Leadership Team at St Mark's are currently seeking to acquire additional land from the Borough Council to extend the Garden of Remembrance. This will provide new options for the creation of an entrance at the front of the church.



Bible Notes Advent 1

Verse of Scripture Romans Chapter 13:11

The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

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.

First Reading – Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD

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

Second Reading– Romans 13: 11-14

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – Matthew 24: 36 - 44

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

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

The days are surely coming, says the LORD,

when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
Jeremiah 33:14



Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise)

1. O come o come Emmanuel 493, 2. Make way, Make way 457; 3. Come thou long expected Jesus 102; 4. Bind us together Lord 54; 5. Lo he comes with clouds descending 424.

Meditation.

We Christians start our new Church year at Advent. It should be a time of mounting excitement and anticipation, as we look forward to commemorating the coming of Jesus to the world. Traditionally, the faithful prepared themselves by fasting and prayer. This time of refocusing is marked also by the wearing of purple (the Roman Imperial colour of mourning), as though there is a period of sorrow before the bursting out of joy at the Incarnation. We are so busy with non-stop shopping, cooking and celebrating, right from the beginning of December, that this dramatic shift of mood is lost. I suggested a few weeks ago that we should, as a church, challenge ourselves by setting ourselves a task; to read the Gospel of St Matthew all the way through. This can be both a seasonal discipline and also a useful way of deepening our appreciation of what we will be hearing in sections over the coming year. Shall we give it a try? *Joan Crossley*

Commentary.

This week's sermon takes a look at the Gospel of Matthew as a whole. We shall be hearing about the history of the Gospel and how it has important differences from the other two Synoptic gospels, Mark and Luke. We shall also be looking at the key themes of the Gospel according to Matthew. They will constantly recur as we spend the year reading from this wonderful work. One of the major themes is introduced in today's Gospel reading from Matthew, chapter 24. It is about the end times, when Jesus will return to this world, bringing in the Kingdom. The imagery is very powerful. In the preceding passage it is predicted that the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light and the stars will fall from the heavens. The writer paints a vivid picture of the people at the time of Noah, merrily enjoying life, not aware that the Flood would wipe them out! You can imagine how chilling the hearers found the words about the people taken while carrying out their daily tasks "one is taken, one is left". It is a terrible warning against complacency. We must not live our lives as though there is no final reckoning. No one knows when it will be. It might be today! Are you ready for the Kingdom, are you ready to face your Maker? Matthew's Gospel asks these hard questions in a very straight way. They are the kinds of questions we are uncomfortable to ask ourselves but we should not expect them to go away. *Joan Crossley*

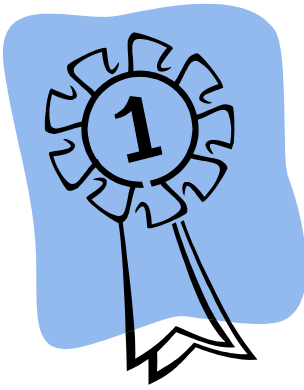
Prayers for Advent and the week ahead.

Lord our God, keep us your servants alert and watchful as we await the return of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks at the door he may find us vigilant in prayer, with songs of praise on our lips. We ask this through 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

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself; Amen. (*New Zealand Prayer book*)

Come Lord Jesus, come as King. Rule in our hearts, come as love. Rule in our minds, come as peace. Rule our actions, come as power. Rule in our days, come as joy. Rule in our darkness, come as light. Rule in our bodies, come as health. Rule in our labours, come as hope. They Kingdom come among us. (*David Adam*)

Our heavenly Father, as we once again prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer, that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love. Allow the story of the Saviour's birth to deepen our joy, make our worship more real and our lives more worthy of all you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (*Frank Colquhoun*)



St Mark's Church received news this week that we have been successful in a competitive tendering process to run a project for people with learning difficulties who are long term unemployed or economically inactive. The funding is made available by the European Social Fund for the development of a community clubhouse to provide work experience and training, advice and guidance, and to provide training in self advocacy skills, social skills and key skills. The project will support a minimum of 60 individuals per week and the funding of £160,000 will be for a two year period. This is great news and will allow our long term commitment to learning disabled adults, which began 12 years ago, to be taken forward.

The funding allows for the employment of staff, resources and training.

The success of our tender application rewards the commitment of the Management Committee and Church Council who enthusiastically supported the project and devoted resources to ensuring that it was the best tender received by Bedfordshire County Council who administer the funding. Congratulations to all involved.

The Management Committee must now administer a programme of work to enable the project to be implemented without delay. Additional storage space will be created in the church and we are exploring the possibility of moving the PA controls. This will also involve moving two radiators in the church. The new office space created upstairs in the church will now prove to be invaluable as a location for the administrative functions of the new project.

Please help us raise money with Amazon.co.uk

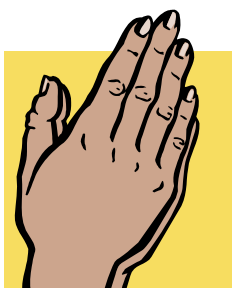
For every pound that you spend with Amazon, ThisisChurch.com can receive 5%. Simply go to Amazon by clicking on the link on the homepage of our church website. Then buy all of your Christmas gifts, electrical items, computer software, DIY tools etc. Amazon prices are usually very low and delivery is free over £19. So you have nothing to lose and who knows we might make a few pounds! Please tell us if you order and we can say thank you.



WWW. ThisisChurch.com Website Update.

So far in November this year we have received over 20,000 visitors to our website. Why not make www.thisischurch.com the homepage on your computer. Simply open Internet Explorer and go to Thisischurch.com. Then go to the tools menu on the toolbar and click once. Click on Internet Options, and then choose use current for the homepage. Now you can keep up to date with what is happening at church.. The website includes copies of Partnership News, past and present, rotas, details of church services and events. And don't forget to use the link to Amazon to buy anything which you need.

Brickhill Parish Council The Council will meet next on 2 December at 7.30pm at St Mark's Church Community Centre. The Council will soon be making grants to local clubs and other voluntary organisations. The Parish Council will award £2,400 of grants this year. Details can be found on the website www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk after 2 December.



Please continue to remember in your prayers Peter and Jan Cooper and all the family. Peter is continuing with treatment at Addenbrooks.

Circuit Bulletin. Copies of the November bulletin are available now. This includes news of the appointment of Karen Murphy as Chaplain to a hospice in Weston-super-Mare. This is fantastic news for Karen who has been part time chaplain to St John's Moggerhanger.

News, Views and Information



Advent Course Wednesday of This week

The Adventure of Pilgrimage By Professor Paul Crossley.

Our course will take the theme of 'Pilgrimage,' with three more talks on November, 1, 8 and 15 December at Putnoe Heights Church. The evenings will begin with refreshments at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Each evening will finish at 9.00pm. We are delighted that the first two of our talks this year will be given by Professor Paul Crossley. Other speakers will be The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley and the detective novelist Kate Charles.

Cards for Christmas: Handmade Christmas cards for sale at Putnoe Heights Church in the Welcome Area, before and after service. Third of profits go to charity. Aiming to raise £100 for NCH this Christmas. Thank you for your continuing support. Cards can be made to order. T: 267567 Margaret & Claire Peck

Mission Group Meeting Tuesday 30 November at 14 Flint Way (off Bamburgh Drive) at 7.30 pm. All interested in Mission welcome. Sylvia Cohen 343424

Putnoe Heights are welcoming a church from America to Putnoe on 20 February next year. Thank you to all of those who have offered accommodation. However we still need another 11 offers to take 2 students each. Offers from people from both churches would be greatly appreciated

Putnoe Provender will be open for business on Sunday 5 December after the morning service, with cakes, jams, marmalade, chutneys and Putnoe's celebrated Christmas Puddings for sale. All contributions gratefully received. Proceeds to the extension for Autism Bedfordshire at St Mark's. John and Sally Gunning (305925)

Creche. The crèche at St Mark's has been moved into the small hall to give more room and better space. A speaker extension will be fitted this week to enable the service to be audible. Thank you for your patience.

Partnership Singers will be rehearsing for their Christmas contribution to the Carol Service.
Friday 3 December at 7.00pm St Mark's
Friday 10 December 7.00pm at Putnoe Heights
Friday 17 December 7.00pm at St Mark's

The Methodist Church are holding a conference on 22 January 2005 at Hinde Street Methodist Church, London from 10—4pm, entitled 'Worship & the Missing Generation'. Cost £10. For more details & to book your place ring: Chris Jones 01245 262312 or Paul Kybird 01908 678755

Network - Spring Celebration on 7th March 2005 at The Square Methodist Church, Dunstable.
Tickets £1, limited to two per church. Please order ASAP but not later than the end of December from Eleanor Mackirky Tel 360271. See poster in foyer for more details.

Party Time All members of the Partnership Council are invited to a party at the Vicarage on the 19 December at 1.00pm

Quiet Time At St. Mark's we are always looking at how we might improve our Worship time together. One aspect of Sunday morning Worship which the Leadership Team have recently been reflecting upon is how we begin our worship. In response to the concerns which have been raised about the general levels of noise before Worship, we considered that the following would be a good way forward. At 9.25am, the duty Leadership Team Member would enter the Sanctuary and light the Altar Candles. This will signify to the congregation that we should continue to prepare ourselves for worship with a time of silence, whilst the Organist quietly plays some reflective music. The Ministers will process in as normal at 9.30am.

Whilst we recognise that this will be different, our intention is to enable us all to gather before God in the right frame of mind, ready and prepared to worship our loving God.

We would also respectfully ask that if there is any Church business that you need to arrange, that you would kindly refrain from doing so before Worship. There is plenty of time to make arrangements over a cup of coffee following Morning Worship. For this reason please do not enter the office unless you are a member of the Leadership Team. Neil

Christmas Cards. Once again we will provide boards at St Mark's on which you may post a card to all members of the congregation. Then please consider making a donation towards the Autism Building Extension Appeal.



Christmas Information at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights

Christmas Cards are available for distribution in both of our churches. These are for giving to friends and neighbours with a personal greeting and an invitation to church over Christmas. Next week we will have a Christmas 'newspaper' available for distribution on a wider scale around houses in the area.

Service	St Mark's	Putnoe Heights
Christingle Family Gift Service	December 5 at 9.30am	December 5 at 11.00am
Carols by Candlelight	December 18 at 6.30pm	December 19 at 6.30pm
Crib Service for families	December 24 at 3.00pm	December 24 at 4.00pm
Midnight Mass	December 24 at 11.30pm	December 24 at 11.30pm
Christmas Morning family worship	December 25 at 9.30am	December 25 at 11.00am
Sunday 26 Boxing Day Family Holy Communion	No Service	December 26 at 9.30am

Christingle - The Christingle Service will now take place on December 5, the family service.

Who's playing the organ?

We are extremely grateful to our team of organists for all that they provide towards our Sunday worship. Thank you to all who will play over the Christmas period.

5 December St Mark's Adrian Quarry, Putnoe Clive Simmonds

12 December St Mark's Clive Simmonds, Putnoe Clive Simmonds

Services of Lessons and Carols

Partnership Singers with Marion (conductor) and Lorna (piano)

St Mark's - Saturday, 18th at 6.30pm Adrian Quarry

Putnoe - Sunday 19th at 6.30pm Clive Simmonds

19 December St Mark's Marion Prior, Putnoe Adrian Quarry

Christmas Eve Crib Services: St Mark's - 3pm Clive Simmonds, Putnoe - 4pm - Clive Simmonds

Midnight Communion 11.30pm St Mark's - Marion Prior Putnoe - Clive Simmonds

Christmas Day St Mark's Adrian Quarry, Putnoe Clive Simmonds

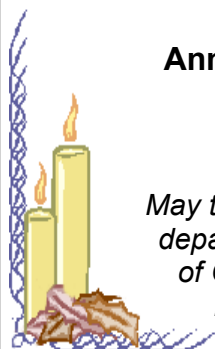
Boxing Day 9.30am Service at Putnoe - Clive Simmonds (no service at St Mark's)

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.

Leonard Loris Charles Denny
Hester Snape
Anne Rosemary Simms
Matilda May Dale
Elizabeth Rose

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 Edwin Frank Mastin will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on Thursday 2 December.

The funeral of Anne A Measures will take place at Bedford Crematorium on 1 December at 10am

The funeral of Thomas Henderson will take place at Bedford Crematorium on 30 November at 4pm

We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

