

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

29 January 2006

Candlemass

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 Holy Communion both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church -Holy Communion with Prayer for Christian Healing
 Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
 Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper
 Intercessions - Mr Chris Izzard
11.00am Putnoe Heights—Holy Communion with prayer for Christian Healing
 Preacher -Revd Charles Royden
 Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen
 Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

5 February 2006

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church – Family Worship
 Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
 Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams
 Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart
11.00am Putnoe Heights – Family Worship
 Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley
 Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper
 Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss
Reading 1 : Isaiah 40: 21-31
Reading 2 : 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23
Reading 3 : Mark 1: 29-39

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Barbara Pinney in memory of her husband Keith.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Norma Taylor and family in memory of their mother and sisters.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, 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

Eternal light, shine into our hearts.
 Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil.
 Eternal Power, be our support.
 Eternal Wisdom, scatter our darkness.
 Eternal Pity, have mercy on us, that with all our mind, soul and strength we may seek your face and finally by your mercy be brought to everlasting life; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Alcuin of York, c. 732-804

Starting Today

Confirmation/Membership Course 2006

We shall be holding a five week course for those wishing to be Confirmed or admitted to full Methodist Church membership. Bishop Richard will be coming to conduct the Confirmations on Sunday March 12th. Neil will perform the Methodist section of the service. We already have a number of people, young and more mature, wishing to take part. But there are still places available The classes will be held on Sunday mornings during the 11am service at Putnoe. The first class will begin today. We begin with a brief history of the Anglican and Methodist traditions. Where are they similar and what defines them? We will also talk about the identity of the partnership. (Neil and Joan)

Forthcoming Subjects

5 February 'So why do you want to be confirmed/ admitted to Membership' (Neil)
12 February 'What difference does being a Christian make?'
19 February Using and understanding the Bible.
26 February Prepared for change.
12 March Confirmation and admission service 11am Putnoe.

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school** Mrs Janet Smith 326685
- 9.30 - 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
- 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
- 4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Miriam Adcock 01908 565044
- 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 20 February 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
- 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. 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.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 31 January Tea & Talk. Betty Wyatt 350188.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 7 February Joining with Women's Fellowship Revd. G Goringe .. 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.
- 3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance.** Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.
- 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 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.at 7.45pm Next meeting 7 February Gentle Exercise Sally Banks. 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 - Body Control Pilates.** 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
- Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 25 January 2006 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.** Mrs Webster 856966
- 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. Janice Loxley 347073
- 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.*

9.30am 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

1.00pm - 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, donations. 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.

2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991

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 Mrs M White 404992

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

7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2 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 3 Thursday each month. 1 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.

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

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

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

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

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 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth 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

St Mark's Church Council 8 February 2006

Circuit Meeting 16 March 2006

St Mark's Leadership Team - 2006 24 April, 6 June, 12 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 20 February , 2 Sunningdale Walk

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 27 Feb, 15 May, 17 July 2006

Putnoe Church Council 6 February 2006

Pastoral Group Meeting - 6 February 2006 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council -

Joint Deanery Circuit

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - 8 Feb, 26 April, 28 June

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

Epiphany 3 Year B

Verse of Scripture Isaiah 49:6

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

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)



Simeon by Rembrandt

First Reading - Malachi 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**)

Third Reading - Luke 2: 22- 40 (When the gospel is announced - **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

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 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. (Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ. **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.
Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Healing Service)

1. The Lord is king lift up thy voice 58 HP (Tune: Church Triumphant)
2. There is a redeemer 673MP (on page 6)
3. Christ be beside me - (On Page 6. Tune: Bunessan)
4. Christ is the world true light 456 HP (Tune: Nun danket)

Meditation

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

Commentary

Dear friends: Today is our celebration of the Feast of Candlemass. The feast of Candlemass always falls on 2 February and marks the purification of the Virgin Mary and the Presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple. These two ceremonies take place forty days after the birth of a child according to Jewish law. Candlemass is celebrated on the Sunday closest to February 2.

As forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory.

Today we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion. Like many Christians festivals, including Christmas itself, Candlemas has roots which lie deep in pagan roots and an understanding of nature. Candlemass lies half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, so it marks the day upon which winter is half over! 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.' *Charles Royden*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

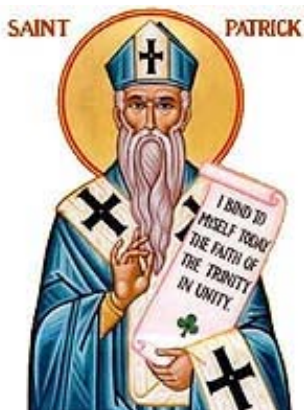
Almighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Let the flame of your love never be quenched in our hearts, O Lord. Waking or sleeping, living or dying, let us delight in your presence. Let the flame of your love brighten our souls and illumine our path, and let the majesty of your glory be our joy, our life and our strength now and for ever. Amen Johann Arndt, 1555-1621
Lord give us the eyes of faith, to see your presence in the world.

Where fear closes our eyes, help us. Where tears blind us, heal us.
 Where busyness keeps us from noticing, slow us. Where pride gets in the way, release us
 Set us free to see your love at work in the world. Amen *The 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 thou great Chief light a candle in my heart that I may see what is therein and sweep the rubbish from thy dwelling place. *African school girls prayer*



St Patrick's Breastplate Or The Lorica 8th Century

Patrick is said to have written this prayer when he was about to confront the druids and convert the chief monarch of Ireland. Many things are said about Patrick, that

he chased away snakes from Ireland and that he converted thousands. The hymn is a prayer for the special aid of Almighty God for important work. It is intended as a breast-plate against spiritual foes.

- 1 Christ be beside me,
 Christ be before me,
 Christ be behind me,
 King of my heart.
 Christ be within me,
 Christ be below me,
 Christ be above me,
 never to part.
- 2 Christ on my right hand,
 Christ on my left hand,
 Christ all around me,
 Shield in the strife.
 Christ in my sleeping,
 Christ in my sitting,
 Christ in my rising,
 Light of my life.
- 3 Christ be in all hearts
 thinking about me,
 Christ be on all tongues
 telling of me.
 Christ be the vision
 in eyes that see me,
 in ears that hear me
 Christ ever be.

- 1 There is a Redeemer,
 Jesus, God's own Son,
 precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
 holy One.
 Thank You, O my Father,
 for giving us Your Son,
 and leaving Your Spirit
 till the work on earth is done.
- 2 Jesus my Redeemer,
 name above all names,
 precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
 O for sinners slain:
 Chorus
- 3 When I stand in glory
 I will see His face,
 and there I'll serve my King for ever
 in that holy place.
 Chorus

News, Views and Information

Putnoe Junior Church ' Help' rota is now on the notice board in the welcome area. If you would like to join us one Sunday, please put your name down. We look forward to welcoming you. Liz & Sam.

Flower arranging We have recently lost two of our flower arranging team at St Mark's & urgently need to find new people to take their places. If you'd like to 'have a go', or discuss what is involved please have a word with any of the team members. We will happily have shadowing or arrange practical sessions. Now is not the time to be hiding your lights under bushels! Contact Marion 303254

TNT will start on the 29th January with a craft evening. We are short of leaders and helpers for TNT and if anyone would like to help once a fortnight during term time then please contact Neil.

Teddy Bear Services 5th February Can you lend a hand? **Putnoe only** Teddy parachute helpers needed following the service. No experience needed. Full training will be given!! We are also looking for a few volunteers to help with Teddy Bear biscuit icing to help keep young (and not so young) busy whilst the sale of unwanted gifts is going on. Any donations of tube icing would be appreciated.

Putnoe & St Mark's we are looking for some volunteers to make "Teddy Bear cakes" to be enjoyed with coffee after both services. See Liz or Carolyn

Unwanted gift sale please if possible bring your priced items to Church on the 5th February. Proceeds to Church funds. Liz/Carolyn

Half Term Storybox & Storybox Plus

Arrangements Storybox for preschoolers will run at Putnoe on Monday 13 February & St. Mark's on Thursday 16 February between 12 & 1. Drinks will be provided but please bring your own packed lunch. Storybox Plus for the 4—10 year age group will run at Putnoe on Monday 13 February & St. Mark's on 16 February between 1.15 & 2.45. for craft, acting, singing & games with a Bible based theme. Light refreshments provided. If you would be interested to lend a hand please see Liz.

Vigil for Norman Kember - There will be a vigil for the Christian peace activists kidnapped in Iraq, Norman Kember and his three companions. The vigil will take place on Wednesday February 1st, from 11am – 1pm at the John Bunyan Memorial Statue. There is no need to attend for the whole two hours— you will be welcome even if only for a few minutes.

Footprints Sunday at 2pm on 12 February Massey's Marvellous Mystery Tour. Met at the junction of

Larkway & Brickhill Drive for a 2 1/2 mile walk, finishing at the junction of St. John's Street & Kingsway. Further details Alan & Margaret 327219.

Coffee Morning Saturday 11 February 10—12noon at 14 Flint Way, to raise money to set up a family mat & basket making business in Malawi. A Faith in Action Project . Sylvia Chen 343424.

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team would like to thank Tuesday Club & Storybox for their donations this month. Putnoe Heights raised £315.20 from the Christmas Gift boxes appeal which was divided between Action for Sick Children & Association for Young People with ME. The offering income at the Crib Service & Christmas Eve totalled £241 and was forwarded to Age Concern & the Guild House.

In April Tuesday Club are having a talk about East Anglian Air Ambulance Service. This organisation can make use of old or unwanted Mobile phones. If you have any please take them to St. Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church Office.

Joan Mortimer sadly died 16 January. The funeral took place in Lancaster 25 January. Those of you who remember Joan & would like to donate to the Multiple Sclerosis Society in her memory may send them to her daughter Jane Whitlock, 103 Hayclose Crsecent, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 7NT.

Concert by Ouse Valley Singers at All Saints Church Milton Ernest on Saturday 4 February 2006 at 7.30pm. In aid of the Friends of All Saints Appeal to repair & improve the church. Tickets £5 including light refreshments from John Brown 823469

Ebay. 'One man's rubbish is another man's treasure' Do you have something to sell in your attic or garage? Let me advertise it for you on Ebay for auction. Anything from a cup and saucer to a motor car. Items can ven be for spares or repair. Ebay auctions are advertised worldwide, all you pay for is a small selling fee and 15% of the sale price towards packing. If you items do not sell, then all you pay is the advertising fee which includes a colour photo. Call Dave or Janet 01234 401184 Mobile 07788 862609

Thank you to everyone who has supported our mission project with Mildmay. We will continue this project until the end of February so there's still time to contribute as an individual or as a group if you haven't done so far. The total we have raised so far is around £2500 which is truly amazing. Lets see what we can do to increase this total and further relieve the lives of adults and children suffering from the effects of HIV AIDS. Sam

A white Christmas in Kosova

With Smile International. From 21 to 28 December 2005 I stayed at the Smile Centre in Gjakove, Kosova our mission to deliver 2000 shoe boxes full of gifts and tell the story of Jesus' birth to children in schools, Churches and Kindergarten around Gjakove. I worked as part of a team of 7 collecting packs of shoe boxes each day from the store near the centre of Gjakove and taking them to schools, kindergarten and day centre for disabled children as well as to a lady living in a remote village with her 4 children and husband who had fallen off a roof a year ago breaking his leg which was not yet healed. In both Kindergarten and school we were made very welcome by staff and pupils and many of the children thanked us for their presents individually. We had a lot of fun singing Christmas carols and telling the Christmas story very simply, phrase by phrase so that our interpreters could translate for us. If ever I had any doubt about whether the Shoe box appeals are worthwhile, I can tell you now, that I have personally seen the delight on many children's faces as they open these boxes so lovingly packed. If you or your church group would like to hear more as a group or individuals about my trip to Kosova or about other work Smile is doing in other Balkan countries, Romania, Zambia and Sri Lanka please give me a call:

Hazel Hurlbut 01234 210033 Please leave a message on my answering machine if I am not there, and I will ring you back.

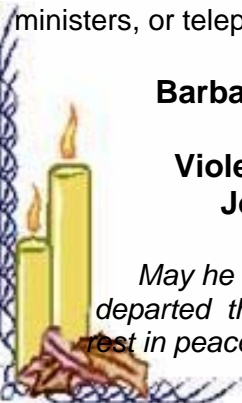
Sit William Harpur House. There will be a service of Holy Communion at William Harpur House on Monday 30 January at 10.00am. All residents will be welcome at the service as well as other elderly residents who live in Brickhill who would like to attend.

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.

**Barbara Mary Husband
Val Gilbert
Violet Lily Merryman
Joan Mortimer**

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



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Rest in Peace

Forthcoming funerals
to be taken by our Ministers

The funeral of Christine Wadner will take place at St Mark's Church at 3.15pm on Friday 3 February

The funeral of Mrs Irene Dorothy Edwards will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am on Friday 3 February *Charles Royden*

The funeral of Betty Sylvia Battle will take place at Bedford Crematorium on 1 February at 2pm *NBC*

The funeral of Alfred Ernest Buckle will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on the 6 February *NBC*