



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

29 November 2009

Advent Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Mr P Fricker
Leadership - Mrs D Shephard
Intercessions - Mr I Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher -Mr P Fricker
Leadership -Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

6 December - Advent 2

9.30am St. Mark's - Gift Sunday

Preacher - Revd. Dr. S. Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights-

Preacher - Revd. Dr. S. Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Kirk
Intercessions - The Nash Family

Readings

1. Mal 3: 1-4, 2. Phil.1:3-11, 3. Luke 3:1-6

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Dorothy Billingham in memory of her husband Ridley, and by Pat Hope in loving memory of her father, Nana and Grampa, who would have had birthdays this week.

The flowers in church at St Mark's this week have been given by Mrs Beryl Mallows in memory of her husband George.

The flowers in the chapel at St Mark's this week have been given by Mrs Phyllis Barnwell in memory of her husband Alan.

Prayer for Sunday

O God of all the patriarchs and prophets ,
you herald the coming of the Son of Man
by wondrous signs in the heavens and on the earth.
Guard our hearts from despair so that we,
in the company of the faithful
and by the power of your Holy Spirit,
may be found ready to raise our heads
at the coming near of our redemption,
the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
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For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in
Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our
church website www.ThisIsChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting December 21 Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

- 9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting December 1. Mrs Wendy Waters. Betty Wyatt ☎ 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting December 1 Sally Banks ; Gentle Exercise. Details from Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 10am U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Contact Janet King 313946
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 9 December. Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731
- 6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.
- 6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley☎ 347073
7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting December 1 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070
 11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.
12pm Storybox St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's ☎267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September
4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183
5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
 6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414
Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792
7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.
1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515
6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –
St Mark's Leadership Team – 19 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – , 8 Feb
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 18 Jan 7.45pm
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 Jan 2010,
Putnoe Church Council - 15 February
Pastoral Group Meeting - 19 January
Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group—Weds 6th Jan at 14 Flint Way at 7.30pm
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting
Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's
Circuit Meeting 8 March at Oakley
Woodland Burial Trustees – 6th December
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 18th Jan

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

First Sunday of Advent

Opening Verses of Scripture—Romans Chapter 13:11

Now is the time to wake out of sleep: for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed

Collect Prayer for the Day - 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. *Common Worship & Methodist Worship*

First Bible Reading - Jeremiah Chapter 33 v 14 - 16

'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfil the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. "In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.'

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

Second Reading— 1 Thessalonians 3 v 9 – 13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Gospel Reading - Luke 21 v 25 – 36 All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

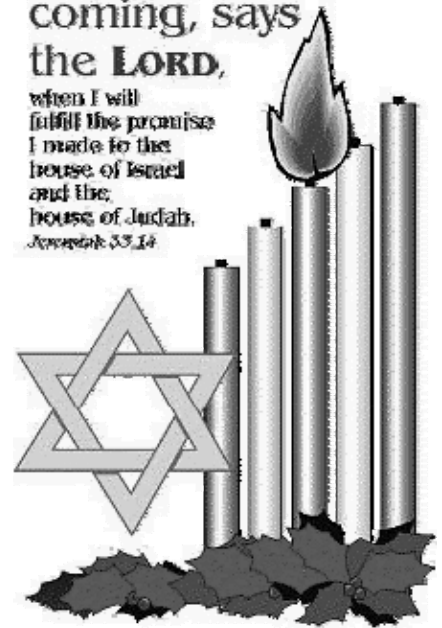
"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. "I tell you the truth; this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." (Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ - **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

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. Amen

The days are surely coming, says the LORD,

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



Meditation

I tried to present the Christian hope no longer as such an "opium of the beyond" but rather as the divine power that makes us alive in this world. *Jürgen Moltmann, 20th century*

God without us will not; we without God cannot. *Augustine, 5th century*

Hymns (*Please distribute Prayer for Christian Healing and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. Come Thou long expected Jesus 81 *Tune Stuttgart*
2. Joy to the world 77 *Tune Antioch*
3. As sons of the day and daughters of light, On Partnership News *Tune Laudate Dominum*
4. To the name of our salvation 80 *Tune Regent Square*

Commentary

The colour for Advent is purple, which signifies that something serious is taking place. Purple is the colour of saying sorry - at Lent, it is the colour of mourning - at a funeral, it is the colour of reflective watchfulness - at Advent.. This is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and begins on Sunday nearest to 30th November. Next week the carol services start, with different groups holding their own services there will be several services of one kind or another each week now until Christmas. This is a difficult time, indeed by the time Christmas eventually comes some of us will be suffering from 'FFS' that is 'festive fatigue syndrome.' Its good to give these things a name, it makes them sound more serious and researched, somehow 'fed up' doesn't sound nearly as important. Does part of you want to just fast forward to Christmas Eve and avoid the messy bits in between?

At Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, but it also reminds us the coming of Christ again. This means that Advent is very much like life in general, and sometimes I suppose we wish that we could just fast forward over the messy bits, and have Jesus appear now. No wonder that the Bible finishes with a prayer hoping that Jesus will come soon' Revelation 22:20 'He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.' As Christians we should all want Christ to come, yet we live all year round in Advent time, the period in which we are waiting and preparing for the return of Christ. This means that Advent should be a time characterised by vigilance. We are living in the present but trying very hard to bring to the present the realities of the future. Our lives should be characterised by the lifestyle of heaven, even though we are currently inhabitants of planet earth.

The text from Luke encourages us to think of the Lord's second coming on this Sunday on which we begin to prepare for Christmas. One Advent leads to another, but in the meantime we have the task of striving to build up a new community founded on justice and God's righteousness. As Luke tells us we have to be careful not to be 'weighed down by the anxieties of this life,' instead we should be 'always on the watch, and pray.' It is hard to live in a manner which reflects God's kingdom, rather than the somewhat shabby standards which are all too evident around us. We can too easily become preoccupied by 'life' just as we can lose the real meaning of Christmas in all of the preparations which cause 'festive fatigue syndrome.'

It is difficult to know how to interpret the standards of Jesus for our society. How do we 'turn the other cheek' in a society in which young children are brutally murdered on our streets, as we tragically heard again this week? Yet Advent tells us that we Christians are to do just that, bring God's reign in our own lives in such a way that we are salt in this sorry society and bring about change which makes a real difference. We must not become fatigued, we prepare inwardly and spiritually, but if that means anything it is demonstrated visibly in our changed lives. Somebody said "Nothing is more powerful than an individual acting out of his conscience, thus helping to bring the collective conscience to life." This Advent we are challenged not to blame others, but instead to recognise that the change must come from us as we live the new lives of the Kingdom. Charles Royden

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we wait for the coming of your Son; then when He appears, He will not find us sleeping in sin, but active in His service and joyful in His praise, for the glory of your Holy name. Amen

Living God, you have given us a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead: grant that we, being risen with Him, may fix our hearts on heavenly things and share eternal life. Amen

Come, O Lord, in much mercy down into my soul and take possession and dwell there. A poor dwelling, I confess, for so glorious a Person as You. Yet, I am preparing for a fitting reception of you, by holy and fervent desires of your own inspiring. Enter then, and adorn my soul, and make it a worthy place for you to inhabit, since it is the work of your own hands. Give me yourself, without which, even if you should give me all that you ever have made, yet this would not satisfy my desires. Let my soul ever seek you, and let me persist in seeking, until I have found, and am in full possession of you. Amen. St. Augustine of Hippo

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

First Candle - The Patriachs

Leader: May the joy and peace of God fill our hearts as we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, we will light a candle to remember the patriachs.

Genesis Chapter 12

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Abraham was obedient to God and left his home to go to a distant land. God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed. This blessing would come because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Gospel writer Matthew traces the ancestry of Jesus back through the Old Testament to Abraham. So it was that the promise was fulfilled, that all the nations of the world were blessed through the obedience of Abraham.

(A person lights the first candle here)

Leader: Let us pray:

All: God of Abraham and all the patriachs of old, you are our Father too. Help us as we await the coming of Jesus to show the same obedience and willingness as Abraham. May we seek always to follow your path for our lives. Amen

A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 As sons of the day and daughters of light, no longer we sleep like creatures of night:
For Jesus has died that with him we may live; by all he has given, we learn how to give.
- 2 One body in Christ, let all play their part: the lazy be warned, the timid take heart;
let those who are hurt never pay back with wrong, but serve one another: together be strong!
- 3 Be constant in prayer, at all times rejoice, in all things give thanks-let God hear your voice!
alive to the Spirit, alert to his word, test all things, and hold to what pleases the Lord.
- 4 May God who first called, gave peace and made whole, preserve us from fault in body and soul:
our Lord Jesus Christ keep us firm in his grace, until at his coming we meet face to face.

Tune Laudate Dominum

Putnoe Heights Church invites you to join our mini Christmas Tree Festival

Collect a cardboard Christmas tree from the youth team and as an individual, family or church/community group decorate the tree for us, telling us who you are, and we will display them in the church during December. Trees must be left at the church office before Sunday 6th December.

More details for collecting your tree from Liz on 01234 302349 youth @ thisischurch.com

Partnership Advent Course Putnoe Heights Church 8 p.m. 3 December Christmas According to Matthew 17 December Christmas According to Luke

Nativity Scenes. On Saturday December 19 we are holding a nativity festival at Putnoe Heights, that is if there are nativities to show! So far I have one from South Africa, the promise of another African one and a huge banner, designed by a good friend of mine. But I'd like more! This is where you come in, if you have a nativity scene that is special to you or your family in some way, and you are willing to lend it to us for the weekend before Christmas, please could you let me know! It doesn't matter what it looks like, is there one someone knitted for you? Is there a slightly tatty one with teeth marks of a over enthusiastic child in (or maybe a character is missing)? Is there one that has been part of your families for so long it wouldn't seem like Christmas without it? Is there one from a particular holiday, or maybe there's one from a difficult time in your life that you'd be willing to share? Whatever the story I think it would be great to share it, I hope to be able to display a wide variety, and produce a 'programme' which has a little 'story' about each one. Although I don't need them until the day, I'd like to have any stories ASAP and idea of numbers by the previous week, to enable the production of the programme! *Jane Mason*

BEH Women's Network District Residential Weekend 19 - 21 February 2010 at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. Further details and booking form from Pam Seymour 305695

Putnoe Heights Church Centre urgently needs additional volunteers to staff the office (Monday to Friday, 2 hour shifts). Training is given on the use of the office facilities. If you can help, please contact Barry 365630. Without extra help, we will have to reduce opening hours, there by not being available to the community as much as we would wish and potentially losing photocopier and hiring income.

Woodland Trustees Meeting will be held on Sunday 6 December at 12.30pm in the Wren Room.

Putnoe Christmas Provender will take place on Sunday December 6 after morning service. Cakes, jam, marmalade, chutney, mince pies and Putnoe's own Christmas puddings will be on sale. Please help to make this a record fund raiser for this year's mission 'The Kings Arms Project. John & Sally Gunning 305925

Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra Winter Concert will be held at Putnoe Heights on Saturday December 5 at 7.30pm More information contact info@bcco.org.uk or visit www.bcco.org.uk Tickets from

Central Box Office or Putnoe Church Office :Adults £7, concessions £5.

Kempston Musical Soc Christmas Concert 12 December, 7.30pm in St. Peter's Church, De Parys Ave in aid of the Arthritis Research Campaign. In addition to the Christmas music there will be a very talented young violinist, Stuart McDonald. Programmes at £7 available from Marian Goddard 344617 or from Central Box Office, Bedford & Tema Music in Kempston.

Carol Concert with Stotfold Christian Choir. Friday 11th December, 3pm at New Street Baptist Church, St. Neots. All Welcome. Free Admission and Refreshments.

Christingle The Partnership Christingle Services will be on Sunday December 13th. Everyone, young and not so young (!) is warmly invited.

Christmas Post Box at Putnoe Heights. Please post your Christmas cards to friends who are members of the Church in the box. As usual, the cost is 10p per card or 12 for £1. This year, regrettably, cards which remain at the church on Christmas Day will be left there until they are collected after Christmas. Happy posting from Joy and Peter.

Temporary Vacancy (2 terms) Person/s required to work in Hazeldene Heights Pre-school at Putnoe Heights Church up to 4 sessions per week job share considered must be flexible. Please apply to Mrs Janet Smith by Friday 4th December 2009.

Putnoe Heights Coffee For some time I have organised the Sunday morning coffee rota and purchased the necessary provisions. I have decided that I would like to step down from carrying out this duty and so I am looking for somebody else to replace me. If you are interested in carrying out the role or have any questions regarding it please contact me on 266408. Many thanks. Claire Peck

Putnoe Heights Card Sales A big thank you for continuing to support us by buying our hand made cards. A third of what we make continues to go towards a range of different charities. This Christmas we are hoping to raise £100 to go to NSPCC (National Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Children). Cards can always be made to order. Please contact Margaret on 267567. Margaret and Claire Peck

Jennie Cooper regrets that she is unable to send Christmas cards this year because of an accident, and asks please not to send to her as she is away for a month from the 10 December. Best Wishes to everyone for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas.

Mary and Joseph Our travelling Mary and Joseph will be looking for homes to visit during Advent. If you can provide accommodation for them one evening please see Liz at Putnoe.

The Chisen Foundation works with children with special needs in Ghana. They need storage space for clothes to send to Ghana in February. Do you have a spare garage etc. Contact Vicky@chisenfoundation.org



**Help us raise funds for our
Christmas Charity
Kings Arms**
Working with the Homeless in Bedford

We are all used to seeing scenes of deprivation on our television from third world countries. However homelessness is not something which just happens in other countries.

Recently I had cause to report problems with derelict garages in Brickhill and problems associated with people sleeping rough in these dilapidated buildings. People from the Kings Arms Charity turned out and on one night helped five homeless people sleeping rough on cold garage floors. The Kings Arms are the people who come and help folks who have literally hit rock bottom.

It is in some ways easier to feel sorry about human misery in places like Ethiopia or Darfur. We know that there is so little which we can do in these distant places. However we are not so powerless when we see suffering in our own community. If we are genuine in wanting to make a real difference then we have to show action at home where we do have the resources and committed Christian people who are working for change. The people of Kings Arms need our help.



**Church Christmas cards available now!
Call at each Church office**

We are selling our Partnership Christmas cards this year in aid of our Mission Project Kings Arms - working with the homeless in Bedford. If you would like to help this charity providing shelter for homeless people then please do buy the cards which are priced at £2.50 for 10. They may also be purchased singly. Our special thanks to Mr Bob Wardale, of Putnoe, Bedford, who kindly allowed us to use his painting of Putnoe Heights Church.

So this year please give generously to an outstanding group of local people who are helping some of the most deprived people in the world, who live on our doorstep.

There are three main ways to help

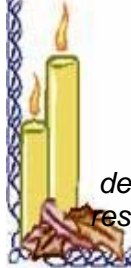
1. Take envelopes from church and give
2. Purchase our Christmas cards
3. Come along to our fundraising Christmas concert by Kempston Musical Society on Monday 14th December at 7.30pm at St Mark's

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.

**Vida Eileen McWilliams
Royston James Nash**

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



amazon.co.uk Please don't forget to buy your presents at Amazon. Free delivery this year. Never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thisischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

Forthcoming Funerals

The Funeral of Andrew John Weller will take place at 1.45pm on Thursday 3rd December at Bedford Crematorium.



The funeral of Jean Eleanor Fensome will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on Tuesday 8 December 2009