



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
2 December 2018
Christingle



Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st and 3rd Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church
2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

2 December 2018 - Advent 1

9.30am St Mark's Church Christingle Service
Morning Family Worship with Baptism
Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters and Mr. Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs. Liz Jackson
Intercessions - Children
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe Heights Church – All Age Worship

Preacher - Rev. Caroline Weaver
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Young People
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

9 December 2018 - Advent 2

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe Heights Church – Local Worship

Preacher - Action for Children
Leadership - Mrs. Vita Hudson Rae
Intercessions - Mrs. Claire Peck
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

Lectionary Readings:

1. Baruch 5: 1-9 2. Philipians 1: 3-11 3. Luke 3: 1-6
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur House first Monday of every month.

Thank you

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Barbara Keighley in loving memory of her very dear husband Brian.

And by Pat Hope in memory of her Nana and Grampa, her father and her husband Ron.

Prayer for Sunday

God of all,

We give thanks for all that Christingles symbolise: Light in the darkness; and a future hope.



May the orange at the centre remind us of the amazing earth you have created.
May the red ribbon remind us of your love, wrapped around the earth.
May the cocktail sticks remind us of the part we play in your world.
May the brightly lit candle remind us of the light you shine into dark places.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

Assistant Rural Dean of Bedford
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Caroline Weaver

Putnoe Heights Church Putnoe Heights MK41 8HE
Tel: 348091 carolineweaver@live.co.uk

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

Reader: Mrs Wendy Waters

Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator
342613 office@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.

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday. To subscribe visit our Partnership News archive at www.thisischurch.com. Any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted weekly on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also on www.ThisisChurch.com

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

www.putnoechurch.org.uk

Open Mon - Thur 9-4pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel: 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager: Krystyna Oborn 365630
Leadership Team: Mrs Sue Allen 407264
Treasurer: Mr Andrew Dennison
treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator: John Hitt 404186
Youth Team Leader: Carolyn Morris
youth@thisischurch.com
<http://www.facebook.com/PutnoeChurch>

St. Mark's Church Centre

www.stmarkschurch.com

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax: 342613 office@stmarkschurch.com
Centre Manager: Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team: Mr Edward Parry
Treasurer: Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@stmarkschurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator: Mr Jim Williams 360605
Churchyard Administrator: Mrs Avril Williams 342613
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Regular Weekly Activities - Putnoe Heights Church

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm. For more info please contact Nuru Lyria 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation Rod Fewings 07718390188

2.00pm U3A Italian – fortnightly Rod Fewings 07718390188

4.15pm Kumon Maths Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.15 pm Brownies . Sharon Tanner 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk

6.15-7.15pm Pilates Jane Butcher 07891879571

7.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm-8pm Cubs Ages 8 –10.5 Michelle Davis 07711916870 email: michelle@putnoescouts.org

6.30pm Fit For All – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

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

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Jenny Snelson 344417

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Rod Fewings 07718390188

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. meets monthly.

Jo Fordham (President) 01234 217396

Margaret Bull (President) 01234 267866

Cheryl Gardner (President) 01234 261584

2.30pm. Ladies Tuesday Club (meets monthly) Next Meeting Tuesday 11 December Putnoe Christmas at Library Walk 'Details Diane Bayliss 268101

2.30-4.30 U3A Play Reading Rod Fewings 07718390188

6.30pm– 8.00pm Cubs 6.30pm—8.00pm Ages 8-10.5 michelle@putnoescouts.org

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

11.00am U3A Keep Fit. Rod Fewings 07718390188

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Fortnightly. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

2-4pm U3A Ukulele Group. Beginners welcome. Contact Chris Fordham 217396

2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Mrs Webster 856966

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Mrs Rakha Mistry 01908 392698

5.00–6.00pm Rainbows Gayle email : 1stputnoerainbows@gmail.com

6.15-7.15pm ATSK Karate Kevin Stark 01234 353865

6.15-7.45pm GKR Karate Daniel Freer 07931 504 712

7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts ages 10.5-14; Michelle Davis 07711916870 email:michelle@putnoescouts.org

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

Thursday

8.15-2.15pm Sing & Sign. Julie Warriner **01767 691488**

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

10.00-12pm U3A Painting & Sketching Rod Fewings 07718390188

1.30-3.00pm Little Fishes for the under 4's and their carers. Playtime, craft, story time, music and singing. For further details please contact Carolyn Morris tel 07751348925 or email storyboxplus@btinternet.com

2pm –4pm U3A Current Affairs Rod Fewings 07718390188

2.30pm-3.30pm U3A Spanish (Weekly) Rod Fewings 07718390188

5.15-8.15pm NHS Eat Smart Think Active contact : Laura Rocket 355122

6.00pm-7.30pm Beavers Ages 6-8 michelle@putnoescouts.org

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brennan. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Monthly second Thursday in the month. Sandra White 313645

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly with different guest callers each week. Except August. All welcome, cost £2. Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

Friday

9.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival Elena 01234 266968

9.30am –12. 30pm Machine Knitting group 1st and second weeks per month. Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am-12 U3A French Conversation Rod Fewings 07718390188

2pm U3A Gardening Rod Fewings 07718390188

6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers Ages 6-8 Michelle Davis 07711916870 email: michelle@putnoescouts.org

Saturday

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players G. Parry 01462 674792

Sunday

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior for the under 9's . A crèche is also available.

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council -
St Mark's Leadership Team -
St Mark's Church AGM - 28 April 2019
Putnoe Leadership Team – 12 February 2019
Putnoe Management Meeting – 29 January 2019
Putnoe Church Council - 21 February 2019
Pastoral Group Meeting –
Churchyard Committee -
Circuit Meeting -
Deanery meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -
St Marks Messy Church - 12 December.

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

Regular Weekly Activities - St Mark's Church

Monday

7.30am-6.00pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

7.30am-6.00pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. Mrs M. Berry 211955

10.00am U3A Play reading Rod Fewings 07718390188

9.45am - 10.45am & 11.00am-12noon Pilates Liz Mason
07816522200

2-4pm U3A Meditation & Wellbeing Rod Fewings
07718390188

2-3.15pm U3A Recorder Group Rod Fewings
07718390188

6.00pm Brownies Mrs C Mathew 826190

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month)
Mary Daly 217127

7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club on 2nd week each month
Cheryl Green 07729187399

7-9pm Rangers. Nikki Lake 07584028653

7.15pm Guides. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.30pm Whist Drive. Weeks 3 & 5 in the month. Judith
Stanton. 823313

Tuesday

9.15am-11.15. Chat & Make A term time group for Mums
and toddlers 0-5. For more details ring St Mark's Church
Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World

9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. Rod Fewings 07718390188

1.30pm U3A Choir. Contact Rod Fewings 07718390188

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 (3rd Week in month) Contact
Rod Fewings 07718390188

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 (2nd Week in month)
Contact Rod Fewings 077183901882

2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3 (1st Week in month)
Contact Rod Fewings 07718390188

2.30pm Knit & Natter Group Meetings 20/11, 4/12, 18/12
Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling
262225

2.00-3.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. A social
and Bible Study group. Meetings: 27/11, 11/12. Mrs Jean
Bank 355698

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga Amanda Alcock
07769747393

7.30-9pm Faith Community Church Audua Ogilvie 01234
308644

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee (4th week in month)
Mrs N Aspey 309816

8.20-9.20pm Restoration Pilates Johanna Debnam
07753418170

Wednesday

10.00-2pm Open House for those with learning
disabilities, friends, family, carers and supporters 342613.

10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3 Rod Fewings
07718390188

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

10am U3A Card Making, Rod Fewings 07718390188

10-4pm Sewing group 4th week of the month. Contact
Sue Sewell 07979797747

1.15pm Social Bridge Club Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft 1st week of the month Contact:
Rod Fewings 07718390188

3.45- 5.30pm Messy Church. (3rd Week in month). for
children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based

story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 12
December Wendy Waters 401834

6.00pm Brownies. Mrs C Warden 219731

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. Peter Cullum 07545508185

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's
(1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting 5th
December. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1
including refreshments. Call Rosemary 405594 or Graham
406359 for more details or come and join our friendly
group and have a try.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club (Week 1 in the
month) Jill Cooper 357960

Thursday

9.45am Chat and Play A term time group for Mums &
toddlers.0-5 St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or
Janine 01234 297481

12pm Storybox . Welcomes 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.. Contact
Jaana Swaby 342613

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. Rod Fewings 07718390188
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society Jean Patterson
307210

5.15-6.45pm Weightwatchers Jodi Henderson
07449890830

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga Amanda Alcock
07769747393

7-9pm Bedford Community Gospel Choir weekly
meeting . Contact 07554148540

7.00pm U3A Singing for Fun (1st & 3rd week in month)
Rod Fewings 07718390188

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild
(3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504

7.30pm Magpies. Meet on 2nd & 4 Thursday Next
meeting 13th December. Christmas Celebration - By ticket
Call Rosemary 405594 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in
month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

Friday

10am -12.00 U3A Photography (4th week in month)
Contact Rod Fewings 07718390188

10.45am - 12 U3A Poetry & Literature St. Marks
Contact Rod Fewings 07718390188

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist (2nd week in month) Contact
Rod Fewings 07718390188

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd
week in month)Carol Brown 01438 233385

6.30 -8.30pm Pakua Martial Arts John Waugh
07802755914

7-9pm Mindfulness Meditation Bhante Samitha
07983466105

Saturday

9.00am Faith Community Church (1st week in month)
Audua Ogilvie 01234 308644

10.00am-1pm Theatretrain Dancing acting, singing. Kate
Howard 01234 782414

10am-1pm Sugarcraft Guild Cygnets (2nd week in
month) Margaret Baldry 07919404906

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's
with crèche for under 3's

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre at St. Mark's.
P Harris 01623 621143 1st week Dec/Feb/Apr/Jun/Aug/
Oct.

Christingle Sunday

Opening Verse 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. All Amen CW



First Bible Reading - Jeremiah Chapter 33 v 14 - 16

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. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.' NRSV
(This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - 1 Thessalonians 3 v 9 - 13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. NRSV
(This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 25:1-13

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (This is the word of the Lord - Thanks be to God)

Post Communion Sentence

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. NRSV

Hymns - St Mark's

1. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes
2. The trumpets sound, the angels sing
3. Lord, the light of your love is shining
4. The Christingle begins with an orange
5. Come and see the shining hope that Christ's apostle saw

Commentary

As we begin Advent, the start of the new Church year, there are verses in the readings set for today that can direct our thinking and waiting and hoping.

Jeremiah says:

"The days are coming when I will fulfil the gracious promise I made. I will make a righteous branch sprout from David's line. He will do what is just and right. He will be called the Lord our Righteousness."

The psalmist says in psalm 25

"in you I trust o my God. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame. Remember your great mercy and love. Teach me your paths. Good and upright is the Lord. He guides the humble in what is right".

In Luke 21 Jesus says

"heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away"

In 1 Thessalonians Paul asks that the Lord will make their love increase and overflow for each other and that he will strengthen their hearts, while Mathew 25 tells us to keep watch.

In a troubled world these words give us hope. They speak of a God who is in control, who acts, in whom we can trust. He will do what is right in his own time whatever the chaos we might face in the world. We are all invited to experience the love that a relationship with God brings. In Hebrews 10-: verse 23 we read *"let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering for he who has promised is faithful."*

We really can have a sure and certain hope for ordinary lives as we live in love with one another, encouraging one another and focus on the hope that a faithful God gives us through the resurrection of Jesus.

Way back in 1983 David Konstant who was then Bishop of Leeds wrote that Advent can be an exciting time because it is a time of new beginnings. He said

"with Isaiah and Mary and all creation we wait expectantly for a birth. Every birth is a time of wonder and hope but surrounding this birth is a simply a breath catching expectancy for it celebrates the birth of Gods son, the Word made flesh."

In the same year the broadcaster Mary Craig wrote

"we wait, hope for, prepare for the coming of the promised Messiah. In Advent the cry goes out for us to wake up, to get rid of our absurd complacency and self- regard and to gird ourselves for the challenge posed by the advent of Christ."

It is a good time to review our priorities and why it is that we believe them to be so important. We can ask ourselves if we are actually ready for the coming of Jesus. If he were to appear in Brickhill this year and walk the streets of our community would we be happy with what he would see? Actually we need to know as we prepare for his coming that Jesus is already with us. We can have confidence and reassurance for the future for God is in charge. Jesus's risen presence pervades the whole world even though so much seems to be falling apart. His love can come in and rebuilding can begin – it is already underway where his people live as citizens of the kingdom of God, sharing in his work of loving and caring and helping to transform the lives of so many. We see this locally in the Foodbank that in October helped 585 people, 218 of whom were children.

Someone once said that Christmas is no more than a story if it doesn't make a difference to how we live. If all it means is that we change the counting of years from BC to AD then it has no relevance. So at the start of Advent 2018 we gave a lighted candle to Penelope and made Christingles showing God's love embracing – even hugging- the world and Jesus as the light of the world. We are all called to live and walk as children of the light.

A New Guinea Christian wrote

"at Advent we should try the key to our hearts door. It may have gathered rust. If so this is the time to oil it in order that the hearts door may open more easily when the Lord Jesus wants to enter at Christmas time! Lord, oil the hinges of our heats doors that they may swing easily and gently to welcome your coming."

Wise fault provoking words. *Richard Ledger*

Meditation and Prayer for the start of Advent

You keep us waiting. You, the God of all time want us to wait for the right time in which to discover who we are, where we must go, who will be with us, and what we must do. So thank you for the waiting time.

You keep us looking. You the God of all space, want us to look, in the right and wrong places for signs of hope, for people who are hopeless, for visions of a better world which will appear among the disappointments of the world we know. So thank you.....;for the looking time.

You keep us loving. You, the God whose name is love, want us to be like you – to love the loveless and the unlovely and the unlovable; to love without jealousy or design or threat; and, most difficult of all, to love ourselves. So, thank you.....for the loving time.

And in all this, you keep us. Through hard questions with no easy answers; through failing where we hoped to succeed and making an impact when we felt we were useless; through the patience and the dreams and the love of others; and through Jesus Christ and his Spirit you keep us. So thank you for the keeping time, and for now, and for ever. Amen. *A Wee Worship Book.*

First Candle - The Candle of Hope (Purple Candle) The Patriarchs, Abraham, the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus

May your hearts be filled with hope as you hear the promises God made to bless all the peoples on earth through Abraham, the father of our faith.

All: Thanks be to God

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, we will light a candle to remember the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the ancestors of our faith.

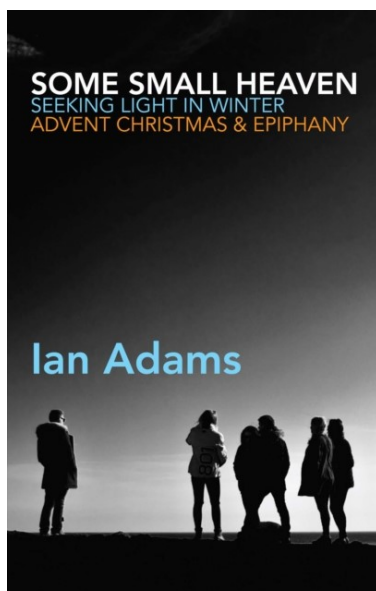


Genesis Chapter 12 The LORD had said to Abraham, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors: to you be praise and glory for ever. You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God for ever. *(A person lights the first candle now)*

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, light of the world, born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a king: be born in our hearts at Christmas, be King of our lives today.



Something to read over Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

Some Small Heaven – Seeking light in Winter

Ian Adams

List Price £8.99

Ian Adams is a well-known writer, poet and photographer who works with words and images to explore the Christian faith in a contemporary context. In his book, 'Some Small Heaven', he gives a poem, an image and a simple word or two to guide our prayer for each of the days of Advent through Christmas to Epiphany. Many of the poems are based on the songs which are found in the gospel of Luke, the gospel for the coming year. The images are taken in winter along the coast of Devon and Cornwall and reveal that even in the winter darkness there is also light, a light which enables each one of us to discover some small heaven for ourselves. The writing in this book is not complex, although it is deep. The poetry and images are accessible, stimulating and thought provoking as they invite us to reflect and engage with the earth shattering events of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany as we journey through December into the dawning light of the New Year. *Sam Cappleman*

Putnoe Thursday Prayer Group. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

Putnoe Heights Fairtrade. Good news! Traidcraft have confirmed that they will continue to trade after 31 December. The new company will be a smaller operation with fewer staff and focusing on a reduced number of core grocery lines. The details are still being finalised so watch this space for further updates. Catalogues can be found on the information table in the foyer. Next stall 6 January 2019.

Putnoe Provender Sunday 2 December

Sales of Cakes, Mince pies, jam, marmalade, Christmas flower arrangements and much more in the welcome area after the morning service. Christmas puddings available if pre-ordered from Sue Allen (Tel: 407264) Proceeds in aid of Action for Children, contributions gratefully received. Sally Gunning (Tel:305925)

Action For Children. Putnoe Heights Autumn Appeal. Formerly known as National Children's Home, Action for Children has been helping the young and vulnerable for over 148 years. £5 could fund a disabled child's place in an after-school activity session. £10 could pay for a one-to-one advice session for a young person leaving care. £20 could provide a one-to-one play therapy session for a child who has been abused. Appeal envelopes will be available for the next few weeks. Please give generously.

The Greeting banner is ready for you to write and attach your communal Christmas Greeting to friends at Putnoe Heights. The post box is also ready for individual cards. Donations should be placed in the post box.

Footprints Tea and Cake Walk Today 2

December. Meet at 2.00 pm at the café at Priory Marina for one hour walk followed by refreshments in the café.

Thank you to everyone who supported our 1st Putnoe Brownies cake sale. They raised £78.03 and a further £120 at their fund raising evening on Monday for the Bedford food bank. The brownies will be going shopping tomorrow evening with a Bedford food bank shopping list to purchase things for Christmas. If you would like a reverse advent

calendar shopping list please visit www.bedfordfoodbank.org.uk/ Christmasreverseadventcalendarfoodtobuy.

Bedford Community Concert Orchestra are holding a winter concert at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 8 December 2018. Highlights from Jurassic Park, Oklahoma plus Christmas selections. Tickets £8 /£6 child/ concessions/under 5's free.

Anjulita Court are holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 15 December from 11.00—14.00. Stalls include tombola, raffle, cakes, cards, calendars, Santa's grotto etc. Free admission.

Bedford Community Concert Orchestra Winter Concert at Putnoe Heights

Saturday 8 December at 7.30 pm
Tickets: £8 / £6 child/concessions / Under 5s free
Join us for music from film and musicals featuring: highlights from Jurassic Park, Oklahoma, plus Christmas selections.

The Bedford Rotary Charity Choral Concert at St Mark's Church Brickhill on Saturday 24th

November was attended by 80 people including members of Bedford Rotary Club, parishioners from St Mark's Church and members of the public from the surrounding area. The choir was the accomplished Ensemble of Friends from Potton who treated us to a varied selection of songs and choral music ranging from the 16th Century to modern day music. The concert was arranged over two one hour sessions with an interval for wine and savouries. The choir, the food and the wine were paid for by a sponsor and St Marks offered the Church hall for free which resulted in £1,310 being raised for Canine Partners. A raffle raised a further £420 for other Rotary Charities.

The standard of singing was excellent and everyone enjoyed the food provided by Janet Day ably assisted by Jan Wilson on the evening.

Audience participation was encouraged at one point and Rotarian David Tatum-Hume could not resist the offer to join the choir for one song!

The Ensemble of Friends were led by Douglas Coombs and they produced an amazingly professional sound for an amateur choir which was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

A Big Thank You to everybody who helped prepare the Christingle Oranges and decorated our church Christmas trees.

Prayer for Sunday and the Week ahead

God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvellous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

We seek the mighty God in the most unlikely places as a child in a stable, and in an empty tomb. May God hear these prayers, which come from the unlikely corners of our lives.



Congratulations to St Mark's Church Preschool which has just received an inspection from Ofsted which declared it to be 'Good in all areas'

Ofsted stated that the pre-school provides extensive support for families. The staff are acutely aware of when families need support and offer a broad range of additional services. All families are warmly welcomed into the pre-school. Staff make accurate observations and assessments of children's progress. They identify what children need to learn next to help promote their development well. When children do not make expected progress, staff are quick to seek additional support. Any gaps in achievement close quickly and all children, including children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress in their learning. Staff maximise the benefits of the outdoor space for children as many do not have access to a garden at home. They learn about lifecycles and enjoy watching butterflies develop from caterpillars. Children behave well. They have clear instructions and directions that help them to learn about how to play together socially. Children play games to become familiar with each other's names.

Well done to Helen and all the staff you have done brilliantly! The full report can be read here <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/16/219169>



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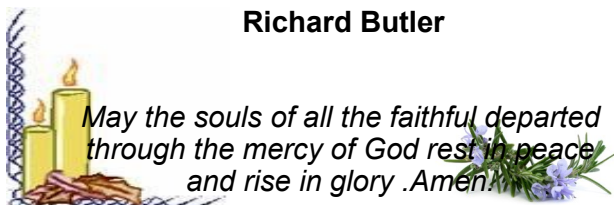
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Rest In Peace

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.

Richard Butler



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



Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funerals this week

All funerals at Bedford Crematorium can be found @ www.bedford.gov.uk/obituaries