



# Partnership News

30 December 2012

First Sunday after Christmas  
Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church



## 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

### Today 30 December

**9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion with PCH**  
Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger  
Leadership -  
Intercessions – Mr Warwick Holden  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH**  
Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger  
Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions - Mr Alan Baylis

### Sunday 6 January 2013

**9.30 St Marks – Morning Family Worship**  
Preacher – Rev Charles Royden  
Leadership -  
Intercessions – Mr Warwick Holden  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH**  
Preacher – Rev Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions - Mr Alan Baylis

**Readings 1.** 1.Sam 2 :1-20,26 **2.**Colossians 3:12-17  
**3.** Luke 2 :41-52

**Midweek Holy Communion** at St Mark's Chapel every  
Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House on  
first Monday of every month at 10.00am

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week  
have been given by Derrick Wren in loving memory  
of his wife Betty.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have  
been given by Mike Cooper in loving memory of his  
Mum and Dad and of his wife Helen.

*We are grateful when people make donations towards  
flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as  
an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please  
contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Ann Hitt  
404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota on  
the foyers*

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## Prayer for Sunday

Weave a silence, O Lord, on to our lips;  
weave a silence into our minds;  
weave a silence within our hearts.

Close our ears to distractions;  
close our eyes to attractions;  
close our heart to temptations. Amen.

*Traditional Celtic Prayer*

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a Vice  
President for Hewlett Packard)

### Deacon Jane Mills

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 Mobile 07807 146535 jane@thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden

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

**Partnership News** is sent out by email every Saturday  
in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy  
please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to  
vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted  
for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on  
our website and may appear in other local media sources.

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

### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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.*

### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs. Jean Kirk 317699  
**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

### St. Mark's Church Centre

**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team -** Morag Stewart 360103  
**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 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685  
**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**  
(See website for more details)  
**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955  
**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation** at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (see contact details below)  
**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris [youth@thischurch.com](mailto:youth@thischurch.com) 365630  
**1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys,songs,story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) . Restarts on 10 September  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** (see contact details below)  
**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 01767699399 or 07720713738.  
**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859  
**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**6.30pm Boot Camp** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081  
**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518  
**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020  
**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 21 January Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**7.45pm Opus Choir** at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland 269100  
**8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Diane Field 404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016  
**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389  
**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** (see contact details below)  
**1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552  
**1.15pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's (contacts below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see

contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).  
**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.  
**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957  
**7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648  
**6.30pm MT Karate** (all ages) Karen King 07941264885  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455  
**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo 07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)  
**7pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** (Meets fortnightly). Janet King 313946 Next meeting 8 January 2.30pm Afternoon. Details Janet King 313946  
**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers Workshop** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler 01767 651767

## Wednesday

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton 217647  
**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**9.30am Discovery & Do** (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666  
**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.  
**10am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. (contact below)  
**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.  
**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks (see contact details below)  
**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe (contact below)  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit**  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 16 January 2013 Putnoe Heights Office 365630  
**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)  
**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811  
**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** St Marks.(see contact details below)  
**2.00pm Fifty Plus Keep Fit** Mrs Webster 856966  
**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan**  
**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting January 16 Wendy Waters /401834  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C 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. Sylvia Woods 365095  
**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004  
**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378  
**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867  
**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 16 January Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.  
**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306  
*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*  
**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970  
**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624  
**110-11.30am Gentle Yoga** For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305  
**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 Jaana Swaby 363283  
**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays** St. Mark's 267444  
**1pm—2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps** 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552.  
**2pm -Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights** £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.  
**2pm U3A Current Affairs** - Putnoe Heights  
**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St.Mark's (contact below)  
**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Mary Rich 272470  
**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.  
**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .  
**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059  
**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)  
**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094  
**7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504  
**8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767  
**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 Pat Cass 294220  
**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

### Friday

**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)  
**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St. Marks (see contact details below)  
**2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist** St Marks. (contact details below)  
**2pm U3A Italian**-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)  
**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights  
 4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648  
**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994  
**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.**St Marks(2nd week) 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 357198  
**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792  
**6.45pm 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 Sacha Ojo 07590597891 or w.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk  
**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

**U3A** For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 19 Feb,11 June  
**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 22 January  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 5 February  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** 24 January  
**Putnoe Church Council** - 19 February  
**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 5 February  
**Churchyard Committee** -  
**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -  
**Commemoration Service**  
**Circuit meeting** - 7 February  
**Deanery Meeting** -  
**Woodland Burial Trustees**—  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** -  
*Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.*



# First Sunday of Christmas

## Introduction

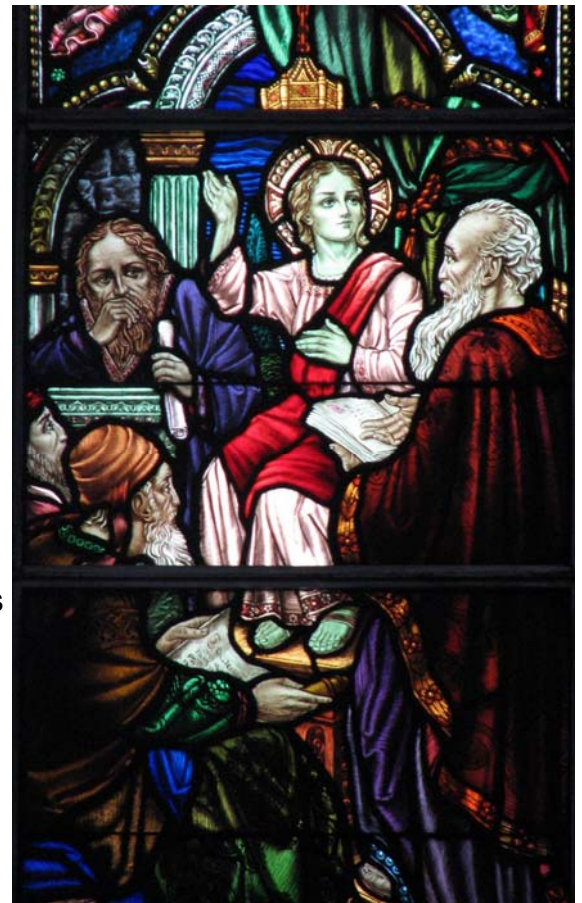
The Lectionary takes us on a strange journey this year. Having just celebrated the birth of Christ, we now fast forward to the one story in the Scriptures from Jesus' childhood – when his parents forgot him in the Temple. Then, with next week being Epiphany, we go back in time again, to the visit of the magi !

We are told that the family of Jesus went to the temple every year and we are told that Jesus was 12 year old. This is a significant episode from the childhood of Jesus, and it reminds us just how Jewish Jesus really was. This is an important story of Jesus growing up and coming to a realisation of who he was and what was important in his life. There is a growing sense of identity and he uses these words 'my father.'

We are also told that it was After three days they found him in the temple. I suspect that nobody would have been able to read those word without thinking about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Here Luke is embedding the mission of Jesus to suffer death into the earliest sense of his development and identity. Jesus is growing and taking upon himself that responsibilities for which he has been born.

This is an example for us as we consider our own calling and God's expectations.

Jesus wasn't overwhelmed by the temple he was growing in a sense of his divine work. As we move on from Christmas and into the New Year. May we all be about our father's business to discover how we can play our part in working our the values of the Kingdom in our world.



## Opening Verse of Scripture — Psalm 80:19

Restore us, O LORD God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved

## Collect Prayer

God our Redeemer, you chose the Virgin Mary, to be the mother of our Lord and saviour. Fill us with your grace that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; 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. *Methodist Worship*

## First Bible Reading – 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home. And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favour with the Lord and with people.

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

## Second Bible Reading - Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

## Gospel Reading - Luke 2:41-52

*When the Gospel is announced* **All 'Glory to Christ our Saviour'**

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. (This is the Gospel of Christ, **All: Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

## Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Hymns

1. Come now with awe 98
2. It came upon the midnight clear 345
3. Love came down at Christmas 451
4. Thou who wast rich. 700

## Commentary

Luke 2:41-52 is viewed as a very important passage in the gospel story. It was the first time that Jesus went to the Passover and he lingered behind when his parents left. When they went back to find him they found him in the Temple Court listening to discussions – eagerly searching for knowledge like a very keen student.

Atahen we have a key passage in the life of Jesus. Mary says, "Your father and I have been looking for you." Jesus replies,

"Didn't you realise that you would find me in my Father's House?" Jesus takes the name 'father' from Joseph and gives it to God. It was here that he expresses His own unique relationship with God. He discovered who he was. Yet it didn't make him proud or self-important. He didn't look down on his humble parents; he went home and was obedient to them. Verse 40 says, "the favour of God was upon him," but in verse 52 we read that he "increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man."

In his life he had a friendliness that attracted people, especially ordinary people. Mark 12:37 says "the common people heard him gladly. Yes, he was opposed by some in power who plotted successfully to have him killed – and yes at the end of his life he is indeed a man of sorrows – but he was also a bubbly, joyful person: he is invited to a wedding feast at Cana, to another great feast to which Matthew the publican had invited all his friends; he goes to a banquet at the house of Simon the Pharisee. His lifestyle is attacked for being too excessive – he and his friends are called gluttons and drunkards. Clearly the liked a good time!

His enemies couldn't understand this. Their religion was rather dark and sombre – like that of some Christians; a hard inward discipline of thou shalt not – rather than experiencing and living the love of God in Jesus. Just as Jesus turned water into wine at Cana so he can transform lives - making them rich and colourful – warm with the light of his love.

For it was, as we shall sing today, love that "came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine." And as Michael Ball sings "love changes everything". The reading from Colossians tells about there being "no Greek or Jew....slave or free, but Christ is all and is in all. And we are to put on love which binds all together in perfect unity". Colossians 3, 12-17 is, if you like, the post Christmas manifesto; the Cowboy Carol has the line "there's a new world beginning from tonight."

May 2013 see the miracle of its realisation and growth, in and among us – and indeed in all the world. *Richard Ledger*

### **Meditation**

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming;  
but in the world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us  
our Lord Immanuel.

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

O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give them. Help them to know one another better and to live as brothers, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace.

*Pope John XXIII (1881-1963)*

Jesus, new-born child of all time,  
We greet your birth with wide-eyed delight.  
You are precious beyond words  
for our world needs your presence more than ever.  
Let the angels' promise of your good news  
offering joy and peace to all the world  
be heard by those who lead and guide.  
Let kings bow down and all creation greet this holy moment  
as we seek to grasp its magnitude.  
For you are God's gift  
silently delivered to every human heart.

*From Further Everyday Prayers*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits which you have won for us,  
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.  
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,  
may we know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.

*Richard of Chichester (1197 – 1253)*

Almighty God, and most merciful Father, who has given us a new commandment that we should love one another, give us also grace that we may fulfil it. Make us gentle, courteous and forbearing. Direct our lives so that we may look each to the good of the other. In word and deed. And hallow all our friendships by the blessing of your Spirit, for his sake who loved us gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Bishop Westcott (1825-1901)*





### **Another Fabulous Concert at St Mark's Church**

Concert on Saturday, 9 February 2013 at 7.30pm in St Mark's Church given by Taylor Wilson, Stewart Kempster and Clive Simmonds. Entrance is free and there will be a retiring offering in aid of the St Mark's

piano fund.

We were delighted that you were all so enthusiastic after our concert last February to celebrate the arrival of the new organ at St Mark's. I'm delighted that Tracey (Taylor Wilson) and Stewart have agreed to join us for a second concert next February. This year we also have a new piano at St Mark's to enjoy and this will widen the range of items which we can include in our programme. Tracey has had a particularly busy few months. She is singing in a series of concerts in Switzerland at present. During October, when Stewart and I were working in Hong Kong (enjoying the company of another part of the Royden family) Tracey joined us for a couple of weeks and gave a number of performances with the big band of Colin Aitchison at "Ned Kelly's Last Stand", as well as an interview on Hong Kong Radio. In the last two months she performed at the opening of the new Bond film "Skyfall" in Glasgow's Grosvenor cinema, gave a further performance of her show "Alchemy" which includes a wide variety of songs performed with cello, piano and accordionist, and gave a series of performances of songs written especially for her by the Scottish composer, John McCleod, along with songs by Debussy, Ravel and Kurt Weill. We've made provisional plans for the programme on February 9th and it is extremely varied – I think there's plenty for everyone to enjoy - and it includes a few opportunities for audience participation. I do hope you'll be there. (You may be interested to look at Tracey's latest newsletter [www.taylorwilson.com](http://www.taylorwilson.com))

**The Craft group** at St.Mark's would like to thank everybody for their support and are pleased to say that they have made £760 for the church.

**Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch.** Sunday 20 January 2013 at 1.00pm. Tickets now available from Putnoe Office and at coffee time after church on Sundays. Adults £8.00, children under 10, £4.50. Three courses with drinks included. Book early to secure tickets.

**Footprints New Year's Day Walk.** Meet at Bromham Mill at 10.30 am on Tuesday 1st January for easy walk followed by simple lunch at Putnoe Heights. All welcome.

**The Bedford and District Christian Aid Committee** have been granted a collecting day at Tesco Cardington Road store on Saturday 12 January 2013. If you would like to volunteer to help on this day please speak to Carolyn for further details.

**District Secretary Urgently wanted** for the Beds, Essex and Herts MWiB. (Methodist Women in Britain) The person should be computer literate, prepared to attend meetings in London and locally as well as supporting the President in arranging district events and be a point of contact for any queries about the District. For further information contact Ruth Watkins, [ruthmwatkins@aol.com](mailto:ruthmwatkins@aol.com) or on 01296 485087.

### **Church Office Opening Hours**

St. Mark's Church Office reopens Monday 7  
Putnoe Office reopen Wednesday 2 January

twitter



### **St Mark's and Putnoe Heights get tweeting**

Last week each of our congregations composed a sermon to put on Twitter. The sermons are show below

### **This is the sermon from the Twitter account for St Mark's Church which is stmarktweets**

Jesus Gods Xmas gift He shows us Gods love. It's free 4 all & God gets stuck into our lives regardless of who u r unconditionally Accept Him

### **This is the semon from the Twitter account for Putnoe Heights Church which is putnoeheights**

Jesus Gods gift @ Xmas shows us God luvs us,knows how we feel,4gives us & brings new hope 4 life hes a friend who accepts us as we r

**Thursday Prayer Group** will meet on Jan 3

**Putnoe Heights Carol Singers** raised £124 at Library Walk last weekend (in aid of BECHAR) Thank you to the singers, musicians and providers of very welcome refreshments.

**The Bedford and District Christian Aid Committee** have been granted a collecting day at Tesco Cardington Road store on Saturday 12 January 2013. If you would like to volunteer to help on this day please speak to Carolyn for further details.

**District Secretary Urgently wanted** for the Beds, Essex and Herts MWiB. The person should be computer literate, prepared to attend meetings in London and locally as well as supporting the President in arranging district events and be a point of contact for any queries about the District. For further information contact Ruth Watkins, ruthmwatkins@aol.com or on 01296 485087.

**Chat and Play at St.Mark's** restarts on Thursday 10 January at 9.30am  
**Chat and Make** restarts Monday 14 January 2013 at 1.30pm.  
**Storybox at St Mark's** restarts on Thursday 10 January at 12 noon

**Junior Church at Putnoe Heights Church** will begin their new term at our All Age Service on Sunday 6th January 2013. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with this group.

**Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church** will begin their new term on Monday 14th January 2013. Thank you to all our volunteer and teams who help with this group.

PV



## Services in Bedford

**FRIDAY 18 JAN AT 12.30 PM**  
Salvation Army, Commercial Road

**SUNDAY 20 JAN AT 6.30PM**  
Russell Park Baptist Church  
Preacher : The Bishop of St. Albans

**MONDAY 21 JAN AT 12.30PM**  
Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street

**TUESDAY 22 JAN AT 12.30PM**  
Bedford Hospital (South Wing) Chapel

**WEDNESDAY 23 JAN AT 12.30PM**  
St. Andrews, Kimbolton Road

**THURSDAY 24 JAN AT 12.30PM**  
Friends Meeting House,  
Lansdowne Road

**FRIDAY 25 JAN AT 12.30PM**  
Miracle Church of God,  
Alexandra Road

## Church Building Works

We are taking time over the school holiday to have some major works carried out at both churches. This includes new heating boilers at each church and other improvements. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused.



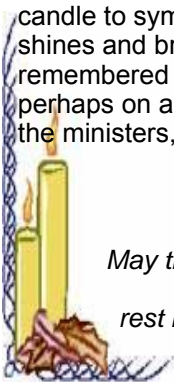
**St Mark's Messy Church**  
Future dates: all 3.45 to 5.30pm ,  
Wednesday 16 January,  
Wednesday 20 February

## 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.

**Sheila Ibbett**

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



## Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

**The funeral of Maureen Rose Paul** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 8 January at 4.00pm



**The funeral of Christine Ann Phillips** will take place at 4.00pm on Friday 4 January at Bedford Crematorium