



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

3 February 2008

## Candlemas



Church of  
England

### Partnership Church Services Today

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

**9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship**  
Preacher - The Reverend Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions- Mrs Mary Stubbs

**11.00am Putnoe - Family Worship**  
Preacher - The Reverend Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mrs. Linda Hoar  
Intercessions - - Ministers

### First Sunday of Lent

**9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship**

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper  
Intercessions - Mr Chris Izzard

**11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship**

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team –Mr Alan Cooper  
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

### Bible Readings.

- 1.Genesis 2: 15-17
2. Romans 5: 12-19
- 3.Matthew 4: 1-11

### Thank You

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

The flowers at Putnoe and the flowers in the chapel at St Marks have been given by Jill Williams in loving memory of her husband David.

We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

### Prayer for Candlemas Sunday

O God, who in the work of creation commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may shine into the hearts of all your people, dispelling the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, and revealing to them the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Contact Details

**The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman**

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

**The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley** (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.  
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

**The Reverend Charles Royden** (Day off Thursday)

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

### 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](http://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 9am—5pm Monday to Friday**

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

**Centre Manager** Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

**Leadership Team** Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604

**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 L Parry 216724 Mob 07922053740

**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**  
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school**  
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.

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's  
Mr Kellie ☎721063

**10.45am U3A Playreading** St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

**12.00pm Story box** 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

**1.45pm U3A History Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

**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

**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 ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week every month  
Pat Nicholson ☎353518

**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month . Next meeting 18 February Judith Stanton. ☎823313

**7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

**8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.  
Judi Staughton ☎341821

**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's.  
Helen Folbigg ☎351223

**10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

**1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

**2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 5th February' - Revd Sam Cappleman. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs

Maureen Watling ☎262225

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

**7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group**  
St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

**7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

**7.30pm Chartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting Feb 12th Stories and Poetry - Dot Wig Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.15am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

**9.30am Childminding Support Group** Putnoe Heights.  
Mrs S Longman ☎313949

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎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

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

**Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 6 February 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch** St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

**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** monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

**2pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 3rd week of the month  
Ken Silvester☎400584

**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

**6.30pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

**7pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

**7.00pm Yoga** St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

**7.00pm U3A Sky at Night** 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mr Farish ☎824984

**7.45pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome.

Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 6 February 2008 Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

### 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.*

**9.40am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**1.30pm-3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic.** St. Mark's ☎267444

**12pm Storybox** weekly at 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

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**5.30pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

**6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's

Mr C Hill ☎772922

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights

Nina Ovenden ☎825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

**7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.** at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. marriot 303834

**7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

**8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's 1st week each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

**8.00pm Brickhill Wives** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group** St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

**9.00am Clubhouse** St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

**1.30pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**6.30pm -7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm Improvers** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

**7pm Bedford Arts Society** fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

**7pm Youth Club for age 10-15.** St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

**7.45pm Astrology Group** St Mark's as from 11th January.

Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

### Saturday

**9.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**10.00am Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing.

Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

**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, games & outings. Next meeting 10 February Liz ☎302349

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 17th June 08, 18 November 08

**St Mark's Leadership Team** – April 2008, 13 May 2008

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** – May

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee** – 21st April

**Putnoe Heights Management Meetings** ., 14th April and 14th July.

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** - 11h March 12noon.

**Putnoe Church Council** -

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** - 11 June 2008

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group** Next meeting

**Partnership Council** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** - 7 February

**Deanery Meeting** - 21 February, 12 June, 18

September, 13 November

**Circuit Meeting** - 10 March 2008, 12 June 2008

**Woodland Burial Trustees - Sunday 6th April**

2008 in the Wren Room at 3.30pm

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–**

**St Mark's Community Forum** - 11 March, 5 May,

11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon.

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

## Candlemas Family Worship



### Opening Verse

For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all  
people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel." Luke  
Chapter 2 verse 32

**Minister:** Dear friends: forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. Today we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

**All: Almighty Father, whose Son Jesus Christ was presented in the Temple and acclaimed the light of the nations: grant that in him we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts and in the world may reflect his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.**

*The following responses are used as the church candles are lit*

Minister: The Lord is the strength of my life **All: The Lord is my light and my salvation**  
Minister: Jesus Christ is the light of the world **All: A light which no darkness can quench**

### Hymn

(Come let us join 93)

### Confession

Minister: Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' Let us then bring our secret sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

**All: Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said, in what we have done and in what we have not done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.**

*The Minister will pronounce the words of forgiveness*

Lord God, you are the source of everlasting light. Your son, our beloved Lord Jesus was presented in the temple 40 days after his birth. He was recognised by Simeon and Anna, and welcomed as the promised Messiah. May we like them, behold the glory of the Lord Jesus. Grant that we may stand before you with hearts cleansed by your forgiving love. May we serve you all our days and make your name known as we worship you as our Lord. So may we come by the forgiveness of your grace to eternal life. Amen.

## Offering

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you**

## Hymn

(One day when heaven 540)

## Collect Prayer for the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### First Bible Reading - Malachi 3: 1-5

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

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

### Second Bible Reading - Hebrews 2: 14-18

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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

### Third Reading - Luke 2: 22-40

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a

prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

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

**Hymn**  
(Faithful vigil 125)

**The Sermon**  
The Reverend Charles Royden

**Blessing and Distribution of Candles**

Simeon calls Jesus "a light to enlighten the Gentiles." Accordingly this day was made into Candlemas, a feast of candles. The warm candlelight is meant to be a tangible reminder of that greater light which, for and beyond all time, radiates from the figure of Jesus. We are reminded of the need to be prepared to burn brightly ourselves in the midst of this dark world. We take a light away this morning, it is not our own light, no light of our own would be bright enough, rather it is the light of Christ. The light which at the beginning of creation shined in the darkness and which no darkness could overcome. Jesus was a light to lighten the gentiles, all the nations and races and culture of people. Bless these candles Lord, that through the prayer we offer as we light them, your light may shine brightly in our lives.

**Hymn**  
(Blessed Assurance 59)

**Statement of Faith**

**All**            **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.            Amen**

## Prayers

*This response may be used:*

Leader Jesus Christ, Light of the World -  
**All: Shine in our darkness**

Leader: Merciful Father,  
**All: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn (Our eyes have seen 549)

**Collect for the Morning**  
*(said together)*

**Almighty and everlasting Father, we thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger; order us in all our doings; and guide us to do always what is right in your eyes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The Blessing

Minister: Go in the light and peace of Christ  
to love and serve the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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### A Prayer for Sunday and the week ahead

Let us all hasten to meet Christ, we who honour and venerate the divine mystery we celebrate today. Everyone should be eager to join the procession to share in this meeting. Let no one refuse to carry a light. Our bright shining candles are a sign of the divine splendour of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ. The God-bearer the most pure virgin, carried the true Light in her arms and brought him to help those who lay in darkness. In the same way we too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him. *Sophronius of Jerusalem*

**Did you know?** As well as being mentioned clearly in Leviticus and Luke, this date also lies half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, so it marks the day upon which winter is half over!

If Candlemas be fair and bright, Come, winter, have another flight.  
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, Go, winter, and come not again.





## Lent 2008

**Ash Wednesday** Our church Lenten observance will start with an Ash Wednesday Circuit Service on February 6 at St Mark's Church, the preacher will be Richard Ledger.

**This year our Lent Course** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday evenings. Starting on Wednesday 20 February when Charlie will speak on the prophet Amos. The following three Wednesdays will include talks from Sam, Joan and Bishop Christopher.

**Congregational Meeting Putnoe** will now take place after morning service on Sunday 20 April instead of 4 May.

**Service of Holy Communion** at Sir William Harpur House on the first Monday of every month at 10.00am, led by Charles Royden. Everybody is invited to attend, not just residents. Next Service February 4

**Hazeldene Heights Preschool.** Come & share in the activities with the children in our Preschool at Putnoe Heights. Please talk to Linda Hoar if you can spare a few hours each month or would like to know more about the group. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Linda Hoar 782717

**Footprints Walking Group** Meet 3 February at 2pm at Bedford Park end of Larkway for a 2hour ribbon walk 'Massey's Marvellous Mystery walk'. Our car will be at the end to transport drivers back to the start. Alan & Margaret 327219

**Putnoe Heights half term activities** Monday 11 February : 12-1 **Storybox** for under 5's & their carers. Bible based story; games & singing. Lunch provided £1 per child.

**1.15 –2.45pm Storybox** Plus for 4-10yrs. Bible based story; craft activities & games. Light refreshments available. £1 per child.

**Storybox** really need volunteers to help with catering and assistance with setting up and clearing away. If we can get enough people it would only mean once every 4-6 weeks on a Thursday from 11-1.15pm. Emma would also like a few more storytellers. If you can help please contact Emma Strangwick (211070) or talk to Linda Parry.

**Help Needed** Jean Bank as a member of the congregation, is a volunteer at pre-school every Monday lunch time. She is going on holiday and we will need cover for Monday, Feb 18, 25, & March 3 & 10, from 12 until 1pm. If any member of the congregation at St. Marks is able to volunteer for all or any of these Mondays please let Helen Harpin, Sue Jones, or Janet Day know. We are a friendly bunch and there will be two regular members of staff present at all times.

**God Talk** is a group of women who meet monthly for an evening of worship and friendly chat. The next talk will be held at Wendy Waters home on Wednesday 13 February at 8 pm. Please contact Wendy on 01234 401834 if you need more information. Thank you. Majella Atkinson.

**Room to Spare?** St Marks are hoping that some kind soul may have room to spare to store church banner in between their use in church. Space in church is at such a premium it is difficult to find areas where they do not get damaged. Please tell Linda Parry

**Brickhill Parish Council** will meet at St Mark's on Thursday 7 February at 7.30pm

### 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

**Erika Bithell  
Daphne Parrott**

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



### Rest in Peace

**The funeral of Janet Clarke** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 8 February at 12.15pm (*Royden*)