



Partnership News

3 February 2013
Candlemas

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church



8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

Today 3 February

9.30 St Marks – Family Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - YPG

Sunday 10 February

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr John Bassill
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr John Bassill
Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Readings 1. Exodus 34: 29-35 2.2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
3. Luke 9:28-36

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 Ron Simmonds in loving memory of his wife Maureen, by Carole Grinter in loving memory of her parents Marjorie and Derrick Stoneham, and by Keith, Glynis, Edward and Carina Armstrong in memory of their beloved Mum and Nana, Vera Marsh, on her birthday.

The flowers in the church at St Mark's this week have been given by Valerie Edwards in loving memory of her Mother and Father.
The flowers in the chapel have been given by Gill Williams and family in memory of David

Welcome

We welcome to our services today especially the family and friends of Charles William Woollard and Ollie Malcolm Leslie Bashford

Prayer for Sunday

Preserve us with your grace, O God, our whole journey through; that we may live by faith, die in your favour, rest in your peace, rise in your power and reign in your glory, in the joy of Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.
Nicholas Ferrar (1592-1637)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre 365630
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

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
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 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 .
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– 18 February 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 Grp. St Mark's (contacts details below)
1–3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts details 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
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting '5 February 'Steeple Drive'. Details Janet King 313946
8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers Workshop St. Mark's 3rd Tuesday in month. Next meeting 26 February 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 13 February 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 20th February 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 6 February Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. 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

5.00pm 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

10am—5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/ Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

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.

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

Messy Church Dates

Wednesday 20 February, Wednesday 20 March, Wednesday 17 April, Wednesday 15 May, Wednesday 19 June, Wednesday 19 October, Wednesday 16 November, Wednesday 14 December All 3.45 to 5.30pm

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 -

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 - 28th February

Woodland Burial Trustees—

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting—4th Feb. 1.30pm

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

Candlemas

Introductory Sentence - Psalm 118:19

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD

Collect Prayer

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. Common Worship



First Reading — Malachi Chapter 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 -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Hebrews Chapter 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 -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading -Gospel Reading Luke Chapter 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

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

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, who's Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of His glory, that He may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for He is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Special Candlemas Service sheets and Baptism Booklets*)

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness
2. Come on and celebrate MP99
3. The light of Christ has come into the world MP652
4. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand HP266
5. I want to walk with Jesus Christ all the days I live of this life on earth MP302

Commentary

This special Sunday has been called 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple', 'The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary', and 'Candlemas.' Candlemas celebrates the many themes of these events, presentation, purification and light for the world. The presentation of Jesus in the Temple took place 40 days after his birth. For us 40 days after Christmas Day falls on February 2, but it is celebrated in church on the Sunday nearest that date. Candlemas is a watershed in the church year, it marks the point at which we take a last look back at Christmas and then turn our minds firmly towards the Easter cross. We have been working through the Sundays of Epiphany, now we leave them behind and soon it will be Lent, for this reason it has been called a 'bitter-sweet Sunday.' This feast of Candlemas which we celebrate today can be traced to at least 543. The Feast of Lighted candles is mentioned by Bede and St. Eligius, who was bishop of Noyon from 640 to 648.

Let's look at the history behind this festival

So today we remember Jesus as just 40 days old and taken to the Temple by Mary, as ordered by the Jewish Law. Here is the commandment from Leviticus Chapter 12 and starting at verse 1. It is worth quoting in full because it puts our readings and the service today into historical perspective.

The LORD said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites: 'A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period. On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised. Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding. She must not touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over. If she gives birth to a daughter, for two weeks the woman will be unclean, as during her period. Then she must wait sixty-six days to be purified from her bleeding.' ""When the days of her purification for a son or daughter are over, she is to bring to the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a dove for a sin offering. He shall offer them before the LORD to make atonement for her, and then she will be ceremonially clean from her flow of blood. ""These are the regulations for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl. If she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean.""

What this passage tells us is that according to Jewish law, women were considered unclean after the birth of a child and were not permitted to enter the Temple to worship. This state of uncleanness lasted 40 days after the birth of a son and 80 days after the birth of a daughter. At the end of the 40 or 80 days, the mother was brought to the Temple or synagogue and ritually purified. After this she could once again attend religious services and go out in public.

Since Jesus was a boy, it was 40 days after Mary gave birth that she attended at the Temple to bring a sacrifice. Now we are led to understand from Luke, that Mary did not bring a year old lamb, the reading mentions 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons,' one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. This implies that Mary presented the option for poorer people, so we may suppose that Joseph and Mary were not very wealthy. Nevertheless as faithful Jews they did their religious duty and observed the Law of Moses when it came to such things as childbirth, circumcision, and other rituals.

Luke is careful to point out that Jesus was a Jew who had his roots in the Old Testament. But clearly in this passage we see that Luke makes the point that with Jesus there is more than just a following of the old order of law. Candlemas is a time when we remember the old recognised Jesus, who brings in the new. Luke shows that the story of Jesus was confirmed by two prophets, Simeon and Anna, who spoke of

Jesus under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We have this marvellous story of Simeon to whom it had been revealed "that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord.' Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and spoke the beautiful words which we know as the The Nunc Dimittis Luke 2:29. For me it has to be in the King James Version

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Simeon says that God is setting him free as a slave is granted liberty. He is now free to die (for the Spirit's revelation to him is now fulfilled), and Israel is free of bondage. God has saved Israel, as he promised to "all peoples". God's salvation is for Gentiles as well as Israel. The old could pass away because the new had come and the future for us all would be safe in his hands.

But, Simeon finishes with some disturbing words. This marvellous salvation through Jesus had a dark side. Not everyone will take kindly to Jesus, there will be a falling as well as a arising of many in Israel. Jesus will be a sign that will be spoken against, he will cause a crisis in Israel. Decisions will have to be made for him or against him. The sword of Jesus will divide, discriminate, and judge the thoughts, attitudes, and relationships of all people. Mary the mother of Jesus will go through the same crisis, everyone must decide what to do with Jesus. Simeon recognised something special in Jesus and he knew that he had indeed seen the Lord's Christ, and that young or old he could depart in peace, for the eyes of faith had seen God's salvation: perhaps not the salvation he was expecting, the vindication of a particular people: but something bigger and better, the salvation which God had prepared before the face of all people.

Meditation

Lord, what am I, that, with unceasing care,
Thou did'st seek after me, - that thou did'st wait,
Wet with unhealthy dews, before my gate,
And pass the gloomy nights of winter there.
O strange delusion ! that I did not greet
Thy blest approach, and O, to heaven how lost,
If my ingratitude's unkindly frost
Has chilled the bleeding wounds upon Thy feet.
How oft my guardian angel gently cried,
" Soul, from thy casement look, and thou shalt see
How He persists to knock and wait for thee ! "
And O ! how often to that voice of sorrow,
* To-morrow we will open " - I replied,
And when the morrow came, I answered still
" To-morrow " !

"Tomorrow" by Lope de Vega (Spanish).

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord give us the eyes of faith, to see your presence in the world. Where fear closes our eyes, help us. Where tears blind us, heal us. Where busyness keeps us from noticing, slow us. Where pride gets in the way, release us Set us free to see your love at work in the world. Amen

Lord God, when you created the world, you commanded light to shine in the darkness. We pray that the light of Christ may shine brightly into the hearts of all people, bringing joy, hope and peace to those who walk in darkness. Amen.

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace, your word has been fulfilled: My own eyes have seen the salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

O thou great Chief, light a candle in my heart, that I may see what is therein, and sweep the rubbish from thy dwelling place. *African school girls prayer*

Putnoe Heights Church Children and Youth meeting on Monday 4 February 2013 at 1.30pm instead of 28th January. Carolyn

Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meets at St Mark's on 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday from 8-10pm. All dances called. Come along and burn off some energy. Next meeting 6 February. Entry £1 including refreshments. More details ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594.

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will be 10 years old this May. If you would like to celebrate this milestone on Saturday 11th May 2013 please can you let me know. Carolyn email Youth@thisischurch.com

John Bunyan's 'Childish Toys' a one day course for readers of all ages on 16 March 10am—4pm at Bunyan Meeting. Tutors Dr. Pat Pinset and Professor Bob Owens. For further information contact Dr. Clare Walsh 01234 793091 email clare.walsh@beds.ac.uk

Belief Co-ordinator Belief is an ecumenical forum for education and faith providing educational opportunities for Christians across Bedfordshire. (www.beliefbeds.org) We seek the services of a part time Co-ordinator to ensure that the decisions of the Management Committee are carried out in a timely and professional manner. We anticipate that this interesting and important work will probably amount to around a hundred hours per year. For job description and further information please see the notice board at Putnoe or email Chris.izzard@ntlworld.com

Kisiizi Update We received encouraging news regarding the work at Kisiizi and have copies of their latest report giving details of their work over the last year and the significant progress that has been made in both the medical and the management areas. The Spillmans return to Kisiizi shortly but will be back in the UK in the June/July time frame and hope to come to visit the Partnership then. Thank you all, once again, for your outstanding generosity in our Autumn Mission project.

One Billion Rising is a global event to show solidarity with women who are victims of violence. We are invited to dance as a sign of our commitment to this cause! Priory Methodist Church will have a short service of Prayer and Singing (and some dancing!) on Feb 14th (Valentine's Day) at 6pm. All are welcome, male and female, to stand together against violence. For more information, contact glayne.worgan@methodist.org.uk or 01234340167 **Jennie Cooper** would like to thank everybody most sincerely who have visited her in hospital and sent cards and letters, notes, pictures and photographs. She hopes to be back sitting on the third row from the front again shortly if her legs and feet will perform as they should. God's blessing to you all.

Telecare - It is of enormous value for us to be able to keep in touch with Church members by Telecare. If you are elderly, especially if you live alone, please register for Telecare. We will just ensure that somebody calls you every fortnight to make sure that all is ok. Please advise the ministers.

Hilda Hicks cordially invites everyone from Putnoe Heights and St Marks churches to join her in the celebration of her 90th birthday party on Saturday 9th March from 4-7pm at Putnoe Heights church. RSVP to daughter Linda at lindatongue@yahoo.co.uk, telephone 01480 350345 or reply direct to Hilda on 01234 354289.

Do you need a reliable, hardworking cleaner with good references? £10 per hour. Please call 07725054480.

Our monthly Messy Church sessions continue to attract between 20 to 40 children, accompanied by 15 to 20 adults. We currently have, and need, a willing team of 15 to 20 members from the Sunday congregation. However there are times when, due to absence, it would be very helpful to have others who would be willing to help occasionally. In particular with supervising simple crafts from 4pm to 5pm on 3rd Wednesday of the month.

If you are interested in helping please speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters



Christian Aid Super Soup Lent Lunch Putnoe Heights Church Sunday 17th February 12.30pm. Come and join us for homemade soup with bread and cheese on the first Sunday in Lent in return for a donation to Christian Aid. If you would like to come please add your name to the list in the welcome area so that we know how much soup to make. Further details from Carolyn or Sue.

Woodland AGM -Sunday 9 June 2013 at 12.30pm.
Woodland Open Day - Saturday 20 July 2pm—5pm

Bedford Stamp Fayre at St Mark's this Sunday 10am - 5.30pm. This is a new group that will meet on the first Sunday once every two months. Arrangements have been made that should avoid any interruption with morning worship.

Real Easter Eggs Any last minute orders for 'Real Easter Eggs' can be made by calling St Mark's Church office before Tuesday Real Easter Eggs cost £3.99 to

Church Council Clash. We have a clash of dates for Church Councils on 19 Feb. St mark's Church Council will be moved once we have agreed a new date this will be published in Partnership News.

Pastoral Support Committee Meeting will be cancelled on 5 Feb due to many apologies of absence.

Another Fabulous Free Concert at St Mark's Church

The concert next Saturday, February 9th, at St Mark's Church begins at 7.30pm and should end at about 9.15pm. There will be an interval in which light refreshments will be available. Tracey and Stewart particularly look forward to the occasion. For most of the year their careers take them in very different directions - both musically and geographically - and the opportunity to be involved in the same concert together is quite rare. The piano which we now have at St Mark's will be the main accompanying instrument and the occasion will celebrate this very valuable addition to our worship. This means the programme can include a wider variety of styles - in the second half there will be some songs from the shows, a number with jazz influence. The new organ will not be neglected - last year I played two of the best known works of the organ repertoire, this year I'll play a couple of less well known pieces to show something of the versatility of the instrument but you'll find that many of the songs in the programme are old favourites and there will be an opportunity for you to join in a couple of well known hymns as well. Although the programme will not be finally confirmed until rehearsals are complete I'd be happy to show you the proposed details - just come and ask after the service. Do bring along family and friends to the concert as well - I think it will be a programme which everyone will enjoy and a good opportunity to introduce new comers to our church community.
Clive Simmonds

This will be a free concert, there will be a retiring offering in aid of the piano fund

Churches called to rethink generosity

A groundbreaking new campaign was launched this week specifically calling on the church to increase the number of blood and organ donors in the UK.

The initiative aims to profile the need for more blood and organ donors and encourage regular blood donation as an alternative way of personal giving within churches. Church of England, Salvation Army, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church, Baptist Union, Hope and Evangelical Alliance, the fleshandblood campaign marks the first time the NHS

has worked alongside the Churches on a national initiative of this kind.

**WHAT IF
THE CHURCH SAW
BLOOD AND ORGAN
DONATION AS PART OF
ITS GIVING?
fleshandblood**



Lorna Williamson, Medical Director of NHSBT says, "All major faith groups support donation in the spirit of giving and we're excited to explore this in more detail by working with the Christian Church. By raising awareness amongst its members and community about the daily need for blood transfusions and organ transplants across the NHS, we hope to banish myths, educate people and encourage blood and organ donation. Donating blood, joining the Organ Donor Register, or consenting to organ donation from a deceased loved one is a unique gift and one that can truly save lives."

More than 1,000 people die each year in the UK waiting for an organ transplant. The Church, which has a long history of giving and generosity and has millions of people across the country as its members, is ideally placed to raise awareness and help to meet the need for blood and organ donation in the UK.

This unique campaign seeks to equip individuals and churches as advocates for blood and organ donation enabling them to raise awareness of this key issue with their family, friends and community and potentially help to save thousands of lives each year.

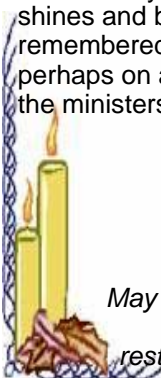
The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, said: "It is impossible to overstate the vital importance of blood and organ donation. Quite simply, without such generous sacrifices, many in Britain would not enjoy the health they have, or even survive. Many of us know and cherish a person who's life has been transformed through the life-giving gifts donated to them. I believe that God calls us all to live generously with all that we are and all that we have. Blood donation especially is a simple but precious way that many people can fulfil that calling."

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.

**Albie Bakon
Rosie Miriam Harris
Vera Marsh**

*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 Jocelyn Alfred Neil Burns will take place at the Crematorium at 12.15pm on Monday 4

Feb

The funeral of Mrs Theresa Baccarella will take place at Bedford Cemetery on Thursday 7 February at 11.30am followed by burial

