



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

4 December 2005

Second Sunday of Advent

Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am -Putnoe Heights -Family Worship

Preacher- Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

11 December-Third Sunday of Advent

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Jane Connell
Leadership - Mrs Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Jane Connell
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mrs Betty Wyatt

Next Week's Bible Readings

1 Reading - Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11.

2 Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

3 Reading - John 1: 6-8, 19-28.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate 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).

Prayer for Sunday

God of all holiness, your promises stand unshaken through all generations and you lift up all who are burdened and brought low. Renew our hope in you, as we wait for the coming in glory of Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

St Mark's Church Office will be closed from Saturday 24 December and re-open Wednesday 4 January 2006.

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 Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)
12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE
326643 Mobile -07917 356062 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

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

Partnership Youth and Children's Worker

Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@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 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 - 1.00pm Monday & Friday
9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen 407264
Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428
treasurerph@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592
treasurer@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605
Children's and Youth Worker-Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).

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

10.00am Supple Strength at Putnoe Heights. Louise Woodcock 270302

12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

4pm Story Box Plus at St.Marks for 4 -11 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments & games, then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church the 1st Sunday of each month. Lots of fun. Free. Contact Liz 302349

4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 400987

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.15pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next 19 December St. Marks Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips 01582 485333

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Val Careless 345213.

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

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

1.30pm Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 10 January Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 6 December Carols, Readings & Mince pies Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Mary Stubbs 406784.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792

7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's. Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.

7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718

7.30pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr on 360188 or 07866775515

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly.at 7.45pm Next meeting 13 December Christmas Madge Walsh 359088

8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) - Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

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

9.30am Bedford U3A at Putnoe Heights meets bi-monthly. Next meeting . Jenny Coggins 266379

9.00 a.m. Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

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

10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Christmas Meal on 14 December Next meeting 11 January 2006 Putnoe 365630

1- 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

4.15pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Mr James 07711 687449

6.00 pm Brownies at St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden 219731

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting . Sylvia Woods 365095

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Pam Holley 771964

7.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890

7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

8.45-9.45pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) starting Mr F Steele 355937

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings at St Mark's

2.00pm—3.00pm. Clinic at St Marks 267444

1.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's from 5.1.06 267444

12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 1234 302349

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group. Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Celia Maddison 782901

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Heights. Radmila Dancer 404811

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun.Free. Liz Spavins 302349

5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights. Helga Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Pat Stidolph 345247

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at

St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's— 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs K Sage 771525

Bibleway Church 7.30—9.30-Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2 Thursday— Pastor Tarr 360188

7.45pm. Housegroup- Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's 3 Thursday each month. 1 Thursday as from January 2006 Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole Maunder 301325

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

6pm Self Defence at Putnoe. Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30pm Bibleway Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 360188

Saturday

9.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatre Train at St Mark's – dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting. Philip Jones 350295

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's

9.30—10.30 at St.Mark's

11-12 at Putnoe Heights.

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council
8 February 2006

Circuit Meeting 16 March 2006

St Mark's Leadership Team –
2006 17 January, 21 February,

24 April, 6 June, 12 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 16 Jan 2006

Putnoe Church Council 6 February 2006

Pastoral Group Meeting – 6 February 2006 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee - 19 December 2pm

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-
18 January 2006 7.30p.m. at 14 Flint Way..

Partnership Council - 24 January 2006

Brickhill Parish Council - 24 November 2005

Joint Deanery Circuit 18 January 2006

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Mission Group Meeting - 18 January 2006, 7pm at 14 Flint Way.

Calendar dates appear also on our church website www.ThisChurch.com.

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

Bible Notes

Second Sunday of Advent - Year B

Verse of Scripture Psalm 85 v 8 - 10

I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints— but let them not return to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray.

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen

First Reading – Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming, That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - Mark 1: 1-8

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to

*Then the glory of the
Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall
see it together.*

Isaiah 40.17



him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise & Morning Worship*)

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, **204**;
2. Come and join the celebration **83**
3. Once in Royal David's City **539**
4. Come thou long expected Jesus **102**;
5. The Kingdom of God **651**

Commentary Advent – He Comes!

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church waits for the coming (adventus) of Christ, both in his incarnation and as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies therefore look forward not only to Christ's birth, but also to his final Coming, and challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement: As Charles Wesley wrote:

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty

The characteristic note of Advent is expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under relentless commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness. Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain from the late twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society; Christingle services may take place before or after Christmas. The third Sunday of Advent was observed in mediaeval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (Gaudete or "Rose Sunday"), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations. *From Common Worship – Introduction to the Season*

Mediation

The readings today remind us to speak up and to proclaim the message of God. Isaiah says there is a "voice crying in the desert", where God urges us to "Speak tenderly." and "Comfort my people." In Mark the voice of John the Baptist cries out to implore us to proclaim a message of hope to our world by preparing the way for the Lord and getting ready for Him. Both are message of hope to all those who are in need. In a world of war and terrorism, of poverty and injustice, of dishonesty and manipulation of the truth, and of political expediency, we are invited to practice our faith in the spirit of the great prophets and address issues of justice, peace, and genuine human development for all God's people. The images in the readings today are images of hope and possibility. The rough way can be made straight, the broken made whole. God will come with power. There will be a new heaven and new earth where the peace and righteous of the Christ child incarnate dwells. In Advent we wait in eager anticipation.

A sense of urgency

Mark's Gospel begins not with Jesus, but with John the Baptist. Immediately the writer quotes from Isaiah 40, transferring the reference to Israel's return from exile in Babylon to the coming of the Messiah clearly intending that John the Baptist be seen as the prophet who prepared the way for Jesus, the Christ/Messiah. The early church searched the Hebrew scriptures for every possible prophecy about the coming of Israel's Messiah, no matter whether they were relevant or not. They understood the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, into the world as the fulfilment of those prophecies. Now that God's love and purpose for Israel are being fulfilled, John calls everyone to prepare by repenting and being baptised.

And yet, there is a stark contrast between the tone of Isaiah and Mark. In Mark, John the Baptist speaks urgently and harshly. Not exactly the 'speak tenderly to my people' Hosea perhaps had in mind. Isaiah's words of gentle encouragement are replaced with words of urgency and immediacy. In Mark, John implores us to action.

John also speaks to us in a desert context. A lonely dry wilderness. A geographic location and a spiritual state. John speaks to us with urgency from his desert experiences into ours. And the people, listening to John, were drawn not to him, but to the one he pointed to, the one who would give living water, the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. As Christians we will sometimes find ourselves in the desert places, where our spiritual life seems dry and God seems distant. And sometimes we'll find ourselves as the ones who bring water to the thirsty, by pointing to the one who gives living water. Whether we are the ones who need to drink, (as we all do from time to time), or the ones who offer the water through Christ, Mark encourages us to do so with a sense of urgency so that we, and those we seek to minister God's love and forgiveness to, can receive the blessings of His Kingdom with the minimum of delay. And, just as 'the whole Judean country side and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him', sometimes we need to go to our 'out' so that he can be encountered, to the places which perhaps are unfamiliar and where sometimes we would not expect to encounter God or where we would not expect to offer God to others. *Sam Cappleman.*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Grant. O God, that as we rejoice in the hope of the coming of our Saviour, we may seek to prepare the way of His coming by advancing His Kingdom in the world and caring for the needs of our fellow men and women, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after thee, and in an affectionate working with thee, every day of our lives; that when thou comest, we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious King, for ever and ever. **Amen** *Richard Baxter 1615 - 1691*

Lord God, whose Word and will are made known in Jesus Christ, inspire in us faith in that Word and obedience to that will, for our salvation and for your glory. **Amen**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Second Candle - The Candle of Peace

The prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace.

Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, this First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Saviour, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

(A person now lights the First Candle, the Candle of Hope)

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him true peace is found.

(A person now lights the Second Candle, the Candle of Peace)

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ. Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

News, Views and Information

Amazing Savings With Amazon.

If you are buying presents this year, then why not purchase them through Amazon. Everytime you log on to Amazon, please do so by clicking the link on the church website. This will mean that 5% of your spending will be credited to us.

Please Remember You must go to Amazon through the link on the church website first.

Christmas Card Delivery Service. Local Scouts, Guides and Boys Brigade will deliver to Bedford, Bromham, Clapham & Kempston, 15p per card. Last collection 15 December guaranteed delivery 17-24 December. Nearest Post Box St Mark's Church

Christmas Wreaths Orders now being taken for door wreaths made of fresh greenery & seasonal decorations, £6 each. Please speak to Marion, or ring 303254 to place an order. Delivery will be the 16 December

Tuesday Club invite you to a Christmas Celebration at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday 13th December at 7.45pm. The programme includes carols, readings, drama and refreshments. Do come and join us. There is no entry charge but a collection will be taken in aid of local charities for the homeless.

Thank you .£153.14 was raised for the NCH at the stall at the St.Mark's Christmas Fayre. Margaret Standley.

Kempston Musical Society are presenting two Christmas Concerts. On 17 December at Kempston East Methodist Church with Kempston Junior Concert Band, and on 19 December at Elstow Abbey, in aid of The League of Friends of Elstow Abbey. Both concerts start at 7.30pm & tickets are available at the door.

Christmas Post Box—We will be placing the Box in the Welcome Area at Putnoe on December 11th so that you may post your cards to friends within Putnoe Heights Church. The donation for this is 10p a card or 12 for a £1. The money raised will be given to 'National Children's Home this year. Please put the money in the wooden 'flower' box. Thank You. Joy and Peter Parker

Christmas Cards Invitations to Christmas Services are available this week at Putnoe Heights. We have modified our distribution area this year. Please take a bundle to deliver & tick off the area concerned. If you wish to deliver to a particular area which is no longer on the list please do so & write the name of the road on the list.

Congratulations to members of the Pre—school staff, lunch club team & catering team who have been successful in achieving their Food Hygiene Certificates at Putnoe Heights.

Odd Job Dave. Decorating, Carpentry and all your odd jobs! No job too small, call for a free quote. Cheap rates for OAP's 01234 401184 / 07788 862609

2005 Partnership Advent Course

5 December 7.30pm—9.00pm.

Professor Paul Crossley 'Poetry and the Bible'

12 December The Reverend Charles Royden 'Christmas and the New Testament stories'

19 December The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman 'The Second Advent of Jesus'

The 12 days of Christmas

On the 1st day of Christmas the Lord God said to me a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 2nd day of Christmas the Lord God said to me Mary and Joseph and a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 3rd day of Christmas the Lord God said to me 3 wise men, Mary and Joseph, I and a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 4th day of Christmas the Lord God said to me 4 fancy camels, 3 wise men, Mary and Joseph and a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 5th day of Christmas the Lord God said to me 5 fluffy sheep, 4 fancy camels, 3 wise men, Mary and Joseph and a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 6th day of Christmas the Lord God said to me 6 baby lambs, 5 fluffy sheep, 4 fancy camels, 3 wise men, Mary and Joseph and a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 7th day of Christmas the Lord God said to me 7 singing angels, 6 baby lambs, 5 fluffy sheep, 4 fancy camels, 3 wise men Mary and Joseph and a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 8th day of Christmas the Lord God said to me 8 braying donkeys, 7 singing angels, 6 baby lambs, 5 fluffy sheep, 4 fancy camels, 3 wise men Mary and Joseph and a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 9th day of Christmas the Lord God said to me 9 mooing cows, 8 braying donkeys, 7 singing angels, 6 baby lambs, 5 fluffy sheep, 4 fancy camels, 3 wise men Mary and Joseph and a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 10th day of Christmas the Lord God said to me 10 bells are ringing, 9 mooing cows, 8 braying donkeys, 7 singing angels, 6 baby lambs, 5 fluffy sheep, 4 fancy camels, 3 wise men Mary and Joseph and a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 11th day of Christmas the Lord God said to me 11 watchful shepherds, 10 bells are ringing, 9 mooing cows, 8 braying donkeys, 7 singing angels, 6 baby

lambs, 5 fluffy sheep, 4 fancy camels, 3 wise men Mary and Joseph and a bright star in Bethlehem

On the 12th day of Christmas the Lord God said to me 12 excited children, 11 watchful shepherds, 10 bells are ringing, 9 mooing cows, 8 braying donkeys, 7 singing angels, 6 baby lambs, 5 fluffy sheep, 4 fancy camels, 3 wise men Mary and Joseph and a bright star in Bethlehem



Mildmay 'Continuing the mission of Jesus'

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

Mark 1 v 14 – 42.

Today we start to return our gifts for the Mildmay appeal. Mildmay is a Christian charity which works with victims of Aids in London and sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe. We will conclude the appeal in February so there is plenty of time to gather your pennies together

On 15 January our speaker at both churches will be Dr Veronica Moss who is Mildmay's Chief Executive and Chief Medical Officer which is great news. Please support this important fundraising effort and help us make a difference for the men, women, children and babies who are afflicted by this terrible disease in our own country and across the world.

What you gifts can do

£10 buys minibus fuel, to bring in sick children to our centre in Uganda

£28 pays for intensive counselling to help UK patients overcome the trauma of AIDS illnesses

£49 pays for the crucial services provided by our pastoral care team in Uganda

£75 pays for vital physiotherapy to get Ugandan patients back on their feet again after illness

£100 provides expert medical care at our UK hospital to keep patients free of pain and monitored for side-effects from strong anti-HIV drugs

£250 provide a special air-cushioned mattress to make a chronically ill patient more comfortable

£500 pays for a whole day's nursing care for 'family admissions' at our UK hospital



'Just as Jesus reached out to the man with leprosy and healed him, Mildmay stands in the midst of men, women and children with HIV and AIDS and offers them a lifeline.'
Sir Cliff Richard



'What people with AIDS require from us as Christians is not condemnation but compassion, not accusation but affirmation, not mockery but mercy. Mildmay provides this in abundance.'
Lord Carey

Mildmay is a Christian organisation

We are dedicated to improving the lives of men, women and children challenged by HIV and AIDS.

We translate our faith into action by caring for body, mind and soul, with unconditional care and compassion.

Mildmay is known for its holistic approach, physical, emotional, social and spiritual We counsel people to feel valued and give them hope - even reaching out to the families of patients.

'There is nothing more humbling than seeing a child pray' – Graham Blois (Mildmay director)

Hearing is Believing



Some of you have noticed already that we are now putting audio recordings of sermons onto the church website. Thanks to Mike Elliott for assisting in the technical department. You should be able to listen to past sermons in the sermon archive with ease on your computer. Any problems, then just Email webmaster@thisischurch.com and we will offer advice.



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.

James Morgan

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

Rest in Peace. Forthcoming funerals to be taken by our Ministers

The funeral of Miss Ann Ryan will take place at Norse Road Cemetery on Tuesday 6 December at 10.00am