

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

4 December 2011

Advent 2



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

4 December – Advent 2 –Christingle

9.30 am St. Mark's -Family Worship with Baptism
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton
11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship with Baptism
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership -Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions – YPG

11 December -Advent 3

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mr Richard Ledger
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Bible Readings 1. Isaiah 61:1-4 , 8-11 2.1 Thess 5:
16-24 3. John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Midweek Worship 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 Mrs Sylvia Cohen in loving memory of her husband Ken.

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Heather Ivett in loving memory of her husband, Stan and their beloved son, Ian.
We are grateful when people make donations towards

Welcome

We especially welcome today the families of Enzo Rizzi (Putnoe) and Finley Denton (St Mark's) for their Baptisms.

Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus you have taught us
that love is the fulfilling of the law.
Help us to know better what love really is –
Lord give me the courage
and the generosity of spirit
to accept the way of love
and to walk in it by your Grace,
today, tomorrow
and for the whole of the rest of my life

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

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

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

For Data Protection Purposes

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.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 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. Linda Hoare 782717
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091
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 - Laura Farthing 210892
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. Putnoe Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm 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 (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 Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - (see contact details below)

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747

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 6.15 - 8.15pm

6.15pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's Sam Thompson ☎07766421000

7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

7.30pm 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– 19 December Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs 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 Folbigg ☎351223

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group. (see contact details below)

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets

monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895

2.00pm U3A (see contact details below)

2pm U3A Photography St. Mark's (see contact details below)

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 6 December - Christmas Social afternoon ' For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

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 December 13 Christmas Event Details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters ☎342613.

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

10am U3A Card Making, (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 6 December 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

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's (see contact details below)

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting Wednesday 14th December. Jean Banks 355698.

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 7 December 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

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

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 group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624 Restarts on 8 September.

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

2- 4pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎275229

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 857850 or 07919402797 .

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry (see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

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 Law 825574.

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 Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pauline Hooper ☎350079

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography ((see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French (see contact details below)

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

5.50-7.05pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton ☎297138 or 07910835994

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. 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

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 Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com or bedfordtkd@googlemail.com.

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 – 21 February 2012

St Mark's Leadership Team - 16 February 2012

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 25th Jan 2012

7.30pm at 24 Loring Rd. Sharnbrook.

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - Mon. 23rd

Jan 2012 7.30 Putnoe Meeting Room

St Mark's Forum Meeting - NA

Putnoe Church Council - 13 February 2012

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 8 February 2012 @ Kempston East

Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees – 5th February

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 16 January 2012

Please advise St Mark's Church Office

Advent 2

Opening Verse of Scripture —Mark 1:2,3

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.'"



Collect Prayer (Before we read we pray)

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 Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. Amen. (*Methodist Worship*)

First Bible Reading - Isaiah40: 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. 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 — **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

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 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— All: Thanks be to God*)

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymns (*Please distribute Christingle Service sheets, baptism booklets and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. Hills of the North 237
2. He's got the whole world 25
3. Christ is the world's light 455
4. It's rounded like an orange (On Partnership News)
5. Alleluia, sing to Jesus 592

Commentary

We've got it all going on today, Advent 2, Baptism and Christingle, three great celebrations in their own right, linked today by the use of candles.

Advent 2, today we light a candle for Peace, as we recall the prophets who foretold of Jesus birth, and the peace that promises. In the Gospel we are also reminded that those prophets also foretold the coming of one who would prepare the way for the Christ, and that is John the Baptist, for whom we light the candle of Love next week.

"**Christingle**" simply means "Christ Light", it is thought that the custom began in the Moravian Church in Germany, allegedly as part of a Christmas Children's Festival on December 24th, 1747. The Christingle certainly became very popular in the Moravian Church and spread to other countries, finally making it to England in 1968, thanks to John Pensom of the Children's Society. Many of us will have clear recollections of past services, whether as an enthralled child, embarrassed parent or proud grandparent. Even those services that went a little 'off track' stick in the mind; children with a 'suger-rush', or the need for fire extinguishers! Whatever our personal experiences, there is little doubt that Christingles are a memorable way to explain the meaning of Christmas.

How does a Christingle represent Christmas?

- The orange symbolises the world God created; for that purpose any fruit could serve, but dried oranges have been used in Christmas decorations for hundreds of years.
- The red ribbon around the middle represents the blood of Christ, to remind us that the journey that starts at Christmas leads to Easter.
- The cocktail sticks represent both the compass points, again reminding us of the global message, and the four seasons, a sign that Christ is with us at all times.
- The fruit and/or sweets we put on the cocktail sticks represent both God's gifts to us & the fruits of the Spirit;
- Centrally the candle symbolises Jesus, the Light of the World.



Today we also celebrate baptism, one of the foundational sacraments of Christianity, which is symbolised again with the giving of a candle.

Sometimes we forget that this is a sacrament for all present, yes we focus on those who baptism we celebrate, but the whole congregation have promises to make in the support of the newly dedicated Christian. The reading from 2 Peter, however, reminds us of the people we should try to be, looking to the present whilst hoping for the promised future.

We often fall short of our own standards, let alone the ideal presented in the life of Christ, but we have the assurance that; with him beside us to light our way, we can achieve all things, and that because of all Christ did for us we can turn to him for forgiveness whenever we forget that.
Jane Mason

Meditation For Your Baptism

You're taking this step of faith
In obedience to the Lord
To be baptized in His precious name
And heed the Master's call
To rise up with faith in God
And go where He may lead
To share God's love to everyone
And touch them in their need
May God pour out His blessings
Upon your life today
So you may walk in His abundance
As you commit to Him your way
Keep on trusting in the Lord
No matter what you face
And keep your eyes on Jesus Christ
And live in His sweet grace. By M.S.Lowndes.

History of Christingle

Christingle was established by the Moravian Church in 1747 as a symbol of Christ's light and love. The Children's Society introduced it to the Church of England in 1968 and it has since become a popular family and community event.



Prayer

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to ... today. We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world. In this service we hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and we offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

The Christingle speaks of the world in which we live, and we pray today

- for all Christians, that we may be mirrors of the light of Christ in the world;
- for those who do not know the light of Christ in their lives;
- for those who bear responsibility in our world for government, education, commerce, and communication;
- for all children and for young people who lack the basic necessities of food, shelter, and clothing;
- for those who are in special need, the sick and anxious, the lonely and fearful, and for those who are bereaved.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing love of God

- For all people in their daily life and work:
- For our families, friends and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.
- For the just and responsible use of your creation:
- For the victims of hunger, fear and injustice.
- For those in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble:
- For those who minister to the sick, the lonely, and the needy.
- For the peace and unity of the Church of God:
- For our own needs and for the needs of others.



Christmas cards as shown below are now available for purchase in aid of our charity BeCHAR, which provides essential care for the homeless and rootless in Bedford. The cards are priced at 25p each with packs of 5 for £1.00. This is a way to have great looking cards and know that your money is going towards such an important charity. Orders

can be made by telephoning St Mark's Office on 342613

Putnoe Provender Sunday 4 December. Sales of the ever popular Christmas puddings, cakes, mince pies, jams, marmalades, chutneys and much more in the Welcome Area after morning service. Proceeds in aid of BeCHAR, our autumn mission project. (Contributions gratefully received). Sally & John Gunning 305925.

Advent Texts and Emails- This Advent the Diocese of St Albans is offering a very special kind of Advent calendar. They will send you every day a text or email with a special religious thought for Christmas. It will help you to take time to pause each day to prepare for Christmas. You can sign up by visiting www.livethechallenge.co.uk where you can also download stories and activity sheets

"Putnoe Heights Cleaning Rota - After many years of sterling work Joy Parker has stepped down from organising the church cleaning rota. I'm taking over and would welcome any new volunteers who would like to join the rota. It involves less than an hour on a Saturday morning every 5 or 6 weeks. If you can help please contact me. Diana Johnson tel 828773"

Footprints Walk Sunday 4 December 2.00pm
Meet by the lake in Bedford Park for 3 mile circular walk on good paths through Brickhill and Clapham Park. A note for your diary - as New Year's Day 2012 will fall on a Sunday, the New Year Walk will be held on Monday 2nd January at 10.30am. Further details from Sue Allen

Words & Music for Christmas". Come & enjoy a seasonal celebration of amusing & nostalgic prose & poetry from our Putnoe readers with music from members of the Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra at Putnoe Heights on Friday 9th December at 7.30pm. Mulled wine & mince pies. Admission £4 - tickets in advance from Putnoe Heights Church Office or at the door. Proceeds in aid of the BeCHaR appeal.

Books on Tape We have a selection of books on tape, free of charge. Mostly classics, Silas Marner, Agnes Grey, Black Beauty, Wuthering Heights, Sense and Sensibility etc. These tapes are not commercially recorded. If interested please contact Wendy at St Marks Church Office.

Christmas Card Posting Box. I hope you will use the box again this year to send your cards to friends within Putnoe Heights church. I will put the box in the Welcome area on the 5th December. Last day for posting will be 18th Dec. Regretfully, remaining cards will be left in the church until after Christmas. Thank you, Joy Parker.

Any clothing and non-perishable foods for BECHAR can be taken to St. Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road.

Kempston Musical Society annual Christmas concert Saturday 17 December at Kempston East Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Admission £6.00 Proceeds are in aid of BECHAR. Guest artistes Muse and Music. Do come along and bring a friend for what promises to be a most enjoyable evening. For more details contact 01234 268101.

Mission Update BeCHAR is our Autumn Mission project this year. Including Gift Aid we have already raised nearly £3000 across the Partnership in support of this work in Bedford. Thank you for all who have already given so generously. There is still time to make a donation so if you have not yet picked up an envelope containing details (or you've lost the one you did take!) please pick one up from either of the church offices after the service. Once again thank you for your outstanding support for such a worthwhile cause. **Any clothing and non perishable food** can be left at St. Andrew's Church as Rob Huddart our speaker last week is a steward there.

Putnoe Heights is having a Christmas Party!!
Anybody between 5-14 is welcome to come along for games, music, crafts and Christmas fun, with a small donation £1 per child/young person. It is on 17th December, 2pm-4pm at Putnoe Heights Church! To book a place, contact Emma Gordon (Putnoe Height's children and youth worker) on youth@thisischurch.com or call 07593266091."

"A big thank you from the children and youth team at Putnoe Heights for the donation of gifts and money for the Shoebox Appeal this year. It was all greatly appreciated. Emma Gordon" Children's and Youth Worker at Putnoe Heights Church youth@thisischurch.com

Second Candle - The Candle of Peace

The prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus

Leader: May your hearts be filled with peace as you hear the words of the prophet Isaiah who told of one who would be born the Prince of Peace.

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the First Candle of Hope in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs. We light it again as we place our hope in Jesus the blessing of God for all nations.

(A person now lights the first candle)

The prophet Isaiah said

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Today, as we light the Second Candle of Advent, we remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ. They told of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace" and told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

(A person lights the second candle)

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people. Give peace in our hearts and in our troubled world this Christmastide.

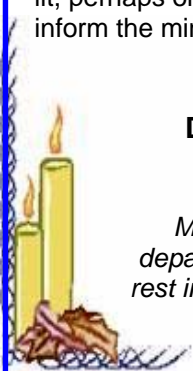
We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus our Saviour, the babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

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.

**Dennis Denton
Doris Margaret Jefferies
Reginald Ernest Ayres**

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



Things for Advent from Methodist org.uk

Double your donation to Methodist Church relief and Development Fund (MRDF) this Advent

Any donation you make to MRDF via the Big Give website between 5-9 December will be matched. So if you donate £25 to MRDF during this time, a further £25 will be released from the matching funds to double your donation. All the info you need is at www.mrdf.org.uk/give/the-big-give.

Extraordinary Gifts from MRDF

Stuck for what to buy that special someone this Christmas? Extraordinary Gifts are carefully chosen from the projects carried out by MRDF's local partners as they empower people to overcome poverty and injustice. Each one comes with a card and a bookmark featuring a picture of the gift, whether it's a Super-Ram (Ethiopia) or Literacy for Life (Nepal). Find out more at www.mrdf.org.uk/give/extraordinary-gifts

Natwivity

From 1 December follow Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, Wisemen and others on Facebook and Twitter. Each 140-character entry will be a thought or comment from Mary, Joseph, Wise men and Shepherds, with further entries from Herod, an Inn Keeper (and his wife) and friends of Mary and Joseph. See www.natwivity.com

Traces of Advent - in augmented reality!

At first glance Traces of Advent just looks like a bunch of free Advent posters. But augmented reality technology uses these 'trigger' images to provide video reflections on Advent which can be used anywhere that churches use to communicate information to others. Confused? Don't worry, all is explained here: www.twelvebaskets.co.uk/view/images/traces_of_advent_come.

Roll on Christmas the wonderfully irreverent Nativitiy play on Facebook is now live - [not for the faint-hearted](http://www.rollonchristmas.com) see www.rollonchristmas.com

Banns

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Karen Deborah Jackson of this parish and Benjamin Peter Watts of All Saints Church, Kempston.

First time of asking

Forthcoming Funerals



Members of Putnoe Heights Church will be saddened to hear of the death of Eddie McKenzie. Eddie died this week at home, cared for by Irene after a period of prolonged illness. He will be greatly missed. A Memorial and Service of

Thanksgiving will take place at Putnoe Heights on Friday December 9 at 11.30am. No flowers please donations if desired to Cancer Research UK.