



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

5 December 2004

Second Sunday of Advent –Christingle

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today



8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church- Christingle Family

Gift Service with Baptism

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Christingle Family

Gift Service with Baptism

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team—Mr Alan Bayliss

Intercessions – Ministers

12 December

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St. Mark's Church –Morning Worship

Preacher - Miss Kate White

Intercessions— Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights –Morning Worship

Preacher – Miss Kate White

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have kindly been given by an anonymous donation - Thank you.

We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. 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

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 -07740 865167 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 News is now available each week on the
Partnership Website - www.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 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day—295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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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).
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathews
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 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
- 7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 20 December St. Mark's Christmas Whist Drive. Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

- 9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
- 10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** Contact 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 Contact Val Careless 345213.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting - 7 December Carols,,Readings, Mince Pies Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 7 December Carols & mince pies. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
- 2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church** Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact

Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129

- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church.** Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 7.30- 9.00pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Next meeting – December 14th - Christmas Service Meets fortnightly. Contact Sheila Cracknell 217009
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

- 10.00 am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 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
- 12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church** Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 15 December Contact St. Mark's 342613
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
- 6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies** at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm St. Mark's Church** Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
- 7-10pm Putnoe Guild** - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
- 7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
- 7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

- 9.30am Thursday Prayer Group** at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
- 10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic** at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
- 10.00am - 11.30am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970
- 12 - 1.00 pm Storybox** at St Mark's Church. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities,

songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.
Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

**1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers
Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Mrs S Lewis 300198

7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000 Putnoe 2nd Thursday of
the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St.
Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at
St Mark's Contact Mr John Harbour 355234

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

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

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St
Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact
Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church
Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr
James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30 - 9.30pm Young Peoples meeting Contact
Pastor Tarr 376841

7.30pm Music Group St. Mark's Church/monthly

6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St.
Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

**10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St
Mark's** -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle
304865

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

Peace Project Saturday School at Putnoe Heights.
For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe
Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob.
07891095746

News, Views and Information

The Calendar

Putnoe Centre Management -

St Mark's Church Council Feb 1 2005

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting on Monday 17 Jan at 10am

St Mark's Centre Management Meeting

Wednesday 19th January 2005

St Mark's Leadership Team

Next meeting on 12 Jan home of Ian Farthing,4 May

Deanery Synod 10 Feb

Partnership Council 18 Jan

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team

25 April 2005 at 7.30pm

Putnoe Church Council

7 Feb 2005 13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting January 24 at 2.00pm

Calendar dates now appear on our church website
www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise us if you have
a date to be added to the church calendar

Wednesday Bereavement Drop in Group.

Wednesday 8 December will be the last one before
Christmas & will have special music & refreshments.

The group will start again on Wednesday 12 January
at 2.30pm., with a talk by Sonia Minney from the
Guildhouse, followed by tea & an opportunity to talk
with friends & members of the Pastoral Team until
4pm. The group will continue meeting on the first
Wednesday of each month from 2.30 to 4 pm with
the same format, talk, tea and chat. We are
considering changing the name to 'Tea and

Friendship,' & would be grateful for any other ideas..

Coming Soon Storybox Plus is an After School

Club for 4—9 year olds which will be starting in
January from 4.00 to 5.00pm on Thursdays. The
group will rehearse a short drama and make the
props and costumes for a performance at the
Family Service at Putnoe.

Volunteers will be needed to make refreshments,
help with the crèche and support the group. Please
ring Joan on 344536.

Spanish Evening. Another fabulous themed evening
has been planned for February 5 at St Mark's. Keep
a place in your diary, you know that it will be great
and all money raised will be put towards the
Extension for Autism Bedfordshire.

Putnoe Mission Funds - Many thanks to Margaret
and Eddy Peck for raising £100 for Mission Funds at
their coffee morning last Saturday.

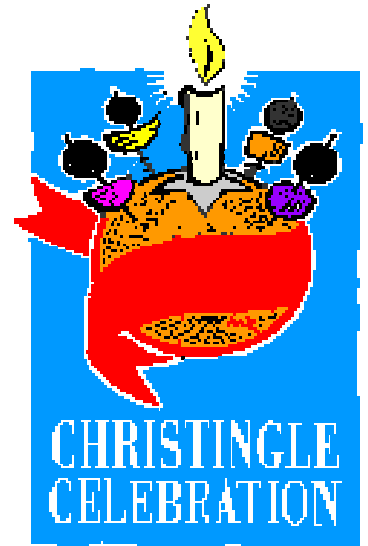
Church Christmas Papers will be available for
delivery to homes in the neighbourhood. Please help
with the delivery by taking papers from the foyer this
week or next Sunday. They advertise Christmas
services and information from our churches.
Leadership Team, please check and proof copy
before we go to print with a church specific edition at
each church office.



Bible Notes Advent 2 (Purple)

Verse of Scripture John 8 v 12

Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."



A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading – Isaiah 11: 1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD - and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

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

Second Reading– Romans 15: 4-13

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name." Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples." And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Gospel Reading – Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was

locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

(Reader: This is the word of the Lord **-All: 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 service sheets and Mission Praise)

1. Come thou long expected Jesus, 102; 2. Lord the light of your love is shining, 3. Hail to the Lord's anointed, 204 4. The Orange of Christingle (in Partnership News); 5. Hark the glad sound 210

Meditation

When Christ comes again in His risen glory to judge the world His first questions to us might not be 'What have you done and how have you lived?' but 'Are you ready?' Advent is a time of looking forward and being prepared for the future festivities, both temporal and spiritual. How ready we are may well depend on the preparations we have made. *Sam Cappleman*

When Light in the Darkness

Without Christ at the centre of our lives, helping us focus on God, life can seem a desolate wilderness, a dark and hopeless place where we are trapped by our own humanity. As we open ourselves to Jesus, the light of the world, He releases us into new life and restores those places in our lives that have been marred, or even devastated by the effects of the darkness of the world. As Advent passes into Christmas we look to the light of Christ, who will return in a great blaze of glory to complete that work of restoration, but who first came as a small pinprick of light in a stable in Bethlehem. For some, all they ever see is the pinprick of light at Christmas and for the rest of the year the Christian faith means little to them. For others, the light in the stable at Christmas is the dawning of the realisation of Christ in their lives, lives which continue to be changed, transformed and restored by His incarnation. We are called to point to that light, and reflect its transformation and glory in our lives.

The Christingle reminds us of that light which came into the world. The orange represents the world. The gospel writer John reminds us that 'Jesus was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognise Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him'. (Jn 1 v 10 – 11). The red ribbon of the Christingle represents the blood of Jesus which was shed for us so that our sins may be forgiven. 'But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin'. (1 Jn 1 v 7). The fruits and sweets on the four skewers represent God's gifts to us, the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease'. (Gen 8 v 22). The lighted candle, pushed into the centre of the orange, represents Christ, the light of the world. 'He [Jesus] said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"'. (John 8 v 12).

The coming of Christ at Christmas is an event for the universe. It is an event for history and an event for each of us in our daily lives. His teaching and His light penetrates the darkness of the Genesis world and our Genesis lives. It invites us to evaluate our lives and transform them in the light of His Advent and Christmas coming. *Sam Cappleman*

Prayers for Advent and the week ahead.

O God of all hope, we thank you for your promises which find their fulfilment in your Son. We rejoice in His coming in the flesh and look for His coming in glory. By your word, sacraments and Holy Spirit make us ready to receive Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and with thankfulness praise Him, now and for ever.

Amen

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we wait for the coming of your Son; then when He appears, He will not find us sleeping in sin, but active in His service and joyful in His praise, for the glory of your Holy name. **Amen**

Lord Jesus, redeemer and judge of all people, who came that we might have life eternal, you have taught us that you will come again in great glory to take account of your servants and reward their faithful service; help us to live as people who wait for their master, prepared, engaged in service, and ready for action; that we might not be ashamed before you at your coming so that we might enter into your eternal joy. **Amen**

Grant, O God, that as we rejoice in the hope of the coming of our Saviour, we too may seek to prepare the way of His coming by demonstrating His love as we care for others. **Amen**

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; 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 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



Advent Course Wednesday of This week

Professor Paul Crossley

This week we have arranged for Paul to conclude his fantastic presentation of 'Pilgrimage.' There will be one final talk on 15 December given by the detective novelist Kate Charles.

The evenings begin with refreshments at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Each evening will finish at 9.00pm.

Cards for Christmas: Handmade Christmas cards for sale at Putnoe Heights Church in the Welcome Area, before and after service. Third of profits go to charity. Aiming to raise £100 for NCH this Christmas. Thank you for your continuing support. Cards can be made to order. T: 267567 Margaret & Claire Peck

Putnoe Heights are welcoming a church from America to Putnoe on 20 February next year. Thank you to all of those who have offered accommodation. However we still need another 11 offers to take 2 students each. Offers from people from both churches would be greatly appreciated

Putnoe Provender will be open for business on Sunday 5 December after the morning service, with cakes, jams, marmalade, chutneys and Putnoe's celebrated Christmas Puddings for sale. All contributions gratefully received. Proceeds to the extension for Autism Bedfordshire at St Mark's. John and Sally Gunning (305925)

St Mark's Creche. The crèche at St Mark's is now in the small hall, a speaker extension has been fitted to enable the service to be audible.

Partnership Singers will be rehearsing for their Christmas contribution to the Carol Service.
Friday 10 December 7.00pm at Putnoe Heights
Friday 17 December 7.00pm at St Mark's

Network - Spring Celebration on 7th March 2005 at The Square Methodist Church, Dunstable.
Tickets £1, limited to two per church. Please order ASAP but not later than the end of December from Eleanor Mackirky Tel 360271. See poster in foyer for more details.

Party Time All members of the Partnership Council are invited to a party at the Vicarage on the 19 December at 1.00pm

Quiet Time At St. Mark's we are always looking at how we might improve our Worship time together. One aspect of Sunday morning Worship which the Leadership Team have recently been reflecting upon is how we begin our worship. In response to the concerns which have been raised about the general levels of noise before Worship, we considered that the following would be a good way forward. At 9.25am, the duty Leadership Team Member would enter the Sanctuary and light the Altar Candles. This will signify to the congregation that we should continue to prepare ourselves for worship with a time of silence, whilst the Organist quietly plays some reflective music. The Ministers will process in as normal at 9.30am. Whilst we recognise that this will be different, our intention is to enable us all to gather before God in the right frame of mind, ready and prepared to worship our loving God.

We would also respectfully ask that if there is any Church business that you need to arrange, that you would kindly refrain from doing so before Worship. There is plenty of time to make arrangements over a cup of coffee following Morning Worship. For this reason please do not enter the office unless you are a member of the Leadership Team. Neil

Christmas Cards. Once again we will provide boards at St Mark's on which you may post a card to all members of the congregation. Then please consider making a donation towards the Autism Building Extension Appeal.

Office Closure St Mark's Church Office will be closed for the Christmas Period from Thursday 5.00pm, 23rd December and will re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2005.

Thank you once again to Judith Stanton and her supporters for the donation of £82. 50 proceeds from their Whist Drive.

Putnoe Ramblers New Year walk at 10.30 on Saturday 1 January at Kempston Lock for a short level walk to Biddenham & back. It will include a coffee stop & the opportunity for lunch in Kempston on our return. Putnoe Ramblers are looking to rebrand themselves with a new name in the New Year...Suggestions please. Further details from Sue Allen. 407264

Thank you to all of those who helped with the Christingles and decorating our Christmas trees. No names, you know who you are and we are grateful.

Storybox Could you spare 2 hours every 6—8 weeks to help with Storybox lunches on Thursday at St. Mark's. If you can spare some time . Please contact Patricia Izzard 212164.

Kempston Musical Society present two Christmas Concerts. Monday December 16th at Elstow Abbey 7.30pm and Saturday December 20th at Kempston East Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Tickets available at the door.

The Methodist Church are holding a conference on 22 January 2005 at Hinde Street Methodist Church, London from 10 - 4pm, entitled 'Worship & the Missing Generation'. Cost £10. For more details & to book your place ring: Chris Jones 01245 262312 or Paul Kybird 01908 67875.

Christmas Tree and Crib Festival at Priory Methodist Church. Friday 10th December 11.30am—8pm, Saturday 11th 10am-6.30pm, Sunday 12th 12.30-4pm. Admission £2, including refreshments. Accompanied children 16 and under free.

Vacancy for a manager at the Volunteer Centre Bedford. Responsibility for the day to day activities of the centre. Starting salary £20,370 /37hrs per week. Apply to Volunteer Centre Bedford, 43 Bromham Road, MK40 2AA Tel 01234 213100 e-mail: vb@bedfordvb.org.uk.

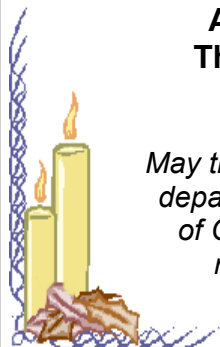
Tell Us Co-ordinator- Vacancy. To co-ordinate, develop, and support the work of Bedford Multi-agency Racist incidence group (BMARIG). £18,000 per annum pro rata / 16 hours per week (£7,783 per annum) Contact 01234 350459 or e-mail : brec@fsmail.net

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.

**Edwin Frank Mastin
Anne A Measures
Thomas Henderson
David Taylor**

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



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Web Development – On our website you can now read a series of essays by Tony Windross entitled 'Why bother... with the church, miracles, prayer, etc.' Not for the fainthearted, Tony writes in a challenging way which tackles issues honestly. We have also opened an online library to make accessible copies of important Christian literature from authors like Augustine, Bede, St John of the Cross and Wesley. You can read them online or download them to your own computer to read at your leisure.

Quiet Evening for Advent at St Peter's on Tuesday 7th December, 7.15-9.15. Angela Newton, formerly from Dunstable now at Barton-le-Cley, will be conducting the evening. Her theme is Listening, Hearing, Responding.

Rest In Peace

The funeral of Edith Constance Mabel Solly will take place at St Mark's Chapel at 12.30pm on Thursday 9 December. (Royden)

The funeral of Kenneth Wood will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 9 December at 10.00am (Crossley)

The funeral of **Jane Lilian May Lane** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 10 December at 2.30pm (Royden)

The funeral of Alexander Jack will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 7 December at 10.00am (Royden)

We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

