



Partnership News

5 December 2010

Second Sunday of Advent



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

9.30 am St. Mark's – Family and Gift Service

Preacher - Rev Dr Cappleman
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott
Leadership Mrs Jean Bank

11am Putnoe – Family and Gift Service

Preacher - Rev Dr Cappleman
Leadership - Gordon Evans
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

12 December

9.30 am St. Mark's -

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

11.00 am Putnoe

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Readings 1. Isaiah 11: 1-10 2. Romans 15: 4-9
3. Matthew 3: 1-12

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 St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Mrs Mallows in memory of her husband George.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Veta Hudson-Rae in memory of her parents, an uncle, and all her cousins who died recently.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for This Week

Fill us with your Holy Spirit, O Lord,
and our minds with your light,
our hearts with your love
and our souls with your presence.
Day by day may we live to your glory
and rejoice in your praise;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Mozarabic Liturgy (seventh century)

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)

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
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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 Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 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 - Avril Williams 360605
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 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

12.00pm 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.

3.30pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.

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 ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—20 December St. Mark's Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016

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

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 Sally Banks ☎870357

1.15pm Sing and Stomp. For toddlers & their carers. Run by the Putnoe Children's Centre. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 7 December Christmas Social Afternoon. 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

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting December 14 Christmas Event. For more 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.

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

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

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10am U3A Card Making, St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -8 December Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

1.45 Scots Society Whist 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 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823

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. Monthly. Next meetings 8 December. Wendy Waters 401834

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

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton ☎01234 297138 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 15 December Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 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 in the quiet room. 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. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.

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 St. Mark's ☎267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

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

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

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. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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 Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun.

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –
Annual General Meeting 10 April 2011
St Mark's Leadership Team 31 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 7 February
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .
St Mark's Forum Meeting -
Putnoe Church Council - 14 February
Pastoral Group Meeting - 8 February 4.15pm
Churchyard Committee - **26 January at 11.00am**
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings
Deanery Meeting - .
Woodland Burial Trustees – 13 February 2011
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Second Sunday of Advent — Christingle

Opening Sentence from Scripture - John Chapter 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."

Collect *(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**



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

Second Reading - Romans 15: 4-9

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

Gospel Reading – Matthews 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."

(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 for Sunday (*Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship*)

1. Come thou long expected Jesus 102
2. Lord the light of your love is shining 445
3. Darkness like a shroud 110
4. The Orange of Christingle (*In Partnership News*)
5. Hail to the Lord's anointed 204

Commentary

When Light in the Darkness

At this time of year with the cold temperatures, long nights and short days, life can seem quite lonely and desolate at times. Advent is a time to reflect on our life and look forward to the coming of Christ, both as infant Messiah and as the returning Lord and King. We're encouraged to ensure Christ is at the centre of our lives, helping us focus on the God who became incarnate so that our lives don't become a desolate wilderness, or 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.

In a world that predominantly only sees the pinprick of light at Christmas it's not surprising that many people are largely indifferent to God and the true meaning of Advent and God's first incarnation in obscurity and His second to come in glory. They believe they have no need of God and don't want to be inconvenienced by Him. And in their self confidence, God becomes remote or absent for them and many go for days without any sense of God in their lives, and certainly no recourse to worship or prayer and communication and communion with Him. It is a situation similar to that which Isaiah found himself in, Israel had become indifferent to God and stagnant in their ways and worship. Isaiah's calling was to prepare the people, through a call to repentance, so that God could break through their indifference and self confidence and become real and relevant to them once again. A message as relevant today as when it was first preached. The root of Jesse, as we looked at last week, will bring hope and revelation. John the Baptist too calls people to repentance and preparation for the coming age for when Christ would break through. His sole mission was to serve God, and he gave all he was and all he had so that others could come to see the Messiah who was shortly to be revealed. He was clear that His role was not to be the light which would break into the world, but to point people to that light.

The Christingle too 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 and the lives of those we touch. At Advent 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, and to point others to that light so that all can be ready and be prepared and so experience the true meaning of His coming.

Meditation

'The first coming of Christ the Lord, God's Son and our God, was in obscurity; the second will be in the sight of the whole world. When he came in obscurity no one recognised Him but His own servants; when He comes openly He will be known by both good people and bad. When he came in obscurity, it was to be judged; when He comes openly it will be to judge.' *Augustine (AD 354 – 430)*

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?' Sometimes with all the preparations for Christmas we think of Advent as a time for getting ready. But Advent is not a time for getting ready; it's a time for being ready. A time of looking forward and being prepared for the future festivities, both temporal and spiritual. A time not just of repentance but about the expectation of a Messiah who will come to deliver us. How ready we are to meet Christ when He returns may well depend on the preparations we have already made whilst we wait for His coming.

Prayers for Sunday 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

Christingle Christingle service are held in churches, usually between Advent and Candlemas. It is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to join in, using oranges to create visible symbols of the Christian message. The Christingle has its origins in a Moravian children's service held in a castle in Germany on Christmas Eve in 1747. The bishop conducting the informal service gave each child a lighted candle, tied with a red ribbon, in memory of the Saviour's coming which he said has kindled a flame in each heart which keeps burning "to His joy, and our happiness". Much later, this simple candle was replaced by a more elaborate Christingle which is rich in symbolism. Our modern Christingle consists of: an orange . . . representing the world a red ribbon, tied round the orange . . . representing the blood of Jesus fruits and sweets, skewered on 4 cocktail sticks which are pushed into the orange . . . representing God's good gifts - the fruits of the earth and the four seasons a lighted



Second Candle - The Candle of Peace (Purple Candle) 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 we celebrated the patriarchs. We light it again as we place our hope in Jesus the blessing of God for all nations. *(A person lights the first candle here)*

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 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

English Music at Christmas at St. Mary's Church, Goldington on Wednesday 15 December at 7.30pm. Stephen Liley (tenor), Alan Haughton Piano, Justin Waters (organ) & Modernian Singers conducted by Geoff Lavery. Retiring Collection in aid of St. Mary's Charities.

The Christmas Posting Box will be in position soon, for you to post your cards to friends who come to Putnoe Church. As always, it will be 10p per card or 12 cards for £1. Please leave the money in the wooden box near by. Please put surnames and addresses on the envelopes. Cards which are left on Christmas day will have to be collected afterwards, unfortunately. Thank you **Joy** and Peter Parker

Mission Update Thank you to all who have given so generously to our Autumn Mission project to support the work of Kisizi hospital. Without the addition of Gift Aid (yet!), between the churches we have already raised over £1250 which is a great achievement. If you have not already contributed and would like to do so please pick up letter explaining how to become involved and to support financially and in prayer from either of the church offices or after the service today. Don't forget to bring your Smartie Tubes back next week with the Smarties replaced by all that annoying loose change and old crumpled £10 notes!

Church Christmas Cards are now on sale at both church with proceeds for Kissizi. Or place an order by phone from St Mar'k's Church Office. card are 25p each or a pack of 5 for £1

Church Chairs. We have been forced to throw away a number of chairs at St Mark's this year as they have broken or become too worn. We have now ordered new chairs which we hope will arrive in the next month. We would be very grateful to any members of the congregation who felt able to contribute towards the cost of the chairs which will cost £50 each. Please make cheques payable to St Mark's Church and remember to gift aid if you are a tax payer.

Putnoe Height's Ladies Tuesday Club invite you to join them for their Christmas Event at Putnoe Heights on Tuesday 14 December at 7.30pm cost £2 including refreshments and raffle ticket.

Friday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 1.45pm (prayer of stillness) For more information please contact Eileen Brown on Bedford 267909

Thank you to everybody who helped prepare our Christingle oranges this year and to Ron and Maureen Simmonds who kindly donated the Christmas Tree at Putnoe from their own garden.



Carols in the Car Park.

Come and join us for an hour of traditional carol singing in St Mark's Church Park, Calder Rise, Brickhill on Saturday 11

December at 6.30pm. There will be mulled wine and mince pies as we sing to carols played by Bedford Town Band.

Carols For All Kempston Musical Society sing Carols for All on Saturday, 18 December at 7.30pm in aid of Cancer Research UK. Venue Kempston East Methodist Church, Bedford Road, Kempston and guest artists will be "Muse & Music" who performed for us 2 years ago and are back by popular request. Come and join in with your favourite carols, and enjoy this evening of festive entertainment while supporting a very good cause. Phone 01234 354183 or email us for tickets at kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com . £6 for adults and £3 for under 15's.

"Words & Music for Christmas", a seasonal celebration at Putnoe Heights on Friday 10 December at 7.30pm with members of the Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra and our Putnoe readers. Mulled wine & mince pies. Admission £4 - tickets from Putnoe Heights Church Office or at the door. In aid of the Partnership Charity, Kisizi Hospital in Uganda

Bedford University presents Christmas Light an evening of carols, theatre and dance with Bedford Choral Society. Tuesday 7 December at 6.00pm at Coffee Hub, Bedford Campus

Messy Church. On Wednesday 8 December at St Mark's Church, parents carers and children are invited for an afternoon of crafts, bible stories, music and an evening meal. The session runs from Wednesday 8 December 3.45 – 5.30pm and everybody is welcome. If you are interested in helping or speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters.



Putnoe Provender—12 December Sales of the ever popular Christmas Puddings, Homemade jams, Marmalade, Cakes and much more. (Contributions gratefully received) In the welcome area after morning service. Proceeds to Kisiizi Mission Project John and Sally Gunning –Tel. 305925

Christmas Presents



You will find the link above on the homepage for www.thisischurch.com. Please click on it to access Amazon.com and just about anything you need for presents this year, with free delivery. You can also sign up to Easyfunding. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thisischurch.com, then we obtain 5%



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.

Jon Steed

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



Cold Weather preventing you from coming to church? Tell St Mark's Church office (Tel: 342613) and we will arrange for a taxi to include you on its route to the 9.30am service.

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Marion Hilda Watkins will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 2.30pm on Friday 10 December.

The funeral of John Tatman will take place at St. Mark's Church on Friday 17th December at 3.15pm.

