



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

6 December 2009

Advent 2 - Gift Service



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

9.30am St. Mark's - Gift Sunday
Preacher - Revd. Dr. S. Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Gift Service
Preacher - Revd. Dr. S. Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Kirk
Intercessions - The Nash Family

13 December - Christingle

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton
11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Readings

1. Zeph 3:14-20 2. Phil 4: 4-7 3. Luke 3: 7-18

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Veta Hudson-Rae in memory of her parents, and by the family of Mima Noble to celebrate her 90th Birthday

The flowers in church at St Mark's this week have been given by Mary Hall to welcome her first Great Grandson Alexander.

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 Sunday

O God, who did prepare of old the minds and hearts of people for the coming of your Son, and whose Spirit ever works to illumine our darkened lives with the light of the Gospel, prepare now our minds and hearts that Christ may dwell in us and ever reign in our thoughts and affections as the King of love and the very Prince of Peace. Grant this, we pray for his sake. Amen.

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 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.

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 Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349 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 - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628
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**
Headteacher 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)
- 9.00am 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 Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 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 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349
- 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 December 21 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

- 9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299
- 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
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** 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. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting December 8. 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 Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎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 & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. 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 15 Christmas Celebrations. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

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. Contact Janet King 313946
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 9 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
- 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 December 16 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎ 406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

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

7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎ 325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎ 343424

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)

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 Emma Strangwick ☎ 211070

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. Mary Rich ☎ 272470 Next meeting 24 September

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 Caroline Morgan ☎ 07786508351

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎ 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. 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. Nadeen Salmon ☎ 301550

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. Pat Foulks ☎ 346505

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

5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎ 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

6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎ 782360

6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎ 07984427854

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 Tel 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. Please see Liz ☎ 302349 .



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team – 19 January

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – , 8 Feb

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 18 Jan 7.45pm

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 Jan 2010,

Putnoe Church Council - 15 February

Pastoral Group Meeting - 19 January

Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group—Weds 6th Jan at 14

Flint Way at 7.30pm

Partnership Council—TBA

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting

Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's

Circuit Meeting 8 March at Oakley

Woodland Burial Trustees – 6th December

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 18th Jan

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

Second Sunday of Advent

Opening Verses of Scripture—Luke Chapter 3

'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'

Collect Prayer for the Day -

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. *Common Worship*



The people who were honoured in the Bible were the false prophets. It was the ones we call the prophets who were jailed and driven into the desert. Noam Chomsky, 20th century

First Bible Reading - Malachi Chapter 3:1-4

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading— .Philippians Chapter 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.
This is the word of the Lord -- Thanks be to God)

Gospel Reading - Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar--when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene--during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.'" (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Meditation

The people who were honoured in the Bible were the false prophets. It was the ones we call the prophets who were jailed and driven into the desert. *Noam Chomsky, 20th century*

Hymns (*Please distribute special service sheet, Mission Praise, and baptism sheets at Putnoe*)

1. O come o come Immanuel 493,
2. There's a sound on the wind, 681
3. What child is this 749
4. Down from his glory 116
5. Lo, He comes on clouds descending, 424

Commentary

We do not know huge amounts about John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus. We know that he ate insects and that he conducted his ministry 'on the other side of the Jordan.' This means Perea, one of the territories controlled by Herod Antipas. Josephus the Jewish historian tells us that John was later imprisoned in the fortress Machaerus in the same region. So we find that John is arrested in the same place in which he conducts his faithful ministry.

This fact would not be lost on people who knew about John the Baptist. We are told by Matthew that Jesus said 'John did not blow with the wind'. The point that Jesus was making was that John was a man of principle. He told the truth as he saw it and he was not prepared to water it down to avoid offending anybody.

He is clearly not an ambitious man, he had no designs on one of the top jobs back in Jerusalem. Instead he spoke his mind freely without fear or desire for favour and the people flocked out to hear him, attracted by his honesty and integrity. Subsequently he was killed by Herod for this very fact.

John called for obedience to God and he demonstrated that this was a costly commitment. The Christian community came to know that the way of the Lord was the 'via dolorosa', a way of the cross. Many of the Christians who read this Gospel would also be executed for their message and mission.

John is the first to proclaim God's kingdom. He announces it not in the Temple but in the desert the place where the faith of so many before had been tested and a place where people like Moses had encountered God. The Jewish people had built a Temple but they were called back to the desert across which they had come into the promised land. The average person can only go a couple of day in the wilderness without water. The prophets use the desert as a metaphor for estrangement from God, it is frightening, lonely and dangerous, yet it is to here that John calls the people for renewal. Perhaps that is where God still wants to meet us, in the place where we are stripped of distractions and ready and anxious to listen. In the desert all our facades are removed.

There was confusion as to who John was. People asked him "Are you Elijah?" That might seem a strange question. The prophet Elijah had lived around 900 years previously, and tradition had it that he never actually died, but was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind. (2 Kings 2:9-12). In the last verses of the Old Testament, the prophet Malachi prophesied his return (Malachi 4:5-6), so people might have suspected that this was some miraculous return. Jesus said John was a prophet, 'This is the one about whom it is written:

'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

This Sunday in Advent is a time in which we should all hear the words of John the Baptist and search within ourselves and ask the difficult questions which he posed. Are we prepared to be challenged about ourselves and our ideas and our behaviour. When John the Baptist told people to make straight paths for God, he meant that we should be constructing a different type of society, and that we should be constructing within ourselves hearts which care for others.

We have a natural tendency to grow complacent with what we are. John asks us to be able to question ourselves. So is yours a heart which is really under construction, or have you decided that now you are fine and need no more attention?

We all have roads which need to be made straight. So John calls afresh to change the landscape of our personal lives and more importantly of our communities.

Quite rightly people asked John to give them specific concrete examples of the kind of lifestyle changes he

was preaching about. 'what shall we do' they said.

He told them -

- If you have two coats share one of them with somebody who has no coat.
- The same with food, share it around
- He told tax collectors not to take more than was their due, stealing and taking too much money was bad.
- They were told not to be violent or make false accusations against others.

These are not specific to the time of John the Baptist, they are eternal values of justice and compassion. Not one of the people who came out to John, apart from Jesus, was ready for the coming of the Messiah, they all had work to do on their lives. You and I are just the same.

And so preparing for Advent means facing introspective questions about whether our religion is skin deep, to what extent we are devoted to ourselves or to others, whether we are living good or bad lives, how much we care for the poor, the weak, the sick or the stranger, the old. Am I a compassionate person, a caring person, how can I do more to contribute towards the needs of others?

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God, when we pray for peace, show us again and again that there can be no peace without justice and the renewal of integrity. When we are tempted to retreat into sentimental peace of mind, stir within us the passion of the prophets. The sense of justice of Amos, the social vision of Isaiah, the internal courage of Jeremiah and the personality of Hosea. The God, within the struggle for righteousness and equality, for wholeness and honesty, come to us with a special greeting which you alone can provide, dispelling our fears, cancelling our guilt, refreshing our spirits; the welcome, the peace, of your son Jesus Christ our Risen God.

Out of meaninglessness, God calls us, Out of brokenness, God calls us to wholeness Out of division, God calls us to community Out of tears, God calls us to laughter Out of self-centredness, God calls us to love Out of death, God calls us to life....

Putnoe Heights Church invites you to join our mini Christmas Tree Festival Collect a cardboard Christmas tree from the youth team and as an individual, family or church/community group decorate the tree for us, telling us who you are, and we will display them in the church during December. Trees must be left at the church office before Sunday 6th December. More details for collecting your tree from Liz on 01234 302349 youth @ thisischurch.com

without it? Is there one from a particular holiday, or maybe there's one from a difficult time in your life that you'd be willing to share? Whatever the story I think it would be great to share it, I hope to be able to display a wide variety, and produce a 'programme' which has a little 'story' about each one. Although I don't need them until the day, I'd like to have any stories ASAP and idea of numbers by the previous week, to enable the production of the programme! *Jane Mason*

Nativity Scenes. On Saturday December 19 we are holding a nativity festival at Putnoe Heights, that is if there are nativities to show! So far I have one from South Africa, the promise of another African one and a huge banner, designed by a good friend of mine. But I'd like more! This is where you come in, if you have a nativity scene that is special to you or your family in some way, and you are willing to lend it to us for the weekend before Christmas, please could you let me know! It doesn't matter what it looks like, is there one someone knitted for you? Is there a slightly tatty one with teeth marks of a over enthusiastic child in (or maybe a character is missing)? Is there one that has been part of your families for so long it wouldn't seem like Christmas

BEH Women's Network District Residential Weekend 19 - 21 February 2010 at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. Further details and booking form from Pam Seymour 305695

Kempston Musical Society Christmas Concert on Monday 14th December. 7.30pm at St Mark's Church, admission by programme or at the door £7. Tickets also available from church offices. Monies raised will be donated to the King's Arms Project which works with and helps the homeless in Bedford. . For further information contact St Mark's Church Office or Alan Bayliss on 01234 268101

Christingle The Partnership Christingle Services will be on Sunday December 13th. Everyone, young and not so young (!) is warmly invited.

Christmas Post Box at Putnoe Heights. Please post your Christmas cards to friends who are members of the Church in the box. As usual, the cost is 10p per card or 12 for £1. This year, regrettably, cards which remain at the church on Christmas Day will be left there until they are collected after Christmas. Happy posting from Joy and Peter.

Temporary Vacancy (2 terms) Person/s required to work in Hazeldene Heights Pre-school at Putnoe Heights Church up to 4 sessions per week job share considered must be flexible. Please apply to Mrs Janet Smith by Friday 4th December 2009.

Putnoe Heights Card Sales A big thank you for continuing to support us by buying our hand made cards. A third of what we make continues to go towards a range of different charities. This Christmas we are hoping to raise £100 to go to NSPCC (National Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Children). Cards can always be made to order. Please contact Margaret on 267567. Margaret and Claire Peck

The Chisen Foundation works with children with special needs in Ghana. They need storage space for clothes to send to Ghana in February. Do you have a spare garage etc. Contact vicky@chisenfoundation.org

Carol Singing in aid of Action for Children will be taking place at the Railway Station on 14 December between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. Please join us for all or some of the time, if you are able.

St Mark's will be conducting a Carol Service at Highfield Home on Sunday 20 December at 2.30pm. Please feel free to join us if you are able.

Putnoe Heights Carols at Library Walk Saturday 19 December, 11– 12noon. Will singer/ musicians Please meet at 10.15am in the Small Hall for tea/ coffee and seasonal eats. The more the merrier !

Tuesday Club

You are invited to join our 'Christmas Celebration' at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday December 15 at 7.30pm.

Putnoe Heights Coffee. For some time I have organised the Sunday morning coffee rota and purchased the necessary provisions. I have decided that I would like to step down from carrying out this duty and so I am looking for somebody else to replace me. If you are interested in carrying out this

role or have any questions please contact me on 266408. Thank you Claire Peck

Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch Sunday 10th January 2010 at 1.00pm A festive lunch with 3 courses inclusive of drinks. All proceeds to church funds. Tickets (from Putnoe Office) £8.00 (£4.50 for children under 10)

Telecare: It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down on the Telecare scheme, please do so.

Christmas Home Communion. We have a small team of people who assist the ministers in bringing Holy Communion to those who are unable to come to church. If you are genuinely housebound then we are more than pleased to bring communion to you in your home before Christmas. Please telephone one of the ministers and we will be arrange a visit before Christmas.

Vicarage Party for the Partnership Council. We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday 20 December. Please would you RSVP if you have not already done so to help the caterers.

St Mark's Christmas newspaper delivery

We have a Christmas News paper which we would like to deliver across the parish before Christmas. Please would you assist in getting these out for us before next Sunday because it advertises the Christingle Service - thank you so much

Putnoe Heights Christmas Cards and Invitations

At Putnoe we are trying to deliver as many Christmas cards as possible to give our best wishes And invite people to our services this Christmas. Please would you take cards and help us deliver as many possible before next weekend. This is because the Christingle service is included.

Advent Course. Many thanks to Sam for opening our Advent Course this year with an introduction to Matthew . The series will continue on December 17 when Charlie will be looking at the nativity stories of Luke and comparing them to Matthew

Woodland Trustees Meeting will be held today at 12.30pm in the Wren Room.

Putnoe Christmas Provender will take place this morning after morning service. Cakes, jam, marmalade, chutney, mince pies and Putnoe's own Christmas puddings will be on sale. Please help to make this a record fund raiser for this year's mission 'The Kings Arms Project. John & Sally Gunning 305925



Partnership Christmas Services



St Mark's Church

Carols in the Car Park

Saturday 12 December at 6.30pm
An hour of singing carols with Bedford Town Brass Band. We will be warmed with mulled wine and mince pies!

Christingle

Sunday 13 December 9.30am
A family Sunday worship service in which we will make Christingles

Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 19 December 6.30pm
A traditional service of nine carols and readings, accompanied by our organist and Bedford Town Brass Band

Crib Service

3.00pm Thursday 24 December
A service especially for the young and the young at heart. We will have fun building a crib and singing carols. Come early to get a seat.

Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 11.30pm
A traditional midnight mass late service to welcome Christmas

Christmas Day

9.30am Morning Family Worship

Putnoe Heights Church

Christingle Family Service

Sunday 13 December 11.00am
A family Sunday worship service in which we will make Christingles

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 20 December 6.30pm
A traditional service of nine carols and readings. Followed by refreshments, including mince pies!

Christmas Crib Service

Thursday 24 December 4.00pm
A service especially for the young and the young at heart. We will have fun building a crib and singing carols. Come early to get a seat.

Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 11.30pm
A traditional midnight mass late service to welcome Christmas

Christmas Day

Morning Family Worship 11.00am
One of the happiest days of the church year is reflected in this joyous morning family worship

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.

Andrew John Weller
Mark Hall

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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Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Jean Eleanor Fensome will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on Tuesday 8 December 2009