



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

6 November 2005

3rd Sunday before Advent

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church -Family Worship & Baptim of Bethan Louise Leadbetter

Preacher - James Robinson-Morley

Leadership Team -Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher -James Robinson-Morley

Leadership Team -Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

13 November-Remembrance Sunday

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights –Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley

Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Next Week's Bible Readings

1 Reading Micah 4: 1-8

2 Reading - Romans 8: 31 to end

3 Reading **Matthew 5: 1-12**

Rev Dr Joan Crossley is preaching this morning at St Andrew's Luton on 'Vocationalism'.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mrs Doreen Denny in memory of her husband Len and also by Pauline and Stephen Clare.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Milly Meads & the Appleton Family in memory of Richard Meads, loving husband, father & grandfather.

Prayer for Sunday

Loving God, in our commitment to building communities of justice and peace, help us to remember the hospitality of your grace.

In our discerning of your will for us, help us to discover your presence in unexpected places. In our daily duty and discipleship, help us to be joyful.

In all things, may we reflect in some small way the glory of your presence and purpose. Amen.

Keith Davies, Chair of Manchester and Stockport District

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Mobile -07917 356062 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Youth and Children's Worker

Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen 407264

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Children's and Youth Worker-Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

Hymns are printed under CCL Lic No. 1501

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

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

10.00am Supple Strength at Putnoe Heights. Louise Woodcock 270302

12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, no charge. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next 21 November Moorfields & Sight Concern Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

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

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

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

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 8 November—Remembrance .Betty

Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 15 November Mr.C.Parry ' The Gunpowder Plot' Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

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

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

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

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792

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

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

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

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly.at 7.45pm Next meeting 15 Nov. Paramedics. Madge Walsh 359088

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 16 November Putnoe 365630

1- 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday

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

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings at St Mark's

2.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's 267444

12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, no charge. Contact Liz Spavins on 1234 302349

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.

Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights. Helga Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Height. Pat Stidolph 345247

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

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597

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

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

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

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

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole Maunder 301325

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

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

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

Saturday

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

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

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

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

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's


9.30—10.30 at St.Mark's

11-12 at Putnoe Heights.

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

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

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council
8 February 2006

Circuit Meeting 16 March 2006

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

24 April, 6 June, 12 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team 21 November
meet at Putnoe Heights Church

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

2 November 2005. All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 14 Nov,
16 Jan 2005

Putnoe Church Council 6 February 2006

Deanery Synod 16 November 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting - 6 February 2006 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee - 31 November 2005 10am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting .

Partnership Council - 24 January 2006

Brickhill Parish Council

Joint Deanery Circuit 18 January,

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

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

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

Bible Notes

Ordinary 32 Year A 3rd Before Advent (Green)

Verse of Scripture 1 Peter 1:13

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray.

Eternal God, in whose perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of justice, and no strength known but the strength of love: guide and inspire all who seek your kingdom, that peoples and nations may find their security in the love which casts out fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

First Reading – Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the River and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods. It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our fathers up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we travelled. And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God." Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you." But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the LORD." Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD." "Yes, we are witnesses," they replied. "Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him." On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he drew up for them decrees and laws.

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

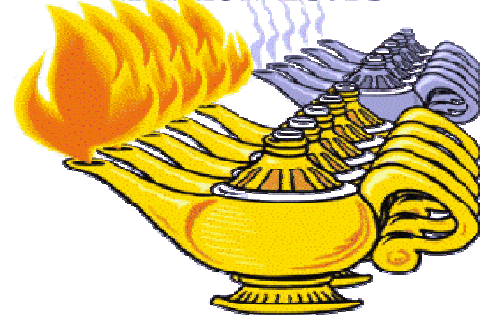
Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

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

**Keep awake
therefore,
for you know
neither the day
nor the hour.**

Matthew 25.13



Third Reading - Matthew 25: 1-13

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' " 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (This is the word of the Lord –**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship)

1. Blessed assurance 59
2. Give me oil in my lamp. 167
3. Be thou my vision 51
4. Love divine all loves excelling 449
5. O happy Day 499

Commentary

There are two weeks left until the Christian music event 'BED:ROCK'. A year of faithful preparation and the waiting is almost over. Will people come? Will they get excited by the Good News? Will lives be changed? For those of us involved in BED:ROCK it's zero hour ... judgement time.

We've all had big events in our lives like weddings, baptisms, presentations, projects, etc, that have been planned and waited for and so we can relate to the themes of faithfulness, preparation, watchfulness, and judgement that run through this week's readings.

The Old Testament sees Joshua bringing the tribes of Israel together to celebrate the covenant, a promise that requires fidelity and commitment to God from the Israelites in return for God's love and faithfulness to his people. Needless to say, the rest of the Old Testament neatly chronicles how God's chosen people go and make a hash of it, continually failing him.

In Thessalonians, Paul deals with the difficult early church problem that Jesus should have returned to his believers by now, but he hadn't, and church members were now dying ... had they got it wrong? Were the faithful departed going to miss out on the eternal party (if and when) Jesus finally came back? Despite their faithfulness, was all this waiting in vain?

Finally, in a parable peculiar to Matthew, we see the themes of faithfulness and waiting emerge again. In Jewish wedding custom, the bridesmaids journey via the longest route possible to the home of the newly-weds, to await the bridegroom who could arrive at anytime ... or not. When the groom eventually arrived the doors would be locked, starting a week-long knees-up. If you hadn't made it to the house by the time the groom arrived (due to an unfortunate oil-related mishap or such like) it was a case of 'your names not down your not coming in'.

The striking theme is that of final judgement. You're a bridesmaid at a Jewish wedding, you should've known the drill! Not enough oil? How could you be so foolish? No borrowing some from a wise bridesmaid or popping to the corner-shop for a refill. After all, the Jewish concept of 'Wisdom' was something readily available to all in order to help with the practical pressures of life, as well as a source of support in times of trouble. All that waiting, just to miss out on the party because you left your oil preparations a bit too late - sounds like hell to me...

If we take the bridegroom to represent Jesus, the bridesmaids the church, and the oil our good

works, then the parable, with the Old Testament and Epistle readings, give us a stark warning. We are still waiting for Jesus, we are still called to be faithful to him and show his love to the world by the way we live. We don't know when he will return and we don't know how long we have been given to do his work. We have the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us, and we can't rely on others or our good intentions, to get us into the party while we pop to the shop or have a well-deserved power-nap.

The wait may be long and the night may be dark, but the bridegroom will come and there will be a party. In the meantime, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "it may be that the day of judgement will dawn tomorrow; in that case, we shall gladly stop working for a better future. But not before." Isn't it time you checked your oil? James Robinson-Morley

Meditation

Ten women are invited to a wedding feast, five of them are wise and take extra oil for their lamps - just in case. Five are said to be foolish because they lacked the foresight and took no reserves of oil. Consequently only the wise ones with oil in their lamps were able to enjoy the wedding feast.

Life is often like that, if we are careful and clever we can make the best of the opportunities which are presented to us. As we grow older we hope that we get wiser and do not repeat the mistakes which have made previously. It is important to try and break free from cycles of behaviour which are destructive and keep us from realising our full potential. Nobody is perfect, but it is a good idea to have role models who are stable and well adjusted, and to avoid being unduly influenced by people who repeat destructive behaviour. Wisdom is not about being good at exams, it is about being able to cope and make a good life. There are people who are very clever, but they lack wisdom and their lives are a mess. Wisdom is not about being famous either, or being regarded as a great achiever, people achieve high status in politics, sport or in the media, but they know only sorrow in their personal lives.

Wisdom demands that we learn from our mistakes, that we pursue the right goals to happiness. Anybody can be wise, because wisdom does not depend upon wealth, privilege or prestige. Wisdom belongs only to those who seek her.....

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

May everything we do this day begin with your blessing and continue with your help.

May everything we say this day begin with your love and continue with your grace.

May everything we plan this day begin with your inspiration and continue with your peace.

So that through our lives all that we begin in you may by you be happily mended, all that we fail to do may by you be mercifully mended and all that we seek through you may be lovingly attended. Amen.

(Adapted from a traditional collect prayer by Fr. Patrick Sayles, Columban fathers.)

Grant to me, O Lord, a gentle spirit open to you; a generous mind open to all others and a loving heart worthy of being your dwelling place; through Christ our Lord. Amen *John of Kronstadt, 1829-1908*

2005 Partnership Advent Course

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| 28 November | The Right Reverend Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans |
| 5 December | Professor Paul Crossley 'Poetry and the Bible' |
| 12 December | The Reverend Charles Royden 'Christmas and the New Testament stories' |
| 19 December | The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman 'The Second Advent of Jesus' |

All take place at Putnoe Heights 7.30pm—9.00pm. Please put these dates in your diary and consider inviting friends who may appreciate considering the meaning of Christmas.

News, Views and Information

Junior Church and Storybox Plus at Putnoe will be holding a cake stall following the All Age Service today. Proceeds will be used towards our Christmas activity programmes. We thank you in for your support in 'supplying' and 'buying' our home goodies

Partnership Youth and Children's Choir at St.Mark's & Putnoe Heights. We will start rehearsal next Sunday 13 November during Junior Church sessions in preparation for the Gift service on 4 December, the Christingle on 11 & the Crib service on 24 December. Liz 302349.

Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech & Drama. If any young person would like to enter this in March 2006 under the class of 5 minute Bible Reading' representing St.Mark's or Putnoe Heights please see Liz. All entries must be in by 10 December. Joan & I will help you with choice of passage & practice.

Autumn Craft Day Saturday 19 November at Priory Methodist Church from 9.45 to 4.30. £3 per half day session. Information & booking forms from Pam Seymour 305695.

Garth Hewitt in Concert—Holy Ground Friday 11 November at 7.30pm at Priory Methodist Church an evening of Stories & songs from the Holy Land contact David Fraser 01234 771370

The Christmas Fayre is just two weeks away!!! On the table in the foyer are some A5 flyers. We would be grateful if they could be delivered to your road as a way of advertising the event. Your support in this would be very much appreciated. Many thanks.

St Mark's Church Christmas Craft Fair — We are all looking forward to another Christmas Fayre Spectacular on the 19 November. Help both in the kitchen and in the fayre itself would be appreciated. If you can spare an hour on that day please speak with Avril Williams or one of the Leadership Team. Cakes for the Church stall will be very welcome.

Wanted Has anyone a small bike suitable for under 5's. for sale. If you can help please contact Janet or John 295592.

Commemoration Service. The Partnership Commemoration Service for the Faithful Departed takes place at St Mark's Church on Remembrance Sunday 13 November at 3.00pm. This annual service is open to everybody and we hope that you will feel able to come, especially if you have a special memory for somebody who has died.

Storybox Plus Thank you to everyone who donated games. We now have plenty.

Charity Concert - Cancer Research UK Kempston Musical Society presents An Evening of Light Music in aid of Cancer Research UK at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday, 12 November at 7.30pm. Tickets

are £6 (£5 for concessions) and include light refreshments. There will also be a raffle Please contact Alan Bayliss (01234 268101), Sue Butler (01234 354183) or Putnoe Heights Church Office for tickets.

We need your books - There will be a second hand book stall at the Christmas Fayre. If you would like to donate any books (good condition only please) bring them to St Mark's Church or ring the office to make arrangements for me to collect them. Delia Shephard.

Partnership Council. Members of the Partnership Council are invited to lunch at the Vicarage on Sunday 18 December. Please arrive from 1.30pm It would be helpful for catering to know if you are able to come.

Car Boot Success. The four car boots this year made a total of £4422.26 which is an amazing amount. It has become a very popular event within the local community. A big thank you for all who supported the events. We start again next year on Easter Monday!!

Congratulations to St Mark's Clubhouse who have been successful as runners up, out of 110 entrants, in the East of England European Funding 'The Celebrate Awards'. This is a fantastic result and a well deserved acknowledgement of all that the staff team have accomplished in a very short period of time.

Wren Community Challenge Award. Thanks to all of the team at St Mark's who gave up the day to present the bid for St Mark's in the Village Hall and Community Centre Challenge. The results of the competition will be announced in December—watch this space.

World AIDS Day 1 December service of prayer support and remembrance at St Paul's Bedford at 6.30pm (don't be put off by the Christmas Tree Festival which closes at 6.00pm) HIV/AIDS is on the increase in the UK. This annual reminder is not untimely

A service of celebration to mark 50 years of Local Preaching for John Stubbs at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 9 November at 7.30pm. The preacher will be Rev'd Garth Rogers. Everybody welcome.

Bark Sale. Bark is available for purchase at St Mark's. A donation of £1 will be welcomed for a bag. Just time to get things tidy in the garden before the cold weather.



A Royal Mail Christmas stamp. Uses a 17c Indian painting. Christianity has been in India since the first century. Some have found the stamp offensive, what do you think, comments published next week.

Alan Charge We were saddened to hear the news this week of the death of Alan Charge. He died peacefully at Crossways Nursing Home. Our prayers are with Maureen and the family. The funeral will be held at St Mark's Church on Monday 7 November at 2.00pm. Donations in memory of Alan may be made for 'St Mark's Church, Churchyards Account.' They may be given to the church or sent c/o Clarabut and Plumbe, 11 Kingsway, Bedford. MK42 9BJ 01234 354547.

Confirmation at St Marks and Putnoe We would like to offer confirmation classes to adults and younger members of our Churches starting in January, possibly during part of the Morning Services. This would be a combined Anglican and Methodist teaching programme and will conclude with an Ecumenical Service of Confirmation on 12 March at 11am at Putnoe Heights, by the Bishop of Bedford & a representative of the Methodist church. If you are interested please speak to one of the Ministers.

Telephone Radio Mast for Putnoe. The church council at Putnoe were invited to consider the installation of telephone equipment. Following consultation with the company appointed nationally by the Church of England to install telephone equipment in churches, a study has now determined that Putnoe Heights tower would not be suitable for this purpose. We have received a thank you for allowing the study to be undertaken without the hysteria generated in some churches.

Bed: Rock 2005 Presents live in Concert. Sunday 20 November 2005 at 7.30pm. Esquires Nightclub, Greyfriars, Bedford. Ages 13+ Tickets £10 in advance £12 on door. Hotline 08702 861537. Visit www.bedrock2005.org.uk

Footprints Annual Planning Meeting. Wednesday 15th November, 7.30 pm, at the home of Alison and Warwick Holden, 16 Swindale. Please park at St. Mark's. Ideas welcome for next year's walks and activities.

All Saints Basketball Club is through to the Finals of the National Lottery Inspiration Award. Many of you must have voted for us. Many thanks. If you want us to win the whole shebang, vote at www.nationallotteryawards.org.uk.

Come and Sing with John Bell, of the Iona Community. The songs of The Wild Goose publications are strong on Peace and Justice and Support for the world's poor. Thursday 17 November 2005. 4 - 6pm Music workshop for musicians and worship leaders (£5.00) 6- 7 Punjabi supper (£5.00), 7 - 9 Big sing for all (Free). Register with Rosemary Buckle 328745 or email rand@harland-buckle.co.uk

Visual Prayer. The Bishop of St Albans has produced a CD entitled 'Visual Prayer'. It contains ten commentaries and meditations on great paintings such as Rembrandt's Presentation in the Temple. The CD will be launched on December 1st at the Abbey. Call Andy Crooks on 01727 853305 free tickets. The cost of the CD will be £10. More information at www.visualprayer.org.uk

Two Lawnmowers are for sale at St Mark's. They are both small, electric and suitable for an elderly person to use on a small garden. A donation to the building fund secures.

Nova Property Services

17 Stratford Way, Lower Shelton
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Carpentry, decorating, new bathrooms & kitchens, UPVC Cladding and guttering, patios etc.

Now is an excellent time to consider a new extension or conservatory in time for building in Spring

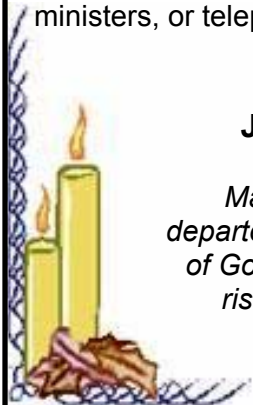
Call Dave Allen now for a free quotation

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.

Jeannie Abery

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



Spectrum Tutorials

Individual tuition in GCSE AS and A Level Maths and Physics. If you would like help please contact Dr Tim Wilkes 349834

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

The funeral of Christopher John Jackson will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 11 November at 1.45pm. Rev. Neil Bramble-Chapman.

The funeral of Alan William Charge will take place at St Mark's Church on Monday 7 September at 2.00pm Charles Royden

The funeral of Terry Patterson will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 15 November at 2.30pm Charles Royden