



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

7 December 2008
2 Sunday in Advent



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 – Family Worship
With Baptism of Holly Julie Burridge Rankin
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions-Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights—Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team – Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Services for Sunday 14th December Christingle Service

9.30am St. Mark's Church – Christingle
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions – Mrs Pat Leusby

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Christingle
Preacher – Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team – Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions – YPF

Bible Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, 1 Thess 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Patricia & Chris Izzard and family in loving memory of Hugh & Barbara Leckie who both especially loved this time of year.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights have been given by Sylvia Cohen in memory of her husband Ken.

Putnoe Christmas Provender

Cakes, jam, marmalade, chutney, mince pies and Putnoe's own Christmas puddings will be on sale after the morning service. Please help to make this a record fund-raiser for Mission Aviation Fellowship.

A Prayer for Sunday

Grant, O God, that as we rejoice in the hope of the coming of our Saviour, we may seek to prepare the way of His coming by advancing His Kingdom in the world and caring for the needs of our fellow men and women, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

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 Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

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 Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
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 - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

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 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

11am - 12. The Right Track at St Mark's. Signpost information for people with learning difficulties. Gina Barton

☎07999859980

12.00pm Story box 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

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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

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 every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month . Next meeting 15 December 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 Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

9.40 -12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Philips 01582 485333

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 9 December : Christmas Social Afternoon. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

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

7.30pmChartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 16 December Christmas Event Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

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

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎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

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 10 December 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

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 monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

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

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 17 December Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

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.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at 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

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.30—4.30pm Art Society at St Mark's

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs.E. Marriot 303834

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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

4pm B.A.M.A.A. at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – ,
2 February, 22 June,
9 November 2009

St Mark's Leadership Team –
24 February

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 8 December 70
Brecon Way

Putnoe Heights Management

Meeting- 19 January, 20 April, 13 July

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -
21 January 2009

Putnoe Church Council - Monday 26 January,
Monday 15 June, Monday 5 October

Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 20 January
4.30pm

Annual Congregational Meetings 26 April

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees

Mission Group Meeting - Weds 7th January 2009 at
7.30pm Sylvia 14 Flint Way 343424

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –1st December.



2nd Sunday in Advent

Opening Verses of Scripture Psalm 85 v 8 - 10

I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints— but let them not return to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Collect Prayer

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

First Bible Reading - Isaiah 40 v 1 - 11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

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

Second Reading- 2 Peter 3:8-15a

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark 1: 1- 8

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

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"-- "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Commentary

There are some who interpret John the Baptist's phrase 'for the forgiveness of sins...' as 'for the forgiveness of debts', perhaps picking up on echoes of the Lord's prayer where we ask that we would be forgiven our sins, trespasses and debts. Whilst the translation of John's words may not be literally correct, with the current economic situation there are many would like relief and forgiveness from their debts. In John's time too, peasants from the countryside from around the area where he was speaking were often in debt and this interpretation would certainly resonate with them as they struggled with their finances. These are tough times financially and we should not be offering misleading hope to all those who are struggling financially by implying that a faith in God will necessarily ease their financial burdens. However, what it may do is help people get things in perspective in God's cosmic economy and through the compassion and care we offer to them give them an understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.

A time of preparation

Advent seems to be a time of preparation, preparation for Christmas, preparation for Christ's coming and preparation for Christ's return. Mark's gospel starts off with the voice of John the Baptist crying out from the desert urging the nation to prepare for God's own coming in the form of the Messiah. After this brief introduction Mark then spends the rest of his gospel demonstrating that the Jesus who we look forward to, prepare for in the season of Advent, and whose birth we celebrate at Christmas is indeed that Messiah. In the Old Testament perhaps the most important story after that of the creation is the story of the exodus, the story of God rescuing Israel from Pharaoh, bringing them through the wilderness and on into the promised land. A story so important it is recited each year as part of the Passover celebrations. John now comes from that same wilderness and says that now the hearers are an active part of that story, that the Egypt they are to leave is their life of sin and they are to repent of it, be baptized, and head off in a new direction, one which will lead them to an eternal promised land. Just as the prophets of the Old Testament had called to the people of Israel to return from their backsliding and start to live again as the people of God, John calls them to do the same, only this time with an added sense of urgency. Mark links back to the theme of the Old Testament with quotes from Isaiah and Malachi but now, rather than the God's presence being with them in the pillar of cloud and fire, His presence would be with them in the form of the Holy Spirit and God's people would be truly free, once and for all. In Old Testament prophecy, the one who will pour out His Spirit in the last days is no other than God Himself. John's language would have been unambiguous. When he says there is one to come he is not referring to any human figure but the imminent and immediate coming of God on earth. It would be through the presence of the Messiah on earth, and through His Holy Spirit, God would come close to all people, and through His gentle presence help all people with all their 'roughness' and 'unstraightness' to come close to Him. Advent is therefore not just a time of preparation for Christmas, not just a time of preparation for Christ's coming and return, it's a time for us to reflect and, as John proclaimed to his hearers, a time to prepare ourselves for His coming in glory once again. A time to get our roughness's smoothed out and our somewhat crooked ways straightened. During Advent and preparing for Christ's birth, the more we allow the incarnate Jesus into our lives, the closer we come to Him, then the straighter and smoother our ways become. And as we prepare ourselves we begin to prepare the world for the Messiah who is to come. In the month of December, and often even earlier, we are aware of the world around us preparing for Christmas, the decorations go up, Christmas trees are decorated and the shops do their best to lure us in with Christmas present offers, even more so this year than ever before. In the same way, we as Christians, should be bold in preparing the world around us for the coming of Christ at Christmas, helping those around us understand its true meaning and the implications of a God who would become incarnate to save the world but who will one day return in glory as the righteous ruler and judge of that same world.

For many of John's hearers the image of baptism was a strong one. Baptism was the way non Jews would enter the Jewish faith as proselytes. But John is speaking to Jews so why the emphasis on baptism. Perhaps it was to be for them a sign of a new beginning, an acknowledgement that their birth alone was no guarantee that they were right with God. A sign that there was more to salvation than just being a Jew. They, like all of us, needed to enter into a new community of forgiven and restored people who receive the benefits of the inheritance of a loving and redeeming God.

After the considered discourses of Matthew, the debates between Jesus and the religious leaders about Jesus' authority and the Pharisees and Sadducees understanding of God and the focus on Jesus teaching including the Kingdom of God and its meaning, the short sharp tone of Mark comes to us as something of a shock and sense of urgency. No time here for birth narratives just straight into the story of the Messiah who was about to start His ministry. It's a timely reminder that there is a sense of urgency about our spiritual lives and about our preparation. We all know that in preparation for anything there are some things that get put off until the last moment, for some this happens more than others, and for a few things just never get done. The prompting from John is to take action now. The urgency of the gospel of Mark and the words of John with which it opens both underline the importance of acting sooner rather than later in matters of repentance and salvation.
Sam Cappleman.

Meditation Advent – He Comes!

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church waits for the coming (adventus) of Christ, both in his incarnation and as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies therefore look forward not only to Christ's birth, but also to his final Coming, and challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement: As Charles Wesley wrote:

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty.

The characteristic note of Advent is expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under relentless commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness. Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain from the late twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society; Christingle services may take place before or after Christmas. The third Sunday of Advent was observed in mediaeval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (Gaudete or "Rose Sunday"), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

From Common Worship – Introduction to the Season

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal Father, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at the feet of Jesus Christ your son. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise)

Jesus is Lord, 367; The Virgin Mary had a baby boy (On Partnership News), On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry, 538; The Kingdom of God, 651; Hail to the Lord's anointed, 204

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for accepting the Servant's mission; thank you, Spirit of God, for the strength to carry it through; thank you, Father, for not withholding your only Son from the ultimate sacrifice. Help us to appreciate what our salvation has cost. Amen *Dick France*

Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after thee, and in an affectionate working with thee, every day of our lives; that when thou comest, we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious King, for ever and ever. Amen *Richard Baxter 1615 - 1691*

Lord God, whose Word and will are made known in Jesus Christ, inspire in us faith in that Word and obedience to that will, for our salvation and for your glory. Amen

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Christmas Posting Box is in the Welcome Area ready for you to post your cards to friends who attend Putnoe Heights church. The price is 10p per card or £1 for 12. Please put the money in the wooden 'flower' box. The money will be donated, as always, to NCH. Thank you Joy & Peter Parker

Putnoe Carol Singing Everyone welcome for warming refreshments at Putnoe at 11.15 on Saturday 20 December - and then to sing carols at Library Walk from 12.00 'til 12.30.

Christmas Coffee morning from 10am - 12 noon on Saturday 13 December at the home of Eddy & Margaret Peck, 30 The Ridgeway. Cakes, raffle. Proceeds to Mission Aviation Fellowship. All welcome. Requests for/offers of transport please contact Sylvia Cohen 343424.. New Faith in Action newsletter with the latest on mission projects in Malawi available in welcome area.

Chat and Play at St Mark's restarts on 8th January 2009 after church alterations. **Storybox at St Mark's** is closed on the 11th & 18th December.

Christmas Voices. Come and enjoy once more a selection of seasonal poetry and prose and a little music around the Christmas tree as some of our regular Putnoe readers help us capture the Christmas spirit. Mulled wine and mince pies during the interval. Friday 12 December at Putnoe Heights 7.30pm. Tickets £3 from Putnoe office or at the door. Proceeds to Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Need a gardener—contact Shalaine at Aleah gardening. Reasonable rates Tel: 07954 386328.

Office closure St Mark's Church office will close for Christmas from Tuesday evening 22 December and will re-open Monday morning 5 January 09

Kempston Musical Society At Kempston East Methodist Church on Saturday 13 December at 7.30pm present a concert of Christmas music with items from Kempston Junior Concert Band, and including carols for audience. Tickets £5 from members of the choir or at the door. More information 01234 854858

Cancer Research UK Monday 15 December Kempston Musical Society are giving a concert of 'Carols for All,' at Priory, starting at 7.30pm" Muse and Music' will be our guest artists. They have performed extensively both at home and abroad, and will bring a selection of Christmas music and readings. There will be a raffle. All proceeds are for charity. Please come and support this very worthwhile cause. Contact Sue & Richard Butler 01234 354183 or Howard Lawrence 01234 267837 for tickets at £5 each.

St Mark's Christmas Cards. These are now available for purchase and the cards can be ordered from St Mark's office. The cards cost 20p each and proceeds will be given to MAF. Orders taken right up to Christmas!

Christmas Cards in aid of Putnoe Heights Church will be available from the Church Office from 9 -14 December.

St Mark's Christmas Card Screen. This will be in place at the back of the church from Sunday 7 December for all to give their greetings to friends at St Marks. Please hand the card in at the office ,or to one of the Leadership team, with any donation you may wish to give to our MAFF Mission project and they will affix with Velcro strips.

Christingle Preparation will take place jointly on Saturday 13 December at Putnoe Heights Church at 10.30am. Anyone who could go along to help with this would be most welcome. Liz Spavins is co-ordinating. Tel:-302349.

Brickhill Parish Council Public consultation evening 8 December 7.30pm at St Mark's, to consider 20mph limits near local schools and/or shops.

Open morning for anybody considering standing for the Parish Council in June 2009. Saturday 17 January 10am to 12 noon

St Mark's Organ Fund. Our fundraising for the new organ at St Mark's now stands at £2,850. We are always grateful to receive donations for this fund as we want to try and have a special effort to install the new organ next year.

St Mark's Christmas Newspaper Thank you to everybody who has helped on the delivery. There are just a few roads left and we will have delivered the whole of Brickhill. Please help us finish off by taking a road.

Putnoe Christmas Card delivery. Cards are available this morning for delivery around Putnoe. Please take a road and help us cover our area with these cards which give details of all our Christmas Services.

Christmas Home Communion. We are pleased to take communion to anybody who is genuinely housebound and cannot come to church. Please advise the ministers if you would like a visit.

Please remember to buy all your Christmas presents through Amazon, by clicking on the link at thischurch.com



Second Candle - The Candle of Peace

The prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace.

Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, this First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Saviour, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

(A person lights the First Candle, the Candle of Hope)

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

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again.

We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

(A person lights Second Candle, the Candle of Peace)

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

A Hymn for Sunday

The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
And they say that his name was Jesus.

*He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom:
O yes, believer! O yes, believer!
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom!*

2 The angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
And proclaim him the Saviour Jesus.

3 The wise men went where the baby born,
the wise men went where the baby born,
the wise men went where the baby born,
And they say that his name was Jesus.

Anonymous Trinidadian

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.

**Stephen Ryan
Dave Ledsom
Lynda Ann Woodward
Eileen Frances Andrews**

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

We publish the banns and pray for the marriages of

Stephen Simmonds and Julie Capeling both of this parish (2nd time of asking)

Massimo Ciampi and Diana Maria Mignacca both of this parish and on electoral roll of All Saints Tudeley 1st

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Sven Axel Poulson will take place at St Albans Woodland Burial ground on Monday 8 December at 11-30

The funeral of Eric John McKercher will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Monday 8 December