



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

11 January 2009

Epiphany 1



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-Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry
Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden

**11.00am Putnoe Heights -Morning Worship
with Baptism of Charlie Christopher Neil
Phillips**

Preacher - Mr Paul Fricker
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Sunday 18 January

9.30am St Mark's- Holy Communion
Preacher - Mrs Sue Plant
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights -Holy Communion
Preacher - Mrs Sue Plant
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - Ministers

Readings

1 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 2.Rev 5: 1-10
3. John 1: 43-51

Thank You

The flowers at St Marks have been given by May Dingwall in loving memory of her friend Jean Wallis, on her birthday.

We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Jennie Cooper 404950(Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

A Prayer for Sunday

God of love whose compassion never fails;
we bring before you the griefs
and perils of all of the people and nations,
the pains of the sick and injured,
the sighings of prisoners and captives,
the sorrows of the bereaved,
the necessities of the homeless,
the helplessness of the weak,
the despair of the weary,
the failing powers of the aged.
Comfort and relieve them, O merciful Father,
according to their needs and your great mercy;
for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
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 19 January 2009 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 13 January 2009 Members 'Bring a Book', 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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 13 January 2009 Energy Efficiency—Clare Harris. 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 21 January 2009 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 21 January 2009 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 –

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 –

Epiphany 1

The Baptism of Jesus



Opening Verse -Joshua 24:14

Fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness

Collect Prayer -Before we read we pray

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Bible Reading – Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.

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

Second Reading - Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

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

Third Reading - Mark 1:4-11

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." At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

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

Hymns (On Partnership News— please distribute Morning Worship also Baptism sheets at Putnoe)

1. Hills of the north, rejoice;
2. Father I place into your hands,
3. Let all mortal flesh keep silence
4. The race that long in darkness pined
5. Name of all majesty, fathomless mystery,

Commentary

Our New Testament reading today is from the beginning of Mark's Gospel. Mark was not a disciple of Jesus, he is writing perhaps 30 or so years after Jesus died and he is relying on people like the disciples, perhaps Peter for his information. This might have been the first of the Gospels to be written and much of the Gospel is found in Matthew and Luke as well, leading most scholars to think that Mark was copied by them. (Over 600 of Mark's 661 verses are found just in Matthew)

Mark is not wanting to record what he saw of the life of Jesus, he wasn't there. No doubt he knew people who were, but his own conviction about Jesus came to him post crucifixion. In other words, Mark had heard all the accounts about Jesus and what he had done, but after his death he felt so powerfully about Jesus that he wrote this book to convince others of the truth about Jesus which he had found. Mark wants to tell us who Jesus was and what he was all about. He is not concerned with the baby stories which we have been reading in Matthew and Luke over Christmas, he dives straight in to the time when Jesus as a fully grown man embarks upon his ministry.

The Gospel of Mark has 16 chapters, with a clear beginning and end, with beautifully crafted chapters in the middle. This middle bit is divided carefully into a first part with stories about the life and teaching of Jesus (Chapter 1-8) and a second part with stories about his passion and death (chapter 9-16). These are carefully separated by the episode on the mountain which we call the Transfiguration, where Jesus is seen speaking with Moses and Elijah and confirmed as the Christ. Just as that episode showed the approval of the Old Testament Law and Prophets upon Jesus, so in the opening of the Gospel, Mark wishes to demonstrate the authenticity of Jesus as validated by the Old Testament. It is unfortunate that the reading today misses out the first verses of the chapter which begins 'The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' 1:1.

That is an emphatic statement about who Mark wants you to believe Jesus really is. It is also reminiscent of the opening verses of the Old Testament. Imagine the author putting his writing on the same footing as Genesis!

Both passages are about creation: Genesis deal with the creation of the universe and Mark with the new creation in which we participate as believers in Jesus' gospel. Mark wanted to show that with Jesus came a new beginning, he was the one that the Jews had been promised throughout their history recorded in the Old Testament. This is shown again in verse 2 when Mark quotes the words of the prophet Isaiah. 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.'" John the Baptist is the link between the old and the new. He fulfills Isaiah's prophecy and he is himself a prophetic figure. In dress and message he is especially reminiscent of the prophet Elijah.

Jesus is shown to be the one who brings God's kingdom to earth. He is given the Holy Spirit and he goes out and enters into battle with the forces of evil. Jesus is shown to heal the sick, fighting all that is wrong in the world, and he comes up against the religious and political agents of Satan as he does. Yet Jesus is shown ultimately to conquer evil and triumph even over the grave. The promise which is then made to the readers is that they can participate in this kingdom, and receive the same Holy Spirit which empowered Jesus. Mark does not just want his readers to believe in the accuracy of what he is telling them, rather he wants to introduce them to the person of Jesus so that they can enter the Kingdom themselves.

Obviously baptism is an important feature of this episode from Mark. Ceremonial washings were common at the time of Jesus. The Jews would be familiar with them, but the only immersion that was practiced at the time was for non-Jews who were converting to Judaism. To tell a Jew that they had to be baptised in the same way that non-Jews had to be baptised would have been extraordinarily offensive. It was in fact a challenge to the whole understanding of salvation. At the time it was believed that if you were born into a certain race and family (Jew) then that inheritance would make you accepted by God. Instead John the Baptist created a level playing field, nobody was better off because of where they were born, everybody is equal before God and needs to repent.

There is much which we could say about the baptism of Jesus. Jesus is seen at this time publicly demonstrating the type of ministry which he has chosen. When we baptise a baby, it is more than putting off of the old self, it is a putting on of the new, this is made more explicit when we baptise a baby which it is hard to recognise as steeped in sin. So too the baptism of Jesus is not a washing away of the past, but rather a putting on of the new, preparing himself for the great task, setting out his style of ministry.

The baptism of Jesus shows God entering flesh and become one of us. At his baptism Jesus goes down into the waters with us. Privilege and power usually remove powerful political and religious leaders from the people they are called to serve. The ordinary person can feel leaders live in a very different world. But Jesus enters the waters this day, comes up close to us, lets the waters that covered the repentant sinners flow over him. He takes what is weak and wavering, makes us his disciples and strengthens us who would follow him. The baptism of Jesus is also a symbol of his death, here is the one who came "not to be served but to serve and to give his life as ransom for many." Baptism is a defining moment and Jesus is recognised by God as having chosen the right course for his life. The words Jesus hears are "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Obviously these words will bring God's life and energy to his ministry. Mark also uses them in a very creative way. Right at the end of the Gospel just as Jesus has breathed his last on the cross, Mark records 'and when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" ' 15:39

It is as if God confirms Jesus and empowers him with his Spirit at baptism, then when he dies the Roman soldier expresses these same words of confirmation.

It is worth thinking about John the Baptist. John meets people, not in the courts of the religious elite, but out in the desert. There are many important features of John worth remembering

1. John baptises in the Jordan, a symbolic river which Joshua led the Israelites into the promised land. (Joshua 3&4)
2. John like Elijah did not rely upon society for his sustenance, he also dressed in a way that we know Elijah dressed . (1 Kings 17:4,9) It was believed that Elijah was expected to return before the end times. (Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6).

These details were a part of showing that the prophet John is proclaiming the arrival of the new King.

The tearing apart of the heavens is also an important detail, it is meant to show how God has broken through in a new and dramatic way. There must surely be a connection in the mind of the author of the Gospel of Mark between the tearing of the heavens at the baptism of Jesus (Mk 1:10) and the tearing of the temple veil at the death of Jesus (Mk 15:38). In the dramatic moment when the sky was torn apart, Mark makes the point that the old world order is being ripped up by God and a new age has come. CR

Meditation 'There's probably no God'

An advertising campaign now on buses declares 'THERE'S PROBABLY NO GOD. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.' The creator of the advert, Ariane Sherine, says it is a counter campaign to one run on buses in June 2008 which had Bible quotes on them such as 'Jesus died for your sins' and a URL for a web site which included statements saying that 'All non Christians would burn in hell for eternity in a lake of fire'. So she decided to design an advert with a positive message which said the opposite. She has raised £126,000 towards her campaign. It poses a serious question to Christians about the image of our faith which we wish to present to the world. We are familiar with wayside pulpits; posters with bible quotations such as 'The wages of sin is death', and we have to ask ourselves whether people put out this kind of message to feel smug, rather than to attract an outsider to a living faith in Jesus Christ? The Methodist Church has reacted positively to the campaign as an opportunity for debate. (See <http://methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=openogod.webradio>)

Prayers for the week

Creator God, we praise and worship you for your infinite power and love. We thank you that you have washed us clean and that you continue to inspire and refresh us. Please bring to our minds now those things that go against your Word and your desires for us. We sincerely pray that you forgive us, free us from these things, give us strength and wisdom, and lead us to be more like Christ. Amen.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ, faithful in their calling to be your children and inheritors with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

God of love whose compassion never fails; we bring before you the griefs and perils of all of the people and nations, the pains of the sick and injured, the sighings of prisoners and captives, the sorrows of the bereaved, the necessities of the homeless, the helplessness of the weak, the despair of the weary, the failing powers of the aged. Comfort and relieve them, O merciful Father, according to their needs and your great mercy; for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

2008 sees the "Year of the Child" marking the 30th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Child in which we celebrate children and young people. We will be joining with many other churches through out Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire on Saturday 8th May at St Albans Cathedral for a day of worship, stories, music and crafts as we invite our children to "travel around the world" There are many more exciting things booked such as a planetarium and is going to prove a great day for the young and not so young . I have been representing Putnoe and St Marks with this project and together with St Mary's we are going to cover the Europe crafts so now I am looking for anyone who can support us on the day as we are expecting up to 500 children. Thank you.. Liz

Once again, thank you all at Putnoe Heights for using the Post Box to distribute your Christmas Cards this year. The money from this, plus donations, produced £51.25 which has been sent to "Action for Children" (formerly NCH) Joy and Peter Parker.

Diary Date. We are planning an after Christmas Table Top Sale at Putnoe on Saturday 28th February. Tables can be pre booked if you would like to sell your own items or there will be a church table. Please come along and support us and enjoy some lunch refreshment. Help on the day would be appreciated. Further details to follow please see Liz or Linda, thank you.

Putnoe Winter Grapevine. Following the success of the summer edition I am looking for articles for the next issue please let Liz have your news by Sunday 25th Jan.

Thanks from Cancer Research UK Those who attended the KMS Carol Concert at Priory in aid of Cancer Research UK will no doubt be pleased to know that the sum of £754.00 was raised for the charity. The Bedford Support Group would like to thank everyone who supported this concert and helped to raise such a wonderful sum at what was a busy and expensive time of year. Sue & Richard Butler

Hymn for Sunday

- Hills of the north, rejoice;**
 river and mountain-spring,
 hark to the advent voice;
 valley and lowland, sing:
 though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
 he judgement brings and victory.
- 2 Isles of the southern seas,
 deep in your coral caves
 pent be each warring breeze,
 lulled be your restless waves:
 he comes to reign with boundless sway,
 and make your wastes his great highway.
- 3 Lands of the east, awake,
 soon shall your sons be free;
 the sleep of ages break,
 and rise to liberty.
 On your far hills, long cold and grey,
 has dawned the everlasting day.
- 4 Shores of the utmost west,
 ye that have waited long,
 unvisited, unblest,
 break forth to swelling song;
 high raise the note, that Jesus died,
 yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.
- 5 Shout, while ye journey home;
 songs be in every mouth;
 lo, from the north we come,
 from east and west and south.
 city of God, the bond are free
 we come to live and reign in thee!

Father I place into your hands,
 the things that I can't do.
 Father I place into your hands,
 the times that I've been through.
 Father I place into your hands,
 the way that I should go,
 For I know I always can trust you.

Father I place into your hands,
 my friends and family.
 Father I place into your hands,
 the things that trouble me.
 Father I place into your hands,
 the person I would be,
 For I know I always can trust you.

Father we love to seek your face,
 we love to hear your voice.
 Father we love to sing your praise,
 and in your name rejoice.
 Father we love to walk with you,
 and in your presence rest.
 For we know ..
 we always can trust you.

Father I want to be with you,
 and do the things you do.
 Father I want to speak the words,
 that you are speaking too.
 Father I want to love the ones,
 that you will draw to you,
 For I know that I am one with you.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture -
in the body and the blood -
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraphs,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia! Lord most high.

The race that long in darkness pined
Has seen a glorious light:
The people dwell in day, who dwelt
In death's surrounding night.

To hail thy rise, thou better Sun,
The gathering nations come,
Joyous as when the reapers bear
The harvest treasures home.

To us a child of hope is born,
To us a Son is given;
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,
Him all the hosts of heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
For evermore adored,
The Wonderful, the Counsellor,
The great and mighty Lord.

His power increasing still shall spread,
His reign no end shall know;
Justice shall guard his throne above,
And peace abound below.

Name of all majesty, fathomless mystery,
King of the ages by angels adored;
power and authority, splendour and dignity,
bow to his mastery, Jesus is Lord!

Child of our destiny, God from eternity,
love of the Father on sinners outpoured;
see now what God has done
sending his only Son,
Christ the beloved One, Jesus is Lord!

Saviour of Calvary, costliest victory,
darkness defeated and Eden restored;
born as a man to die, nailed to a cross on high,
cold in the grave to lie, Jesus is Lord!

Source of all sovereignty, light, immortality,
life everlasting and heaven assured;
so with the ransomed, we praise him eternally,
Christ in his majesty, Jesus is Lord!

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.

Donald Charles Rich
Betty Wren
Phyllis Eveline Jones

'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 Audrey Henderson will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Friday 16 December 2008

The funeral of David Rowan will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 19 January at 10.45am