



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

18 December 2005

Fourth Sunday of 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 - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Reverend Neil Bramble Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am -Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher- The Reverend Neil Bramble Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Mr Eddie Peck

25 December—Christmas Day

8.30 Service of Holy Communion Both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions - Ministers

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions - Ministers

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service at St Mark's

4.00pm Crib Service at Putnoe Heights

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion both Churches

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church during the Christmas period have been given by Carolyn and Tim Morris to celebrate an anniversary,

Also by Pat Pollard in memory of her mother, Eva Hopkins.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

Prayer for Sunday

Loving God, hear the voices of those who suffer.
Heal broken bodies and hold broken hearts.

Let those who walk in darkness
see your light to live by.

May your church be a place of safety
for those who live in fear

and of challenge to those who hide wrong deeds
behind closed doors.

In the name of 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 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 - 5pm)

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

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, donations. 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 19 December St. Marks 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 3 January -Revd Sam Cappleman

Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 3 January with Ladies Fellowship 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 13 December Christmas 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 11 January 2006 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 Marks 267444

1.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's from 5.1.06 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, donations. 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 4-11year 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 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 2 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 3 Thursday each month. 1 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, 24 April, 6 June,

12 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 16 Jan 2006

Putnoe Church Council 6 February 2006

Pastoral Group Meeting – 6 February 2006 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee - 19 December 2pm

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

18 January 2006 7.30p.m. at 14 Flint Way..

Partnership Council - 24 January 2006

Brickhill Parish Council - 24 November 2005

Joint Deanery Circuit 18 January 2006

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Mission Group Meeting - 18 January 2006, 7pm at 14 Flint Way.

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

Verse of Scripture Isaiah 9: 6

Unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray.

God our Redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading – 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you." That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me ; your throne will be established forever.' " (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 16: 25-27

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is



in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.
(This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion Booklets

Come thou long expected Jesus 81, Long ago prophets knew 83, The angel Gabriel from heaven came 87, The holly and the ivy 88

Commentary The Annunciation

Neil Bramble-Chapman

Momentous. To say that the Annunciation of the birth of the Saviour to Mary is momentous is perhaps an understatement. But what other word could you use to describe this event? You could say that it is important, significant, historic, crucial, vital, meaningful or earth-shattering. All these words seem to lack some of the meaning of momentous. Momentous says it best. The Annunciation is momentous because of the effect that it has on the future. We can see that the Annunciation is the event which provides the initial momentum which is built upon by subsequent events. It sets in motion a course of events which lead to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the possibility of Salvation for all Humanity. How momentous is that!

The Annunciation and the birth of Christ are all the more momentous because they rest on the faithfulness and devotion of a young peasant girl. It really is extraordinarily amazing, that this young girl, Mary, should respond in such a remarkable way to the appearance of an Angel, who claims to be God's messenger, bringing her news that she will give birth to a child who is the son of God, the Son of the Most High and the inheritor of the throne of David, whose kingdom will last for all eternity. Incredible. Yet Mary responds in a fashion which probably puts most of us to shame. "May it be to me as you have said." A simple response of faith.

This Christmas, may our response to God's calling be a response of faith and obedience. May we worship the newborn Saviour with open hands and open hearts, ready to embrace Him as our Lord and Saviour, ready to accept God's calling to new possibilities of living in faith and obedience.

Meditation

This Sunday we are reminded that a young teenager called Mary became the mother of Jesus. She was probably quite poor and she was unmarried and therefore extremely vulnerable. However when she realises that she is to be the mother of God she explodes into praise and not despair. She had a trusting faith in God that all would be well.

What an example to us all as we face uncertain futures, or problems that seem bigger than our ability to cope. Mary is able to hear God's call to her above the noise which so easily could have drowned it out. We all have to try and ensure that we give space for God's voice to be heard in our own lives. The unceasing rush to work, the care for the young and the elderly, the worry over our sick families and friends, all of these can push God out of our hearts and minds.

This Christmas may the peace of the Christ child still our restless spirit and allow the voice of God to be heard speaking to each one of us.

Mary hears God tell that she has found favour, God's words are 'good news'. That message is for us this Christmas time, God speaks to us that we need not fear, God loves us and is with us seeking to be our friend.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Be a light, O Lord, to my eyes, music to my ears and contentment to my heart. Be sunlight in my day, food at my table and rest to me in the night. Take into your hands my body and my soul, my freedom and my life. Let me rejoice to be about your business and let me live to your praise and glory, now and for ever. Amen.
John Cosin, 1594-1672

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Common Worship*



Christmas Services



St Mark's

Saturday December 17 at 6.30pm
Traditional Carols By Candlelight

Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December

Children's Crib Service 3.00pm
Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day
9.30am Family Worship

Putnoe Heights

Sunday December 18 at 6.30pm
Traditional Carols By Candlelight

Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December

Children's Crib Service 4.00pm
Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day
11.00am Family Worship

Fourth Candle - The Candle of Joy (Pink candle) **Mary the Mother of Jesus**

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Joy. Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.
(A person now lights the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Love)

Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy. We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.
(A person now lights the Fourth Candle the Candle of Joy)

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

Leader: Let us pray:
All: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ 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 joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

News, Views and Information



Amazing Savings With Amazon.

If you are buying presents this year, then why not purchase them through Amazon. Every time you log on to Amazon, please do so by clicking the link on the church website. This will mean that 5% of your spending will be credited to us.

Please Remember You must go to Amazon through the link on the church website first.

Christmas Post Box—We will be placing the Box in the Welcome Area at Putnoe on December 11th so that you may post your cards to friends within Putnoe Heights Church. The donation for this is 10p a card or 12 for a £!. The money raised will be given to 'National Children's Home this year. Please put the money in the wooden 'flower' box. Thank You. Joy and Peter Parker

Odd Job Dave. Decorating, Carpentry and all your odd jobs! No job too small, call for a free quote. Cheap rates for OAP's 01234 401184 / 07788 862609

2005 Partnership Advent Course
19 December The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman
'The Second Advent of Jesus'

Footprints New Year Walk Monday 2 January 2006. Meet at Sharnbrook Methodist Church at 10.30 for coffee followed by 3 mile circular walk (may be muddy). Please park carefully in the village. Optional lunch afterwards at the Bedford Arms Souldrop. All welcome.

Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch 1pm Sunday 15 January Tickets now available £8 (£4.50 children under 10). 3 courses, wine, coffee & seasonal festive atmosphere. Proceeds to Mildmay Charity and Putnoe Church Funds.

Putnoe Provender last Sunday raised £215 which was a record total & will be shared between St.Mark's Autism Bedfordshire Appeal & Putnoe Heights Church Funds. Thank you to everyone who supported the sale. Sally & John Gunning.

St Mark's Church Office will be closed from Saturday 24 December and re-open Wednesday 4 January 2006.

Congratulations and best wishes to Frank and Delph Coleman who will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding at Christmastime. The Putnoe Leadership Team send their thanks to Frank and Delph for all the years of loyal service to Putnoe Heights in so many ways.

This week St Mark's Preschool received notification from Beds Foundation Stage Team that as a result of both Ofsted Early Years Education and Child Care Inspections their setting has been placed at *Green 1*. This equates to outstanding and indicates a minimum level of support needed. No better result could have been awarded. Congratulations to all the Preschool Staff.

Autism Bedfordshire say 'Thank you' to all the wonderful volunteers from St Mark's and Putnoe Heights who so kindly gave their time to help us move last Monday. The office was up and running by Tuesday morning with telephones, photocopier, and computer network all fully operational. We could never have achieved this without so many people who helped. We are so grateful to St Mark's and all of the groups who have accepted inconvenience and the changes which have enabled us to be accommodated in the main building of the church community centre. The new office which has been created is outstanding and it is an enormous benefit to us, enabling us to work in so much more comfort than before. The encouragement and support which we have enjoyed from both churches from the moment we came to St Mark's, has been critical to the success of Autism Bedfordshire. Thank you to everybody and a very happy Christmas to you all.
Paul Parr, Autism Bedfordshire

Visual Prayer is a series of reflections & meditations on CD suitable for use on home computers by Christopher Herbert, the Bishop of St. Albans. Collection 1 is now available at a cost of £10 inc. P & P. from St Mark's Church. Cheques payable to St. Mark's Church.

Putnoe Cards During the past few months our hand-made card sales have gone very well. We sent £100 to St.John's Mogerhanger in October and we have just sent a further £100 to Keech Cottage Hospice in Luton. Our next project - the Mildmay appeal. Thank you for your continuing support. Margaret and Claire Peck.

Flowers at Putnoe Anyone who wishes to donate flowers at PutnoeHeights Church during the next few months, is invited to enter their name on the rota displayed on the noticeboard in the foyer.



Mildmay 'Continuing the mission of Jesus'

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

Mark 1 v 14 – 42.

Thank you for your gifts for the Mildmay appeal. We have already now collected over £1,000. Please continue to give generously to this appeal. Mildmay is a Christian charity which works with victims of Aids in London and sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe. We will conclude the appeal in February. On 15 January our speaker at both churches will be Dr Veronica Moss who is Mildmay's Chief Executive and Chief Medical Officer which is great news. Please support this important fundraising effort and help us make a difference for the men, women, children and babies who are afflicted by this terrible disease in our own country and across the world. **Sam**

What you gifts can do

£10 buys minibus fuel, to bring in sick children to our centre in Uganda

£28 pays for intensive counselling to help UK patients overcome the trauma of AIDS illnesses

£49 pays for the crucial services provided by our pastoral care team in Uganda

£75 pays for vital physiotherapy to get Ugandan patients back on their feet again after illness

£100 provides expert medical care at our UK hospital to keep patients free of pain and monitored for side-effects from strong anti-HIV drugs

£250 provide a special air-cushioned mattress to make a chronically ill patient more comfortable

£500 pays for a whole day's nursing care for 'family admissions' at our UK hospital

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.

Edwin Harold Barnett

Sidney Snelling

Alex Michael Lowden-Smith

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

At Mildmay we seek to optimise our patients' physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual health through the input of a team of carers drawn from a range of disciplines.

Our specialist team

Consultant physician (specialist in internal, respiratory and HIV medicine, with experience in neurology)

Ward doctors providing 24 hour cover

Consultant psychiatrist providing regular input close links with consultant paediatricians from Great Ormond Street Hospital nurses (trained in general health and mental health) giving round-the-clock care Advanced nurse practitioner in rehabilitation and HRBI,

Also: nursery officers, counsellors and social care staff, drug and alcohol worker, art therapist Chaplains, dietitian, occupational therapists Physiotherapist, massage therapist, aromatherapist, speech and language therapist clinical psychologist (supports the team and inputs to care plans).

This interdisciplinary team is supported by trained volunteers and supplemented by other services as appropriate (such as dentistry and chiropody). care in partnership Members of our interdisciplinary team work in close partnership with the patient, community services and others involved in the patient's care. As a result we can ensure that each patient is linked in to the appropriate external care and support services. Wherever possible, the aim is for a return to safe, independent living.



**Support from
Cliff Richard,
a Mildmay patron**

'Mildmay simply strikes the right note with me – Christian with a capital C! Just as Jesus reached out to the man with leprosy and healed him, Mildmay stands in the midst of men, women and children with HIV and AIDS and offers them a lifeline'

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

The funeral of Mr Ronald Harris

Will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 21 December at 1.45pm (Royden)