



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

18 January 2009

Epiphany 2



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-Holy Communion
Preacher - Mrs Sue Plant
Leadership Team - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions- Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights -Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Sue Plant
Leadership Team - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - - Ministers

Sunday 25 January

9.30am St Mark's- Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Sam Cappleman
Leadership- Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions -Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights -Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions-Mrs Sue Allen

Readings

1 Genesis 14: 17-20 2.Rev 19: 6-10
3. John 2: 1-11

Thank You

The flowers at St Marks have been given by Barbara Joy in memory of her husband Alan.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Des and Linda Hoar to mark the 90th birthday of Des's mother.

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

Almighty God,
by whose grace alone
we are accepted and called to your service,
strengthen us by your Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Methodist Worship

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 Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Playreading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 11am - 12. The Right Track** at St Mark's. 3rd week
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
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 19 January 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
- 10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's.
Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461
- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878
- 2pm U3A Photography Group.** St Mark's 1st Week.
Janet King ☎313946
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 20 January 2009 Members 'Bring a Book', Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's 1st & 3rd Week in month.. Wool and knitting needles provided.
Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th Week in month. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.
- 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. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club -** Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 27 January 2009 LA Fitness (How to keep fit) Sally Dayus Details from Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 9.15am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Hanrahan ☎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 in month. Next meeting 11th February 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 Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights
Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

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 Week. 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 in month. Next Meeting 21 January 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

9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

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 St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. r Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's ☎267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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 in 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 week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550

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

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

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies GroupSt Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

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.

9.30am U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Val Scrivener ☎346397

10am U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

9.30am U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Val Scrivener ☎346397

12.15pm U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

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 Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

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

7.45pm Bedford Astrology Group St Mark's. Carol Brown ☎233385

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

; 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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎302349 .

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – , 2 Feb, 22 June, 9 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team – 24 Feb

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 19 Jan, 20 Apr, 13 Jul

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 21 Jan

Putnoe Church Council - 26 Jan, 15 Jun, 5 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting - 20 Jan 4.30pm

Annual Congregational Meetings 26 Apl

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 2 Apr, 7 May,

2 Jul, 3 Sep, 1 Oct, 5 Nov

Deanery Meeting 5 Feb, 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees

Mission Group Meeting - 7 Jan

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Epiphany 2

Opening Verse -Matthew 25: 36 & 40

For I was sick and looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.

Collect Prayer -Before we read we pray

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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. Amen. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading – 1 Samuel 3: 1-10

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD : The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

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

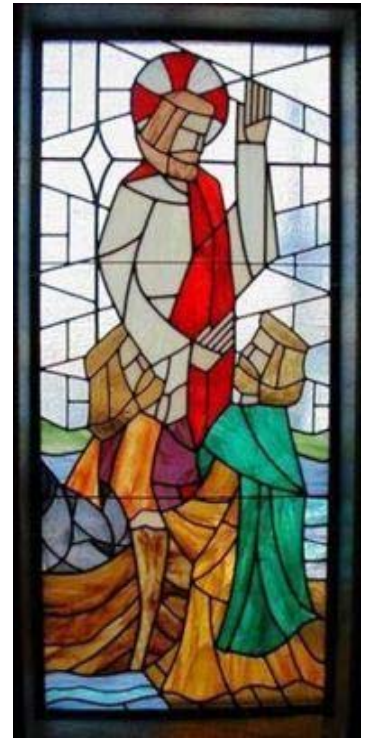
Second Reading - Revelation 5: 1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" But no-one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no-one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the centre of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth"

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

Third Reading - John 1: 43 –51 Please Stand. All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him,



"We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion*)

1. Lord thy church 774
2. He is Lord 256
3. Will you come and follow me (On Partnership News)
4. Make me a channel of your peace 776
5. I the Lord of sea and sky (On Partnership News)

Commentary

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but he grew up in Nazareth. Some years later Christians were dismissed as the 'Nazarene sect' Acts 24:5. Nazareth was not a place which was highly thought of and it was probably held in even less esteem by people from Cana a neighbouring village. In the Gospel reading today we read about Philip who was one of the Apostles. He believes that Jesus is the one whom all the scriptures point to. He brings a man named Nathanael, who came from Cana, to meet with Jesus. At first Nathanael rejects the idea that the messiah could come from Nazareth. However after meeting Jesus and hearing what he has to say Nathanael responds with a confession of faith. We are not sure what the substance of the conversation was but we can see that Jesus is able to tell Nathanael things about himself in such a way that Nathanael is convinced that Jesus is the Messiah.

Jesus tells Nathanael that what he has seen of Jesus so far is only the beginning and Jesus uses the imagery of Genesis 28:12, the vision of Jacob's ladder. It is important to remember the story of Jacob and what happened in order to appreciate why Jesus refers to this incident, otherwise it just doesn't make sense. Jacob was the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham and he was very important. So important that his name was later changed to Israel. His children were the ancestors of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. You will remember Jacob as the younger twin of Esau. He tricked Esau out of his birthright and the blessing from his father which he should have received as the firstborn. It is appropriate that later in his life Jacob himself is tricked by his own sons who are jealous of their favoured brother Joseph. We all know from whom they inherited that kind of deceit! Jacob had to flee from his brother, the hunter Esau, when his twin tried to kill him (Genesis 25-28). Destitute he goes to his uncle Laban, but on the way he has a dream at Bethel. He saw a ladder or staircase which stretched up to the sky, with angels going up and down on it. In the dream he receives a blessing from God and a promise that he will return to the land and God would be with him. Of course all of this eventually took place. After working for his Uncle Laban, he married his daughters Leah and Rachel and after swindling him out large flocks and herds he returned home and was reunited with his brother Esau.

It is important to remember this story because Jesus clearly knew all about it and it's importance. When he tells Nathanael that he will see '*heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.*' Jesus is placing himself in the same position as Jacob. Every Jew knew that Jacob was the father of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, now Jesus is assuming such importance onto himself. Jesus is the new Israel! God will no longer reveal himself at Bethel, God is present in the person of Jesus and it is Jesus who will link heaven and earth, not Jacob's ladder. This is all a part of the process by which Jesus takes the message of the Jewish scriptures, applies them himself and brings about such a change in Judaism that it must become like a new religion. The old covenant has in Jesus been brought to an end and a new covenant has been offered to all people, not just the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. With the birth of Jesus, the children of God will no longer be descendants of Abraham, they will be from all nations. So the witness of Philip must be one which we share in making Jesus known to others. *Charles Royden*

Meditation The language of Christ

I have discovered Art! With a capital A. Having reached my late 50's, I have at last got to the point in my life where I enjoy rummaging through the second-hand bookshops, in the Art sections, and have found some beautifully illustrated books, often for around £5, with good explanations and close-up details of famous artists' works. And the genre I am appreciating more than any other is that of religious scenes: artists' interpretations of bible stories. They are usually so full of intense feeling and personal, individual understanding that you have to stop and think about what the artist is seeing in their mind's eye. These are not pictures of landscapes you can go and see for yourself or life portraits of well known people. These are artists' impressions of people we know very little about, some of whom are probably mythical, or based loosely on reality but exalted out of recognition down the ages.

The passage designated for our lectionary reading from Revelations is full of imagery and allusion. Here Jesus is depicted both as a Lamb and a Lion, symbolising both his submission to God's will and his authority and power. One of the elders calls John to look at the Lion but when John looks, he sees a Lamb. Christ the Lion led the battle which defeated Satan, Christ the Lamb defeated all the forces of evil by dying on the cross. Many of us have a 'Lion' and a 'Lamb' within us, two different personalities and ways of looking at things. Sometimes we need the Lion approach and sometimes the Lamb. There are so many symbolic references in this Revelations passage. The horns on the lamb represent strength and power, the eyes are equated with the seven lamps and the one Spirit, and the seven eyes of the Lord mentioned in Zechariah, Ch 4.

If you can imagine all this vision as a picture, a work of art, you can realise the enormity of the revelation as it would have appeared to John. But still one of the most significant parts of this story are the words in the last verse..."with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation." People from every nation can receive God's message of salvation. We must not allow prejudice or bias to stop us sharing Christ with others. Christ welcomes all people into his kingdom and the message of God, like the message in a painting, is appreciated much more if someone explains it to us. A conductor at an orchestral concert I once attended, turned to the audience at one point and tried to say a few words, very hesitantly as he did not speak much English. He finished by saying that one of the great things about Music is that it transcends all languages. So does Art. And Christianity. Is Christianity your first language? And who have you spoken it to today? *Sue Plant*

Prayers for the week

Please remember in your prayers the Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, the Bishop of Shrewsbury, who will become the tenth Bishop of St Albans. Bishop Alan is the first Church of England bishop to announce his appointment through a three minute You Tube video which can be found on our church website thisischurch.com

God, of your goodness give me yourself, for you are sufficient for me. To be worthy of you I cannot ask for anything less. If I were to ask for less I should always be in want, for in you alone do I have all.
Amen Julian of Norwich 1342-1413

Grant, O God, that as we rejoice in the hope of the coming of our Saviour, we too may seek to prepare the way of His coming by demonstrating His love as we care for others. Amen

O God, you have called men and women of every land to be a holy nation, a royal priesthood, the church of your Son: unite us in mutual love across barriers of race, culture and background, and strengthen us in our common task of being Christ and showing Christ to the world He came to save. Amen

Our Father, whose Son came to bring wholeness to the lives of all people, we thank you for the wealth of knowledge brought to us through medical research, and for the healing ministry of doctors, nurses and all those involved in the ministry of healing. We pray that all those who work in different ways for the healing and wholeness of their fellow men and women that they may be inspired for their task and calling by the spirit of Him who is wholeness indeed. Amen

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

Thank You. St Mark's Church would like to express their sincere thanks to Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) for their extremely generous support of a grant to enable us to complete the works to our church hall and foyer. The refurbishment work is now almost complete and has greatly enhanced our facilities for community use. We are now seeking further grant funding which will enable us to proceed with the second phase of our project, the new entrance canopy and extension.

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.

TNT meet today, Sunday 18th at 6.00pm at Putnoe for Sarah's chip shop walk. All Welcome.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Putnoe New Year lunch a successful and happy occasion. £250 profit has been added to Church funds.

Saturday 7 March at Putnoe Heights Church. An hour of entertainment, talk and demonstration by Richard Westcott entitled "The confessions of a Pantomime Dame" A supper will be served and the evening is suitable for all ages. Tickets will be available after the end of January, but please put this date in your diary. It will be a fund raising event in aid of Putnoe Heights Church Fund. For further information see Jenny Emsley.

Putnoe Heights Preschool Can you spare an hour or two to help? Margaret Watkins, one of our church members has written the following: Initially I wondered how I, as a new helper of

pensionable age would fit into a toddler environment. After a year of helping on a Monday morning, I think that I have been useful to the staff and I am seen as something of a friendly granny type figure to the children, who call me Margaret. What do I do? Mostly I spend time moving around the room and sitting with the children at their tables helping them with what they are doing; such as doing puzzles with them, reading to them or talking to them. The session I go to is busy because few mums are able to help out. I do enjoy what I do. They are however very short of helpers, hence their plea for more help. If you would like to know more, please talk to Margaret Watkins or Linda Hoare tel.:782717.

A Thanksgiving Service for Bedford Care is being held on Thursday 22 January 2009 at 7.30pm at Priory Methodist Church to celebrate 28 years of service to the community. If you have had any connection with Bedford Care either as a volunteer or client - please come. Although it is sad that we have had to close, we are grateful to all the volunteers who helped provide this service since 1980. Thank you Pam Kinselly.

Would anyone be interested in operating the PA system at Putnoe? We have one or two vacancies on the rota with a commitment of less than one Sunday per month. Training will be given. Brian Lodge has now retired from his role on the PA team and we would like to say Thank You to him for all his work.

The Shack: WM Paul Young £7.99

One way of describing 'The Shack' would be as a cross between the Chronicles of Narnia for adults and Pilgrim's Progress, perhaps with a touch of Sophie's World thrown in for good measure. But any novel which echoes the profound yet simple insights of those books has to be worth a read. The subtitle of the book, which initially struggled to find a publisher and is now an international best seller, is 'where tragedy meets eternity' and throughout the book the reader is drawn to understand the anger, challenges and doubts we all face in trying to understand where God is in a world which seem to be so full of pain and personal suffering. Sometimes it appears a bit American, sometimes the theology isn't as tidy as we'd like, sometimes it's a bit simplistic, but if you are wondering what to do with those Christmas Book Tokens this intriguing story has to be somewhere near the top of your list. Sam

1 Will you come and follow me

if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown,
in you and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

I, the Lord of sea and sky.

I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you send me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them, whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
till their hearts be satisfied,
I will give my life to them, whom shall I send?

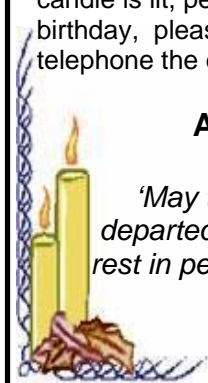
Rest in Peace. Putnoe Heights Church will be saddened to hear of the death of Vera Marsh one of our longstanding and faithful members. Vera died suddenly, unexpectedly and peacefully at her home. Her funeral will be held at Putnoe Heights on Monday 26 at 3.00pm

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.

Audrey Henderson

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



Forthcoming Funerals



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

The funeral of George Williamson Nicol will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 22 January at 9.15am

The funeral of Mavis Tearle will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 26 January at 10.00am

The funeral of Edith Joyce Taylor will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 5 February at 2.30pm

The funeral of David Johnson will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 6 February at 11.30am

The funeral of Vera Marsh will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 26 January at 3.00pm