



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

Advent Sunday

1 December 2013



8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by the family of Vera Tippet.

First Sunday of Advent – 1 December 2013

9.30 St Marks - Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team – Mr Edward Parry
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe – Family Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions —Young People
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Irene McKenzie in memory of her beloved husband Eddie.

We are grateful when people make donations towards 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 Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

8 December – Christingle

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship - Christingle

Preacher – Waters/Ledger
Leadership Team – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions –Mrs Wendy Waters
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship - Christingle

Preacher – Waters/Ledger
Leadership Team - Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions — Leaders
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Prayer for Sunday

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself; Amen. *(New Zealand Prayer book)*

Readings 1 Isaiah 11:1-10 **2.** Romans 15:4 –13
3. Matthew 3: 1-12

Welcome

Midweek Holy Communion at St Mark's Chapel every Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

You are most welcome to our services today. We especially welcome to St mark's Church the family and friends of Samantha Bon, Sienna Rain Badhan and Naresh Badhan who have come for baptism

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice President for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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.

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website
www.ThisChurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

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

9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)

12.00 noon Story box Putnoe Heights 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. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630

1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make St Mark's for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk .

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights(see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly

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 01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 16 December Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

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

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Charlotte Williams 07968 207442

9.30am Candleworking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp. St Mark's (contacts details below)

1.3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see

contact details

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).

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

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455

7.00pm Laughter Club. St. Mark's Meeting (meets monthly) 12 Nov & 17 Dec. Cheryl Green 354339 or 07729187399

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly). 10 December Christmas Cracker Details Janet King 313946

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. (contact below)

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

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 4 December Putnoe Heights Office 365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.(see contact details below)

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting December Wendy Waters 401834

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994.

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian Sallows 407725

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer

348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome.
Ken Marriott 214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's
1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be
4 December Everyone welcome. All dances called, only
£1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham
406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st
week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

Thursday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights.
Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written
in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.30am Spanish for total beginners.at Putnoe Heights.
Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for
Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468

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 Jaana Swaby 342613

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's 1st and 3rd
Contact 267444

1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-
24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy
Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552.
2pm -Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per
session inc. refreshments. New members welcome.
Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's (contact below)

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

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin
07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week)
(see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's
3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504

7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946
847231

8 -10pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn
dancers)

Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers
each week.Except August. Next meeting All welcome,
cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron
825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

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 Marie Cotchin 402089

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd
week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights,
fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week)
(see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St.
Marks (see contact details below)

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details

below)

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther
Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall
Monton 297138 or 07910835994

7.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green
07729187399

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd
week) Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry
Fletcher 357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe
Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's
with crèche for under 3's

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/
Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

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.

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice
www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

Messy Church Dates Weds 20 Nov, 15th Jan., 12th
Feb., 19th March, 16th April, 21st May, 18th June.

Please always shop through
www.thischurch.com

amazon.com
and you're done.

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If you use Amazon and Easyfundraising on our
website then every purchase you make will
provide a commission to www.thischurch.com

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and
Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team - 21 January 2014

Annual Congregational Meetings

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council -

Pastoral Group Meeting - 10 January at 10.00am

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3 pm

Circuit meeting - Deanery Meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees–

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –10th

February 2014 1.30pm

New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe

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

Advent Sunday 1

Sentence of Scripture - Ps 122 v 1, 2

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord". Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem.

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. Common Worship Shorter Collect

First Bible Reading - Isaiah Chapter 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah son of Amos saw

concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD

This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans Chapter 13:11-14

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew Chapter 24:36-44

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Hymns (Please distribute family Worship and Mission Praise & Baptism at St Mark's Church)

1. Lo! He comes, 424
2. Darkness like a shroud, 110;
3. Colours of day, (*On Partnership News*);
4. Come thou long expected Jesus, 102;
5. God is working His purpose out, 189

Meditation

Advent is the season four weeks before Christmas in which we prepare for the coming of Christ. Its name comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming". The season celebrates Christ's anticipated coming again in the fullness of time to rule triumphantly over life in heaven and earth, as well as the coming of Christ as the infant Saviour whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. And because the season emphasizes Christ's comings and not just his birth, it's more than just a time to get ready for Christmas. When Christ comes again in His risen glory to judge the world His first questions to us might not be 'What have you done and how have you lived?' but 'Are you ready?' Advent is a time of looking forward and being prepared for the future festivities, both temporal and spiritual. How ready we are may well depend on the preparations we have made.

The first coming of Christ the Lord, God's Son and our God, was in obscurity; the second will be in the sight of the whole world. When He came in obscurity no one recognised Him but his own servants; when He comes openly He will be known by both good people and bad. When he came in obscurity, it was to be judged; when he come openly it will be to judge. *Augustine (AD 354 – 430)*

Commentary

God's first intervention within our history came not in the form of some instant or earth shattering event, but instead God chose to come into the world as we all do, to be born as a baby in the midst of a chaotic world. By our own impatient standards this seems such a slow way to bring salvation to the world. But God may not always choose the easy answer or the quick fix. But by His earthly incarnation He demonstrates a total commitment to the very core of humanity. A commitment, to its day by day routines and challenges, a commitment to humanity from the cradle to the grave and beyond. And in that same incarnational way, God comes to us day by day, through the working of the Spirit, through His Word and Sacrament, making the ordinary extraordinary; making the broken whole; and redeeming and restoring the past, present and future, whatever they hold. This is a message which is clear in the gospel reading. History, myth, belief and imagery come together to create a vision, the strength of which is not in trying to understand the detail of Christ's second coming but in catching a glimpse of the message of salvation and healing being completed. We should not spend our time worrying about the timing of God's arrival or about the distraction of what might happen in the meantime. God's reign has already broken into our world through the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ. His Kingdom is near and it is coming, even as it is already arrived but not fully realized. We are to remain watchful, and aware, and to be prepared for the final coming, which is likely to arrive any time that God's love is shared with uncommon grace in a world so desperately in need of that love. It is through us, and through the very imperfect Church that bears His name that His love and grace continue to come and spread, at Advent and through the Christian year ahead as we look to His coming in glory. When we get too caught up in the humanistic spirit of our western world, which it is so easy to do as we prepare for and celebrate Christmas, we begin act as if we have little or no need of God. We begin to believe a little too much in ourselves and God becomes remote or absent from our lives at the very time He should be even more central. If we are not careful even our joining in the services around Christmas time can become a ritual rather than spontaneous worship and a time of thanksgiving. In general, our world today is indifferent to God and the momentous happenings of Advent and Christmas, although He alone is the one who can give the meaning and purpose to life so many seek. It passes through the seasons with a lukewarm indifference to the passage of time and rhythms of life. Robert Webber describes Advent as a time when God disturbs the waters of our lives to bring new hope so that a new spring of fresh lively water can well up in our beings. The Old Testament readings this year in Advent come from the book of Isaiah who was speaking to Israel around 740 BC around the time the nation fell. The worship of the people had become empty and for many they had begun to depend not on God but on their own positions, wealth and power. Isaiah's message was simple. Turn around, ask for God's forgiveness and He will send a Saviour and restore greatness to the Kingdom. As our lives can sometimes drift from God and the sense of His absence in our lives, and therefore in our world, becomes more acute we too have the same offer from God that Isaiah presented to Israel.

Turn around, recognise God for who He is and ask His forgiveness to our indifference and those things which separate us from Him. Advent has always been one of the traditional times that the church and its people turn to God in repentance and welcome the coming of the Christ as Messiah in Bethlehem at Christmas and Messiah as Lord of all at the end of time. An ancient text from the 4th century, sometimes known as the *Rorate Caeli* or Advent Prose and sometimes sung as plainsong in Advent liturgies is based on Isaiah 45 v 8 and brings together these themes. A (very) rough modern translation is:

You heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide and be fruitful, and let salvation and a Saviour come and righteousness grow.

Do not be angry with us, O Lord, and do not remember our sins for ever
Your holy cities are a wilderness, Jerusalem is a desolation:
Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised you.

You heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide and be fruitful, and let salvation and a Saviour come and righteousness grow.

We have sinned, and these sins make us unclean
We fade as the leaves of autumn:
The storm winds blow us away
Our faces are turned from your face of mercy
We are consumed by our sins and feel hopeless and crushed

You heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide and be fruitful, and let salvation and a Saviour come and righteousness grow.

You are my witnesses, say the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;
So that you may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:
No-one that can take you away from me, you are in my hand.

You heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide and be fruitful, and let salvation and a Saviour come and righteousness grow.

Comfort, comfort my people says God, my salvation shall not be long in coming:
I have blotted out your sins as if they were covered by a thick cloud:
There is no need to be afraid because I will save you:
Because I am the Lord your God, the Holy one of Israel, your Redeemer and Saviour

As Robert Webber concludes, 'In Advent we celebrate the beginning and ending of Christ's victory over the powers of evil, and we call upon God to accomplish that victory in our own lives, to break in on us, to be born in our hearts, and to create us anew.'

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we wait for the coming of your Son; then when He appears, He will not find us sleeping in sin, but active in His service and joyful in His praise, for the glory of your Holy name. Amen

Living God, you have given us a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead: grant that we, being risen with Him, may fix our hearts on heavenly things and share eternal life. Amen

Come, O Lord, in much mercy down into my soul and take possession and dwell there. A poor dwelling, I confess, for so glorious a Person as You. Yet, I am preparing for a fitting reception of you, by holy and fervent desires of your own inspiring. Enter then, and adorn my soul, and make it a worthy place for you to inhabit, since it is the work of your own hands. Give me yourself, without which, even if you should give me all that you ever have made, yet this would not satisfy my desires. Let my soul ever seek you, and let me persist in seeking, until I have found, and am in full possession of you.
Amen *St. Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430)*

Yamaha Portatone PSR– 3 Keyboard for sale;

Only been used 2 or 3 times. Donation to church funds. Please contact St. Mark's church office.

Christmas Voices – Come and enjoy once more a seasonal celebration with a selection of nostalgic & amusing readings around the Christmas tree + mulled wine and mince pies during the interval. Friday December 13th at Putnoe Heights at 7.30pm. Admission free with retiring collection in aid of the Sweeter Deal Appeal.



Christingle Service Sunday 8 December

The Christingle Service will be led by Richard Ledger and Wendy Waters in the Messy Church style.

St Marks: Refreshments will be served from 09.00. to 9.25. Service 09.30 to 10.15. Followed by drinks and cake. We look forward to welcoming some of our Messy Church families, brownies and guides to our Sunday Worship.



Putnoe Heights: Service 11.00 to 11.45 Followed by drinks and cake. We look forward to welcoming some Messy Church families, brownies, cubs, scouts and their families to our Sunday Worship.

Doreen Smart 's family would like everyone to know that she has been admitted to Charter House, 1A Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2NT for respite care for four weeks . She will greatly appreciate hearing from her friends and having visitors except at meal times 12.30-13.30 and 17.15-18.15 . Charter House Tel No. 01234 321400. Her direct line is 01234 321425 and she is in Room 2.

North Beds Circuit Methodist Women in Britain.

A Circuit Advent Service will be held on Sunday 1 December at 4.00pm at Priory Methodist Church. Refreshments will be served after the service. The collection will be for this year's project "Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund "and everyone welcome.

Free Bicycle, (could be brought to Putnoe Heights Church) Ladies Bicycle – Hawk (1990's) Boulevard . Made in England, Wheels 18" diameter, Height ground to seat 30" approx.. Would need new tyres but otherwise good condition. Tel 01234 405878 or Text 07919 083265

Action for Children Please come and join supporters Carol Singing at Bedford station from 3.45 - 6pm on Friday 13 December to raise money for the charity.

Putnoe large Christmas Card is ready for your messages from this Sunday and the post box is also available to post your cards at 10p each

Putnoe Services are now recorded on CD. If you know of anyone who would like it please let Leadership team know.

Footprints Walk

The walk on Sunday 1 December will be mostly on made footpaths starting from Putnoe Heights Church at 2.00pm. There will be some walking on grass in the Goldington Green area. The plan is to walk to Waitrose for a drink in the cafe (bring your Waitrose card if you have one, for your free drink) and return via a different path. Hope to see you for what is our last walk of the year. *Sue Allen*

For Lent 2014 We are planning to hold a performance of the passion Play 'Inheritance' by Riding Lights. This will take place on Wednesday 9 April. Please advise Charlie if you know of any reason why this would not be a great date.

Fuel Events

Bedford Citizen Advice invites you to a best Energy Deal workshop at St Mark's Church, Wren Room on Tuesday 3 December at 2.00pm Learn about how you can save money on your energy bills. Learn about benefits and grants which you can access. This is a free event supported by Brickhill parish Council

What can be done to tackle fuel poverty in Brickhill?

How can we make our homes warmer and cheaper to heat? Come along and find out more Thursday 5 December, 7pm-9pm, St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill Includes the official launch of the Brickhill BEE (Better Energy Efficiency) Group – set up to tackle these issues and to cut Brickhill's carbon footprint. To get involved or for more information contact Mark Fitzpatrick on 357259 or email markfitzp@cix.co.uk



www.livethechallenge.co.uk

Explore faith hope and love this Advent, sign up to Sign up to receive an email or text each day, or follow @live_challenge.

Take time to read and think
Make time to pray and then act
Bring a bit of purpose to your Christmas preparations

Encounters is the Live the Challenge initiative for Advent 2013 from the Diocese of St Albans. It begins on Sunday 1 December.



An Advent Course with a Difference

This year rather than have three or four nights dedicated to an Advent course we want to spread the Advent course through the entire season. Advent, which we are just starting, starts the new church year. This coming year the Gospel readings will predominantly be taken from the Gospel of Matthew, which conveniently has 28 chapters, just about the same number of days as Advent. For an Advent course this year we would like to suggest that as many of us as possible read a chapter of Matthew each day of Advent, perhaps as we burn our Advent Candles each day. Perhaps try reading it in a different version to the one to which you are used to using, perhaps a modern version such as The Message, or a version such as the Jerusalem Bible, or the New Revised Standard Version to get a slightly different perspective. It's a great way to prepare for Christmas and mark the season of Advent in a different way this year.

Saints and Pilgrims There are four signed copies of Bishop Alan's Book left at St Mark's Church Office for £20 - last chance for a great Christmas Present !

amazon.com
and you're done.

**When you start
Christmas shopping please
shop at www.ThisChurch.com**

Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase.

Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and we receive a commission. You can shop at John Lewis, M&S etc - please always shop through www.thisischurch.com

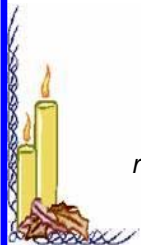


Rest In Peace

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.

**Howard Lawrence
Sylvia Germano
Isabel Chloe Thomas**

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



Hymns for Sunday

Colours of day dawn into the mind,

The sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

Go through the park, on into the town;
The sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing a friend.

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

At Putnoe

Christmas bells! Christmas bells!

Christ is born they say,
He came down to earth for us,
In Mary's arms he lay. x2

Angels made it known, shepherds came to see,
the King of kings and Lord of lords, in a stable born for me.

In the inn they found no room, in a manger he was laid,
where the ox and ass, dumb animals, in a tribute lowed and brayed.

Wise men came from far, precious gifts they brought,
to the One who gave up all for us and made himself as nought.

He came and still he's here, still with us today.
So let us put our trust in him, the Truth the Life the Way.

Intercessions response at St Mark's

Bidding: O Come

Response: Let us walk in the light of the Lord

Forthcoming Funerals



**The funeral of Donald
Frederick Taylor** will take place
at Bedford Crematorium on
Monday Wednesday
4 December at 3.15pm