



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

20 November 2005

Christ the King

Sunday before Advent - Stir up Sunday



Church of  
England

## Church Services Today

**8.30 Service of Holy Communion** Both churches

**9.30am St Mark's Church** -Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team -Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby

**11.00am -Putnoe Heights** – Holy Communion

Preacher- Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash

Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

## 27 November

**8.30 Service of Holy Communion** Both churches

**9.30am St Mark's Church** – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

**11.00am Putnoe Heights**– Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss

Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

## Next Week's Bible Readings

**1 Reading**– Isaiah 64: 1-9

**2 Reading** - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**3 Reading**- Mark 13: -24-37

Joan is preaching at St Andrew's, Bedford, this morning. Sam is preaching at St Michael's Church.

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Margery and Harry Charie in memory of their parents.

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

In an act of will,  
O God, I place myself in your presence.  
In an act of faith  
I open myself to your light.  
In an act of silence, O Lord,  
I rest in your glory.  
In an act of love, O Lord,  
I put myself in your hands.

*Dorothy Kerin, 1889-1963*

## 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, no charge. 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 21 November Moorfields & Sight Concern 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 22 November. Education Miss M Wiles

"Hands Together" Betty Wyatt 350188.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 22 November Bible Study Acts 8,vv 9—25' 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 29 November Paul Youngman - Deep Sea Fishermen. 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 16 November 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. Mark's 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, no charge. 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 4-11 year 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 Height. 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 2nd 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 3rd Thursday each month. 1st 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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**St Mark's Church Council**  
8 February 2006

**Circuit Meeting** 16 March 2006

**St Mark's Leadership Team –**  
2006 17 January, 21 February,

24 April, 6 June, 12 September

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** 21 November 2005 meet at Putnoe Heights Church

**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** - 31 November 2005 10am

**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](http://www.ThisChurch.com).

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

# Bible Notes

## Ordinary 33 Year A Christ the King

**Verse of Scripture Proverbs 19:17**

**Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full**

**A Collect Prayer** - Before we read we pray.

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that they bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be richly rewarded: through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

**First Reading – Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24**

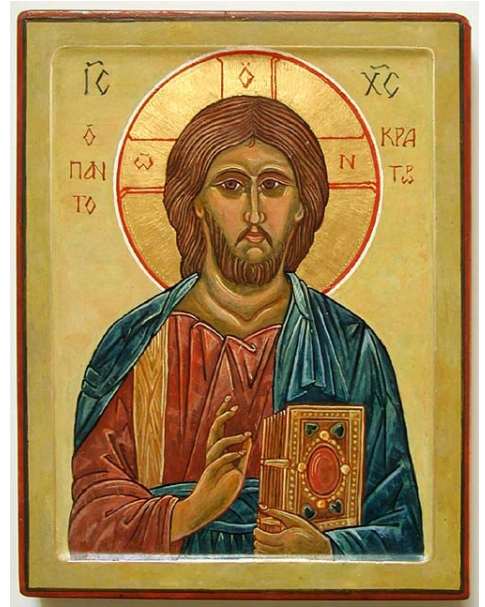
"For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

**Second Reading - Ephesians 1: 15-23**

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

**Third Reading - Matthew 25: 31-48**

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right



**Christ Pantocrator (Ruler of All)**

*Jesus is typically depicted as teacher and philosopher. Like other teachers, he holds a book. His gaze is intent, inquiring, both open and inward. His heavenly blue outer garment and earthy red inner garment symbolize his dual nature. His unique halo is marked by a cross and lettering, roughly translatable as "I am who I am."*

and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (This is the word of the Lord –**Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

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

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

- 1 Thou didst leave 154 Tune Margaret
- 2 Majesty 454
- 3 I come with joy to meet my lord 610 Kilmarnock
- 4 The church of Christ in very age 804 Heronsgate

### **Commentary**

In the passage this morning we hear the last teaching which Matthew records from Jesus, so we should expect it to be important. It is about the judgement of all people. We should perhaps begin by recognising the plight of the poor old goat. The sheep get all the praise and it seems as though Jesus is always getting at goats. Of course, goats are not worse animals than sheep. Shepherds separated sheep from the goats because sheep tolerate cold better than goats, so shepherds put goats in a protected spot while the sheep continued to forage. The readers of the book of Matthew would be familiar with the image, they would have seen Shepherds separate sheep and goats. Using this language was also helpful at the time because the word sheep was often used as a metaphor for the people of God. Likewise the Messiah was often spoken of as a shepherd.

This metaphorical and figurative language has throughout Christian history been taken very literally. The image is portrayed of Jesus sitting on a cloud at some point at the end of human history. The whole of humanity is lined up with Jesus sorting out two groups, one side going through the pearly gates to eternal bliss, the other miserable offenders are sent off to eternal damnation, in the same way that Jews were despatched to the torture and human ovens of the concentration camps.

Leaving such nonsense aside, what is the point that Jesus is making? Matthew appears to be concluding the teaching of Jesus in His gospel, by recording these words which show that Jesus was serious about expecting lives to be changed by the teaching. It wasn't just for fun, God notices what goes on. God thinks that the lives we lead here on earth are of consequence, and so our behaviour has serious consequences. The way in which we treat others has importance to God, he takes note and there is judgement.

Jesus is using a picture which was familiar to his hearers to illustrate the fact that good and bad behaviour is different and is judged. Jews grew up familiar with the image of the Messiah as somebody who would come and judge humanity and separate them as a shepherd separated the sheep from the goats. Of course they expected that the sheep would be the Jews of Israel, and the goats would be everybody else. Jesus tells his hearers that they are in for a surprise. There is going to be judgement, but the criteria for good and bad has changed! From now on the basis for being in God's good books was to be based on the teachings of Jesus and obedience to them. If people wanted to be a part of the Kingdom of God then there was a sure fire way of ensuring success, treat your neighbour the way that you would wish to be treated.

Jesus mentions six deeds of mercy. They are not meant to be comprehensive, rather they show that Jesus

is concerned by specific material acts of kindness towards the needy. This might sound like the teaching of a British monk, Pelagius, who ended up being branded a heretic. However it is the authentic teaching of Jesus who does not demand supernatural or spiritual exercises, just simple unobtrusive charity. Spiritual talent can easily be counterfeit, charity might appear more mundane, but it is much more easily recognised and accordingly is a better test of faith. We are faced by many opportunities to help the needy. These acts of kindness can be provided by anybody, we need not have wealth to offer ourselves. To visit, to care, such things all are within reach of everybody. In the story Jesus tells that those who are rewarded are surprised, because they had no idea that their acts of kindness were noticed by God. They were motivated only by mercy, not by greed for reward. It has been suggested that Jesus only wanted us to be kind to other Christians, but Jesus was never selective in his care for others and he even encouraged Christians to care for their enemies. Some theologians become quite animated at the thought that people appear to be earning salvation through simple acts of kindness and charity, but to do so is to miss the point of the teaching of Jesus. Jesus is not speaking about a literal point of judgement in the future history of the world. Rather Jesus is stressing the need for us to take seriously his teaching on the importance of right behaviour now. In so much as people show kindness and mercy, they demonstrate the presence of God within them and live by the standards of the kingdom. Through their behaviour they make themselves citizens of that kingdom of Jesus today, they are one of Christ's sheep. The faithful will see everyone as a brother or sister in Christ and will respond to the need to care for all God's children. By their deeds they will walk in the way of Jesus, will be in relationship with him, a part of his family. The un-faithful will only look after themselves and will find Christ to be far from them. It is self determining. If we embrace the teaching of Jesus as our King then we become part of his kingdom now, not at some judgement at the end of time. So we find the kingdom to give meaning in our lives and we know not only the joy of considering the needs of others, but the delight of serving the King. So for us, we know that we are called to the service of others, we are also called to work to change oppressive systems and human structures that fail to serve the needy and work against relieving troubled lives and broken spirits. God's calls us to take the resources he has given us and use them for the good of all, and to be considerate of the plight of the weak and powerless. On Christ the King Sunday we must decide to show that Jesus Christ is our King and we must do so by having the courage and commitment to become more and more a part of the reign of God.

‘virtue is not far from us, nor is it without ourselves, but it is within us,  
and is easy if only we are willing’ (Anthony the Great).

## **Meditation**

To Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love  
All pray in their distress  
And return these virtues of delight  
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy has a human heart,  
Pity a human face,  
And Love--the human form divine,  
And Peace, the human dress.  
And all must love the human form,  
In Heathen, Turk or Jew;  
Where Mercy, Love and Pity dwell  
There is God dwelling too. *William Blake*

## **Prayers**

We pray for the Church throughout the world, that she may be a voice for those who lack even the basic necessities of life, tirelessly serving them and calling for change. We pray for the world's leaders, that they may not hide behind their power or abuse it, but work for the good of all humanity, particularly the poor throughout the world. We pray for our local community, that we may show our love through our respect for each other and for our environment, gladly sharing what we have with those in need.

In an act of will, O God, I place myself in your presence. In an act of faith I open myself to your light. In an act of silence, O Lord, I rest in your glory. In an act of love, O Lord, I put myself in your hands.  
*Dorothy Kerin, 1889-1963*

# News, Views and Information

**Creative needles sewing/social group**—meet Monday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm in the Small Hall at Putnoe Heights Church. We are looking for new members. Cost per meeting £1.50, includes tea/coffee etc. For further info. Contact Jacky on 307648.

## **St Mark's Week Offering Envelopes**

Replacement sets of numbered weekly offering envelopes are now available in the Church foyer. There are a number of ways in which you can make regular offerings:

**1. Numbered Weekly Envelopes**, as mentioned above. These are predated for each Sunday, in order that regular weekly offerings can be made.

**2. By Standing Order.** This method ensures regular payments are made to St Mark's, directly into the Church's bank account. St Mark's standing order mandate forms are available.

**3. Pew Gift Aid Envelopes.** These can be used if you are a tax payer, but require the declaration to be completed on a regular basis.

Whichever method is used, if you are a tax payer, we are able to claim an additional 28% from the Inland Revenue on all gifts that are made - provided that you have completed a declaration.

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by everyone at St Mark's. However, it is vital for the ongoing work of our Church, that we review the amount we are able to give, and that we make our gifts on a regular basis.

For further details on any aspect of giving to St Mark's please see either Jim Williams or John Day. Thank you once again.

**World AIDS Day** 1 December service of prayer support and remembrance at St Paul's Bedford at 6.30pm (don't be put off by the Christmas Tree Festival which closes at 6.00pm) HIV/AIDS is on the increase in the UK. This annual reminder is not untimely

## **Putnoe Provender**—Sunday 4th December

We shall be open for business on 4th December after the Morning Service. All offerings of cakes, jam, marmalade, chutney, fruit, vegetables etc. will be gratefully received. The ever popular Putnoe Christmas Puddings will also be on sale. Proceeds will be shared 50/50 between St Mark's Autism Bedfordshire Appeal and Putnoe Heights Church. Please give this your full support. John and Sally Gunning (305925)

**Mission Coffee Morning** Saturday 26 November 10.a.m. to 12 noon at the home of Stephen and Pauline Clare 35 Brecon Way. Cakes - Raffle. Proceeds to Mission Fund.

**Coffee Morning** 26 November from 10am –12.30 at 85 Brookfield Road, Christmas cards & paper, bric a brac, & a raffle. Margaret, Alan & Bertie are looking forward to seeing you. In aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind & Bedford Child Development Centre.

**Putnoe –Gift Service 4th December.** This year we have decided to donate money to a local Children's

Charity. Storybox Plus have been very busy decorating small boxes for you to take away after the service this morning, to fill and return on the 4th December.

## **The next meeting of the Trade Justice Network**

**Bedford** will be held on Monday 28 November at 8pm in St. Peter's Chapter House (to the left of the church entrance), De Parys Avenue, Bedford. The World Trade Organisation talks will be held at the start of December and it looks as though very little progress will be made there even before they start. This means that it is even more important that we continue to work to keep the message of the need for Trade Justice firmly in the consciousness of both the politicians and local people. By pulling together we can effect change. So, come along to this meeting and help us plan ahead.

**For sale** - pair dark green leather armchairs, mahogany wood trim. As new . rrp. £1200 sale price £500. Donation to church. Ring 750884

**Bosch Classic** slimline dishwasher-new condition. Only ninety pounds, with 20% of purchase price to go to the Autism centre project at St Mark's. Contact Alan or Diane Bayliss on 01234 268101.

**TNT Tonight** Putnoe 6.00pm, practising a play for Christmas. Not to be missed.

## **Footprints Annual Planning Meeting.**

The last walk of 2005 will be a town Walk to appreciate the Bedford Christmas Lights, starting from the top of the Castle Mound at 4.30pm on Sunday 27 November. All are welcome to join us. Sue Allen Tel 407264

**Partnership Singers** are invited to gather on Friday evenings for four weeks starting 25 November 7pm at St Mark's. We shall sing during the two Candlelit Carol Services, Saturday 17 December at St Mark's and Sunday 18 December at Putnoe at 6.30pm . Please ring me to indicate your availability on 01234 303254. New members welcome, especially men!!

**Storybox Success!** Congratulations to Liz and the Storybox team. St Mark's Storybox, which meets on a Thursday at 12, has topped thirty children and thirty adults for the first time, Putnoe continues to be a roaring success with the same number of people! A big thank you to all the caterers, welcomers, singers and story tellers, at both churches, for making this part of our ministry to children and the families so vibrant.

**Confirmation at St Marks and Putnoe** We would like to offer confirmation classes to adults and younger members of our Churches starting in January, possibly during part of the Morning Services. This would be a combined Anglican and Methodist teaching programme and will conclude with an Ecumenical Service of Confirmation on 12 March at 11am at Putnoe Heights, by the Bishop of Bedford & a representative of the Methodist church . If you are interested please speak to one of the Ministers.



**St Mark's – Mission Project – Smartie tubes and more!!**

This year's mission project at St Mark's will focus on the Mildmay Charity. Mildmay is a Christian organisation which specialises in HIV and AIDS care, education and

training. It operates not only in the UK but in some of the world's hardest hit regions such as sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe. The centre in the UK is based in East London and specialises in holistic care programmes for men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic conditions. Internationally Mildmay develops services and mobilises the fight against HIV and AIDS. For many years Mildmay has had strong links with Bedford through its medical staff and personnel. We would like to raise £3800 to pay for fuel to bring sick children to the Mildmay Centre in Uganda and for treatment and counselling for people suffering from AIDS related illnesses in the UK. Letters are available from St Mark's detailing how you can make a contribution to this project. The project will run until the end of February 2006 and we will have a speaker from the Mildmay Charity at our services on 15 January 2006. Patrons from the Mildmay Charity include Lord Carey of Clifton, Sir Cliff Richard, Martyn Lewis and Dame Judi Dench.

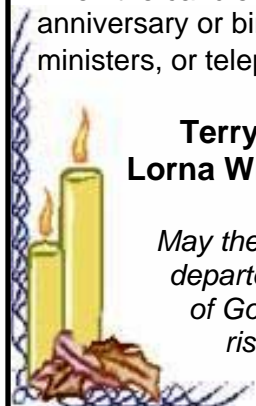
As a first step in this project we will be giving out Smartie tubes at the end of this week's service so that you can eat the Smarties (or find willing volunteers to help you) and fill the tube with money (or find willing volunteers to help you with that too!) to raise money for this project. Smartie tube contributions from Putnoe Heights are going to a local children's charity. All these tubes should then be returned our Gift Services, planned for 5 December 2005.

**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.

**Terry Patterson  
Lorna Winifred Goodchild**

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



I urge you to give generously to this cause. In many ways the topic of HIV/AIDS can be difficult or controversial, sometimes because of the preconceived ideas of how the disease is contracted and spread. Whatever we believe, this project gives us the opportunity to support tangibly the work of a Christian organisation which is dedicated to sharing God's love and improving the lives of those who suffer from HIV/AIDS.

**A Hymn for Sunday**

**Majesty, worship His majesty;  
unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom, authority,  
flows from his throne, unto his own  
his anthem raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,  
magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.  
Majesty, worship his majesty,  
Jesus who died, now glorified,  
King of all kings.**

**2005 Partnership Advent Course**

**28 November**

The Right Reverend Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans

**5 December**

Professor Paul Crossley 'Poetry and the Bible'

**12 December**

The Reverend Charles Royden 'Christmas and the New Testament stories'

**19 December**

The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman 'The Second Advent of Jesus'

*All take place at Putnoe Heights 7.30pm—9.00pm. Please put these dates in your diary and consider inviting friends who may appreciate considering the meaning of Christmas.*

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

**The funeral of Kathleen Evelyn Lillian Kay**, will take place on Friday 25 November 2005 at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am