

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

21 November 2004

Christ the King

Sunday before Advent—Stir Up Sunday



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church—Holy Communion

Preacher - Elaine Allen

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions – Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher – Elaine Allen

Leadership Team—Mrs Betty Wyatt

Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

28 November

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St. Mark's Church –Morning Worship

Preacher –Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions— Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Howard Lawrence in memory of his wife Margaret.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Doreen Smart in memory of her much loved husband.

Prayer for Sunday

Gracious God,
look upon a sinner
who is yet created in your image.
Look upon a disciple
into whose heart you gaze.
Look upon a child
who longs to love you with a heart
yet more perfect,
and looking, forgive,
and gazing, pardon and bless;
for your truth and your mercy's sake.
Amen

Francois Fenelon, 1651-1715

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 -07740 865167 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

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Partnership News is now available each week on the
Partnership Website - www.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 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day—295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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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).
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
- 7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 29 November Christmas Whist Drive. Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

- 9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
- 10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** Contact 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 Contact Val Careless 345213.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting - 23 November Miss M Wiles "St Dunstons and SASRA. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 21 November Mr G Brown 'Peru' then 7 December Carols & mincepies. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
- 2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church Essential**

- Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129
- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church.** Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 7.30- 9.00pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Next meeting November 30th –Christmas Flowers Meets fortnightly. Contact Sheila Cracknell 217009
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

- 10.00 am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 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
- 12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church** Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 1 December Contact St. Mark's 342613
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
- 6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies** at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm St. Mark's Church** Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
- 7-10pm Putnoe Guild** - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
- 7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
- 7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

- 9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights** in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
- 10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic** at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
- 10.00am - 11.30am Yoga at Putnoe Heights** Contact 244970
- 12 - 1.00 pm Storybox** at St Mark's Church. Service for parents, carers & children under 5.

Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.
Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Contact Celia Maddison 782901

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.
Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Mrs S Lewis 300198

7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000 Putnoe 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Contact Mr Hatton 824988

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's— 3rd Thursday month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

7.45pm. Housegroup-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church
Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30 - 9.30pm Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

7.30pm Music Group St. Mark's Church/monthly

6.30pm –8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St. Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St Mark's –dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 304865

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's
Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Peace Project Saturday School at Putnoe Heights.
For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

News, Views and Information

The Calendar

Putnoe Centre Management -15 Nov

St Mark's Church Council Feb 1 2005

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting on Monday 17 Jan at 10am

St Mark's Centre Management Meeting

Wednesday 10 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team

Next meeting on 12 Jan

Deanery Synod 10 Feb

Partnership Council 18 Jan

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team

22 Nov 7.30pm at 70 Brecon Way

Putnoe Church Council

7 Feb 2005

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting

January 24 at 2.00pm

Calendar dates now appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise us if you have a date to be added to the church calendar

Carers Rest a branch of the Alzheimer's Society invite you to a Christmas Concert & preview of the Christmas Tree Festival at St.Paul's Church Tuesday 30 Nov at 7pm, featuring the Risley Singers & Bedford Brass. Tickets £10(£8 concessions) available at both Church Offices. In aid of Carers Rest & Christmas Tree appeal. More details Deryck Cutler 354037.

Putnoe Ramblers Last walk of the season on Sunday 21 Nov. meet at Thurleigh Farm Centre at 2 pm for a short walk followed by cup tea.

Christmas Services. Christmas falls on a Saturday this year and so we will have the usual Christmas services on that date. However on Sunday 26 December—Boxing Day—there will be only one service in the Partnership. It will be held at Putnoe Heights Church at 9.30am.

Coffee Morning on Saturday 27th November for Mission Funds. At the home of Margaret and Eddy Peck, 30, The Ridgeway 10-12 noon. All Welcome

Coming Soon Storybox Plus is an After School Club for 4—9 year olds which will be starting in January from 4.00 to 5.00pm on Thursdays. The group will rehearse a short drama and make the props and costumes for a performance at the Family Service at Putnoe.

Volunteers will be needed to make refreshments, help with the crèche and support the group. Please ring Joan on 344536.

Bereavement Support Group There will be a meeting of the Pastoral Group on Wednesday 1 December at 10.45 am at St.Mark's to discuss future planning.



Bible Notes Christ the King

Verse of Scripture Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and

my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

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 –Jeremiah 23: 1-6

"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD .Therefore this is what the LORD , the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD . "The days are coming," declares the LORD , "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

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

Second Reading– Colossians 1: 10-20

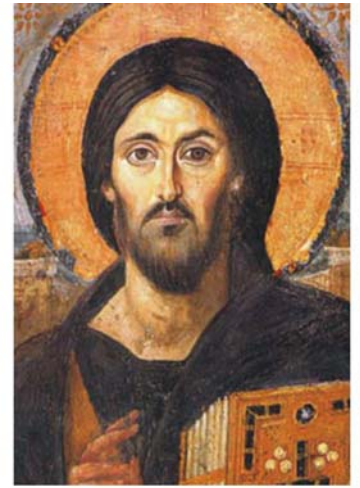
And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹n whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross

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

Gospel Reading – Luke 23: 33-43 (Please stand for the Gospel Reading)

When announced, **Glory to Christ our Saviour**

.When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice



**He is the image
of the invisible God,
the firstborn
of all creation.**

Colossians 1.15

above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise

(Reader: This is the gospel of Christ. **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Hymns (Please distribute)

H&Ps 653 God is here as we his people, MP 254 I am a new creation, H&Ps 595 As your family lord

H&Ps 764 Christ from whom all blessings flow, During communion All MP 38, 50 and 66.

Meditation Two Jewish reflections on God's mercy

God does not rejoice at the death of sinners. On seeing the destruction of the Egyptians the angels wanted to break forth in song. But God silenced them saying: 'The work of my hands is drowning in the sea, and you desire to sing songs!' *Talmud*

Though we descend from those redeemed from brutal Egypt, and we have ourselves rejoiced to see oppressors overcome, yet our triumph is diminished by the slaughter of the foe, as the wine within the cup is lessened when we pour ten drops for the plagues upon Egypt. *Passover Haggadah*.

Christmas Puddings for Putnoe

Today, the Sunday before Advent, is known as 'Stir-up Sunday' after the words of the collect - "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded." The day has become associated with the making of Christmas mincemeat, puddings and cakes. Following this tradition, the Putnoe Christmas puddings have been stirred up this week ready to be sold on the Provender stall on December 5th. Sue Allen

Commentary

We are in a season of remembering. We have recently celebrated the festivals of All Saints and All Souls, when we remember with gratitude the lives of those who have died in the Faith and been a Christian example to us, and more specifically, remembered those close to us who have died. We treasure the memories that we have shared and we hope for the future that in Jesus Christ we will be sustained through the difficult times by His love and eternal presence. In this season of remembrance, we have also given thanks to God for all those who have laid down their lives in the service of their country, both in the great wars of the last century and in the conflicts of this century. At the centre of our collective Worship has been our prayers for peace in the world and for Wisdom to be given to our world leaders.

Our Gospel reading today gives Luke's account of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Jesus death and Resurrection link in with the forthcoming season of Advent since these events express the central message of the Christian Faith, that there is hope, that there is the possibility of a new beginning and that Jesus Christ is The Lord of all Creation. In Advent we start to look ahead to the birth of our Saviour and to prepare ourselves for this celebration and to reflect upon the implications which His birth has for the world.

One of the criminals crucified with Jesus asks to be remembered. There is a wonderful Taize chant, "Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom", which is obviously based upon these words of the criminal. We too would ask to be remembered by Jesus when he comes into His kingdom. Jesus assures the criminal that he will be in paradise with Jesus on that very day, a promise which is offered to each one of us. This assures us that we are not forgotten by God, in fact we are remembered and borne in mind by God at all stages of our lives.

As we are remembered by God, so then we must be careful not to neglect members of society who are easily marginalized and forgotten. The elderly, especially those living in residential and nursing homes are easily forgotten and abandoned, even at times by members of their own families. Methodist Homes for the

Aged is a Charity which works to provide high quality care for many elderly people across the nation. The work of MHA is spread across residential homes, sheltered housing, live at home care and dementia care, short stay and respite care and retirement housing. MHA offers this wide range of care for older people in our communities and reminds us that even when we grow old, we are still valuable members of society. As Jesus remembered the criminal crucified with Him, may we always remember the elderly in our community and let us take the opportunity today to celebrate the work of MHA Care Group.

A Message from Methodist Homes for the Aged 'Every crowd has a silver lining • 2004

It's not so long ago that people commonly referred to children as 'The Church of Tomorrow.' Thankfully, we have now seen the error of our ways and know that children are 'The Church of Today.' But what about older people? It is easy to assume that they are bound to feel part of the Church of Today – after all, the statistics show that we are part of an ageing church. But therein lies a problem. For years now the recurring mantra of the church has been, 'We must attract more young families and younger people.' You see it explicitly in local church mission statements, and it is implicit in so much 'church talk.' While this is entirely understandable, it means that many older people are made to feel that they are in effect, 'The Church of Yesterday.' In their landmark study, "Gone but not Forgotten" (DLT1998), Philip Richter and Leslie Francis found that Older People form a larger than expected proportion of those leaving the church. One reason for this is clearly physical –through illness or the church building or furniture make worship inaccessible. But others drift away because in one way or another they no longer feel that their church is for them.

This year's Methodist Homes Sunday theme is Every crowd has a silver lining, and we invite you to reflect on the place of Older People in your Church. If you have a mission statement that makes no reference to older people, this might be a day to have another look at it. If yours is a church in which all ages are represented, it may be an opportunity to celebrate the gifts which one generation can offer to another. If you have a predominantly elderly congregation, you could reflect on how you might reach out to others in that generation who live in your community. What are the themes that the older people in your congregation feel have been neglected in preaching so far this year? Could you rise to the challenge today? And, in it all, make a special place in your thoughts for the oldest old - those who want to come to church but cannot. Remember those who are living in residential care homes and those who are confined to their own homes. What place do these people have in the life of your church? Richter and Francis remind us that 'Old age presents the church with new opportunities, as well as challenging problems.' As we increasingly explore new forms of being church, the challenge is to find ways that don't simply attract younger people but put off older people, or vice versa. It has to be a 'both and', not an 'either or' approach.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

Loving Heavenly Father I thank you for this new day, for its promise, its challenge and its opportunity. I have little to give you this day, but within my trembling hand I give you this will of mine and things that seem small, for you alone, O Lord, understand that when I yield Thee this I yield Thee all. So may my life this day, in all I think, speak or do, shew forth the mind of Christ. **Amen.**

God our Friend and protector, as we go through life help us to offer a hand of love and friendship to all in need. As our lives develop, like the seasons – spring when we blossom in our own ways, summer when we are full of the joys of young life, autumn when we hope to pass on the wisdom we have learnt, winter when we need the comfort of your presence at the closing of our days – may we remember to thank you in our prayers for all your many blessings and help throughout our lives.

Heavenly Father we thank you for the gift of life and for loving each one of us, just as we are. Now that we are elderly and less mobile, we have more time to sit and think. We give thanks for the gift of memory, whether of happy or sad occasions, – memories precious to us all. And, even if we cannot remember what happened yesterday, we can ponder over our youthful days and be thankful. **Amen.**

Creator God, we thank you that through the centuries you have given to men and women the gift of creativity. We think of all musicians and the music that inspires and brings us close to you. We thank you for artists, as we gaze on their work we marvel at the details and the beauty of the colours. We think of the poet and his words, which can help and heal, and of the craftsmen, who have given such beautiful carving and buildings. Thank you too for those who use their creative gifts in leadership, creating order out of chaos and in building up broken relationships. O God you are the master craftsman and we would pray that we may use our own creative gifts for your honour and glory. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

News, Views and Information



Advent Course Starting Wednesday

**This week
What is Christian pilgrimage?**
By Professor Paul Crossley.

The adventure of pilgrimage

Our course will take the theme of 'Pilgrimage,' with four talks on 24 November, 1, 8 and 15 December at Putnoe Heights Church. The evenings will begin with refreshments at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Each evening will finish at 9.00pm. We are delighted that the first two of our talks this year will be given by Professor Paul Crossley. Other speakers will be The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley and the detective novelist Kate Charles.

Cards for Christmas: Handmade Christmas cards for sale at Putnoe Heights Church in the Welcome Area, before and after service. Third of profits go to charity. Aiming to raise £100 for NCH this Christmas. Thank you for your continuing support. Cards can be made to order. T: 267567 Margaret & Claire Peck

Putnoe Heights are welcoming a church from America to Putnoe on 20 February next year. Thank you to all of those who have offered accommodation. However we still need another 11 offers to take 2 students each. Offers from people from both churches would be greatly appreciated

TNT Youth Group This week TNT takes place at 6.00pm at Putnoe, with cookery and craft. Please bring some kind of overall to protect clothes.

For Sale Vauxhall Vectra 1.8L S Reg 1999—65,269 miles very good condition one owner air con, metallic, serviced 12 months mot £2300 Contact Ian Farthing 077990 71857 Donation to the extension for Autism Bedfordshire at St Mark's Church.

Putnoe Provender will be open for business on Sunday 5th December after the morning service, with cakes, jams, marmalade, chutneys and Putnoe's celebrated Christmas Puddings for sale. All contributions gratefully received. Proceeds to the extension for Autism Bedfordshire at St Mark's. John and Sally Gunning (305925)

For sale. Yamaha full size keyboard, electronic piano and stand. £120. Tel 268571.

Bill's family say 'Thank You' Julia, Elizabeth and Kristin would like to thank Putnoe Heights and St Marks Church family for all their love, support and prayers received over the last 2 weeks. Also a big thank you to the catering team and all those involved in Tuesday's Celebration of Peter's (Bill's) life.

Methodist Homes for the Aged. We are pleased to support Methodist Homes for the Aged. If you would like to know more about the work of this charity, which will soon be opening a home in Brickhill then please visit their website www.mha.org.uk

Partnership Singers will be rehearsing at St Mark's Church for their Christmas contribution to the Carol Service. Friday 26 November at 7.30pm

Thank you The family of Wilma Taylor would like to thank everyone for their prayers & kindness shown during her recent illness & for the many expressions of sympathy they received & to those who joined them at the crematorium.

'Healthy Habits for Life' Small grants scheme. These may be available for community groups to support projects to develop healthy lifestyles. See notice in foyer.

The Methodist Church are holding a conference on 22 January 2005 at Hinde Street Methodist Church, London from 10—4pm, entitled 'Worship & the Missing Generation'. Cost £10. For more details & to book your place ring: Chris Jones 01245 262312 or Paul Kybird 01908 678755

Network - Spring Celebration on 7th March 2005 at The Square Methodist Church, Dunstable. Tickets £1, limited to two per church. Please order ASAP but not later than the end of December from Eleanor Mackirky Tel 360271. See poster in foyer for more details.

The Church Office at Putnoe Heights would welcome additional volunteers. If you are able to give even two hours every other week, please contact Barry Snelson at Putnoe Heights. Training and support will be given to all new volunteers. Thank you, Barry.

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of sympathy they received & to those who joined them at the crematorium.

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Thank you to everybody who helped support the Christmas Fayre at St Mark's.

St Mark's and Putnoe Heights - Wells for Malawi 21 November 2004 - Final Update

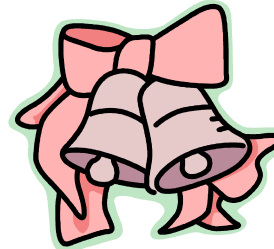
On 12 September 2004 we set ourselves the target of raising £2340 for 'Faith in Action' to support their Wells project in Malawi. Wells they had previously dug had become dry due to the lowering of the local water table and significant funding was required to deepen them. The original target was to increase the depth of each of their 52 wells by 20 metres at a cost of £45 per well, a total of £2340.

Today, a few short weeks later, we have raised more than £5000 to support this project. This is an incredible sum, raised through coffee mornings, pizza evenings, church and other events, and significant personal giving. Thank you to all who have given so generously of your time and money to support this project in many different ways. Since we started the project we have been informed that the cost of deepening some of the wells is more than originally expected as the water table is even lower than first indicated in some places and, in addition, further engineering supplies have also been required. As a result of the additional money we have been able to send to 'Faith in Action', these additional needs can be met, wells can be deepened and even additional wells drilled as needed.

Any further surplus will go to 'Faith in Action's' Sorghum and Millet Food projects. We have been assured that none of the funds we forwarded to 'Faith in Action' will be used for administration purposes.



It is now time to close the project and focus on other activities as we move towards Advent and Christmas. Once again, thank you for all your efforts and generosity. We have received several letters of appreciation from 'Faith in Action' who are deeply grateful for our support. We will keep you updated on further progress through the year. Sam Cappleman



We publish the banns of and pray for the marriage of Keith John Chappell and Kirsten Margaret Elizabeth Mason of this parish and on the electoral roll of St Andrews Bedford. This is for the 3rd time of asking.

Funerals This Week

The funeral of **Elizabeth Rose** will take place on 25 November at 3.15 pm at Norse Road.

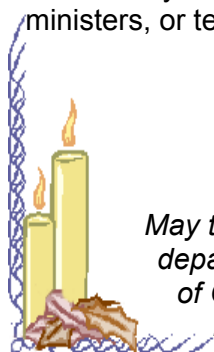
The Reverend Neil Bramble Chapman will take the funerals of the following people this week Ann Rosemary Sims and Matilda May Dale

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.

**Matilda May Dale
Anne Rosemary Simms
Wilma Taylor**

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



We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

