



Partnership News

21 November 2010

Christ the King



Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30 am St. Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr B Owen
Leadership - Mr Mike Ovenden
Intercessions - Mr Richard Ledger

11am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr B Owen
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Ministers

28 November

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mrs Delia Sheppard

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Readings 12. Colossians 1:11-20
3. Luke 23: 33-43

Midweek Worship

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

Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Ann & Ree Mortimer and family in memory of Ann's mum Alice Chappel on her 100th birthday

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mrs Jean McKercher in loving memory of her dear husband Eric, and by Mrs M Wisdish in memory of her dear mother, Charlotte Ramsay, whose birthday was in November.

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.

Prayer for This Week

Support us, O Lord,
all the day of this troublous life
until the shadows lengthen, the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over,
and our work is done. Then in your mercy,
grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest
and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

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)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)

9.00am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing.

3.30pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747

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

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—20 December St. Mark's Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Sally Banks ☎870357

1.15pm Sing and Stomp. For toddlers & their carers. Run by the Putnoe Children's Centre. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043

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

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week.
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 23 November 'Music for Pleasure' Alan Bunker Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting November 30 'Hand Bell Ringers'. For more details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

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

9.00am Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

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

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10am U3A Card Making, St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -24 November Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Monthly. Next meetings 8 December. Wendy Waters 401834

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

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

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

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

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

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.

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 ☎363283

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

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

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

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. 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

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

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

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

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

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –
Annual General Meeting 10 April 2011
St Mark's Leadership Team 31 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 7 February
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .
St Mark's Forum Meeting -
Putnoe Church Council - 14 February
Pastoral Group Meeting - 8 February 4.15pm
Churchyard Committee - **26 January at 11.00am**
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings
Deanery Meeting - .
Woodland Burial Trustees – 13 February 2011
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Ordinary 33 Christ the King — Stir Up Sunday

Opening Sentence from 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

Collect *(Before we read we pray)*

"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."

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

Second Reading - Colossians 1: 11-20

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, in 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
(This is the word of the Lord — **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – Luke 23:33-43

After the Gospel is 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



Statue atop Mt. Cristo Rey
On the U.S./Mexico border in New Mexico. Photo used by permission
under Creative Commons License.

offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice 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.

(This is the Gospel of Christ – **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer Lord of heaven, in this Eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns for Sunday *(Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise)*

1. Rejoice the Lord is King 575 (Tune Gopsal)
2. Make way 457
3. Thou didst leave thy throne 697 (Tune Margaret)
4. O Lord my God 506

Commentary

Do we think of Jesus as our King? Or do we think that his kingship is something for the future and so not of much concern to us now? Today we ask the question of ourselves to whom or what do we give our allegiance? Who holds dominion over us? What are we living for? What energizes and gives meaning to our lives each day?

We pray in the Lord's Prayer 'thy kingdom come.' This prayer is not supposed to be a prayer asking God to bring the world to an end. Rather it is asking that God's kingdom would be established in our lives. The kingship of Christ is something which Jesus expects us to be able to share now. This will happen if we let our lives be the place where God's reign extends. Today, above all days perhaps, is the day when we are encouraged to own Christ in our hearts.

Many people do not think that Jesus should be king. Politicians think that Jesus does not belong in affairs of state and government. Many leading businessmen think that Jesus should not be king in matters of economy and business. Often we do not think that Jesus should be king in a whole range of ways that concern what we do out of church.

Today we stir one another up and we remind ourselves that Jesus should be king of every part of our lives, our manners, our behaviour towards other people, are decisions about important life choices.

The kingship of Jesus is not recognised by many of this world, Jesus is King, yet he is not a king who demands obedience. Jesus is a different kind of king. He is a king who leads by example to show us the way that we should behave. This is a new kind of kingship, and one not of the world's standards. The kingship of Jesus is a radically different kind of kingship. While human kings gain power in order to reign over us, Jesus in his kingship demonstrates his authority by showing his love for his people, so much so that he gave his life for us.

Jesus warned the disciples that they would face death and horror, but he said that he did not expect them to do anything which he was not prepared to do himself first. When Revelation was written the Christians faced horrors, the real horror of martyrdom. Revelation is not a prediction of some horror some time in the future, for which we are still waiting. Revelation described for the Christians the very real and present danger which they faced in their daily lives. This is significant because throughout history many faithful Christians have considered that their own times were the most dreadful things which had ever happened and that an end to the world must be nigh. This happened to Martin Luther who believed that the Pope was the antichrist and he saw the end time near. It has happened with the American revolution and the Crusaders. Revelation is a type of writing (apocalyptic writing), a genre that was around when it was written, just like soap operas are a type of writing today. That type of writing does not describe actual future events any more than we are supposed to believe that the actors of Eastenders or Friends are real.

The purpose of the apocalyptic writing of Revelation is to tell us that real evil exists, that it wins battles, but that ultimately good will conquer evil and that whilst that fight is going on we have Christ at our side. Jesus is Alpha and Omega, one who will be with us from the start and never leave us alone. Jesus is the beginning of all that we do and the end of all that we do.

Meditation

Today is the last Sunday of the church year, next week the year begins with the first Sunday in Advent, four Sundays before Christmas. Our collect today reminds us that it is Stir Up Sunday, a Sunday synonymous with Christmas puddings. The great cry 'stir up' was a reminder to congregations to get the Christmas pudding made in plenty of time to mature before Christmas. An important addition to the mixture is a coin, whoever gets it on their plate on Christmas Day should get worldly riches heaped upon them.

However, the Stir Up prayer is actually asking God for something much more important. We are praying that God will stir up our wills, so that we might get on with doing the good works that he has planned for us to do. Then, as a consequence, we pray that we might receive our abundant reward.

In an age when so much is about how we feel, it is interesting to get another perspective. In the end, it is our will, rather than our feelings, that is the most important governor of our actions. Real love is not about feeling it is about choosing, by our wills, to do good to others even though we may not feel good towards them. Our feelings should not dominate our wills. And so we pray that God will "stir up" our wills, so that they will be in charge of us, doing what we know is right. In this prayer we recognise that we need God's help in order for our wills to function properly.

"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."

Prayers for week ahead

Draw near to your flock, O Shepherd of Israel, that we may rejoice at the sound of your voice; walk through the darkest shadows at your bidding and climb the rugged steeps under your protection. May we come at the last to the sight of your unclouded beauty where, in the glory of eternal light, you are worshipped for evermore. *Bede Jarrett, 1881-1934*

God of new beginnings, your love to us knows neither measure nor end. Reveal yourself to us in the ordinary things of life, so that each day's tasks may be done for love of you and each day's living may bring us nearer you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. *Michael Townsend, Chair, Leeds District*

Eternal God, in whose perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of justice, and no strength known but the strength of love: guide and inspire all who seek your kingdom, that peoples and nations may find their security in the love which casts out fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Gracious God we pray for ourselves, that we might remember who is in control in creation, who it is who holds together all things. So may we give complete control to you of our lives. Help us to entrust to you our fears and worries and to rest ourselves in Christ Jesus. Help us to grow in faith, to rejoice always in what you have done, to submit our will and our plans to your will and your plan for our lives. Amen

Theologically Thinking

Luke uses the description of the criminals to make some important points. The word he uses for criminals includes "evil-doers" Luke explicitly associating Jesus with criminals and this is entirely in keeping with his message of Jesus Jesus as on the same level as the people. In chapter 6, for example, Luke changes the venue for Jesus' "beatitude speech" from Matthew's lofty mountain to a "level place," which is where the common people live and work. Here, Jesus is presented as being on the same level as "criminals"--Isaiah 53: 12: "And he was numbered with the lawless" (which is referenced directly in 22:37). Not only is Jesus with the criminals, but Luke is reminding us also that Jesus himself is being treated as a criminal.

'Messy Church' Our next session will be on Wednesday 8 December 3.45 – 5.30pm please join us if you are interested in helping or speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters.

St Mark's Weekly Offering Envelopes

New sets of sets of weekly offering envelopes are available in the entrance lobby from today. Regular giving is an essential part of the Church's income, and helps greatly in meeting the costs of running St Mark's. We are very fortunate that so many members of the congregation already give so generously to the Church in this way.

You can make regular weekly or monthly gifts, either by standing order or through the weekly envelope scheme. In addition, if you are a UK tax payer, you can Gift Aid your offering - and the Church can claim 20% tax back from the Government. This can also be done through the yellow Gift Aid envelopes on the chairs. If you would like to find out more please speak to Jim Williams after the service or contact him on 01234 360605. As always, thank you for your generosity.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
**DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS**

**Advent with
St Albans - by
text, and email**

St Albans Diocese
are encouraging
people to sign up to

receive a daily Advent verse from the Bible by email or text and to download a weekly sheet from www.livinggodsllove.org. In the rush up to Christmas it is guaranteed that people will value time each day in Advent to stop, reflect and pray. Sign up, on the home page of this website, to take part in the Advent Challenge, Me, You, the World and God. You will receive a daily bible verse by email or text. The verses, which begin in Genesis and go through to the Nativity, offer an opportunity to reflect on our relationship with one another, with the world and with God. The themes of the weeks are Beginnings, Relationships, Visions and Encounters.

You can also download a leaflet for each week listing the verses. The leaflet, like the email, offers brief comments, questions for reflection and pointers for prayer. There will also be a special advent twitter so sign up now. Tell your friends !

Sign up now and also join in the 'design a logo' competition. www.livinggodsllove.org

Help us Help Kisiizi. Every year before Christmas our churches help support a project either in the UK or around the world. This year we are supporting Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda. People in Uganda are struggling because of their lack of good medical facilities and support infrastructure.

Please help us by saving over the next few weeks and making a donation on or before the gift service on 5 December. Donations can be made at either church office, or by dropping envelopes on a Sunday. You can also take one of the Smartie tubes, eat the Smarties and return the tube with money inside ! *Sam Cappleman*

Bedford Messiah Choir presents 'Handel's Messiah' at Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford on Saturday 27 November 2010 at 7.30pm. Admission by programme available from Bedford Central Box Office 01234 269519, Tourist Information Centre, 10 St Paul's Square, Bedford or St Marks Church Office. Cost £8.50 Adult, £7.50 Concession. Proceeds in aid of East Anglia Air Ambulance.

Friday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 1.45pm (prayer of stillness) For more information please contact Eileen Brown on Bedford 267909

Lack of affordable housing could undermine the future of the countryside, Bishop Alan has warned 27 October 2010. The 50 per cent cut in capital investment for affordable homes, announced the comprehensive spending review, could leave nearly half a million rural households without housing in the next quarter of a century – and risks a reversal in the hard-won five year fall in homelessness, the Rt Rev Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans, will tell leading thinkers on rural economies, planning, policy and mission in rural communities, next week.

Faith and the Future of the Countryside – 2010, from November 3-5, will explore the sustainability of rural communities and their churches and mark 20 years since the publication of Faith in the Countryside, the seminal report of the Archbishop's Commission on Rural Areas chaired by Lord Prior.

Bishop Alan will remind the conference that Faith in the Countryside recommended that receipts from the sale of council houses should be kept by local authorities to fund the building of new rented housing.

Friends of Bedford Cemetery will host their Carol Concert by Riseley singers at the Chapel, Foster Hill Road on Sunday 28 November at 2.30pm. There will be seasonal refreshments served.

Bedford Lights will be switched on by Mayor Dave Hodgson on Wednesday 24 November at 7.00pm. There will be fireworks a fantastic start to Bedford's Christmas events.

Have a great night out at 'St Mark's Italian Evening' By popular request we have booked the fabulous 'Vittorio' for Saturday November 27 at 7.30 at St Mark's. This is great night of singing and dancing with a Italian food and wine, Italian Quiz and raffle. Please bring your own liquid refreshment. Tickets £8 on sale NOW from St Mark's Church Community Centre Office 342613.or speak with Avril or Janet.

Footprints - The final walk of the season begins at 2.00pm. Sunday 5 December. Meet by the church in Clapham on Green Lane. Short circular walk through Clapham Woods with good views of Anjulita Court. Planning meeting for 2011 - 1 Mitford Close, 7.30pm Tuesday 23 November. Details from Sue Allen.

Bedfordshire Community Chamber Orchestra The magnificent, 40 strong Chamber Orchestra will be back at Putnoe Heights for their Winter Concert on Saturday 4th December 2010, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 [£5 concessions] available from the Church Office. Concert programme available in the Church.

"Words & Music for Christmas", a seasonal celebration at Putnoe Heights on Friday 10th December at 7.30pm with members of the Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra and our Putnoe readers. Mulled wine & mince pies. Admission £4 - tickets from Putnoe Heights Church Office or at the door. In aid of the Partnership Charity, Kisizi Hospital in Uganda

Service of Praise at 6-30pm on Sunday 22 May 2011 at Putnoe Heights when the ministry of Charles and John Wesley will be celebrated. This advanced notice is given to help members avoid a clash of dates with other events. *(Eric Royden)*

Preschool are having an event at Kids World in Kingsway on 26th November from 6.30 –8.15pm.

If any parent or grandparent would like to bring a child/children they would be welcome. £5 per child but free for accompanying adults.

Temporary Vacancy (2 Terms). Person(s) required to work in Hazeldene Heights Pre School at Putnoe Heights Church, sessions and hours to be arranged must be flexible. Please apply to Mrs Janet Smith by Monday 29th November 2010.

Thank You To all of those who supported St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre. This was an excellent 16th Annual Christmas Fayre with a record 31 craft stalls. Over £2,500 was raised from the various activities which will be placed towards the St Mark's organ fund. Hand made Christmas will continue to be sold from the Foyer at St Mark's.

Church Chairs. We have been forced to throw away a number of chairs at St Mark's this year as they have broken or become too worn. We have now ordered new chairs which we hope will arrive in the next month. We would be very grateful to any members of the congregation who felt able to contribute towards the cost of the chairs which will cost £50 each. Please make cheques payable to St Mark's Church and remember to gift aid if you are a tax payer.

Christmas Presents.

Please will you consider buying your Christmas Presents online this year by using our church website. There is a link on our homepage. As well as using Amazon on thisischurch.com please sign up for Easyfundraising. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online from stores such as John Lewis, Mark's and Spencer, Next etc. Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thisischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

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.

**Peter Tysoe
Gwenda Tanfield**

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

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Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Jonathan Paul Steed (Jon) will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.00pm on Friday 3 December

