

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

22 November 2009

Christ the King



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr John Bassill
Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe Heights— Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr John Bassill
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions -

Sunday 29 November—Advent Sunday

9.30am St. Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Mr P Fricker
Leadership - Mrs D Shephard
Intercessions - Mr I Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights— Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Mr P Fricker
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Readings 1 Jer 33: 14-16 .2.1 Thess 3: 9-13
3. Luke 21: 25 -36

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights last week were given by Doreen Denny in loving memory of her dear husband Len, and by Mrs M Wisdich in memory of her dear mother, Charlotte Ramsay, on her birthday.

The flowers at Putnoe Height Church this week have been given by Jean Mc Kercher in memory of her dear husband Eric, who died last year.

The flowers in church at St Mark's this week have been given by Ann and Reg Mortimer in memory of Ann's Mother Mrs Alice Chappel.

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

Prayer for Sunday

Create within us, O God, a longing to obey your commandments and a thankfulness for all your mercies. Let us honour you in the thoughts of our hearts, let us glorify you in the words we speak and let us magnify you in the things that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
John Wesley (1703-1791)

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 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.

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 Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628
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

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063

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 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

1.30pm U3A History Group St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474

2pm U3A Drama St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747 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 November 16 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

9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299

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

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. 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. Janet King ☎313946

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting November 24 Miss. M. Wiles 'Matthew 5:10'. 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 Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎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 & Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month. 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 December 1 Sally Banks ; Gentle Exercise. Details from Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

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. Contact Janet King 313946

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 25 November 2009 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

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 December 1 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)
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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's ☎267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September
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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

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
5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎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
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
 6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854
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 Tel 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. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –
St Mark's Leadership Team – 19 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – , 8 Feb
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 18 Jan 7.45pm
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 Jan 2010,
Putnoe Church Council - 15 February
Pastoral Group Meeting - 19 January
Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group—Weds 6th Jan at 14 Flint Way at 7.30pm
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting 19 Nov,
Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's
Circuit Meeting 8 March at Oakley
Woodland Burial Trustees – 6th December
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 18th Jan

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

Sunday 22 November

Christ the King

Opening Verses of Scripture -Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night

Collect Prayer for the Day

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 Bible Reading - Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14

. "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading- .Rev 1: 4b-8

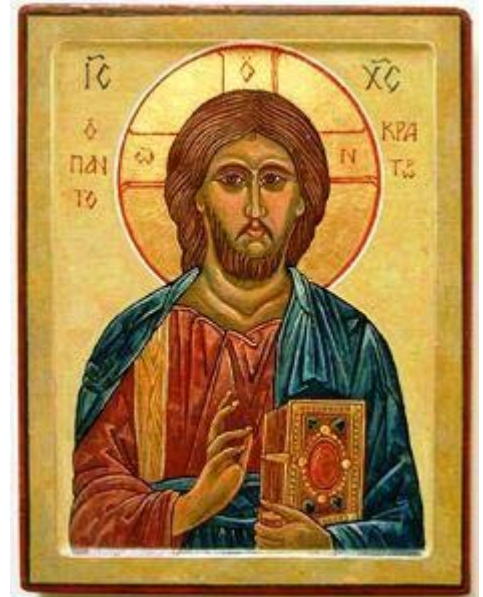
Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

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

Gospel Reading - John 18: 33-37

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

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



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."

Meditation

This Sunday is a special one, and the last Sunday of the Church year. Next week we begin the church year with the four Sundays of Advent. 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. 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.

Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship*)

1. Rejoice the Lord is King 575
2. Majesty
3. All hail the power of Jesus name 13
4. O worship the King 528
5. Jesus shall reign 379

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Commentary

Today is the last Sunday in the church calendar, next week we begin Advent. The special theme for today in the church year is a celebration of Jesus as King. Of course today is also named a special Sunday after the collect which we use. We are on that special Sunday before Christmas which we call stir up Sunday.

The collect uses those beautiful words

'Stir up O Lord the will of thy faithful people.'

Today is a day when we are meant to encourage each other, when we remind ourselves that Christ is our King. It is a day when we draw close to Advent, that season in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. And as we think of King Jesus coming at Christmas, so we welcome him into our own hearts.

But what does Kingship mean? This would have been a lot easier to answer once, when kings were great and celebrated figures. They held high honour and were seen as having God's seal upon them. Kings had a divine Right, they were chosen by God to do be kings and they were accountable to no person except God.

Nowadays we do not give kings the respect which they once received, but they were once figures of real power. No wonder Pilate must have laughed when Jesus was referred to as a king. For Pilate, Jesus could not be a king, because he did not fit the mould of a king. Kings were powerful figures, they demanded respect and got it. When Pilate put 'King of the Jews' over Jesus, it was not in recognition of the kingship of Jesus, it was rather a mockery, Kings did not belong on crosses.

Do we take the kingship of Jesus seriously?

Do we think of Jesus as our King?

Or do we think that his kingship is something for the future and so no 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 worlds standards. The kingship of Jesus is a radically different kind of kingship. While human kings gain power in order 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.

Prayers for Sunday and the 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*

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

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the people of every church and nation, peace and concord; and to us and all the servants of God, life everlasting; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

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

Mission Update for Kings Arms, Helping the Homeless in Bedford

Thank you to all who have taken an envelope for this year's mission project in support of the King's Arm project. Thank you too for those of you who have already returned them! If you were away last week or did not pick up an envelope with details how to support the project. and would like to do so, please pick one up from the back of church today.

Fundraising Concert in Aid of the Homeless in Bedford

Kempston Musical Society will perform a Christmas Concert on Monday 14th December at 7.30pm at St Mark's Church. The proceeds will be given to Kings Arms Project for the Homeless in Bedford. Admission is £7.

Church Christmas cards available now!

We are selling our Partnership Christmas cards this year in aid of our Mission Project Kings Arms - working with the homeless in Bedford. If you would like to help this charity providing shelter for homeless people then please do buy the cards which are priced at £2.50 for 10. They may also be purchased singly. Our special thanks to Mr Bob Wardale, of Putnoe, Bedford, who kindly allowed us to use his painting of Putnoe Heights Church.



Shoebox Appeal Thank you to everyone who supported the Shoebox Appeal. As a Partnership we have sent over 100 packed boxes to Operation Christmas Child (70 more than last year). A special thanks goes to all the children for the packing. .

Mary and Joseph Our travelling Mary and Joseph will be looking for homes to visit during Advent. If you can provide accommodation for them one evening please see Liz at Putnoe.

Putnoe Heights Church invites you to join our mini Christmas Tree Festival

Collect a cardboard Christmas tree from the youth team and as an individual, family or church/community group decorate the tree for us, telling us who you are, and we will display them in the church during December. Trees must be left at the church office before Sunday 6th December.

More details for collecting your tree from Liz on 01234 302349 youth @ thisischurch.com



Partnership Advent Course Putnoe Heights Church 8 p.m.

3 December Christmas

According to Luke

17 December Christmas

According to Matthew

Traditionally the symbols attributed to the Gospel writers are Matthew a winged man, Mark a lion, Luke an Ox and John an Eagle. The image attributed to Matthew is a divine man. His Gospel is concerned to show the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to the King David (14 generations) and from David to the deportation into Babylon (14 generations) and from the exile in Babylon to the Messiah a further 14 generations. Matthew is seen as the Gospel of Christ's humanity and His humbleness and humility is highlighted throughout the book.

The image attributed to Luke is that of a winged ox. A calf

or indeed oxen were used in sacrifices in the Temple. The opening of Luke's Gospel begins with the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zechariah a priest in the Temple who was offering sacrifice there. The winged ox is seen as a reminder of the priestly character of Jesus and of his sacrificial death for the sins of all mankind.

Bedford Messiah Choir presents Handel's Messiah at the Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, on Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm, in aid of the Beds branch of Alzheimer's Society. Admission by programme from Central Box Office or Tourist Information Centre. Adults £8. 50, Concession £7. There are three programmes for sale at St Mark's Church Office.

Nativity Scenes. On Saturday December 19 we are holding a nativity festival at Putnoe Heights, that is if there are nativities to show! So far I have one from South Africa, the promise of another African one and a huge banner, designed by a good friend of mine. But I'd like more!

This is where you come in, if you have a nativity scene that is special to you or your family in some way, and you are willing to lend it to us for the weekend before Christmas, please could you let me know!

It doesn't matter what it looks like, is there one someone knitted for you? Is there a slightly tatty one with teeth marks of a over enthusiastic child in (or maybe a character is missing)? Is there one that has been part of your families for so long it wouldn't seem like Christmas without it? Is there one from a particular holiday, or maybe there's one from a difficult time in your life that you'd be willing to share? Whatever the story I think it would be great to share it, I hope to be able to display a wide variety, and produce a 'programme' which has a little 'story' about each one. Although I don't need them until the day, I'd like to have any stories ASAP and idea of numbers by the previous week, to enable the production of the programme! *Jane Mason*

BEH Women's Network District Residential Weekend 19 - 21 February 2010 at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. Further details and booking form from Pam Seymour 305695

Putnoe Heights Church Centre urgently needs additional volunteers to staff the office (Monday to Friday, 2 hour shifts). Training is given on the use of the office facilities. If you can help, please contact Barry 365630. Without extra help, we will have to reduce opening hours, there by not being available to the community as much as we would wish and potentially losing photocopier and hiring income.

Woodland Trustees Meeting will be held on Sunday 6 December at 12.30pm in the Wren Room.

Putnoe Christmas Provender will take place on Sunday December 6 after morning service. Cakes, jam, marmalade, chutney, mince pies and Putnoe's own Christmas puddings will be on sale. Please help to make this a record fund raiser for this year's mission 'The Kings Arms Project. John & Sally Gunning 305925

Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra Winter Concert will be held at Putnoe Heights on Saturday December 5 at 7.30pm More information contact info@bcco.org.uk or visit www.bcco.org.uk Tickets from Central Box Office or Putnoe Church Office :Adults £7, concessions £5.

Fruitful Vine Would anyone like a lot of bunches of grapes - small, black and sweet - we have lots and lots of them on our vine going over one of the pergolas? We have never had anything like as many as this year. Mary Stubbs

Footprint Walk Sunday 29 November starting at 2.00pm. Weather permitting, we shall have a second attempt at the Cople walk which was rained off last time. Meet Cople Church for pleasant 4 mile circular walk. Contact Sue 407264 or Sally 305925

The Interment of ashes of Mr Peter Sachro will take place at St Mark's Church on Sunday 29 November after the morning service.

Dear Mr Woolas, all I want for Christmas is... Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Church leaders have called on people to send an extra card this Christmas, to Immigration Minister Phil Woolas MP, asking him to end the detention of children in the asylum system. Revd David Gamble, President of the Methodist Conference, said: "Britain is the only country in Europe which locks up the innocent children of people who have had their asylum claims declined. Every year hundreds of children are sent to detention centres; most of them are under five years old and many of them are locked up for more than a month. Holding innocent children in detention centres can never be justified." People should send their cards to Phil Woolas MP at the Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF and can find tips for drafting their Christmas message at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/childrenindetention. Revd Jonathan Edwards, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, added, "Many Christians support projects that offer help to people seeking sanctuary and know the pain caused by present policies. On average each household in Britain sends 76 Christmas cards each year, and we are asking people to send just one more to let Phil

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Woolas know that what we really want for Christmas is an end to the detention of children." Revd John Marsh, Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly, commented: "Policy makers have a difficult job – we understand that. But research has shown that detaining children can damage their mental and emotional well-being. We pray that during this season of goodwill the Government will have a change of heart. Other countries manage without detaining children, so why should Britain be any different?" The three Churches are supporting the Sanctuary Pledge, which asks all General Election candidates to agree not to use the issue of people seeking sanctuary as a political football during the election campaign.

Urgent call to prayer for those affected by flooding The President of the Methodist Conference has called for people to pray for all those affected by the severe flooding in the Lake District. Revd David Gamble is asking churches to pray in their services this Sunday for people affected by the flooding and has written a special prayer for use by churches and individuals across the UK - available at www.methodistchurch.org.uk

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.

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



Christmas Fayre Thank you to everybody who helped with the Christmas Fayre. A Magnificent £2,700 was raised. Thanks to our organiser Avril and all those who volunteered.

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Vida Eileen McWilliams will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 24 November at 10.00am



The funeral of Royston James Nash will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 26 November at 1.00pm