



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

24 December 2006

## 4th Sunday in Advent - Christmas Eve

Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both  
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of  
England

### Church Services Today

**8.30 Holy Communion** at St Mark's  
**9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship**  
 Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
 Leadership - Mrs Janet Day  
 Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard  
**11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship**  
 Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
 Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper  
 Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen  
**3.00pm Crib Service** at St Mark's  
**4.00pm Crib Service** at Putnoe Heights  
**11.30pm Midnight Mass** St Mark's  
**11.30pm Midnight Mass** Putnoe Heights

### Church Services Christmas Day

9.30am St Mark's Family Worship  
 11.30am Putnoe Heights Family Worship

### 31 December

**8.30 Holy Communion at Putnoe**  
**9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH**  
 Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
 Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper  
 Intercessions - Ministers  
**11.00am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH**  
 Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
 Leadership Team - Mrs Jennie Emsley  
 Intercessions - Mr Edward Peck

### Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week has been donated by Mrs Corfield in loving memory of her husband.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

### Prayer for Sunday

All-powerful God,  
 let the splendour of your glory  
 rise in our hearts like the dawn,  
 that the darkness of the night  
 may be scattered  
 and the coming of your only Son  
 may reveal us as children of the light.  
 We ask this through Jesus Christ our  
 Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in  
 the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
 and for ever. Amen.  
*Methodist Worship*

### 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 Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.  
 Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

#### The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

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

#### Partnership Youth and Children's Worker

Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

#### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our  
 church website [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://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 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school** Mrs Janet Smith 326685

**8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school** Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**

*(See website for more details)*

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

**Mini-Strikers Sport for Children** at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or [www.ministrikers.co.uk](http://www.ministrikers.co.uk)

**12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box** Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

**2.30 - 4.30pm** Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

**4pm Monday Club** at St. Marks for 3—8 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments , between 4 & 5 Bible story, craft activities & songs. Lots of fun. Contact Liz 302349

**4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044

**4.15 - 6.00pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

**7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

**7.15pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

**7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month next January '07 Contact Judith Stanton. 823313

**7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.

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

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

**10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

**1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

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

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 9 January 2007 Contact Betty Wyatt

350188.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

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

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. For details of next meeting contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

**3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

**6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129

**7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit** at St. Mark's - Jan Gregory 214107.

**Tuesday - 7pm-9pm MT Karate** [all ages] at Putnoe Heights. Please

contact Karen King 07941 264885

**7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club** meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718

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

**7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 12 December Members Christmas meeting. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

**8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong.** Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

## Wednesday

**9.30am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949

**9.30am - Body Control Pilates** at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787.

**9.00 a.m. Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

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

**10am Sewing & Chat** Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.

**Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 10 January 2007 contact Putnoe 365630

**1 - 3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

**1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

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

**4.15pm - 6pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

**6.15pm - 7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation** at Putnoe Heights. contact Racheall Monton 01234 297138

**6.30 - 7.30 at St Mark's** Karate contact Karen 079412 64885  
**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge** at St. Mark's. Brian Sallows 407725  
**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Sylvia Woods 365095  
**7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073  
**7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

#### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group** at Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*  
**9.30am Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips 01582 485333  
**9.45am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970  
**1.30pm - 3.00pm Clinic** at St. Mark's 267444  
**12pm Story box** St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 302349  
**1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime** at Putnoe Geraldine Skeel 406828  
**1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.** Debbie Coppenhall 356828.  
**2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer 345991  
**4.00 Story box Plus** at Putnoe Heights for 4-11 year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349  
**5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.  
**6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.** Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.  
**6.15pm Brownies** at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521  
**6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's Mr & Mrs Pike 823795  
**7pm Street Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147  
**7.00pm Club 2000** at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992  
**7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** at St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597  
**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild** at St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby 344442  
**7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Bible Studies every 2 Thursday— Pastor Tarr 360188  
**8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle** at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse 740271

#### Friday

**9.00 am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.  
**1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe.

Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468  
**2pm U3A Gardening Group** at Putnoe Heights Contact Eve Whitehead 356875  
**7 - 10pm Bedford Arts Society** meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Contact Malcolm Smith 01234 400741  
**7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18** at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

#### Saturday

**9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468  
**10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain** at St Mark's – dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414  
**5 - 7pm Bethesda Church** . Contact Pastor Denis Baka 07944 749357  
**7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge** at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

#### Sunday

**Junior Church with crèche for under 3's**  
**9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's**  
**11-12 at Putnoe Heights.**  
**1 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515  
**6-7.30pm T.N.T.** for 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. At Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349.  
**6 -7.30pm T.X.T** for 13 + fortnightly , join us for fellowship , debate & discussion at Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council –6th February 07**  
**Circuit Meeting -**  
**St Mark's Leadership Team – 22nd January 07**  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**  
 19 February 2007 at Wendy's house  
**St Mark's Church Management Meeting -**  
 12.30pm 6 December  
**Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 15 January**  
**Putnoe Church Council 29 January 07**  
**Pastoral Group Meeting – 31 January 07**  
**Churchyard Committee - 15 February 07**  
**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting – 7.30pm**  
 17 January 07, at 14 Flint Way  
**Partnership Council - 20 February 07 at St Mark's**  
**Brickhill Parish Council -**  
**Deanery Meeting**  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth—**

Calendar dates appear on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com). Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

### Verse of Scripture - Psalm 80:19

Restore us, O LORD God Almighty;  
make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

**Collect Prayer** - Before we read we pray  
God our Redeemer, you chose the Virgin Mary, to be the mother of our Lord and saviour. Fill us with your grace that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### First Bible Reading - Micah 5: 2-5

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace. When the Assyrian invades our land and marches through our fortresses, we will raise against him seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men

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

### Second Reading - Hebrews 10: 5-10

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.'" First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

### Third Reading - Luke 1: 39-45

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers." Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

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



## **Post Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

## **Hymns** (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and morning worship)

1. The angel Gabriel 87
2. O Little town of Bethlehem 113
3. Joy to the world 77
4. What child is this ?
5. A Messenger named Gabriel

## **Commentary**

We can learn from the example of Mary. She is set for a wonderful stage of her life to marry Joseph and settle down. Instead she is told that she is to be the Mother of God in Jesus. For many people this is not acceptable, virgin birth is not possible, and yet even if we cannot accept the picture of a woman being pregnant without sexual relations, nevertheless here is a young girl who is told that she is to be pregnant with God himself. Perhaps it is because she is no more than a child that she so willingly accepts God's will and purpose. We would perhaps be less willing to rejoice at the news, less willing to believe the words spoken to us. Mary responds with an unequivocal song of rejoicing in God. She celebrates the character of God as the great turner of tables. The whole of the history of Israel is about God tearing down the arrogant and lifting up those who are down. He is the God of the poor and the oppressed, under his hand the meek inherit the earth.

In the words of the Magnificat, Mary says that it is the God of Power who has done things for her. The word she uses 'dynatos' (dunamis) gives us the word dynamite. God is powerful! He can do great things. He is the God who can. Mary is young and has no husband, but God can bring it about. Nothing is impossible, perhaps not even a virgin conception! Mary calls herself 'blessed', the word 'makarios, could be translated as 'lucky, ' or to be 'congratulated'. It is the word we translate 'blessed' in the beatitudes. Those who hear about Mary will say 'Lucky Mary' - because her God is powerful, and cares about the underdog. '

Mary's response to her life changing and mind bending situation is remarkable. She is perhaps 12 years old and she is told that her whole life is going to be changed. She is to become pregnant, bring disgrace on her family and herself and Joseph. She says to God 'let it be' and in saying 'let it be' she affirms her acceptance that God is not bound by any human constraints, and she also affirms her willingness to suffer a life which will ultimately lead to a sword through her soul. (Luke 2:35). She accepts God's plan for her in spite of all the sniggering and disbelief which she will get. I wonder what would be the greatest miracle, that God created virgin birth or that Mary trusted God in her predicament.

Sometimes when we hear our faith ridiculed we might be tempted to back off, unable to take up the fight on occasions, but this teenager had the willingness to look beyond her own circumstances to the will of God. This Christmas we need afresh to take hold of the important truths of our faith. Be confident about what we believe in the face of scepticism and hostility. We may not be able to explain how God can become one of us, it may seem ridiculous and yet we believe it to be true and we need have no fear of proclaiming this amazing miracle. *Charles Royden*

## **Meditation Pray for peace**

In an article in the Times this week, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams has reminded Christians that their faith did not start in England, or even Rome. It is a Middle Eastern faith, and the Middle East is in crisis, with religious hatred shown towards Christians. The murder of Christians is now commonplace. Writing in the Times (London) Canon Andrew White, president of the Foundation for Reconciliation in the Middle East tells of the dire consequences of the Iraq war on the lives of Christians living in the region. He is vicar of St George's Church in Baghdad. He said,



'all my staff at the church have been killed, they disappeared a year ago and we never saw them again. Of the rest of my congregation, most say that they have been targeted in some way or have had letters delivered with bullets in them.'

The Holy land itself is in turmoil. Dr Williams speaks of the security fence which now chokes the shrinking town of Bethlehem. He writes

'The first Christians were Middle Easterners. It's a sobering thought that we might live to see the last native Christian believers in the region. ....pray for the little town of Bethlehem and spare a thought for those who have been put at risk by our short-sightedness and ignorance; and ask what you might do locally to raise the profile of these brave and ancient churches.'

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Common Worship*

### **Fourth Candle - Mary the Mother of Jesus**

Pink Candle

Leader Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

Leader Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we will light a candle to remember Jesus the Son of God. Last Sunday we lit two candles to remind us of Jesus the Son of David, Jesus the Prince of Peace and Jesus the Lamb of God.

*(A person now lights three candles)*

Today as we light the Fourth candle, we remember Jesus the Son of God.'

### **Scripture Luke Chapter 1:30**

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

**Commentary** *(A person now lights the fourth candle for Jesus the Lamb of God.)*

The title Son of God expresses the unique and special relationship which Jesus has with God the Father. Jesus called God 'Abba,' Father and even at the age of 12 he regarded the Temple as his 'Father's House.' Son of God is a title used in key places in the Gospels. At Baptism the voice of God was heard to call Jesus, God's Son. At the transfiguration the voice of God acknowledged Jesus and the way of suffering he had chosen. It is because Jesus is the Son of God that when we look at the life and teachings of Jesus we gain the very best picture of what God is really like.

Leader Jesus is the Lamb of God

**All Jesus the name high over all**

Leader Let us pray,

**All Lord Jesus, we call you Son of God, and we acknowledge that you and the Father are one. Therefore we trust your promises of forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Thank you for helping us to know that you love us with an everlasting love and show compassion for all your creation.**

# News and Information



**Chapel Chairs.** Buy a chair for St Mark's chapel. Chairs can be donated for a cost of £60 which includes a plaque with inscription

**Magnet** Some members in Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Churches enjoy the 'Magnet' magazine. It costs £2 quarterly or £8 annually. This is the time of year when the 2007 magazines

are ordered. Please contact Mrs Hilda Hicks or Mrs Margaret Standley to order your copies before the 18th December. If you find it difficult to read now and would prefer it in tape form quarterly, that can be arranged.

**Footprints New Years Day Walk** Monday 1.1.07 at 10.30am. Meet at Milton Ernest Garden Centre for coffee followed by an easy circular walk suitable for all the family ( some stiles) Option for a pub lunch afterwards. Contact Sue on 407264

**Putnoe Heights New Year Family Lunch,** Sunday 14 January 2007 at 1pm. A traditional 3 course lunch, including starters, roast with trimmings, wine, coffee and wonderful celebration atmosphere. Tickets £8, children under 10 £4.50 now available.

**St Albans to Taize 2007.** Join this year's pilgrimage 21st - 30th July. If you are aged between 15 & 30 and would like to take part come along to a meeting on Saturday 31st March at Christ Church, Goldington Road, Bedford at 7.30pm. [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)

**St Mark's Church Office** is now closed for the Christmas period and will re-open Monday 8th January. The office staff would like to wish you all a special and very Happy Christmas and look forward to assisting you in 2007.

**A very special Thank You** to Judith Stanton and her team of supporters who, in the last year, have raised over £1,000 for St Mark's.



## Telecare

Telecare is an extremely helpful way of helping us in the ministry of pastoral care. It is extremely helpful for the Ministers to be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down, please do so. It helps us make our churches more able to care.

**Books.** Please save your books for our Mission Group Book Sale, planned for the end of February at Putnoe Heights Church. More details in the New Year, Sylvia Cohen 34342

## Kisiizi Mission Project - An Outstanding

**Response** Thank you to all who have given so generously to this year's Kisiizi Mission Appeal. When we add the totals from events such as coffee mornings, Putnoe Provender, Christmas voices, Smartie Tubes and other fundraising efforts together with the significant amount of direct giving and the gift aid we are able to reclaim, across the Partnership we have raised an amazing total of £6250, far above the target of £3600 we set for ourselves at the end of October. This is the biggest response we have ever had to a mission project and the money we have raised will make a huge difference in the care that can be offered through the mission hospital in Kisiizi, providing support for doctors, nurses and drugs for months ahead. Advent and Christmas are times of reflection and hope and through your generosity you have provided immense hope for all those involved with the work of Kisiizi. Thank you for what is truly an outstanding and deeply moving response to our mission project. *Sam Cappleman*

**Putnoe Heights New Year Family Lunch** Sunday 14th January 2007 at 1pm. We look forward to our traditional 3 course New Year Lunch including starters, main course roast with all the trimmings, dessert, wine, coffee, and wonderful celebration atmosphere. Tickets now available - £8 adults, Children [under 10] £ 4.50p.

**Thank you** to everybody who has helped prepare our churches for worship over the Christmas period.

## Thank you from the ministers

Sam, Joan and Charlie would like to express their sincere thanks to everybody who has sent cards and expressions of kindness over Christmas.

We and our families are extremely grateful for all of the support and affection shown by our churches. We wish you all a happy Christmas and God's blessing in the coming year.

## Hymn

A messenger named Gabriel  
came to the land of Israel;  
and he proclaimed that Mary's son  
was God's messiah, holy One.

O Jesus Christ, strong Son of God,  
once born for us at Bethlehem:  
we listen to the angels' song  
and worship you for ever.

Angelic hosts of God most high  
with radiant glory fill the sky;  
enraptured voices joyful sing  
to welcome Christ, the new-born king.

In awesome fear and bitter cold  
the shepherds huddle in their fold;  
then since the message is for them  
they make their way to Bethlehem.

Within the sacred stable-shrine  
they see the holy child divine;  
the manger stands amidst the straw  
and humble folk their God adore.

Since then have passed two thousand years  
of human misery and tears;  
yet Christ alone can bring release:  
he loves us still - the prince of peace.

## Hymn

What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians fear: for sinners here,  
the silent word is pleading:  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king to own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him:  
Raise, raise the song on high  
the Virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born  
the babe, the son of Mary.

### 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.

**Margaret Leggatt  
Derek Lloyd**

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



## Rest in Peace

**The funeral of David John Woods** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 4 January *Royden*

**The funeral of Twila Brown** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 5 January at 1.00pm *Royden*

**The funeral of Joan Chandler** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 8 January at 12.15pm *Royden*

**The funeral of Lydia Susan East** will take place at Norse Road Cemetery Chapel at 10.45am on Thursday 28 December *Royden*