



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

25 January 2009

Epiphany 3



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 - Revd Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions- Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team – Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Sunday 1 February

9.30am St Mark's– Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership- Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions – Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights –Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions—Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Readings

1Mal 3: 1-5 2. Hebrews 2: 14 -end
3. Luke 2: 22-40

Thank You

The flowers at St Marks have been given by Maurice and Pat Leusby with thanks to God for both of them reaching the age of 80, and for the love and friendship over the years of the people at both St. Mark's and their previous church at Clapham.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Norma Taylor and other family members in memory of their mother and sisters,

We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Jennie Cooper 404950(Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

A Prayer for Sunday

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 Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

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 Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
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 - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30-12.00pm 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 ☎ 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Playreading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 11am - 12. The Right Track** at St Mark's. 3rd week
Signpost information for people with learning difficulties.
Gina Barton ☎07999859980
- 12.00pm Story box** 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
- 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 Lena Holland ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 16 February 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 ☎07790206016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella

Atkinson ☎325293.

- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week . 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. Mrs C Allen ☎363878
- 2pm U3A Photography Group.** St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 27 January 2009 'Friends of Bedford Cemetery'. 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.
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pmChartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 27 January 2009 LA Fitness (How to keep fit) Sally Dayus Details from Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 9.15am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Hanrahan ☎824475
- 9.30am Childminding Support Group** Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949
- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎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
- 10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.
- Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 4 February 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch** St Mark's 2nd week in month. Next meeting 11th February Chris Izzard ☎212164
- 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** monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2pm 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
6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073
7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Week. Mr Farish ☎824984
7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 4 February Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594
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.
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. r Emma Strangwick ☎211070
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
5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521
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
7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs.E. Marriot 303834
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 GroupSt Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning

Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
9.30am U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Val Scrivener ☎346397
10am U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086
9.30am U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Val Scrivener ☎346397
12.15pm U3A Photography. St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183
1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741
7.45pm Bedford Astrology Group St Mark's. Carol Brown ☎233385

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414
; Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198
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
4pm B.A.M.A.A. at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922
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 – , 2 Feb, 22 June, 9 Nov
St Mark's Leadership Team – 24 Feb
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 20 Apr, 13 Jul
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 18 Mrch
Putnoe Church Council - 26 Jan, 15 Jun, 5 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Annual Congregational Meetings 26 Apl
Churchyard Committee -
Putnoe Heights Mission Group –
Partnership Council -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 2 Apr, 7 May, 2 Jul, 3 Sep, 1 Oct, 5 Nov
Deanery Meeting 5 Feb, 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,
Circuit/Deanery Meeting
Woodland Burial Trustees –Sunday 25th Jan
Mission Group Meeting - 7 Jan
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Epiphany 3

Opening Verse -Matthew 18: 18-20

'Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Collect Prayer -Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen *Common Worship*



First Bible Reading – Genesis 14: 17-20

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

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

Second Reading - Revelation 19: 1-10

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God." At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me. "Do not do it! I am a fellow-servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

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

Third Reading - John 2: 1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**

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

O for a heart to praise my God, **495**; The trumpet sounds, **667**; We have a gospel to proclaim, **728**; Take my life, **624**; Immortal, invisible, God only wise, **327**

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Mediation

John indicates that the miracle at Cana was the first of the miraculous signs which Jesus performed and which He has just promised Nathaniel that he would do. Some people see these signs as imaginary stories passed on to illustrate some hidden and deeper truth. And whilst it's true that it is always possible to read scripture at a number of different levels with different depths of meaning we should not lose sight of the fact that the signs in John's gospel are times when the heavenly and earthly realms intersect with each other, just as they do in Christ Himself. They are not some kind of mythical story recorded to encourage the early believers, or ourselves, when times are hard. They are there to help us see the reality of what happens when heaven breaks through on earth.

Commentary A New Beginning

The miracle of turning the water into wine at Cana is only reported in John's gospel where he places it at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He says that it was the first of the seven signs performed by Jesus and through it He 'revealed His glory and His disciples put their faith in Him'. It's because of this revelation of His glory that the episode at Cana, together with the visit of the Magi and Christ's baptism, came to be associated with Epiphany. In the Middle Ages, the miracle at Cana and the revelation of Christ's glory there came to be celebrated by itself on the second Sunday after Epiphany. There are no exact Old Testament parallels with this story but it echoes the story of Moses getting water from a rock, making the bitter water sweet and of turning water to blood. Echoes and stories with which the hearers and readers of the story would be familiar. Water and wine are familiar elements to us today in our worship and resonate with the meaning of this story. Indeed in the service of Holy Communion many churches mix water and wine together in the chalice. This practice is not to dilute the wine, but is a symbol of the unity of the human and divine natures in the person of Christ.

It is this meeting of the earthly and the heavenly realms, which comes to its crux at the cross, which is at the centre of the reading from John today. The wedding feast is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to which all believers are invited. The water jars which are used for the Jewish purification rituals that are filled with the water that is turned into wine are a sign that God is doing a new thing, bringing purification not just to Israel but to the whole world in a new way. In last week's reading Jesus has just told Nathanael that he will see '...heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending over the son of man'. Jacob's dream in Genesis 28 v 10 – 17 will be fulfilled in the Son of Man, and especially when he is lifted up. Later in his gospel John tells us that Nathanael comes from Cana so it's perhaps not surprising that Jesus moves onto Cana shortly after his exchange with Nathanael, nor is it surprising that we see an interception of heaven and earth in the story of the wedding there. Throughout his gospel, John makes extensive use of the words 'up' and 'down', *ano* and *kato* in Greek. For John, these words mean more than different levels in a physical sense but are used to illustrate the sense of two different orders. The *kato* order is the order of the world and self, the *ano* order is the order of God's Kingdom where the ruling principle is not self but God's love. Nathanael will see the reality of Jacob's dream where the humanity of the world is carried up to God through Jesus and the presence of God is brought down to earth through His Son in his own village at a wedding feast. Given John's use of the words up and down, when they appear in his gospel they give us some insight as to what is happening or about to happen. In the reading today it is the water jars that are filled up. Something will happen to the water as the up meets the down, as the substance of the earth meets with the transforming touch of the substance of heaven. And that's exactly what happened. In this case there were six jars not seven, the imperfect number bit the perfect. The old imperfect way must pass away and be transformed by the new. And so the water is transformed into wine, not just any old wine but the best wine the people had ever tasted. The new world order that was to follow the old was to be immeasurably better than the one that was passing away. It's also important to see that in order for the transformation to be complete not only had the water to be transformed into wine it had to be drawn out and experienced by others. The parallels with our own lives are clear. We are to be transformed by the touch of God in our lives, as our earthly natures are exposed to the heavenly nature of our God who is incarnate through Christ. Our

'down' is to be transformed into His 'up' by His coming 'down' to us and being raised 'up'. But not only are we to have our very nature transformed by His touch, we are to share that transformation with others so that they too can experience the touch of heaven and be transformed themselves.

The miracle takes place on the third day. A relatively short time later there would be another third day. That day would see the ultimate power of God breaking through when heaven and earth intersected in a way that would change the history of the world for eternity. In the same way the transformation of the water into wine at the wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the transformation which is continually taking place in our own lives, are only a pallid foretaste of the ultimate transformation which is still to come.

Sam Cappelman.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

As the beautiful, dew covered rose rises from amongst its thorns, so may my heart be so full of love for you my God, that I may rise above the storms and evils that assail me, and stand fast in trust and freedom of spirit. Amen. Hadewijch of Brabant - 13th Century

Almighty God, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world. May your people shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen Methodist Worship

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the broken hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A Prayer for Christian Unity

Let there be no gap between us and Christ.
For if there is any gap, immediately we perish.
For the building stands because it is cemented together.
Let us not then merely keep hold of Christ,
but let us be cemented to him.
Let us cleave to him by our works.
He is the head, we are the body.
He is the foundation, we the building.
He is the vine, we the branches.
He is the bridegroom, we the bride.
He is the shepherd, we the sheep.
He is the way, we walk in it.
Again, we are the temple, he the indweller.
He is the only begotten, we the brothers and sisters.
He is the heir, we the heirs together with him.
He is the life, we the living.
He is the resurrection, we those who rise again.
He is the light, we the enlightened.
Homilies on First Corinthians,
St. John Chrysostom, 4th century

God of dawning light, hear our prayers today and give us the strength to put aside all cares and follow you in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Diary Date. We are planning an after Christmas Table Top Sale at Putnoe on Saturday 28th February. Tables can be pre booked if you would like to sell your own items or there will be a church table. Please come along and support us and enjoy some lunch refreshment. Help on the day would be appreciated. Further details to follow please see Liz or Linda, thank you.

Putnoe Winter Grapevine. Following the success of the summer edition I am looking for articles for the next issue please let Liz have your news by Sunday 25th Jan.

Saturday 7 March at Putnoe Heights Church. An hour of entertainment, talk and demonstration by Richard Westcott entitled "The confessions of a Pantomime Dame" A supper will be served and the evening is suitable for all ages. Tickets will be available after the end of January, but please put this date in your diary. It will be a fund raising event in aid of Putnoe Heights Church Fund. For further information see Jenny Emsley.

Putnoe Heights Preschool Can you spare an hour or two to help? Margaret Watkins, one of our church members has written the following : Initially I wondered how I, as a new helper of pensionable age would fit into a toddler environment. After a year of helping on a Monday morning, I think that I have been useful to the staff and I am seen as something of a friendly granny type figure to the children, who call me Margaret. What do I do? Mostly I spend time moving around the room and sitting with the children at their tables helping them with what they are doing; such as doing puzzles with them, reading to them or talking to them. The session I go to is busy because few mums are able to help out. I do enjoy what I do. They are however very short of helpers, hence their plea for more help. If you would like to know more, please talk to Margaret Watkins or Linda Hoare tel.:782717.

Would anyone be interested in operating the PA system at Putnoe? We have one or two vacancies on the rota with a commitment of less than one Sunday per month. Training will be given. Brian Lodge has now retired from his role on the PA team and we would like to say Thank You to him for all his work.

Women's Network - The annual Daffodil Day celebration will be held on Monday 2nd March, 1.45pm at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Please see notice in the Church Foyer for more information.

Bring and Buy cake stall on Sunday 2nd February at Putnoe following All Age Worship. Proceeds toward Youth Church funds. Please save all your empty clean margarine tubs for the youth team at Putnoe. Thank you Liz Spavins.

BRASS, a local charity supporting refugees and asylum seekers has been awarded a 2 year grant to employ a co-ordinator for 30 hours per week, salary £18977. For more information and a job pack phone 01234 350459 or email brecnews@hotmail.com. Closing date 9th Feb

Wanted Part-time Schools Worker (20hours) to help expand the Christian faith in Middle & Upper schools in the Bedford area. The person should be a committed Christian, with good communication skills and experience of working with school age children. Closing date 27.2.09, interview 28.3.09. More details & application form from : Miss Heather Travers, 132 Mallard Hill, Bedford, MK41 7QT, 01234 360634 or E: heathertravers@talktalk.net

Sir William Harpur House A service of Holy Communion takes place on the first Monday of each month at 10.00am. All welcome.

You can help St Mark's obtain £20,000 of funding towards Solar powered energy - but we only have a week!! Please act NOW St Mark's is seeking help with funding energy saving panels on the roof. It will cut our carbon use and save money. The East of England Development Agency is running a competition and to enter we need to engage as many people as possible. Please support us by registering yourself as a part of our community on their website. Just go to this address and login to register www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk/group/stmarks When you go to the website you will need to go to this page which you can hopefully click straight on or cut and paste into your browser. There is also a link on the homepage of our own website www.thisischurch.com Please register to support St Mark's Church Community Centre, it will take seconds and help us a lot

Anjulita Court The new building now in course of construction by The Ibbett Trust for Methodist Homes for the Aged in North Brickhill. It is hoped that this complex will be opened during 2009 and information leaflets will be available in the New Year. If there are any members of our congregations who would like to be put on the mailing list, please let Pam Kinselly 354480 know and she will make sure you get all available details

**St Marks and Putnoe Heights
Lent Course 2009**

The Life, Meaning and Teachings of Jesus

Title: The Teaching of Jesus

- What did Jesus really teach?
- How did He teach? - What did He mean?

Date: Tuesday 10 March 2009

Leader: Paul Fricker (TBC)

Title: The Parables of Jesus

- Why did Jesus tell parables?
- What do they mean?
- How should we understand the parables of Jesus

Date: Tuesday 17 March 2009

Leader: Revd Charles Royden

Title: The Miracles of Jesus

- Why did Jesus do miracles?
- Who were they for?
- How do we interpret them now?

Date: Tuesday 24 March 2009

Leader: Claire Peck (TBC)

Title: The Passion of Jesus

- What did Jesus say about His passion?
- What does it mean?
- Why did He think it was necessary?

Date: Tuesday 10 March 2009

Leader: Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Evening Outline

- Each session takes place at Putnoe Heights Church
- Evening starts at 7:30 pm for 8:00 pm with coffee and biscuits
- Talk starts at 8:00 pm for approximately 45 minutes
- Questions and discussion for approximately for 15 minutes
- Evening closes at 9:00 pm

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.

**David Rowan
George Williamson Nicol**

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

Right Being Wrong

Christians often argue about what they believe. Some believe one doctrine, some another. One group strives to convince other groups That it alone possesses the truth.

Yet God alone possesses the truth,
Because God alone is the truth.
On earth we see only glimpses, hints;
Our knowledge of truth is partial.

So the different groups who argue
May all be right and all be wrong;
Right in seeing one part of the truth;
Wrong in claiming the whole.

Celtic Parables Monday 26th

Walk February 1st at Roxton commencing 2pm. Meet at Roxton Parish church for gentle 2 1/2 mile walk around the pleasant village of Roxton. Further details from Margaret & Eddy Peck 267567

Putnoe Heights Church has sent a cheque for £2028.13 as donation towards the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship. This sum was raised through a special appeal and other fundraising events.

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Mavis Tearle will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 26 January at 10.00am

The funeral of Edith Joyce Taylor will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 5 February at 2.30pm

The funeral of David Johnson will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 6 February at 11.30am

The funeral of Vera Marsh will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 26 January at 3.00pm

The funeral of James Smith will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 30 January at 4.0pm

The funeral of Jessie Yates will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 3.15pm on Friday 30 January