



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 25 November 2007

### Christ the King - Stir Up Sunday



Church of  
England

#### Partnership Church Services Today

**8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday** on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday at St Mark's

**9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship**

Preacher - The Reverend Eric Royden  
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions - Mr Warwick Holden

**11.00am Putnoe Morning Worship**

Preacher - The Reverend Eric Royden  
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Hoar  
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

#### Advent Sunday-Gift Service 2nd December

**9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship**

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams  
Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

**11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship**

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Ministers

**Bible Readings**

1 Isaiah 2: 1-5 2. Romans 13: 11-14  
3 Matthew 24: 36-44

#### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Dorothy Billingham in memory of her husband Ridley.

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

Gracious God,  
let the light of your face shine upon us.  
Let your peace rule in our hearts, your strength be our song and your grace be sufficient for our need.

Prepare us for the events of each day that we may take up our cross and follow in the steps of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*Matthew Henry, 1662-1714*

**Ministers:** The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley is this morning preaching at Harrold and Carlton  
The Reverend Charles Royden is preaching at Trinity Methodist Church, Biggleswade

#### 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

**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 Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604

**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 L Parry 216724 Mobile 07922053740

**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 Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

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.

### 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

**10.45am U3A Playreading** St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

**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

**2.30pm Bedford Arts Society** Putnoe Heights Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

**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. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

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

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

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

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

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles.** Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's each month next meeting 19 November - St Mark's Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.

Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

Helen Folbigg ☎351223

**10am -Bedord Arts Society** starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

**1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

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

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 27 November Christmas Alphabet Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

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

**6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

**7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group**

St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

**7pm Creative Card Making** St Mark's 1st & 3rd Week of the month Carol Houghton ☎346718

**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

**7.30pm Chartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 4 December Children's Choir. Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.00am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Harrahan ☎824475

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

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

**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 28 November Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

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

**2pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester ☎400584

**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 Rachell Monton ☎01234 297138

**6.30pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

**7pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

**7.00pm Yoga** St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

**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. Next meeting 5 December Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

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

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

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

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

**12pm Storybox** weekly at 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

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**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

**6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's Mr C Hill ☎772922

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

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

**7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2 Thursday - Pastor Tarr ☎360188

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

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

**8.00pm Brickhill Wives** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

### 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.

**1.30pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎272517 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

**7pm Youth Club for age 10-15.** St Mark's Church. Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

### Saturday

**9.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

**10.00 pm Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Randle ☎01234 782414

**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, games & outings. Liz ☎302349.

**6pm T.X.T** Putnoe. for 13 + fortnightly, join us for fellowship, debate & discussion. Liz ☎302349

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 29th Jan 08, 17th June 08

**St Mark's Leadership Team** – 28 November 2007  
27 February 2008, 13 May 2008

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** – 21 January

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** - 28th November 2007 at 12 noon

**Putnoe H Centre Management -**

**Putnoe Church Council** - 28 January 2008

**Pastoral Group Meeting** – 4.30pm 15 January 2008

**Churchyard Committee** - 16 January 2008

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group** Next meeting  
Weds 16 Jan 2008 at 14 Flint Way 7.30pm

**Partnership Council -**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings**

**Deanery Meeting -**

**Circuit Meeting** - 10 March 2008, 12 June 2008

**Woodland Burial Trustees** - January 21st 2008

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth-**

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



## Telecare

It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feedback, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down on the Telecare scheme, please do so. Additional members of the Pastoral Team are sharing the task of making telephone calls. Please do not be concerned if a new person

# Christ the King



## Opening Verse - Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

## Collect 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 Methodist Worship

## First Bible Reading - Jeremiah 23: 1-6

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

## Second Bible Reading - Colossians 1: 11-20

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

## Third Reading - Luke 23: 23-33

.When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals-- one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

## Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ you ascended to the throne of heaven to rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, that the whole created order may come to worship at your feet.

## Commentary

Today's readings tell of the object of Christ's coming to earth. God had created a beautiful world for men and women to live in and enjoy but from the very beginning, starting with Adam and Eve, men and women have rebelled and disobeyed God. He tried, through the prophets, to have people reconciled to Him and it was only because He loved the world so much that when that failed, He sent His Son Jesus Christ to bring salvation and reconciliation.

The means of reconciliation was the blood of Jesus shed on the Cross. The Cross is proof that God was prepared to go to such length to win the hearts of His people. Jesus came and performed wonderful acts of healing to manifest that love, - to tell of the love of God, and was ready to suffer the most cruel death to bring that salvation.

Sin creates a barrier between us and God and separates us from Him. Jesus could have refused to go to the Cross but the fact that He did not, and was prepared to suffer so much so that the sins of people can be forgiven, shows the limitless love of God.

If we are to one day enjoy eternity in heaven with Jesus Christ a response from us is required. It is not enough to say, 'I am a Christian', there needs to be some evidence. To that rhetorical question, 'if you were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?' we should give some thought.

Do you attend Church?, the Bible states 'let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, (Hebrews 10v25) Do you share fellowship with other Christians? Do you read your Bible? Do you believe Jesus died on the Cross—for you? If you are unable to answer, you need not fear arrest. The old excuse that you don't have to go to Church to be a Christian may give a sense of relief to one's conscience, but it doesn't really mean anything. Neither does the other statement that one only needs to be honest, a good neighbour and nice person. Many atheists are lovely people in themselves and are very kind and helpful, but they would be offended to be called Christian. Most people have made a vow at some time to God. Perhaps when ill (especially in hospital), or when in trouble or need of some kind, and promised God if He helped them, they would remember, and worship Him. Perhaps at a baptism service, promising to set an example by bringing the child to Church. So why are there so many empty chairs? *(Eric Royden)*

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

1. Crown Him with many crowns MP109
2. I want to walk with Jesus Christ MP302
3. I will sing the wondrous story MP315 (Hyfrydol)
4. Love divine all loves excelling MP449 (Blaenwern)
5. Guide me O thou Great Jehovah MP201 (Cwm Rhondda)

**Meditation** The story of the Cross should make us meditate on how seriously each of us takes it, and just what it means to us. For many people the Cross is but a piece of jewellery which is not treated with the respect and reverence it merits. So many people wear the Cross whilst living the most unworthy lives. We should remember the Cross was an instrument of horrific tortuous death. No one would think of wearing any other token of death. Anyone wearing a Cross should be fully aware of the price paid by the One who died on it on our behalf and wear it with pride and thankfulness. *(Eric Royden)*

## Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

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

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

## **Banking crisis has moral root and solution, says Bishop of St Albans Wednesday 14th November 2007**

The Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Revd Christopher Herbert, speaking in the House of Lords, called for a fresh approach to restoring damaged trust in the banking industry. He called the giving of bank loans to people "...knowing that customers are not really aware of the risks they are taking," a moral, not just an economic problem.

Over 2,700 years ago a poem of thund'rous beauty was written about economic affairs. The poet, looking around him, saw a land which was rich and prosperous: the vineyard was bearing much fruit. But then things began to go terribly wrong: greed began to prevail over justice, oppression was rife, mercy was no longer part of the social or political vocabulary. "Woe to you", said the poet, "who join house to house, field to field, until there is room for no-one but you....". He could have been describing the London property market or the banking industry. The poem is a long one but in it the relationship between social morality and economic affairs is examined with powerful precision.

In trying to understand our current economic problems, and in particular the banking crisis, I have read the newspapers fairly carefully and I have been much helped by articles such as the one by the noble Lord, Lord Rees Mogg in The Times this week (Monday 12 November). In that article he drew attention to some new regulations FAS 157 and 159: and explained that those regulations "will set the terms on which banks value their assets". And then wrote, crisply and clearly: 'No assets, no lending; no lending, no banks'. It's a gem of a summary.

In the same newspaper on the same day, in an article about one of Britain's major banks, the journalist quoted an "insider" as saying that his bank had: "always been at the transparent end of the spectrum". The implication that other banks are not is easily drawn.

One of the things that has been missing from newspaper comment on the banking crisis has been any explicit reference to the morality upon which good banking practice is necessarily based. There has been the inevitable targeting of individuals from the Governor of the Bank of England to the CEO of Northern Rock – but that kind of targeted attack misses the much bigger issues concerned with the probity of institutions, about the moral relationship that exists between trust and risk and reward; about the moral accountability of those who have financial control over the most vulnerable; about the morality of a society in which the gap between rich and poor remains achingly large; about the morality of a housing market, left to its own devices, which leaves the poor and the young trapped in despair.

In a democratic society, banking depends upon trust. The unwritten, unspoken contract is that if I lend money to a bank I shall receive that money back in due course. If that moral trust is lacking or if faith is broken, the banking system will collapse.

The current failures in the system are as much to do with morality as with economic mechanics. If I over-lend or encourage indebtedness (what was that ho-ho phrase about the banks being "over-exuberant?") knowing that my customers are not really aware of the risks they are taking then that is not a mechanical problem but a moral one. And no amount of arcane economic speak about CDO's or selling debt or sub-prime lending can conceal the fact that the issue is a moral one.

It seems to me there is an urgent need for Her Majesty's Government to take action at two levels: the first is to call together senior bankers with ethicists, philosophers and theologians to reflect on the moral values which should underline good banking practice, and the second is to take action, urgent and necessary action, to support those Citizens Advice Bureaux through the country where the problems of indebtedness are encountered on a daily basis amongst the poor, the lonely, and the most vulnerable. If my call does not produce any response I recommend a course in the reading of poetry – and especially the poetry of a man called Isaiah. It's all there.



**For all your Christmas presents this year**

Please always log on to Amazon through [www.thischurch.com](http://www.thischurch.com) to buy all your books, music, DVD's, electrical goods, we receive 5% commission.

**Footprints Walking Group Sunday 2 December 2.00pm start.** Meet at St Mark's Church for walk in Mowsbury area followed by cup of tea in the coffee shop. Contact Sue 407264

**Partnership' God Talk ' Group.** For the last two years a group of women have been meeting on a Monday morning to pray, to share talks about God and enjoy each other's company. Since many of us are now working, we have decided to meet monthly on a Wednesday evening. We hope that you might like to join us. Our first meeting is on Wednesday 5 December 8-9pm at the home of Claire Peck, 22 Brecon Way. Contact Majella Atkinson (group co-ordinator) on 325293 or Liz 302349

**Wednesday Holy Communion** - Please do not forget that there is a service of Holy Communion every Wednesday at St Mark's Chapel, you are always offered a warm welcome and the service is followed by refreshments.

**Christmas Voices** - Come and enjoy a selection of poetry and prose and a little music around the Christmas Tree as some of our regular Putnoe readers help us capture the Christmas Spirit. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies during the interval. Thursday December 6th at Putnoe Heights at 7.30pm. Tickets £3 from Putnoe Office or on the door. Proceeds to Keech Cottage

**Putnoe Provender** - The Christmas Provender will take place on Sunday 2nd December 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 the work of our Missions Group. John & Sally Gunning tel. 305925.

**The 1st Putnoe Brownies** would like to invite you to their Christmas Fund Raising Sale Monday 26 November at 6.30pm. Does anyone know the history of a wooden owl carved by a 2nd World War P.O.W & inscribed 1st Putnoe Brownies. If so please see Liz.

**Partnership Council Christmas Party.** Please note the date of Sunday 16 December. You are all invited for lunch at the Vicarage from any time after 1.00pm

**Peals of Wisdom Quiz-** £1 per entry, proceeds to Putnoe Mission Funds. Draw made on Sunday 25 November. Quiz sheets available from the church office. Sylvia Cohen

**Young Peoples Music Group** If you enjoy singing or play an instrument join us on Friday 30 November

8 - 9 pm at Putnoe to prepare some Christmas Music. Contact Julia 295964.

**Journeying towards Christmas** with the travelling Nativity figures. If you would like to host Mary & Joseph for the evening during Advent, please see Liz.

**St Mark's Church Council Launches Organ Fund** St Mark's Church Council has agreed to launch a fund to raise £15,000 to replace the church organ. The computerised organ will be replaced by a newer computerised digital system with additional speakers at the front of the church.

**Putnoe Heights** Sat 8th December 10am—12noon. Coffee Morning at the home of Eddy and Margaret Peck, 30 The Ridgeway. Cakes, Raffle. Proceeds to Mission Funds. All Welcome. Requests for transport. 267567

**Smartie Tubes** are still available at both churches today. Please eat the Smarties & replace with money. At St Mark's we are raising money for BeCHAR, working with the homeless in Bedford. At Putnoe Heights we are raising money for Keech Cottage. Please return the filled tubes if possible on Gift Sunday next week – 2 December.

**From Bechar.** Thank you for supporting us over the Christmas period. We will be providing important help and support over Christmas in Bedford with meals and all of the usual drop in facilities and services. We expect each day to provide for about 70 people at our Prebend Street Day Care Centre. We will be providing warm clothing to some of those who are badly equipped to face the cold weather. Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

**St Mark's Church Leadership Team.** There will be a meeting of the Leadership Team this week on Wednesday at the home of Delia Shephard. The meeting is 7.30pm for 7.45pm

**See Round.** Please take the Christmas edition of See Round this morning. The message this year from Bishop Christopher in See Round speaks about the birth place of Jesus in Bethlehem. A picture of the said cave can be seen on the back of the church Christmas cards which are available from the church offices priced at £2.50 for 10 cards. All proceeds are for church funds—at this price you can afford to send them far and wide.

**Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony.** A copy of the liturgy is now available for those lighting Advent candles. Copies are in the church office or can be downloaded on our website.

**Mission Update.** Thank you to all who have already taken their envelopes. If you were unable to get one last week they are still available from the table in the foyer at St Mark's or from the church offices. Please return as soon as possible and at the latest by 2 December. We have now raised over £1,000 at each church! Will keep you updated on progress.

**Volunteers Urgently Required** for mobility shop (Shopmobility Howard Centre) . Any morning 9am—1pm, or any afternoon 1pm—4.30pm. Please contact Sheila Whittemore 01234 404962.

**TNT meets** 25th November for Christmas crafts. This will be our last meeting until the New Year.

**Putnoe Heights Church Council:** There will be a special meeting of the Church Council today (25th) at 12.15pm. This meeting has been called to discuss the proposed building plans following a formal costing of the scheme by our quantity surveyor.

**Delivery of the St Mark's Christmas paper** will take place on Saturday 8 December. Meet at church at 10am and enjoy coffee and mince pies when we return. Please join us. All welcome.

**Christmas card notice board.** This will be erected in the church at the beginning of December for members of the congregation to post their Christmas wishes to all friends at St Mark's. A donation to 'Bechar' can be handed in at the Church office.

**Putnoe Heights Church** delivery of Christmas cards in our area. Pick up from the church on Saturday 1 December or on Sunday morning & deliver before Sunday 9 December if possible please.

**Putnoe Heights** preparation of Christmas tree on Friday 30 November at 6pm. Come & help preparing our tree for the first Sunday in Advent.

**Sponsored Head Shave.** Lorraine Haines from St Mark's is raising money for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (Paediatric Oncology) by taking part in a sponsored 'Head Shave' at Toni and Guy Harpur Centre, Bedford on Saturday 1st December at 2pm. A sponsor form can be found on the notice board in the foyer at St Mark's.

**St Mark's** decoration of Christmas tree will take place on Friday 30 November at 3pm. Come & help to prepare our tree for the first Sunday in Advent.

**A big thank you** to all who helped with the Christmas Fayre at St Mark's yesterday. It was a wonderful community event and we also raised a remarkable £ This will be put towards the large and small hall refurbishments which we hope to carry out soon. The scheme will replace the existing ceiling, lighting floor, doors and furnishing. We are currently seeking grant support to increase our own fundraising.

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

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

In an age when so much is about how we feel, it is interesting to get another perspective. In the end, it is our will, rather than our feelings that govern our actions. Real love is not about feeling it is about choosing, by our wills, to do good to others even though we may not feel good towards them. Our feelings should not dominate our wills. So we pray that God will "stir up" our wills, so that they will be in charge of us, doing what we know is right.

## 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

**Phyllis Serena Webb**  
**Isabella Morfill**

*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 Alice Jones** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 12 noon on Wednesday 5 December.  
*Royden*