

# Partnership News

28 November 2010

First Sunday of Advent



## Partnership Church Services Today

### 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

### 9.30 am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

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

### 11am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

## 5 December

### 9.30 am St. Mark's - Family and Gift Service

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank  
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

### 11.00 am Putnoe - Family and Gift Service

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

**Readings** 1. Isaiah 11: 1-10 2. Romans 15: 4-9  
3. Matthew 3: 1-12

## Midweek Worship

**Holy Communion** at St Mark's Chapel every Wednesday  
at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House on first  
Monday of every month at 10.00am

## Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Doris Cooper in memory of her husband Marshall.

The flowers in the Chapel have been given by Phyllis Barnwell in memory of her husband Alan.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Pat Hope in memory of her husband Ron, her father, her Nan & Grandad & her Auntie Bev who died recently.

*We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.*

## Prayer for This Week

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe. We light these candles to remind ourselves of the wonders you have performed for your people down the ages. Create new miracles for us and, as the days go by, may your light grow brighter and brighter within us. Amen.

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

### Deacon Jane Mason

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

### The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
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### For Data Protection Purposes

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

Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

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

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

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

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

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

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

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

## Tuesday

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

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

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

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

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎870357

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

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

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

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

**2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week.  
**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 30 November 'Tea and Chat' Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

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

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

**6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -8 December Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Thursday

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

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

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

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

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

**12pm Storybox** . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎363283

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

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

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

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

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

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

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

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

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

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

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

### Friday

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

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

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

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

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

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

### Saturday

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎01462 674792

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

### Sunday

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

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

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

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

## Diary Dates

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

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

## First Sunday of Advent

### Opening Sentence from Scripture Romans 13:11

The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

### Collect (*Before we read we pray*)

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. *Common Worship Shorter Collect*



### Old Testament Reading - Isaiah Chapter 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD

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

### Second Reading - Romans Chapter 13:11-14

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature

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

### Gospel Reading – Matthew 24: 36-44

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (This is the word of the Lord— **All: Thanks be to God**)

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

## Hymns for Sunday *(Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship)*

1. When to our world the Saviour comes 761 *(Tune Church triumphant)*
2. There's a sound on the wind 681
3. Revive thy work O Lord 578 *(Tune Carlisle)*
4. Father, hear the prayer we offer 132 *(Tune Sussex)*
5. Christ is surely coming 75

## Commentary

The season of Advent came into being toward the middle of the sixth century. At first, the Advent Season was determined as the six Sundays leading up to Christmas. This was then reduced to four Sundays by Pope St. Gregory the Great (591-604). So now Advent is the season four weeks before Christmas in which we prepare for the coming of Christ and it begins on Sunday nearest to 30th November. Advent is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and its name comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming".

The season also celebrates Christ's anticipated coming again in the fullness of time to rule triumphantly over life in heaven and earth, so it is so much more than just a time to get ready for Christmas. The colour of Advent, seen in the candles used in the wreath is purple. Purple is used in the church at Lent, because it is the colour of saying sorry, it is also the colour used for funerals to show mourning. Purple is used at Advent not in a mournful way, or to say sorry, rather it is to demonstrate that something serious is taking place, Advent purple encourages us to engage in a time of reflective watchfulness. At Advent the Church is put on guard, to watch, be vigilant and prepared, but this is a time of reassurance, because it reminds us that the question is not whether Jesus will return to judge the earth, but when.

God's first intervention within our history came not in the form of some instant or earth shattering event, but instead God chose to come into the world as we all do, to be born as a baby in the midst of a chaotic world. By our own impatient standards this seems such a slow way to bring salvation to the world. But God may not always choose the easy answer or the quick fix. But by His earthly incarnation He demonstrates a total commitment to the very core of humanity. A commitment, to its day by day routines and challenges, a commitment to humanity from the cradle to the grave and beyond. And in that same incarnational way, God comes to us day by day, through the working of the Spirit, through His Word and Sacrament, making the ordinary extraordinary; making the broken whole; and redeeming and restoring the past, present and future, whatever they hold.

We should not spend our time worrying about the timing of God's arrival or about the distraction of what might happen in the meantime. God's reign has already broken into our world through the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ. His Kingdom is near and it is coming, even as it is already arrived but not fully realized. We are to remain watchful, and aware, and to be prepared for the final coming, which might arrive at any time.

In the birth of Jesus God's love is shared with uncommon grace in a world so desperately in need of that love. It is through us, and through the very imperfect Church that bears his name that his love and grace continue to come and be spread.

There is much about Advent to enjoy, the Advent wreaths found in our churches where they have four candles to be lit each Sunday and one for Christmas Day. But in the midst of our church we know that just as we prepare for Christmas, so we have to make ready to welcome Jesus in our lives. As Christians there is a real sense that we live all year round in Advent time. We are living in the present but trying very hard to bring to the present the realities of the future. Our lives should be characterised by the lifestyle of heaven, even though we are currently inhabitants of planet earth. It is difficult to know how to interpret the standards of Jesus for our society. How do we 'turn the other cheek' in a society in which people are brutally murdered on our streets. Yet Advent tells us that we Christians are to do just that, bring God's reign in our own lives in such a way that we are salt in this sorry society and bring about change which makes a real difference. We must not become fatigued, we prepare inwardly and spiritually, but if that means anything it is demonstrated visibly in our changed lives. Somebody said "Nothing is more powerful than an individual acting out of conscience, thus helping to bring the collective conscience to life." This Advent we are challenged not to blame others, but instead to recognise that the change must come from us as we live the new lives of the Kingdom. Are you ready for the coming of Jesus? *Charles Royden*

## Meditation

Each December, the Jewish community celebrates a festival of lights, called 'Hanukkah'. (December 1 this year) Over 2,100 years ago, King Antiochus (the Greek ruler of Syria) had control over the land of Israel, his southern neighbour. Whilst the Jews believed in one God, the king insisted that they worship many gods, including himself. A Jewish rebellion started against the far greater forces of the occupying armies. After 3 years of war, the Jewish leader - Judah Maccabee - re-took Jerusalem's Temple, built by



the Jews for the worship of God. The Temple had been desecrated, abused - by worshipping pagan gods whose statues had been placed there. The Jews set about re-dedicating the Temple to God. There were 8 days of festivities. In the Temple, the oil lamps of the Menorah - a branched candlestick - were lit again, but there was only enough oil for them to burn for one day. Miraculously, the oil burnt for 8 days until new oil was obtained, and so 'Hanukkah' has become an 8-day festival.

Nowadays, as Hanukkah is celebrated, recalling the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem, Jews re-dedicate them-selves to God. It is a happy time, and presents are given. Pancakes are eaten, and children play a game with a spinning top that bears 4 Hebrew letters, standing for the words: "A great miracle happened here." At nightfall on the first day of Hanukkah, one candle is lit. Each night another branch of the candlestick is lit, until by the end of the Festival, all 8 are alight.

### Prayers for week ahead

Lord our God, keep us your servants alert and watchful as we await the return of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks at the door he may find us vigilant in prayer, with songs of praise on our lips. 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

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself; Amen. (New Zealand Prayer book)

Come Lord Jesus, come as King. Rule in our hearts, come as love. Rule in our minds, come as peace. Rule our actions, come as power. Rule in our days, come as joy. Rule in our darkness, come as light. Rule in our bodies, come as health. Rule in our labours, come as hope. Thy Kingdom come among us. (David Adam)



### First Candle - The Candle of Hope (Purple Candle) The Patriarchs, Abraham, the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus

Leader: May your hearts be filled with hope as you hear the promises God made to bless all the peoples on earth through Abraham, the father of our faith.

**All: Thanks be to God**

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, we will light a candle to remember the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the ancestors of our faith.

*Genesis Chapter 12*

*The LORD had said to Abraham, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

Abraham was obedient to God and left his home to go to a distant land. God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed. This blessing would come because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Gospel writer Matthew traces the ancestry of Jesus back through the Old Testament to Abraham. So it was that the promise was fulfilled, that all the nations of the world were blessed through the obedience of Abraham.

*(A person lights the first candle here)*

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: God of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac and the ancestors of our faith, you are our Father too. Help us as we await the coming of Jesus, to show the same obedience and willingness as Abraham. May we seek always to follow your path for our lives. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus our Saviour, the babe of Bethlehem. Amen.**

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



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

**Advent with  
St Albans - by  
text, and email**  
St Albans Diocese  
are encouraging

people to sign up to receive a daily Advent verse from the Bible by email or text and to download a weekly sheet from [www.livinggodslve.org](http://www.livinggodslve.org). In the rush up to Christmas it is guaranteed that people will value time each day in Advent to stop, reflect and pray. Sign up, on the home page of this website, to take part in the Advent Challenge, Me, You, the World and God. You will receive a daily bible verse by email or text. The verses, which begin in Genesis and go through to the Nativity, offer an opportunity to reflect on our relationship with one another, with the world and with God. The themes of the weeks are Beginnings, Relationships, Visions and Encounters. You can also download a leaflet for each week listing the verses. The leaflet, like the email, offers brief comments, questions for reflection and pointers for prayer. There will also be a special advent twitter so sign up now. Tell your friends!

Sign up now and also join in the 'design a logo' competition. [www.livinggodslve.org](http://www.livinggodslve.org)

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

**Carols For All** Kempston Musical Society are singing Carols for All on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in aid of Cancer Research UK. . The venue is Kempston East Methodist Church, Bedford Road, Kempston and guest artists will be "Muse & Music" who performed for us 2 years ago and are back by popular request. Come and join in with your favourite carols, and enjoy this evening of festive entertainment while supporting a very good cause. Please phone 01234 354183 or email us for tickets at [kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com) . Priced £6 for adults and £3 for under 15's, or contact any member of the Choir.

**English Music at Christmas** at St. Mary's Church, Goldington on Wednesday 15 December at 7.30pm. Stephen Liley (tenor), Alan Haughton Piano, Justin Waters (organ) & Modernian Singers conducted by Geoff Lavery. Retiring Collection in aid of St. Mary's Charities.

**The Christmas Posting Box** will be in position soon, for you to post your cards to friends who come

to Putnoe Church. As always, it will be 10p per card or 12 cards for £1. Please leave the money in the wooden box near by. Please put surnames and addresses on the envelopes. .Cards which are left on Christmas day will have to be collected afterwards, unfortunately. Thank you Joy and Peter Parker

**Xmas Tree Help.** If you have time to help decorate the Xmas tree at please come to St Mark's next Friday 4th at 4pm *Thank You Wendy*



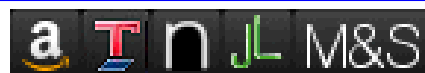
### **World Aids Day December 1**

The HIV / AIDS pandemic has become an integral part of our contemporary global society, dramatically influencing health, culture and family structure worldwide.

The number of people living with HIV in the UK continues to rise, with an estimated 83,000 infected at the end of 2008, of whom over a quarter,

27%, were unaware of their infection. The number of people accessing HIV care in Bedfordshire is over 800. As Christians we can express our concern for those affected in some way by HIV / AIDS through information, prayer and support of international agencies dedicated to improving health care and education in the countries most affected by AIDS. In our Diocese the HIV / AIDS Support Group has a two-fold aim: To address the issue of knowledge and awareness of HIV / AIDS to clergy and members of the churches in our diocese, and to initiate practical activities that we hope will have a positive, even if small, affect on an individual's quality of life. Prayer is at the centre of our purpose and our work. We prepare a prayer each year for World Aids Day, and we invite you to add your voice to ours:

We pray for all those in the world with HIV / AIDS and especially those in our own diocese. Father of us all, may we see your image in all people, May we and all your church reflect and express your unending love. Help us to create your kingdom here on earth, and to strive for peace, justice and dignity for all. Amen.



You will find this link on the homepage for [www.thischurch.com](http://www.thischurch.com) Please click on it to access Amazon.com and just about anything you need for presents this year, with free delivery. You can also sign up to Easyfundraising. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at [thischurch.com](http://thischurch.com), then we obtain 5%

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

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

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

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

**Putnoe Provender—12 December**  
Sales of the ever popular Christmas Puddings, Homemade jams, Marmalade, Cakes and much more. (Contributions gratefully received)  
In the welcome area after morning service.  
John and Sally Gunning –Tel. 305925

**With regret** Jennie Cooper has decided she is unable to write so many cards to Church friends this year, but wishes a Blessed and Happy Christmas to all. Please

don't send to me as I should be off for the usual month to Vancouver to see family members on 9th December. I intend giving an extra donation to the Kisiisi project this year in lieu. Jennie Cooper, Putnoe Heights Church

**Rotary Christmas Carols** at St. Paul’s Church on Wednesday 1 December at 7.30pm. Featuring Bedford Town Band, Bedford Modern Swing Band, Tony Hymas, Cressida & Murray Rayner, Ian runnels & St . Paul’ Church Choir. Tickets £7 (under 16’s free) to include Mulled wine & mince pies from Rotary Clubs, St. Paul’s Church 340163 or Jude Cottarn (Christmas Tree Festival) 01234 407398.

### Mission Update

Thank you to all who have given so generously to this years Autumn Mission project to support the work of the hospital in Kisiizi. Without the addition of Gift Aid (yet!), between the churches we have already raised over £1250 which is a great achievement. If you have not already contributed and would like to do so please pick up letter explaining how to become involved and to support financially and in prayer from either of the church offices or after the service today. Equally importantly, don't forget to bring your Smartie Tubes back next week with the Smarties replaced by all that annoying loose change and old crumpled £10 notes!

### Rest in Peace

Member of our churches will be saddened to hear the news of the death of John Tatman. John was a most loyal friend of St Mark’s where he has worshipped for many years. In so many ways John contributed to our church life. Once a member of the Church Leadership Team John also led intercessions in church and even took responsibility for the church central heating system, making sure that the clocks were always programmed. Our prayers are with Carolyn and all the family. Details of a service to be held at St mark’s will be announced next week.

### 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.

### John Tatman

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



**Cold Weather preventing you from coming to church?** Tell St Mark’s Church office (Tel: 342613) and we will arrange for a taxi to include you on its route to the 9.30am service.

### Forthcoming Funerals

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

**The funeral of Marion Hilda Watkins** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 2.30pm on Friday 10 December

