



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

2 December 2007

Advent Sunday - Gift Service



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 - Family Worship

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

11.00am Putnoe - Family Worship

With the baptism of Kayla Elise Banfield
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Ministers

9th December - Christingle

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Wendy Nash
Intercessions - YPF

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 Veta Hudson-Rae.

The flowers at St Mark's have been given by Phyllis Barnwell in memory of her dear husband Alan to mark the first anniversary of his passing on the 3rd of December.

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

God the Father, eternally mysterious,
we worship you.

God the Son, eternally responding,
we bless you.

God the Holy Spirit, eternally witnessing,
we adore you.

Holy and glorious Trinity, three persons and
one God, we magnify you, now and for ever.
Amen.

Nestorian Liturgy, 5th century

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

**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

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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 3rd & 5th week each month . Next one 17 December 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. Last meeting of this year. Carols, readings & mince pies. 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 2nd & 4th 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

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎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 12 December Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

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

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

10.00am 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 – 27 February 2008, 13 May 2008

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 21 January

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

Putnoe H Centre Management -

Putnoe Church Council - 28 January 2008

Pastoral Group Meeting – 4.30pm 15 January

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 calls.

Advent Sunday

Opening Verse - 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 Prayer for the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading - Isaiah 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 Bible Reading - Romans 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**)

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

The days are surely coming, says the LORD,

when I will build the temple of the LORD, the house of Jacob. *Jeremiah 33:14*



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

This week the Christmas trees are going up, the lights are being strung and the annual ordeal of non-stop mince-pie eating has begun! We now seem to regard the first of December as the start of the Christmas season. In fact it is the beginning of Advent today and also the start of the Church's new year. We start Advent with this very frightening passage from the Gospel according to Matthew. It speaks of sudden death, unforeseen disaster and burglary, none of which are suited to a season of partying and shopping. This morning's passage of scripture is taken from the very end of Jesus' earthly life, as he taught his disciples the things that they needed to know in order to survive without him. The preceding chapter of the Gospel contains the worrying metaphor of the sheep being divided from the goats. Then the story of the cataclysmic flood which nearly destroyed humanity in the time of Noah is invoked. We should get the idea that we are in big trouble! Our thoughts should be turning to the big issue of whether we will be among the saved? Are we a sheep or a goat, are our immortal souls at peril? Wesley spent his whole life worrying about his own salvation. This type of fear is not a fashionable concern these days. How often do we hear a sermon warning us about eternal damnation? Such language is foreign to us. But these words are Jesus' own, delivered with great urgency and we would be unwise to ignore them just because the idea of hell is unfashionable. Jesus is warning us that we can stray dangerously once we allow ourselves to fall into just such a state of complacency! So we turn back to the text and ask ourselves, given the dire nature of the warning: what are we to do? We are to be prepared! We must not spend our lives thinking about the concerns of this world, blithely ignoring the end of our lives. In fact Advent should be a season of austerity, signified by the purple of mourning. During Advent we are to focus our minds on the coming Incarnation of God as a human, with a sense of wonder and awe. In Jesus God transformed the possibilities of the world. The giving of Himself as a man changed both how we understand the Divine and ourselves. From now until Christmas we will be swept along in a tide of celebration but we need to make space in our spiritual lives to be a little apprehensive, as today's reading warns us. Are we ready for the challenge of meeting God as a human? Are we responsive to the demands and responsibilities that the gift of God as man places on us? Joan Crossley

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms & Advent Family Worship & Baptism at Putnoe)

1. Long ago, prophets knew! (Piae Cantiones) **83**
2. There's a sound on the wind (Partnership News)
3. On Jordan's Bank **84**
4. O come O come Immanuel **85**
5. Tell out my soul **86**

Meditation

Today is Gift Sunday in the Partnership churches and in my teaching today during the service I shall be challenging us to think about what is meant by giving a gift? Is our giving both to God and to humans an empty thing? Is our giving a matter of duty or even a way of enhancing our personal prestige, rather than a genuine relinquishing of part of ourselves? Making a gift to another person can, at its very best, be a way of forging a bond with the recipient. Giving should never be an idle thing but the product of prayerful thought. Joan Crossley

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God of love, turn our hearts to your ways; and give us peace. Amen.

A Prayer for Refugees. Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our

hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Reconciliation. Gracious God, ruling the earth and its people not by terror but in love; we worship you. We confess that too often our words hurt others and our deeds are selfish; forgive us. In this time of uncertainty and fear, help us to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us, in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

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)*



Christmas Cards

Please don't forget that there is still time to order Christmas cards from the church office. 10 cards for £2.50 all proceeds will go towards church funds.



Telecare - Caring at Christmas

Christmas can be a lonely time for many people who are isolated and alone. If you know somebody who would like a call from the church please let us know and we will be pleased to send them our Christmas greetings from Telecare

St Mark's Coffee Shop Time Change !!

The St Mark's Leadership Team have agreed that the Coffee Shop will continue to operate throughout 2008. From next week the Coffee Shop will be opening and closing an hour earlier so please note the new times

Every Sunday 1.30pm— 2.30pm



Don't forget to come along and enjoy great teas, where else can you get great teas and coffee with a piece of homemade cake, all for £1 !

For all your Christmas presents this year



Please always log on to Amazon through www.thisischurch.com to buy your books, music, DVD's, electrical goods, we receive 5% commission which helps offset the cost of our website.

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

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 puds 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.

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

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

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.

Tuesday Club invite you to join them in their Christmas Celebration at Putnoe on Tuesday 18 December at 7.30. Entry £1.50 including refreshments and a raffle ticket. All welcome.

Putnoe New Year Lunch - Date for your diary, Sunday January 13th. Tickets will be available shortly.

Oxfam £400 has been given through Oxfam to the Bangla Desh Cyclone appeal from the Mission Emergency Relief Fund. Sylvia Cohen.

Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship would love to welcome new members to our Fellowship group. If you would like to find out who we are and what we do, come and join us for our Christmas social afternoon on Tuesday 4 December at 2.15pm in the church, or contact Betty Wyatt 350188

St Mark's Church Office will be closed from Friday evening 21st December and re-open on Monday 7th January 2008. The office staff would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to assisting you in 2008.

Holy Communion at Sir William Harpur House. There will be a service of Holy Communion on Monday 3 December led by The Reverend Eric Royden (Charlie is dealing with a burial at the woodland burial ground). All are welcome to this service from the community

British Cardiac Patients Association Next meeting 20 December, 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights. Concert by "The Melodians" Please join us for our Christmas get together and bring along your friends. We will be having refreshments, wine or fruit juice, so please bring a wine glass. There will also be a raffle.

Kempston Musical Society Christmas Concerts - Saturday 15th December 7.30pm at Kempston East Methodist Church. Christmas music with items by Kempston Concert Band, and including audience participation. Tickets £5 available at the door or contact 01234 854858

Monday 17th December 7.30pm Elstow Abbey. Christmas music with audience participation and solo items. In aid of the Friends of Elstow Abbey.

Fund raising sales - Next Sunday 9th December 1st Putnoe Brownies will be having a Bring and Buy cake stall and the youth team will be selling the kids home made Christmas crackers.

House Bound. If you are not able to leave your home and you would like Holy Communion bringing to you over the Christmas period - please do tell us and we will arrange a home communion.

Thank you to those who prepared our church and Christmas trees for Advent

Christmas deliveries to our community

Delivery of the St Mark's Christmas paper. There are copies of an 8 page Christmas Special Newspaper available this morning for delivery around Brickhill. Please take bundles now if you are able. The next week on Saturday 8 December we will meet at church at 10am and deliver and enjoy coffee and mince pies when we return. Please join us. All welcome.

Putnoe Heights Church delivery of Christmas cards in our area. Pick up from the church today & deliver before Sunday 9 December if possible please.

Christmas Cards

Christmas card notice board. This will be erected in the church for members of the congregation to post their Christmas wishes to all friends at St Mark's. Please hand cards in at the office to be posted as we need to use Velcro to apply them. A donation to 'Bechar' may also be handed in at the Church office if you wish to donate.

Christmas Card Post Box at Putnoe Heights. We will be setting up the post box again this year so that you can send cards to your friends at Putnoe Heights. Again it will be 10p per card or £1 for 12 cards. Please put your money in the wooden box provided. Last day to post for guaranteed delivery is 23rd December. Proceeds this year will go to Keech Cottage. Thank you. Joy and Peter Parker.

Christmas Post. The Brickhill Scouts will be delivering Christmas cards locally for 15p. There is a post box at St Mark's Church

Many thanks to all who supported the Pearls of Wisdom Quiz. Winners were: 1. Alan and Diane Bayliss 2. Harry Charie. £77 was raised for the Keech Cottage Hospice Appeal. Sylvia Cohen 343424

Preparations before Worship at St Mark's

The Leadership Team are eager to stress the following

Morning service. When the candles have been lit on the altar a few minutes before we start we would be grateful for a time of quiet reflection in preparation for worship.

Preparation for Worship. Please refrain from using the office prior to the morning service as the ministers are preparing for worship and are grateful for a time of quiet reflection.

A Hymn for Sunday

There's a sound on the wind like a victory song;
listen now, let it rest on your soul.

It's a song that I learned from a heavenly King,
it's a song of a battle royal.

There's a loud shout of victory
that leaps from our hearts,
as we wait for our conquering King.
There's a triumph resounding
from dark ages past,
to the victory song we now sing.

*Come on heaven's children, the city is in sight.
There will be no sadness on the other side.*

There'll be crowns for the conquerors
and white robes to wear,
there will be no more sorrow or pain;
and the battles of earth shall be lost in the sight,
of the glorious Lamb that was slain.

Now the King of the ages approaches the earth,
He will burst through the gates of the sky;
and all men shall bow down to His beautiful name;
we shall rise with a shout, we shall fly.

Come on (Repeat verse 4)

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

Sally Jane Hillyard

*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*

The funeral of Mary Magee will take place at Putnoe heights at 11.30 am on Thursday 6 December *Crossley*