



Partnership News

2 January 2011

Epiphany

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

2 January Epiphany

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Ministers

9 January - Baptism of Jesus

9.30 am St. Mark's - Family Service

Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership – Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership -
Intercessions -

Readings Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Matt 3:13-17

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 in Church include donations from Mike Ovenden in memory of his mum, and from the Corfield family, in loving memory of John Norris Corfield.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given. The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Derrick Wren in loving memory of his wife Betty, and by Jill Richards in loving memory of her husband Barry.

Prayer for This Week

Stars cross the sky,
wise men journey from pagan lands,
earth receives its saviour in a cave.
Let there be no one without a gift to offer,
no one without gratitude as we celebrate the
salvation of the world, the birthday of the human
race.

Now it is no longer,
"dust you are and to dust you shall return", but,
"you are joined to heaven
and into heaven you shall be taken up".

Basil the Great (AD 330 - 379)

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
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
and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our
church website www.ThisIsChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs 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 11 January 2011 For more details contact 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 January 4 afternoon tea. 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 will be January 5 2011 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. Jo Garner 40007112354rrrr7651

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau 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

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

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 **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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice 07964 356355☎

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.

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice 07964 356355☎

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 – 10th January 2010 1.30pm

Please advise St Mark's Church Office

Epiphany

Opening Sentence from Scripture - John 8:12

Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Collect Prayer (Before we read we pray)

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



Old Testament Reading – Isaiah Chapter 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. This is the word of the Lord -- **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading Ephesians Chapter 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (This is the word of the Lord — **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – Matthew Chapter 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make

a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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

Post Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

1. Brightest and the best 65 Mission Praise
2. Longing for light (On Partnership News)
3. The wise may bring their learning (Tune Tyrolese On Partnership News)
4. Thou who wast rich 700 Mission Praise
5. Mine eyes have seen (On Partnership News)

Commentary

Today is Epiphany, a word which means 'manifestation.' It is on this day that we remember that God made himself known to the world in the form of a baby. As we partake of this special service, the Church across the world is celebrating Epiphany. In Spain this is a most important festival Three Kings Day (Los Reyes). This surely has something to do with the fact that in Spain it is on 6th January that the children receive presents not Christmas Day. It is not Santa who brings the toys it is the Three Kings ! The visit of the Magi has importance, for it draws our attention to the fact that it is at this time that the message of who Jesus is was shown not just to Jewish people but to all people. We think of the Apostle Paul and his theology of the inclusion of gentiles, but right back at the birth of Christ this is shown to be the purpose of God as the Magi worship Jesus.

Matthew 2:1 'After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.'

So starts the Gospel of Matthew. It finishes in a similar way, specifically in Chapter 27 where the phrase 'King of the Jews' is used, but nowhere more prominently than over the dying body of Jesus, fixed to the cross were the words

THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS (Note John records 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' John 19)

Matthew does not just throw his Gospel together, he uses the materials carefully and in so constructing his Gospel he makes the clear point, the death of Jesus was all part of God's plan. The birth of Jesus was God's idea and his death also was not just because of human hate. God gave Jesus to the world. Read the opening chapter of Matthew and this becomes clear Matthew 1:21

'She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel!" --which means, "God with us." We are being led to recognise that in the birth of Jesus God was acting powerfully to save the world from sin.

So what of these Magi, whom only Matthew mentions? The story has led to fascinating stories and hymns such as 'We three kings of Orient are', however nowhere does Matthew mention 'Kings' and neither does he say how many there were. There is no indication of where they came from, their racial characteristics, their names or their mode of transport. Some have said they came on ships, others say camels. Some say that there were three, because there were three gifts recorded. Western Tradition has named them as Melkon, Balthasar and Caspar. These names were first used by Origen (d. 254) and became popular from the 6th Century. We are even led to believe that Jesus was a child and no longer a baby (verse 9) Matthew's gospel uses the story of the Magi (or magicians) for drama: the star moves across the sky and

takes up station above the place where Jesus was born. The created world is being called to bear witness to this momentous event. The heavens declare the glory of God – in yet another way Matthew is making a statement about Jesus' ministry and the church: the gospel is to be taught to all nations. As in the subtle additions to his genealogy, which break the pattern by naming women who have been under a cloud, with poor reputations, many of them with Gentile connections, so here Matthew wants us to see the deeper significance of the story. This is a celebration of inclusiveness: the Magi prove Jesus is for all people. Matthew shows in the story of the Magi that seekers from all nations will come to recognize Christ and be welcome in his presence. And, that the promise of Israel's being a light for the nations, as the prophets anticipated, is now fulfilled in Christ.

Matthew shows how the Magi behave and encourages us to do the same, they saw the demands of God's gift and so they left and followed. The story of the Magi today is not an encouragement to study the stars or to think God speaks to us in dreams. Rather it is a story of God meeting people where they are and speaking to them powerfully. The Magi were driven to visit Jesus, they did not know all the answers but they were moved to travel to discover more, to find out about Jesus. The Magi remind us that God's grace works through many different means. *Charles Royden*

Meditation We too are a part of God's Epiphany

So let's move on from thinking about God's Epiphany of himself in Jesus to us, to think instead of how we are now called to be a part of God's revelation to others. Epiphany is also about us being challenged to be a part of God's manifestation. This is part of what being a Christian is all about, revealing the love of God to the world by living out the example of Jesus in our own lives. Today the magi, usually associated with wisdom, come close to the light, do homage and are illumined by what they see. Their lives are altered, or as Matthew puts it, "they departed for their country by another way." We can't follow the same old ways once we have seen ourselves and the world by God's light.

In the Gospel we are encouraged that we should let our light shine before men. We are meant to become illuminated ourselves in this dark world, that people will see our good deeds and give glory to God. In a confused and troubled world we are sent out to proclaim like the Magi that God has not abandoned his creation. Through times of difficulty and darkness which come, we will continue to focus our hearts and minds upon the one true light which God has given to us. As God's people we share a confidence that no darkness we face can put out the light that burns within us. Today we resolve to continually turn toward the light we have seen, to bow down to worship and then carry the light again into the world

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

With the angels and saints, each day and each night, each shade and each light, I bend my knee in the eye of the Father who created me, in the eye of the Son who redeemed me, in the eye of the Spirit who cleansed me. In love and affection, in wisdom and grace, in love and in fear, for ever and ever.
Amen Gaelic Prayer to the Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed the incarnation of your Son by a bright shining star, which led the wise men to offer costly gifts in adoration. Let the star of your justice give light to our hearts, that we might give as our treasure all that we possess and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen *Gelasian Sacramentary*

In their search for the Creator of the Universe, the wise men found you not in Herod's palace, but among the dwellings of the poor and needy. Teach us to search for truth and beauty in unexpected places, to relieve poverty where we are able, and to share unashamedly in the cause of the outcast and despised.
Amen

Father, when the Magi came to your Son, your love was revealed for all people. May we too by our lives lived out by the guiding of your Holy Spirit, reveal your love for everyone.

We pray for your Church, that she may reveal more fully your abiding love for all creation and every race and creed which inhabits your earth. By unity within and love expressed in all her actions, may your church draw all people closer to Jesus.

We pray for the peace and well-being of the world, that all leaders of East and West may be led to follow in that way which leads to true peace and justice.

We pray for the sick and those who care for them, that Christ's light may shine upon them. We pray for those departed this life, that they may come to see the light of God's glory.

Hymns for Sunday

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see. Chorus:

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church
Gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

The wise may bring their learning,

The rich may bring their gold;
And some may bring their greatness,
And glories new and old;
We too would bring our treasures
To offer to the King.
We have no wealth or wisdom,
What shall we children bring?

We'll bring Him hearts that love Him,
We'll bring Him thankful praise,
And young souls meekly striving
To walk in holy ways.
And these shall be the treasures
We offer to the King,
And these are gifts that even
The poorest child may bring.

We'll bring the little duties,
We have to do each day,
We'll try our best to please Him
At home, at school, at play.
And better are these treasures
To offer to our King,
Than richest gifts without them,
Yet these a child may bring.
(Tune Tyrolese)

Mine eyes have seen the glory

of the coming of the Lord.
He is tramping out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored.
He has loosed the fateful lightning
of his terrible swift sword.
His truth is marching on.
Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

I have seen him in the watchfires

of a hundred circling camps.
They have gilded him an altar
in the evening dews and damps.
I can read his righteous sentence
by the dim and flaring lamps.
His day is marching on.
Refrain

He has sounded forth the trumpet
that shall never sound retreat.
He is sifting out all human hearts
before his judgement seat.
O, be swift my soul to answer him,
be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on.
Refrain

In the beauty of the lilies,
Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom
that transfigures you and me.
As he died to make us holy,
let us live that all be free,
whilst God is marching on.
Refrain

St Mark's Church Community Centre Christmas Closure. St Mark's church office will be closed from Thursday evening 23 December and will re-open on Wednesday 5 January 2011.

Printer Cartridge Recycling St Mark's are collecting printer cartridges from home or office printers for recycling. If you would like to help with this please bring them to St Mark's and place in the box in the foyer or hand in to the church office. We would appreciate your support as this raises funds and also helps the environment.

Thursday Prayer Group will not be meeting on December 23 or 30.

Flower Donors. Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe for any Sunday in the first six months of 2011, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the board in the welcome area.

Magnet This uplifting magazine, at a cost of £10 per year, is produced quarterly. Hilda Hicks and Margaret Standley distribute it at Putnoe Heights and St. Mark's Church. Please contact either of them to make sure you have your copies next year, as payment is required and orders will be placed before the end of December 2010. Thank you for your co-operation. Margaret Standley.

Messy Church

We continue to be delighted by the response from families to Messy Church, at our December gathering there we 20 children plus Mums and one Dad! However we could do with a few more people to help, especially if some of our regular, enthusiastic, team members are unable to be at a session. From January Messy Church will be held from 3.45 to 5.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in helping please speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters

Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch Sunday 9 January 2011 at 1.00pm A festive lunch with 3 courses inclusive of drinks. All proceeds to church funds. Tickets (from Putnoe Office) £8.00 (£4.50 for children under 10)

Church Chairs. St Marks Church have ordered new chairs which we hope will arrive just after Christmas. 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.

Priory Methodist Church is pleased to announce that the Rev. Glayne Morgan has accepted the appointment at Priory from September 2011.

Please note that any floral tributes left in the Garden of remembrance over Christmas will be taken away on twelfth night - 6 January

Carol Singing at Library Walk on Saturday December 18th raised £107.79 for BeCHaR. Many thanks to all who helped.



You will find the link above on the homepage for www.thisischurch.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 Easyfunding. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online at discount prices! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thisischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

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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.



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

There are no funerals this week

