



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

30 November 2008

Advent Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's – Holy Communion Healing Service

Preacher - Mr Mike Carr
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shepherd

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion Healing Service

Preacher - Mr Mike Carr
Leadership Team – Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Services for Sunday 7 December Gift Service

9.30am St. Mark's Church – Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Family Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team – Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Bible Readings

1. Is 40:1-11 2 2 Peter 3:8-18a
3. Mark 1:1-8

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Mrs. Phyllis Barnwell in memory of her husband Alan.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights have been given by Pat Hope in loving memory of her Nan & Grandpa and her father, on their birthdays.

Mrs Sam Ware [telephone 304058] has taken over the distribution of Sunday flowers from Putnoe Heights.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior

A Prayer for Sunday

Be a light, O Lord, to our eyes, and music to our ears. Be sweetness to our taste and contentment to our hearts. Be sunshine to our days and food at our table. Be rest in our night and sufficiency in our hour of need. Be liberty in our life and everlasting glory at our death; through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

John Cosin, 1594-1672

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm 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

11am - 12. The Right Track at St Mark's. Signpost information for people with learning difficulties. Gina Barton

☎07999859980

12.00pm Story box We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

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

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month . Next meeting 15 December 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 Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

9.40 -12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Philips 01582 485333

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 2 December : Advent. 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 ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 2 December Christmas Craft & Jaffa gift display. Details from 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 ☎07973174430.

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

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

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

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 10 December 2008 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

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

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 Racheall 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 Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 3 December Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk—women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

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

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

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

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.30—4.30pm Art Society at St Mark's

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. Marriot 303834

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

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 Jean Birks ☎219607

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 ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm

Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

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

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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

Sunday

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

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

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

4pm B.A.M.A.A. at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Next meeting Please see Liz ☎302349.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –,
2 February, 22 June,
9 November 2009

St Mark's Leadership Team –
24 November - Vicarage, 24
February

**Putnoe Heights Leadership
Team –** 1 December
Putnoe Heights Management

Meeting- 19 January, 20 April, 13 July

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -
21 January 2009

Putnoe Church Council - Monday 26 January,
Monday 15 June, Monday 5 October

Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 20 January
4.30pm

Annual Congregational Meetings 26 April

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees

Mission Group Meeting - Weds 7th January 2009 at
7.30pm Sylvia 14 Flint Way 343424

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –1st December.

Advent Sunday



Opening Verses of Scripture 1 Corinthians Chapter 1:8-9
He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Collect Prayer

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. Amen

First Bible Reading - Isaiah 64: 1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

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

Second Reading- 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy,
together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

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

Gospel Reading - Mark 13: 24-37 All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

"But in those days, following that distress, " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. "'At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you

know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' "

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ: **-All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Commentary

This is the first Sunday of Advent, and the first Sunday of the church liturgical Year B. It comes at a time of year when we are all looking forward to Christmas, which celebrates the unique coming to earth of God to live as Jesus in human history. The reading from Isaiah today longs for God to come down to earth. We can all echo this longing, and we seek an assurance of God's presence in our world and in our lives. We live in a world which so needs the healing touch of God.

Each Sunday we will be lighting candles, they remind us that although we live in times of darkness, the light of Christ is present with us. The reading from the Gospel of Mark encourages us to 'watch and pray.' It is important for us that as we go through this time of preparation for Christmas, we remain alert to the presence of God. The Archbishop of Canterbury has this year released a video about the importance of Advent, you can find a link to it from our own church website, he says

'During Advent, we try to get ourselves a bit more used to the truth - the truth about ourselves, which is not always very encouraging, but the truth about God above all which is always encouraging. The One who comes will come with a great challenge. It will be like fire on the earth as the Bible says. And yet the One who comes is coming in love. He's coming to set us free. And that's something well worth waiting for.'

At Advent we remember that our Lord Jesus will come again and we look to be ready to welcome him. We also remind ourselves that Christ has come and is present with us. It is all too easy in the rush of modern life to become preoccupied with the hurry of day to day existence and we lose our spiritual awareness. Advent is a good time to resolve to awaken our spiritual sight and to become conscious of God's presence. Wake up and watch, for it is in the darkest night that the light shines most brightly.

In the Gospel passage from Mark, Jesus teaches about second-coming preparation for his disciples. On his way to die, he is already talking about coming back. First of all, Jesus tells them, the times before his return will be difficult. Darkness will rule both the physical and spiritual world. But they (and we) are not to find reason for despair in this darkness. Quite the opposite, we are to be alert and watchful and we will see the signs of Jesus' return as plainly as we see spring turning into summer.

Not knowing when Jesus is returning gives us some choices for how to live. We can ignore his coming and get on with life as though he really didn't exist or we can live as though he might return tomorrow and dedicate our gifts and energy to living and sharing God's Word right now. Our faith is not in the future, it is in the here and now. Jesus places a high premium on faithful discipleship in the midst of terrible trials. He calls for us to endure and to be watchful.

As we look around us this Advent we might become aware of so much disaster and evil. Hardly a day goes by without news of more killing and terrorism. Do we still trust that God is in charge, is faithful to us and will finally draw us into a loving and lasting embrace?

Our Advent liturgies and scriptural texts encourage us all to trust in God. They keep our hope alive, despite the news headlines. Advent faith isn't mired in the past, doesn't nostalgically relish a former time when things seemed better. Advent faith looks forward.

So what do we have to look forward to? God---that's who. God has not given up on us. The coming of Jesus shows us that God is eternally committed to humankind. Advent is a time of fear and apocalypse, but it is in the midst of fear that we learn to hope and trust. That is why we Christians should always be an optimistic people even if the odd star does fall out of the sky. Charles Royden

Meditation

The passage from the Gospel of Mark was written not too long before the destruction of Jerusalem, a time every bit as bloody as our own. It is interesting to note that among all the apocalyptic imagery of this passage there is not one claim that the tribulations to befall humanity in the messianic apocalyptic history

are expressions of the vengeance of God. There is no reference to God as the cause of these events. The problem of human violence is laid squarely at the door of humanity. The suffering is to be caused by wars, frauds, charlatans, natural catastrophes, misunderstandings and persecutions. These are the sadly predictable human failings that cause human misery without any divine intervention. For example we reflect upon how terrorists have been successful in driving fundamentalists from different extremes into deeper opposition and hatred. *Charles Royden*

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal Father, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at the feet of Jesus Christ your son. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Communion /healing Service)

1. O come o come Immanuel Veni Immanuel 493
2. The trumpets sound the angels sing 667
3. Come thou long expected Jesus Stuttgart 102
4. Jesus is Lord 260 367

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Thou art never weary O Lord of doing us good. Let us never be weary of doing thee service. But, as thou hast pleasure in the prosperity of thy servants, so let us take pleasure in the service of our lord and abound in thy work, and in thy love and praise evermore. O fill up all that is wanting, reform whatever is amiss in us, perfect the thing that concerneth us. Let the witness of thy pardoning love ever abide in all our hearts. *John Wesley 1703-1791*

A form of Intercession

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer. (Response— Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**)

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy **Response**

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness **R**

That we may seek him in the scriptures and recognise Christ in the breaking of the bread **R**

That God may bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen **R**

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death **R**

That with all the saints in light we may shine forth as lights of the world **R**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father: Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen. *Common Worship:*

Advent 1 People of God: Awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. Christ calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming. You are God's children Lord make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.

Prayers for those worried about money

Lord God, we live in disturbing days: across the world, prices rise, debts increase, banks collapse, jobs are taken away, and fragile security is under threat. Loving God, meet us in our fear and hear our prayer: be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands, and a light in the darkness; help us receive your gift of peace, and fix our hearts where true joys are to be found, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, your will is to bring hope and a future to all your people. Trusting in your steadfast love, we ask your guidance as we work out a household budget. Help us to learn to let no debt remain outstanding, except the debt to love one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after thee, and in an affectionate working with thee, every day of our lives; that when thou comest, we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious King, for ever and ever. Amen *Richard Baxter 1615 - 1691*

Sunday 30th November 2.00pm. Footprints Last walk of 2008. Circular walk of Kempston. Meet at the far end of Loveridge Ave (turn left at the second mini roundabout on Hillgrounds Road) for a walk of about three miles, could be wet under foot and a bit muddy. Afterwards a bite of tea with Pam & Bob Burn at 1 Slater Close. Non walking members (The Amblers) are most welcome to join us for tea, 3.30pm onwards. If rained off please come for tea. Tel: 854858

Storybox at St Mark's is closed on 4.12 and is back to normal for the 11 & 18 December.

Chat and Play and restarts on 8.1.09 owing to church alterations.

Putnoe Christmas Provender will take place on Sunday 7 December after morning service. Cakes, jam, marmalade, chutney, mince pies and Putnoe's own Christmas puddings will be on sale. Please help to make this a record fund-raiser for Mission Aviation Fellowship. John and Sally Gunning Tel. 305925.

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

Christmas Voices. Come and enjoy once more a selection of seasonal 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. Friday 12 December at Putnoe Heights 7.30pm. Tickets £3 from Putnoe office or at the door. Proceeds to Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Music at St Andrew's St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford Saturday 6 December 2008 at 8.00pm Joan Rodgers CBE, soprano with Joseph Middleton, piano. Programme to include songs by Grieg, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Britten's Poet's Echo. Pre-concert dinner at 6.30pm Concert Tickets £7 (£5 concessions) Dinner/Concert tickets £14 (£12 concessions) available from: St Andrew's Church Centre Office, tel: 01234 216881 Classic Music, tel: 01234 357221 Central Box Office tel: 01234 269519.

Mission Update Thank you for the response to date to the autumn mission project with MAF. The feedback has been extremely positive. If you were unable to take an envelope over the last 2 weeks, or would like to take another, they can be found in the church offices. Cheques and money can be placed in the envelope and returned in the offering plates at either church or in either church office. Kevin Crook, who spoke at our service, has indicated that he is willing and able to speak to housegroups and other church groups through the month if that would be of interest. Please let me know if you would like Kevin to speak at one of your meetings. I also have a short DVD of the work of MAF available and would thoroughly recommend the book 'Hope has Wings', the Mission Aviation Fellowship Story by Stuart King which was one of the books available from Kevin last week. Sam

BPHA are working with the NHS to give advice to anybody who would like advice on using walking aids. Trevor Huckle or Lyne Taylor 716425. You can drop in for free assessment by the physiotherapy team on Wednesdays 9.30am - 12.10pm until 18 February in the Day Room, Tavistock Court, Queen Street.

Need a gardener—contact Shalaine at Aleah gardening. Reasonable rates Tel: 07954 386328. No job too small.

Christmas stamps come in two issues this year. Pantomime and Madonna & Child. If you want to purchase the 'Religious' ones a request has to be made for them, V Pearson

Kempston Musical Society Saturday 13 December at 7.30pm present a concert of Christmas music with items from Kempston Junior Concert Band, and including carols for audience. Tickets £5 from members of the choir or at the door. More information 01234 854858

Cancer Research UK Monday 15 December Kempston Musical Society are giving a concert of Carols for All at Priory, starting at 7.30pm "Muse and Music" will be our guest artists. They have performed extensively both at home and abroad, and will bring a selection of Christmas music and readings. There will be a raffle. All proceeds are for charity. Please come and support this very worthwhile cause. Contact Sue & Richard Butler 01234 354183 or Howard Lawrence 01234 267837 for tickets at £5 each.

Kempston Music Society: On Monday, 15 December Kempston Musical Society are giving a concert of **Carols for All** at Priory, starting at 7.30pm. We are very fortunate that 'Muse and Music' will be our guest artists. They have performed extensively both at home and abroad, and will bring a selection of Christmas music and readings. There will also be a Christmas Raffle. All proceeds are for the charity. Please come and support this very worthwhile cause. Contact Sue & Richard Butler on 01234 354183 or Howard Lawrence on 01234 267837 for tickets which are £5.00 each.

Many will be sad to have heard of the death of Mr Ken Topham from Oakley. His funeral will take place on Thursday 4 December 2.00pm at Oakley. Family flowers only.

Brickhill Talent There will be a showcase of youth talent in Brickhill, including dance, kick boxing, cheerleading, musicale and much more. The event takes place at St Thomas More School from 4.00pm to 6.30pm on Saturday 6 December - all welcome

St Mark's Christmas Cards. These are now available for purchase and the cards can be ordered from St Mark's office. The cards cost 20p each and proceeds will be given to MAF

Please remember to buy all your Christmas presents through Amazon, by clicking on the link at thischurch.com



Christmas Coffee morning Saturday 13 December, 10am - 12 noon the home of Eddy & Margaret Peck, 30 The Ridgeway. Cakes, raffle. Proceeds to Mission Aviation Fellowship. All welcome. Requests for offers of transport please contact Sylvia Cohen 343424.. New Faith in Action newsletter with the latest on mission projects in Malawi available in welcome area.

Christmas preparation

The Christmas tree at St Marks will be decorated on Friday 5th December at 3pm. All welcome to join in the fun.

The St Marks Christmas Newsletter will be available on a table in the foyer, please take your own road or those near to you and deliver them when you can. The remainder will be delivered by a working party on Saturday 6 December at 1pm. Coffee and mince pies will be served on our return. The more the merrier.

The gift service on December 7 will be to celebrate the mission contributions to MAFF.

Christmas Card Screen. This will be in place at the back of the church from Sunday 7 December for all to give their greetings to friends at St Marks. Please hand the card in at the office, or to one of the Leadership team, with any donation you may wish to give to our MAFF Mission project and they will affix with Velcro strips.

Christingle Preparation will take place jointly on Saturday 13th December at Putnoe Heights Church. Anyone who could go along to help with this would be most welcome. Liz Spavins is co-ordinating. Tel:-302349.

Marriages

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Darren Paul Hughes and Lorna Frances Wood, both single and resident in the parish of St Mary's Goldington and on the electoral roll of this parish. Third time of asking

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.

**Doreen James
Ronald John Harlow
John Henry Talbot**

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

First Candle - The Candle of Hope

The Patriarchs, Abraham, the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth. *(First Candle - A person lights the First Candle here)* Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Stephen Ryan will take place on Thursday 4 December at 10.0a.m.

The private family funeral of David Alan Ledsom will take place on

Thursday 4 December followed by a memorial service at Bedford Rugby Club at 2.3pm

The funeral of Lynda Ann Woodward will take place in Bedford Crematorium on Friday 5 December at 10.45pm

The funeral of Eileen Frances Andrews will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 5 December at 1.45pm

The funeral of Sven Axel Poulson will take place at St Albans Woodland Burial ground on Monday 8 December at 11-30a.m.

The funeral of Eric John McKercher will take place at Bedford crematorium at 1.45pm on Monday 8 December