



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

3 December 2006

Advent Sunday

Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both  
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of  
England

## Church Services Today

**8.30 Holy Communion** at PUTNOE HEIGHTS  
**9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship-Gift Service**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper  
Intercessions - Mr John Stubbs  
**11.00am Putnoe - Family Worship - Gift Service**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

## 10 December

**8.30 Holy Communion** at ST MARK'S  
**9.30am St Mark's - Family Christingle**  
Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership - Mrs Linda Parry  
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart  
**11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Christingle**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash  
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen  
**Reading 1 : Malachi 3: 1 - 4**  
**Reading 2 : Philipians 1: 3 - 11**  
**Reading 3 : Luke 3: 1 - 6**

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Vera Pearson in memory of her brother who was killed in Palestine 60 years ago.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Sylvia Cohen and family in memory of Ken, and by Pat Hope in happy and loving memory of her Nan, Grampa and Father.

## Prayer for Sunday

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



**Putnoe Provender** open after the service at Putnoe today. Cakes, jams, marmalade, chutney and of course, Putnoe's celebrated Christmas Puddings will be on sale. All proceeds to Kisiizi Hospital. John and Sally Gunning 305925



## 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

### Partnership Youth and Children's Worker

Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

### For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

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

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

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

### 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 Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school** Mrs Janet Smith 326685

**8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school** Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

*(See website for more details)*

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

**Mini-Strikers Sport for Children** at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or [www.ministrikers.co.uk](http://www.ministrikers.co.uk)

**12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box** Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

**2.30 - 4.30pm** Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

**4pm Monday Club** at St. Marks for 3—8 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments , between 4 & 5 Bible story, craft activities & songs. Lots of fun. Contact Liz 302349

**4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044

**4.15 - 6.00pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

**7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

**7.15pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

**7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month next 18 December Contact Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

**10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

**1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

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

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 5 December Carols, readings,

mincepies. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting.5 December Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

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

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. For details of next meeting contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

**3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

**6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129

**7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit** at St. Mark's - Jan Gregory 214107.

**Tuesday - 7pm-9pm MT Karate** [all ages] at Putnoe Heights. Please contact Karen King 07941 264885

**7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club** meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718

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

**7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 12 December Members Christmas meeting. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

**8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong.** Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

## Wednesday

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

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

**9.00 a.m. Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

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

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

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.

**Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 13 December contact Putnoe 365630

**1 - 3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

**1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

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

**4.15pm - 6pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

**6.15pm - 7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation** at Putnoe

Heights. contact Racheall Monton 01234 297138

**6.30 - 7.30 at St Mark's Karate** contact Karen 079412 64885

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

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Sylvia Woods 365095

**7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073

**7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

#### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group** at 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** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips 01582 485333

**9.45am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

**1.30pm - 3.00pm Clinic** at St. Mark's 267444

**12pm Story box** St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 302349

**1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime** at Putnoe Geraldine Skeel 406828

**1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.** Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

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

**4.00 Story box Plus** at Putnoe Heights for 4-11year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349

**5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

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

**6.15pm Brownies** at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521

**6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

**7pm Street Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147

**7.00pm Club 2000** at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

**7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** at St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild** at St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby 344442

**7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Bible Studies every 2 Thursday— Pastor Tarr 360188

**8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle** at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse 740271

#### Friday

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

**1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe.

Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

**2pm U3A Gardening Group** at Putnoe Heights

Contact Eve Whitehead 356875

**7 - 10pm Bedford Arts Society** meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Contact Malcolm Smith 01234 400741

**7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18** at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

#### Saturday

**9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

**10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain** at St Mark's – dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

**5 - 7pm Bethesda Church** . Contact Pastor Denis Baka 07944 749357

**7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge** at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

#### Sunday

**Junior Church with crèche for under 3's**

**9.30 - 10.30 at St.Mark's**

**11-12 at Putnoe Heights.**

**1 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

**6-7.30pm T.N.T.** for 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. At Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349.

**6 -7.30pm T.X.T** for 13 + fortnightly , join us for fellowship , debate & discussion at Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council –6th February 07**

**Circuit Meeting -**

**St Mark's Leadership Team – 22nd January 07**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**

19 February 2007 at Wendy's house

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting -**

12.30pm 6 December

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 15 January**

**Putnoe Church Council 29 January 07**

**Pastoral Group Meeting – 31 January 07**

**Churchyard Committee -**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting – 7.30pm**

17 January 07, at 14 Flint Way

**Partnership Council - 20 February 07 at St Mark's**

**Brickhill Parish Council - 30 Nov 06**

**Deanery Meeting**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth—**

**Calendar dates appear on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com). Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.**

## Advent Sunday

### Verse of Scripture - Romans Chapter 13:11

Now is the time to wake out of sleep: for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

### Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

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

### First Bible Reading - Jeremiah Chapter 33 v 14 - 16

'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfil the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. "In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

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

### Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 3 v 9 – 13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

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

### Third Reading - Luke 21 v 25 – 36

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. "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. "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

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

### Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The days are surely coming, says the LORD,

when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.  
*Jeremiah 33:14*



## Hymns

1 O come o come Immanuel 493, 2. There's a sound on the wind, 681 3. Fear not rejoice and be glad, 144 4. Come thou long expected Jesus, 102; 5. Lo, He comes on clouds descending, 424

## Commentary

Advent – the present meets the future

The vast majority of people who lived in Palestine at the time of Christ lived barely above the subsistence level. Their great concern was more about where their next meal was coming from, whether there would be enough for everyone, rather than over indulgence and drunkenness. They were focused on the present day and the challenges that presented rather than excesses or the future. The rich and elite on the other hand would be far less concerned about the immediate moment but would have the time and the wealth to party all night, and to be consumed by the generation of personal wealth and influence. In the gospel passage Luke addresses every element of the society of the day, both rich and poor, from the destitute to the elite. And his message is the same. Keep watch and pray. These days we may want to use satellite communications, space telescopes, weather stations, astronomers, physicists and meteorologists to warn us about the signs of cosmic changes. Advanced communications methods and a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of science have certainly improved and simplified our lives. But if we want to communicate with the One who controls true cosmic order, we need to turn to prayer. Our own human insights take us only so far, beyond this we need to turn to God.

James Kay writes: the message of Advent is that we can never take our own projections more seriously than God's promises. When we least expect it and when there is no evidence for it, God's power comes into this godless world in ways the world itself could never predict or foresee. Just ask Elizabeth and Zechariah, Mary and Joseph, or Simeon and Anna. Ask Emperor Tiberius, Governor Pilate and King Herod, for they too await a promise enduring than their reigns. We cannot deny that nations remain in agony. We cannot deny that ecological collapse appears imminent. We cannot deny that we are choking on our fears. But we also cannot deny that God is faithful to Jesus Christ, that Jesus Christ has a future and that our redemption is entwined with his. Advent bids us to stand erect, confident and hopeful. Whatever beclouds our unsettled future, our redemption is drawing near, and our faith will lead us to see the promised face of Jesus Christ.

Sometimes it seems that we are more concerned with the future than we are with the present. But Jesus doesn't just encourage us to spend time interpreting the signs around us concerning the future end of time, He encourages us to experience His presence and signs within us in the present. A presence which often prompts us regarding our own inner disorder and the need for constant forgiveness and renewal. We can know Him in the present whilst looking for His coming in the future in the richness of His glory. The Savior has come, is coming and will always come.

At Advent we look forward to the second coming of Christ as Messiah, Lord and King from the perspective of a people of today, redeemed by Jesus the suffering servant and the crucified and risen Lord. The future and the present linked together by hope, the positive expectation of a promise to be fulfilled. We look forward to Christmas with hope and expectation, for the gifts and presents that will be hoped for and exchanged, the celebrations, parties and family get togethers, and also the spiritual insights that come to us in a fresh way each year at Christmas as God becomes incarnate in the form of a baby and breaks into our world. And we look to the hope that the New Year will bring.

In our mission project this year we have focused on the mission hospital in Kisiizi in Uganda. Through the generosity that has been shown by many in the church and beyond we have been able to provide hope for the sick and suffering in Kisiizi who need medical support and help. For many, they will have a hope they never expected this Christmas as we all await the coming of the King. *Sam Cappleman*

## Meditation

Come, O Lord, in much mercy down into my soul and take possession and dwell there. A poor dwelling, I confess, for so glorious a Person as You. Yet, I am preparing for a fitting reception of you, by holy and fervent desires of your own inspiring. Enter then, and adorn my soul, and make it a worthy place for you to inhabit, since it is the work of your own hands. Give me yourself, without which, even if you should give me all that you ever have made, yet this would not satisfy my desires. Let my soul ever seek you, and let me persist in seeking, until I have found, and am in full possession of you. Amen.

*St. Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430)*

## Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord our God, keep us your servants alert and watchful as we await the return of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks at the door he may find us vigilant in prayer, with songs of praise on our lips. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

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

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

Our heavenly Father, as we once again prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer, that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love. Allow the story of the Saviour's birth to deepen our joy, make our worship more real and our lives more worthy of all you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Frank Colquhoun)

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

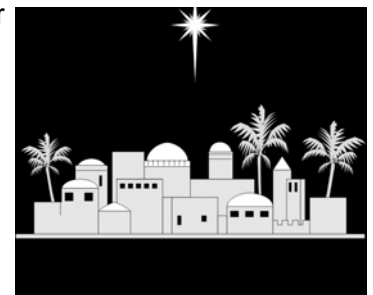


**Chairs for St Mark's Chapel.** It has been agreed that we should purchase new chairs for the chapel at St Mark's. These will be solid wood frames with a blue cushion. Since some people may wish to donate a chair in memory of a loved one, we are inviting people to kindly consider donating a chair. Each chair will be inscribed with an individual named plaque. If you wish to purchase a chair and have a personal plaque inscribed, please see one of the Clergy or Leadership Team. This scheme will be kept open until all chairs have been dedicated with a plaque.

**Let's get the message out !** This year we are trying to deliver a newspaper to every house to give a Christmas greeting and welcome everybody to our church services. This is a chance to invite new people from Brickhill and Putnoe to join our Christmas celebrations. So please help!

**Distribution of Christmas News for St Mark's.** Please help on Saturday 9th December at 10am for about an hour. Meet up at Church and return for coffee and mince pies. Many thanks.

**Distribution of Christmas News for Putnoe Heights.** Please take copies of Christmas News from the foyer which are bundled into roads



### **Garden of Remembrance Extension.**

Work is now underway to extend the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's. A new pathway is being made from the front of the church using land acquired from Bedford Borough Council. A beautiful lych gate will be built at the front of the church and pathways created through newly planted areas. A granite wall will be constructed to be used for the interment of caskets. There will be new water fountains and special features. The total cost of the work will be about £65,000 and donations will be gratefully received by the treasurer John Day. Tel: 359529

# News and Information



Today is **Gift Day** at both St Mark's and Putnoe churches. This year the gift day will focus on our mission project for Kisiizi. To contribute to the gift day please

take one of the Smartie tubes from either church and fill with coins and money to bring back next Sunday as a contribution to the Kisiizi project if you haven't done so already. In the past we have had collections of toys and shoe boxes which have been sent to children overseas. However, more recently there have been problems with the cost of export of these items and other administrative issues, so the Smartie tubes really are the most effective way of ensuring our gifts are used in the optimal manner. If you have already taken a Smartie tube last week and eaten the Smarties, all you need to do is bring back the tube next week. Your support in all of the mission initiatives is truly appreciated. We know all of our contributions make a real difference to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

**Name labels at Putnoe.** In the next few weeks we will be inviting everyone to wear name badges in church. This is to increase our sense of fellowship and to make sure we know one another better. We shall be inviting those who are not yet church members to take a membership form and to consider taking on this deeper commitment to the church.. Joan

**Belief.** Bedford Ecumenical Lay Institute for Education and Faith. In place of our Advent Course we are encouraging everybody to attend. Course leaflets are available in the foyer with details of some excellent sessions. The courses are held at St Andrew's Church in Bedford. Please take a leaflet and consider joining one of the courses this advent. The next module "Thinking about God" led by Rev'd Dr Ian McIntosh begins on 8 November at 7.45 . Weds 6 Dec God as Trinity

**Concord singers Christmas concerts.** Saturday 16 December, 7.30pm, at St Mary's Church Cardington, in aid of the church organ fund. Tickets £8 including refreshments. Saturday 23 December, 7.30pm, at St Mary's Church Oakley. Tickets £7.50 including refreshments.

**4th Putnoe Brownies** are looking to recruit new members. Meeting Thursday, term time, between 18.15 and 19.45. Large Hall at Putnoe Heights.

**Christmas Voices.** Friday 8 December 7pm at Putnoe Heights. (Please note early start) An evening of favourite poetry, prose and Bible readings with a Christmas theme. Tickets £3.00 to include a drink and mince pie. In aid of Kissisi. Requests for readings to be included to Joan Crossley or Sue Allen.

**Tuesday Club** - Our Christmas Celebration is at Putnoe on Tuesday 12th December at 7.45pm. This will be an open meeting, so all are welcome. There will be an entry fee of £1 which includes refreshments. We will also have a collection for BECHAR ( a charity for Bedford homeless).

**British Cardiac Patients Association** next meeting Thursday 21 December at 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights. This will be a Christmas Party with entertainment by Bedford Town Band. Everyone is welcome to come and join us, please bring a wine glass. There will be a raffle and refreshments. More details, contact Eileen Marriott 303834.

**Kempston Musical Society Christmas Concerts.** Saturday 16 December at 7.30pm at Kempston East Methodist Church, also featuring Kempston Junior Concert Band.. Monday 18 December at 7.30pm at Elstow Abbey in aid of The Friends of Elstow Abbey. More details for both concerts from 01234 268101

**Kisiizi Mission Project Update** Thank you all for an outstanding response to the Kisiizi Mission Project. Including coffee mornings and gift aid we have raised just over £4825 - an absolutely amazing total, to which will be added the contents of the Smartie Tubes and the proceeds from the Christmas Voices evening on 8 December at 7 pm. Through this total we are able to provide months of support for nurses, doctors and drugs to Kisiizi. It is a fantastic achievement. We'll update you when we have the final total. Thank you for your generosity and support.

**Liz Spavins would be grateful for help with Christingle** oranges for both churches. Helpers will be meeting on Saturday 9th Dec at Putnoe Heights—2pm.

**Thank You** - To everybody who has helped prepare our churches for worship today, or assisted in the services



**Storybox at St Marks** We would like to thank all the ladies who have regularly support our under 5 group each week by making the sandwich lunch on a Thursday. This group has been going for two years now and some of our volunteers feel it is time to move on from catering, so we are now looking for some new people to join us in the New Year. Please see Liz, Joan or Janet for more details. Also if any one feels they would like to join the storytelling rota, please ask for details. Our Storybox group at St Mark's attracts approx. 30 children with their carers each week and remains a very important part of our church work. Please support us.



**Woodland Burial.** Progress is being made on establishing the woodland burial site at Keysoe. A booklet is now available which can be downloaded from the church website, [www.thischurch.com/woodland](http://www.thischurch.com/woodland). Alternatively contact our administrator Mrs Linda Parry at St Mark's Church office or by Email, [woodland@thischurch.com](mailto:woodland@thischurch.com)

**Christmas Coffee Morning** with mince pies. Saturday 9 December, 10 –12 noon, at 30 The Ridgeway, the home of Eddy & Margaret Peck. Raffle, cakes etc. Proceeds to Mission Funds.

**Books.** Please save your books for our Mission Group Book Sale, planned for the end of February at Putnoe Heights Church. More details in the New Year, Sylvia Cohen 343424

**Christmas Fayre. Thank You.** The Christmas fayre this year at St Mark's raised money which will go towards the work on the new centre, specifically paying for new cupboards to be installed in the Church Hall. A total of £2,200 was raised. Thank you to Avril and all who helped

**Christmas Party** The Partnership Church Council are invited to the Vicarage on December 17 for the usual Vicarage Party. Please let us know if you are able to come.

**Carols in the Car Park**

Carols in St Mark's Church car park, with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies! With Bedford Town Brass band 6.30pm on Saturday 16 December

**Priory Methodist Church** Christmas Tree & Crib Festival 15—17 December. Friday 15 : 11.30— 8pm, Saturday 16 : 10.30—6pm, Sunday 17 : 12—4pm. Admission £2 includes light refreshments, (Accompanied children under 16 free ) Proceeds to be shared between Kariburi Trust & Church Development Projects.



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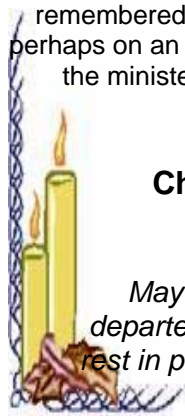
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**Rest In Peace**

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.

**Peggy Walker  
Charles Arthur Wilkins**

*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 Mr Roy Frederick Hudson and Dorothy Joy Hudson will take place together** at Bedford Crematorium at 2.30pm on Monday 4 December (Royden)

**The Funeral of Mrs Eva May Norman** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 15 December at 1.45pm Royden

**The Funeral of Mr Cyril Janes** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 12 December at 10.45am Royden