



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows



Church of  
England

14 January 2007

### Partnership Church Services Today

**8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday** on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday at St Mark's Chapel.

**9.30am St Mark's**  
**Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions -

**11.00am Putnoe**  
**Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

### Services 21 January

**9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion**  
Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership - Mr Ian Farthing  
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

**11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Reading 1: Nehemiah 8: 1-3,5-6,8-10  
Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a  
Reading 3: Luke 4: 14-21

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Veta Hudson-Rae in memory of her parents.

The flowers at St Mark's Church have been given by Barbara Joy in memory of Alan and in the chapel by Gill Robinson in memory of her father Joe Whitton.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

### Prayer for Sunday

Be to us, O Lord, the affection of our hearts, the closest of our companions, our everlasting love, our enduring happiness and the fulfilment of all our desires. Through your Spirit, create in us holy fire and purity of life, that loving you above all things and our neighbours ardently, we may come at last to the glories of your everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Thomas a Kempis, 1380-1471

### 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.  
**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. Sharon Tanner 364710  
**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 15 January '07 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. Judi Staughton 341821  
**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 Mrs C Allen 363878  
**2 - 5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.  
**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 16 January 2007 Mr and Mrs Willis, Salvation Army .Contact Betty 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 16th –The Work of Sue Ryder Contact Audrey Wilkins 365068 or Margaret Gentle 309043

**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 10 January 2007 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 Mrs 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

**7.00pm Club 2000** at Putnoe Sheila Jakeman 261935

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

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderers' 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

**7.45pm Housegroup meets fortnightly** Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

**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 10-15** at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

#### Saturday

**9.00 - 12.00 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

**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 - 3pm 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 -**

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 15 January**

**Putnoe Church Council 29 January 07**

**Pastoral Group Meeting – 31 January 07**

**Churchyard Committee - 15 February 07**

**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 -**

**Deanery Meeting**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth-22nd**

**January—1pm following Storybox**

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.

## Second Sunday of Epiphany

### Verse of Scripture -

For with you, O Lord, is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Ps 36 v 9

### Collect Prayer - *Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen** *Common Worship*

### First Bible Reading - Exodus 24: 3-11

When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, Everything the LORD has said we will do. Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey. Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words. Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God)

### Second Reading - Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, declares the LORD. This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the LORD. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. (This is the word of the Lord - All: Thanks be to God)

### Epistle Reading Romans 12: 1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God— this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is— his good, pleasing and perfect will. Reader : (This is the word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God)

### Gospel Reading *(Please stand)*

The Holy Gospel is taken from John Chapter 15 Verses 1-10. **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**  
I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are



**May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know** *Jesus*

already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. (This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Hymns** (Please distribute Service of Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows & Mission Praise))

Guide me O thou great Jehovah, 201; For I'm building a people of power, 151; Christ whose glory fills the skies, 79; Take my life and let it be, 624

### **Commentary** A Covenant Invitation

Wesley's Covenant Service invitation begins, 'Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him...' Challenging words in an age when commitment to anything by anyone seems to be the exception rather than the rule. But perhaps it's not so much of a challenge as an generous invitation. Jesus, in today's gospel reading invites the hearers to 'remain' in Him. He's inviting them and us to dwell, or rest, in His love. For some of us who like to be active and involved with getting things done, it can be difficult to rest quietly in God's love from time to time. Often we prefer to be doing things, being engaged with the hustle and bustle of daily life and our Christian commitment. Jesus' words are a timely reminder that we have a relationship with God through the grace of Jesus, not because of our activities and busyness.

Jesus goes on to say that anyone who does not accept the invitation to remain and dwell in Him, so that He can remain and dwell in us, will be unfruitful. Our busyness and activity will lead to nothing unless we are empowered and directed by His life giving Spirit, constantly drawing upon the strength that He supplies through His abundant riches and love for each one of us. Paul, writing in Romans indicates that our commitment to God is no mindless acceptance of Christ and His ways, it's a conscious decision to dedicate our lives to the service of God and our fellow human beings. And as we live out that decision, we begin to conform more to the way of Christ and less to the way of the world, not through adherence to a set of principles we feel compelled to follow, but because through the renewing of our hearts and minds we are become new creations and have an increasingly different perspective on life.

If we do remain in Him, accept his generous invitation, then He promises to trim and prune us so that we can be even more fruitful. It would seem that just as in life, our spiritual growth and development can sometimes be accompanied by pain along the way. As we renew our baptism promises and turn again to Christ, we renounce the evil and the sin that separates us from God and each other. We make serious commitments which in turn will sometimes mean making hard, difficult and painful changes in the way we live our lives. As we pray the covenant prayer and ask God to use us as He wishes, acknowledging that we are God's to do with as He wills, we are committing to put God Himself at the very centre of our lives, with whatever implications that carries. But as we turn from sin and have God increasingly at the epicentre of our lives we begin to experience more of His freedom. As we remain and dwell in Him, rather than our lives becoming more constrained they become the very opposite. As we 'freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal', so the gentle wind of the Spirit blows through our souls and we begin to experience that deep peace of inner freedom, forgiveness and tranquillity. *Sam Cappleman*

### **Meditation**

The Covenant prayer is one of the most treasured prayers of Christian commitment for the 325,000

members of the Methodist Church in Britain. When it was used at the enthronement of Dr Rowan Williams as the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2003 the Secretary of the Methodist Faith & Order Committee, Dr Clive Marsh, said: "The Covenant Service is often singled out by Christians of other traditions as a valuable and distinctly Methodist practice. Methodists find the Covenant prayer especially significant because of the commitment at its heart. The invitation to make such a covenant in commitment-phobic times offers a major challenge, especially when we are prone to live the illusion that we are wholly in control of our own lives."

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

#### **The Methodist Covenant Prayer**

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing;  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours.  
So be it. And the covenant made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *David Tripp*

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all that I have and possess. Thou hast given all to me. To Thee, O Lord, I return it all. All is Thine; dispose of it wholly according to Thy Will. Give me Thy love and Thy grace, for this is sufficient for me. For with these I am rich enough and desire nothing more. Amen *Ignatius of Loyola*

My Lord God I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen *Thomas Merton*

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

### **Local Services for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

#### **Midday (12.30) services**

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 18th January | Friends Meeting House      |
| 19th January | Park Road Methodist Church |
| 22nd January | Salvation Army             |
| 24th January | Miracle Church             |
| 25th January | St John's Church           |

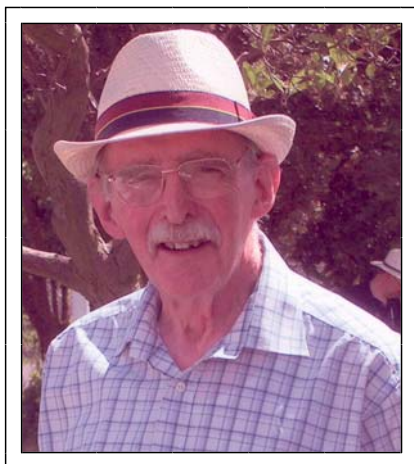
#### **Main Service**

Sunday 21st January 6.30pm  
Bunyan Meeting, Speaker Bishop Richard



# News and Information

## John Standley



The first week of the 2007 saw the death of a stalwarts of St Mark's Church, John Standley. His funeral was held this week at St Mark's Church and was attended by many people from across Bedford who knew John. John was originally a member at Putnoe, but became one of the founder members of St. Marks, and was the Secretary of the first embryonic Church Council. He served the church in a variety of ways, in the Sunday School, Church Steward, the Leadership Team and in many "fetching and carrying roles". He served the wider church as A Circuit Steward and was for 35 years a local preacher. His varied life took him into a wide range of community activities, including recently the services at Highfield. He loved God and his fellow men and women. He has left a gap in the life of our churches which will be hard to fill.

The day after John died, Mary and I met fellow KMS choir members and gave them the news. Bob immediately said "Lovely man". And that sums John up. For more than 30 years John has been our friend and my brief tribute will echo many of yours. I shall miss John –his words and his fun -, puns and word play tumbled out of him – more than he always knew. He was loyal, kind, honest and friendly. He was a sportsman, both competitor and spectator. Like every friend I occasionally disagreed with him. His enthusiasms waxed and waned, often because he felt he could not do well enough at something. But his interest in and concern for people never waned. He loved God and he loved people and was always ready to help them, both individually and through his community links. In my own times of need, John has been there for me. We often say that someone will be missed, more true than ever in John's case. He will be sorely and greatly missed, and not only by me. It has been a privilege both to know him and to say these all too few words of appreciation and thanksgiving for him and his life. *A Tribute by John Stubbs*

What shall our greeting be:  
Sign of our unity?  
Jesus is Lord!  
May we no more defend  
Barriers he died to end:  
Give me your hand, my friend:  
One Church, one Lord!

*(Hymn sung at the service celebrating the life of John)*

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## Telecare



We are all delighted with the way that Telecare has been so well received. It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down, please do so. It helps us make our churches more able to care. Please simply tell one of the Ministers as you leave church after the service. Unwanted Gift Stall at Putnoe - Sunday 4th February following All Age Worship. Please let us have your contributions.-Liz 302349

**Jenny Snelson**, who is married to Barry, Centre Manager at Putnoe Heights, has four grown up children, three boys and a girl. A semi-retired nurse, Jenny works as a Bank Nurse at St. John's Moggerhanger, where she is also a volunteer Bereavement Support Visitor. Jenny has been a member at Putnoe Heights for over thirty years. Her interests include reading, sewing, and walking.



**“A Touch of Burns”** Bedford Town Band are giving a concert at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 2 February. On the menu are pipers, haggis and a selection of mainly Scottish music. Tickets may be bought on the door or at the Corn exchange Box Office £8 or £6 concessions. Refreshments are free.

**“Tunes from Stage and Silver Screen”**  
Wednesday 28 March at 7.15pm featuring the choirs of Hills and Hazeldene Lower schools.  
“St George for England” Sunday 22 April at 3.00pm.

**We have received news** that Alf Fleming died last week. The funeral will be on Thursday 13 January at 11.30 at Bedford Crematorium.

**Female Graduate** from Newcastle is seeking accommodation in our area, as a paying lodger. If interested please contact Putnoe Church office.

**Chapel Chairs.** Buy a chair for St Mark’s chapel. Chairs can be donated for a cost of £60 which includes a plaque with inscription

**St Albans to Taize 2007.** Join this year’s pilgrimage 21st - 30th July. If you are aged between 15 & 30 and would like to take part come along to a meeting on Saturday 31st March at Christ Church, Goldington Road, Bedford at 7.30pm. [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)

**Putnoe Sunday creche.** We are hoping to open a small creche for the very young members of our congregation during our Morning Service, allowing some of our Mums much needed time to worship in peace. If you feel you would like to join us in this venture please speak to Joan or Liz

**Books.** Please save your books for our Mission Group Book Sale, planned for the end of February at



**St Mark’s Church American Evening**  
7.30pm 3rd February

**Line Dancing**  
**American entertainment**

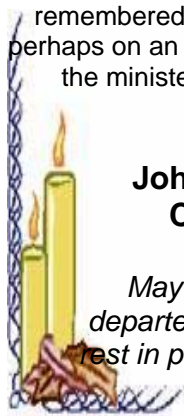
Tickets are now available from the church office and members of the leadership team. Adults £6.50 Children (under 12 years ) £4.  
Book now to avoid disappointment!

Putnoe Heights Church. More details in the New Year, Sylvia Cohen 34342

**Flowers for Putnoe and St Mark’s** We all appreciate the beautiful flowers which are kindly donated each Sunday at our churches. We are grateful to those who arrange them so beautifully as well as the kind gifts of money to purchase flowers. If you would like to donate flowers to Putnoe Heights Church or St Mark’s Church, for any Sunday during January to June 2007, please write your name on the Flower Rota on the notice board in the Welcome Area.


**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.



**Joan Chandler**  
**John Whitworth Standley**  
**Cynthia Quickenden**

*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 Peter Beswick** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 19 January at 1.00pm