



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

21 January 2007

3rd Sunday of Epiphany



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

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

### 9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership - Mr Ian Farthing  
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

### 11.00am Putnoe -Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

## Services 28 January

### 9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Barry Owen  
Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams  
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

### 11.00am -Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Barry Owen  
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper  
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Reading 1: Mal 3: 1-5

Reading 2: Hebrews 2: 14-18

Reading 3: Luke 2: 22 - 40

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Gwen Beswick in memory of Peter, and by Norma Taylor and family in memory of their mother and sisters.

The flowers at St Mark's Church have been given by Jan Cooper in memory of Peter, at the time of their Wedding Anniversary.

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

Lord, let me be yours. Let me not draw back, neither from heaven, nor from your divinity, nor from your cross. Let me be yours to whom I owe my creation and my redemption. Touch my heart and sanctify it, and consecrate me in your service, forever. Amen

*Lucy Herbert, 1669-1744*

## 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 29 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 23 January 2007 Mrs. Ware—Guide Dogs. 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 30 January Hearing Dogs for the Deaf 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 24 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 – 6 February 07**

**Circuit Meeting -**

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

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**

19 February 2007 at Wendy's house

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 20 February 6.30pm**

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management -**

**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-22 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.**

# Third Sunday of Epiphany

## Verse of Scripture

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

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

Loving God, through your Son you have called us to repent of our sin, to believe the good news, and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom. Grant that we may hear the call to discipleship and gladly proclaim the gospel to a waiting world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## First Bible Reading - Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

## Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the



*Slum life in Jakarta  
A young boy proudly shows his find*

body and has given greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

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

**Gospel Reading** (*Please stand*) The Holy Gospel is taken from Luke 4: 14-21

**All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

(This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

**Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty Father, who's Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of His glory, that He may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for He is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Hymns** (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion)

1. To God be the Glory 463
2. Give me joy in my heart 492
3. Make me a channel of your peace 776
4. O breath of God come sweeping through 777

**Commentary**

The Old Testament lectionary reading for this Sunday is taken from the Book of Nehemiah. Since this is not a very familiar Book it might be useful to say a little about this interesting part of the Hebrew Bible and set today's extract in context. In chronological terms, this book comes at the very end of the period covered by what we call the Old Testament. Coming historically after the book of Chronicles, it extends the story of the people of Israel from the end of the exile in Babylon (c539 BC) to the end of the fifth century BC. The account of the doings of Nehemiah is regarded as a continuation of the book of Ezra. In some places it sounds as though the book was written by Nehemiah himself, since he often uses the word "I" but in other places the text refers to the same man as "he"! Scholars have suggested that it may be that the earliest versions of the story became jumbled and thus mixed up the historical order of events in both Ezra and Nehemiah. The tone of the Book of Nehemiah is radically different from the more high flown, and perhaps more vague, outpourings of some of the prophets. Nehemiah, Jewish cup bearer to the Persian King Artaxerxes,



*Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls*

was allowed by his master to return to the land of the people of Israel as Governor. Once there, Nehemiah grieved at the desolate state of the city of Jerusalem, so symbolic of the nationhood and spirituality of the Chosen People. In the face of division among the scattered and sorry remnants of the people of Israel and against a background of attacks from neighbouring tribes, Nehemiah called together the people and galvanised them into setting about rebuilding the walls of the once great city of David and Solomon.

Although we don't learn many personal details about Nehemiah, we do get the impression that he was a practical and determined man. He was also tidy-minded to a fault! The book of Nehemiah is scattered with careful lists of the participants in the reconstruction project. The family alliances and relationships are all carefully noted, he was a true historian. The excerpt we hear in church this morning comes after this account of the reconstruction of the walls of Jerusalem. Having achieved the first part of his purpose, the rebuilding of the fabric, the practical prophet followed God's inspiration and set about rebuilding the spiritual fabric of his people. The men and women of Israel and "those who have ears to hear" (presumably Gentiles) were called together to hear God's will for His people.

In my sermon I shall be noting the significance of both the moving sequence of the practical and moral rebuilding of a divided and disheartened people. I shall ask whether this rather obscure part of the Bible might not have real significance for Christians as we struggle in this secular world. Could the rebuilding and the finding of common cause in a great project be a splendid metaphor of God's purpose for us? *Joan Crossley*

### **Meditation**

We are half way through the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, an event which is now part of the Bedford church calendar. It is marked by services in a variety of churches and provides a platform for building new relationships with Christians from other denominations or meeting up with old friends. It would be good to think that people from the Partnership might reaffirm our long-standing commitment to looking outwards by getting involved with the few remaining activities. Perhaps you could fit in a visit to one of the lunchtime services? Or hear Bishop Richard preach tonight? We all desire closer links and better understanding with other churches and knowing how they worship is an important part of the process of dropping barriers.

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

Gracious God, look upon a sinner who is yet created in your image. Look upon a disciple into whose heart you gaze. Look upon a child who longs to love you with a heart yet more perfect, and looking, forgive, and gazing, pardon and bless; for your truth and your mercy's sake. Amen. *Francois Fenelon, 1651-1715*

#### Prayer for Epiphany

Almighty God, you have revealed the incarnation of your Son by the bright shining of a star, which the wise men saw and offered costly gifts on adoration; let the star of your justice always shine in our hearts, that we give as our treasure all that we are to you service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (*Gelasian Sacramentary 8<sup>th</sup> century*)

Lord, teach me the silence of love, the silence of wisdom, the silence of humility, the silence of faith, the silence that speaks without words. O Saviour, teach me to silence my heart that I may listen to the gentle movement of the Holy Spirit within me and sense the depths which are God, today and always. Amen (*Frankfurt, 16<sup>th</sup> century*)

# News and Information

**Coffee Morning** Saturday 3 February from 10 - 12 noon At Sylvia Cohen's 14 Flint Way. Proceeds for Mission Funds

**Thank You** Margaret and her family, Philip, Richard, Sally & Isabel, Bruce & Trevor wish to thank the church family for their caring letters, cards & overwhelming love and support since 1 January. John's caring ways have left an indelible stamp on his family and community. His Christian faith blessed us all. We shall miss him greatly.

**Neil Bramble-Chapman** has been in touch & is doing well in Bury St Edmonds and loving his job. Here is his address ; 15 Holby Close, Horinger, Bury St Edmonds, IP29 5SZ, 01284 735072.

**"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.



Chapel Chairs. The 20 new chapel chairs will arrive next week and we will arrange plaques with inscriptions. Thank to those who have kindly offered to buy a chair. One or two chairs are still available for donation.

## 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

### St Mark's Building Progress

The community Centre extension at St. Mark's is now nearing completion and we expect to be able to start using the building in the second week of February. We are delighted with the progress and the excellent work carried out by our builders Meadsway. We already have groups waiting to move into the new building and it is planned that six new groups will start in the first week of opening.

The Garden of Remembrance extension and new entrance will open at the same time and we look forward to being able to plant in the Spring.

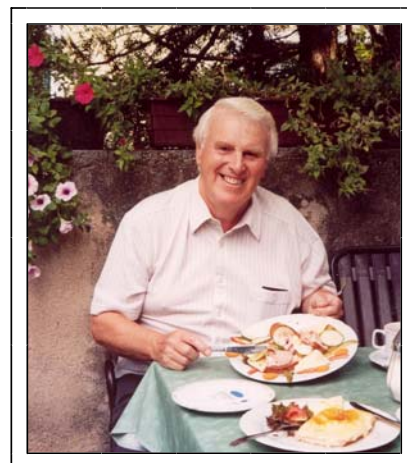
## Peter Beswick

Peter was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 1936 in Eccles Manchester. He lived and grew up in nearby Worsley and attended Worsley Methodist Chapel with his family. He left school and joined the National Coal Board as a trainee miner, with 8 years full time underground experience, he was also part of the Fire and Mines Rescue Team.

After 6 years at Mining College, fully trained in all aspects of mining work, he took a senior post in the area offices as a Progress Engineer. During this time he met Gwen at a Christian Endeavour holiday home at Penmaenmawr, North Wales in 1955. They married in 1959 in Ilford and had two sons, Martin and Stephen.

In 1965 he realised the coal industry was on the wane, left to train as a Local Government Officer at Bedford which eventually led to him becoming a Principal Officer in the Personnel Department. He retired after 40 years combined service.

Their son Martin is married to Rebecca and their children are James and Sophie, Stephen is married to Naomi and their children are Hattie & Oliver. A devoted husband, father and granddad, he loved sport - an avid Manchester United supporter. Many happy memories include Father and Son camp, fishing trips and many happy family holidays. Peter loved his grandchildren dearly and was so very proud of their many achievements. His church activities included - Youth Club Leader, Society Steward (for 6 years, now called Leadership Team), Chairman of Family Committee, Welcome Steward, office duties, founder of Tiddler Trail Team, and Beetle Drives, were just a few of Peter's many church responsibilities.



**“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.

**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)

**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 34342.

**Flowers for Putnoe and St Mark’s** We all appreciate the beautiful flowers which are kindly donated each Sunday 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.

**Wine Bluffs for Wine Buffs.** 17 March at Putnoe Heights 7.30. An evening of wine tasting and food. In aid of NSPCC and Church funds. For tickets see Church Office or Jenny Emsley.



**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!

**Help Wanted** - Can you please save and pass on to Liz empty plastic milk bottles and any unwanted CD's/DVDs for half term activities. Thanks Liz Spavins

**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.

**Peter Beswick**

*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 Ronald Karmen** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 2.30pm on Wednesday 24 January. *Royden*