

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

30 August 2009

Ordinary 22



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's - Holy Communion PCH

Preacher - Mr Barry Owen

Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions –

11.00am Putnoe Heights Holy Communion PCH

Preacher - Mr Barry Owen

Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar

Intercessions— Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Sunday 6th September- Ordinary 23

9.30am St. Mark's - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank

Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights— Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt

Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

Readings 1. Isaiah 35: 4-7a 2. James 2:1-10,
14-17 3. Mark 7: 24-37

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Hazel Caine in loving memory of her husband George and son Mark, and by Arthur Merryman in loving memory of Vi on their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at St Mark's this week are given by Doris Cooper in loving memory of her husband John on their 65th wedding anniversary.

Prayer for Sunday

O Father of lights, from whose word of truth we have been born as firstfruits of your creatures: make us quick to listen and slow to speak, that the word implanted in us may take root to nourish all our living, and that we may be blessed in our doing and fruitful in action. Amen.

Car Boot Sale

Bank Holiday Monday at St Mark's

Usual help and support greatly appreciated, baking, saleable items to St Mark's—open all day Sunday

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861

vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 30 August Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

- 9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461
- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting September 1 Devotional. Details from Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 8 September Digital switchover. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 16 September 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎ 365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731
- 6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073
7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 2 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070
12pm Storybox St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Next meeting 10 September Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's ☎267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September
4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St


Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086
12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183
5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
 6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854
7pm Bedford Art Society monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎272470
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438
10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414
Young Embroiders bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792
7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.
1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd.



Diary Dates

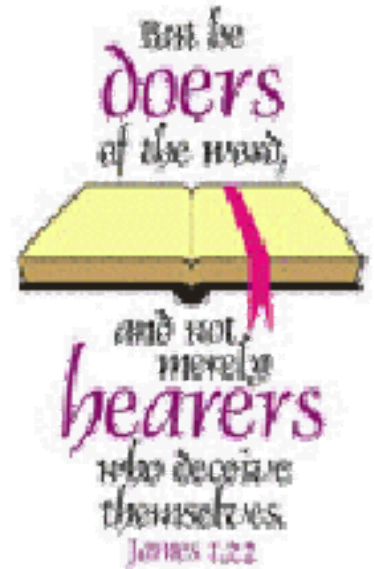
Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515
6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds

St Mark's Church Council – 9 Nov
St Mark's Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct,
 8 Feb 2010
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 8 Sept ,
 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010,
Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting - 22 September 4.30pm
Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group—Wed.16th September
 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way
Partnership Council - September 6th
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting 17 Sep, 19 Nov,
Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's 15
 September 7.30pm
Circuit Meeting at Sharnbrook Methodist Church 16
 September at 7.30pm
Woodland Burial Trustees –6 September
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –12th October

Ordinary 22

Opening Verses of Scripture- James 1:22

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like



Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray*

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading– Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

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

Second Reading - James 1:17-27

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. My dear brothers, take note of this:

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

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

Gospel Reading - Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (All: Glory to Christ our Saviour)

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not

eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?"

He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: " 'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men. 'You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.'" Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean. For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean
(Reader:This is the Gospel of Christ . **All:Praise to Christ our Lord**)

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

1. To the name of our salvation 80 (Tune: Regent Square)
2. Sing of the Lord's goodness (Tune: Sing of the Lord's goodness)
3. O Christ the healer 395 (Tune: Song 34)
4. Christ be beside me (Tune: Bunessan)

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Commentary

Our passage today records one of the episodes in which Jesus has dispute with the religious leaders. Mark has already told us that the scribes have determined that Jesus is demonic (3:22), and the Pharisees have begun a conspiracy to kill him (3:6). This is why they have left Jerusalem, to follow Jesus and try to stop him, if necessary by murder. It is important to try and understand the Pharisees. They were not actually bad people, they were dedicated to obeying and pleasing God. Out of a desire to obey God they had established rules to clarify the law, and adherence to the unwritten oral tradition was as important for the Pharisees as adherence to the Torah itself, by the third century it was codified as the Mishnah. So it was that the Pharisees gradually adopted this practice of ritual handwashing for ordinary people and ordinary meals as a way of showing devotion to God -- and as a "boundary marker," a way for Jews to proclaim their identity as distinct from their pagan neighbours.

The Maccabean martyrs were famous at the time for having died rather than defile themselves, they were Jewish people who had been tortured and killed for refusing to eat unclean food, particularly pork. The Pharisees wanted to maintain their loyalty to God and his laws, to remain distinct from the pagans around. The Pharisees were misguided, but let us not forget that they were deeply religious men trying to be obedient to God's law and for Jesus to break God's food laws like this was scandalous.

Jesus criticises the ritual laws of washing of hands before food, and of cooking vessels. Jesus attacks this ritual cleansing which was human tradition. However, he went much further, he gives Mark, the Gospel writer, a reason to say that all foods are clean! When he overrules the food laws he is not attacking mere human tradition, but the scriptures themselves. No wonder the Pharisees were angry and quite understandably, any good Jew would have been. The Pharisees attack Jesus and show that he is outside the cherished tradition which has been passed on to define the true people of God. Jesus has a completely different agenda, showing that these laws pointed towards him and now that he has arrived they are redundant! God's people had historically been defined within the racial boundaries of the Jewish people, Jesus was now calling all people and this included the very Gentiles whom the Jews had sought to be so distinct from. This meant that not only were all the distinctive Jewish practices redundant, they were a hindrance and Jesus had to show that they no longer had to be obeyed.

The response of Jesus is to draw upon the words of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus quotes scripture, adding force to his accusations. The quotation is from Isaiah 29:13, and is in keeping with other prophetic pronouncements (see Isaiah 1:10-17; Amos 5:21-24; and Micah 6:6-8). What God wants is conversion of

the heart, not mere words and traditions.

So in what way is the new religion of Jesus different from the old?

"Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile" (vv. 14-15).

Jesus shows that in his religion it is not the foods that we eat or ritual defilement that makes us unclean, but the thoughts and feelings of our hearts. Jesus is unconcerned with the old categories of clean and unclean, he touched a leper (1:41), ate with sinners (2:15-17), and was not troubled that an unclean woman touched him (5:30-34). Jesus replaces God's old commandments with his own teaching, in effect, doing the same thing that he accuses the Pharisees of doing. The difference was that Jesus is entrusted by God to declare his new commandments directly. Jesus is not worried about eating pork, but he is angered by sins which come from within us, from the human heart. This is what really defiles a person. fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.

The Pharisees have a bad reputation in the Gospels, but their intentions were good: to protect and preserve the integrity of the Law, applying it to daily life. In the process some got carried away and misplaced the spirit of the Law and, as in today's gospel, became preoccupied about externals. Jesus attacks their misplaced emphasis and their way of structuring life. Today's passage comes between two multiplication stories, which manifested his overflowing concern for people. The Pharisees, on the other hand, have a restrictive view, showing a preoccupation with minutia –washing hands and utensils for eating. The Pharisees got sidetracked as they tried to be the holy people God called them to be. Jesus changes the emphasis away from religious duties towards ethical behaviour. It is a warning to all of us that our religion must never become preoccupied with rules and traditions, we must learn to put people first and be concerned with living our own good lives rather than legislating for the behaviour of others. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

John 15:13: Jesus said: "No greater love can anyone have than to lay down their life for their friends."

It was 1941, and one of the prisoners had escaped from Auschwitz, the Nazi Concentration Camp in southern Poland. The punishment on the whole camp was that ten other prisoners would die. The camp commandant walked up and down between rows of prisoners. The tenth man he selected was a Polish soldier. The sergeant broke down and begged for mercy because of his wife and young family who would have no support without him. A thin figure moved forward, took off his cap, and asked if he might take that man's place in the death cell. "Who are you?" he was asked. "I am a Catholic priest," he replied. He was Prisoner 16670, Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest. The exchange was agreed. Now that the group was 10 in number, they were marched off to Block 13 - the deathblock. They were not to be shot or gassed. They were to die very slowly by being starved of even the very little food that the prisoners were normally given. Their very slow death was designed to put others off from trying to escape. In the following days, the guards observed the condemned men dying slowly. They also saw that the men were gathered round Father Maximilian, laughing together, praying and singing hymns. One by one the men died - a slow death over 14 days. The last one alive was Maximilian Kolbe and on August 14th - in 1941, a guard injected him with phenol into his left arm. He died almost immediately. The Polish sergeant - Franz Gajowniczek - survived Auschwitz and the war itself. Each year he visited that dreadful place and laid a wreath beside Block 13 where Maximilian Kolbe died instead of himself.

Kolbe was aged 47 at his death. Fellow-Pole, John Paul II, canonised him on 10th October 1982. - Franz Gajowniczek later said: "At first I felt terrible that another man was dying in my place. But then I realised that he had done this not just to save my life, but to be with the other nine in their terrible agony of dying. His nearness to them in those dreadful last hours was worth more than a lifetime of preaching."

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you said that no-one could have greater love than to give up their life for someone else. Remind us in our personal circumstances today that care and compassion and love and sacrifice can change everything. Amen.

Action for Children—House to House Collection

Action for Children (formally NCH) works with disadvantaged and disabled children and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house to house Collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £950. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information, then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel: 342507)

Welcome to Deacon Jane. This just a reminder to put into your diaries the welcome service for Deacon Jane Mason. The service will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm. All are invited to attend.

House Group September 2009 Wendy Waters will be holding a house group at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe at 7.45 pm on Tuesday 1; Monday 7 and 28 September; Monday 5 and 12 October. We will use a 'York Course' entitled 'Where is God ...?'. The course comprises of a CD which provides thought provoking input from Christians such as, Archbishop Rowan Williams and Patricia Routledge and a booklet which forms the basis of informal exploration and discussion. If you are interested in being part of the group or for more details please contact Wendy Waters on 401834.

Footprints walk on level ground around Stanwick Lakes near Rushden on Sunday 6 September. Meet at the Visitor Centre at 2.30pm. The walk is expected to be about 3.5 miles long, but may be lengthened or shortened to suit individual needs because of the variety of paths available. Stanwick Lakes are located on the A45 heading towards Raunds. Head out of Bedford on the A6, eventually taking Rushden by-pass. At the end of the by-pass at the roundabout where the A6 meets the A45, turn right along the A45 towards Raunds. Stanwick Lakes is on the left hand side of the road. There is a charge for the car park. For more details contact Barry or Jenny 344417.

Opening the book of bible stories in lower schools. That is what over 100 people in Kempston and Bedford have been doing for the past ten years through Open the Book Project. Now we need some new story tellers to join existing teams or go into more schools. For more information email Ruth Robbins, rmrobbins545@hotmail.com mentioning Open the Book in the subject line.

Hymns for Sunday

Sing of the Lord's goodness,
Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us,
his love is for ever,
faithful to the end of days.

*Come then all you nations,
sing of the Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God;
ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.*

Power he has wielded,
honour is his garment,
risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken,
one bread he has broken,
new life he now gives to all.

Courage in our darkness,
comfort in our sorrow-
Spirit of our God most high!
Solace for the weary,
pardon for the sinner,
splendour of the living God!

Praise him with your singing,
praise him with the trumpet,
praise God with the lute and harp!
Praise him with the cymbals,
praise him with your dancing,
praise God till the end of days.

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left
hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts, thinking about me,
Christ be on all tongues, telling of me.
Christ be the vision, in eyes that see me,
in ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

Tune Bunesan`

Community Police Surgery has restarted at Putnoe Heights. The police will be in attendance [subject to operational requirements] every Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm.

St Mark's Church Bank Holiday Monday Car Boot Sale. We are once again asking for your help on Monday 31st August Bric-a-brac, tools, china, books etc for the church stall very welcome. Tray bakes welcome. St Marks Church will be open Sunday afternoon, just turn up and leave your unwanted valuables for us to sell.

Youth. I have just spent three enjoyable and exhausting days in the company of 30 children at our summer workshops "Travel God's World". Over half of these children were new to Putnoe and joined us from 10 different schools. We are all a little jet lagged as we visited China, Kenya, North and South America, Australia, Jamaica, England and the local community of Putnoe all in 72 hours!! We listened to stories, learnt songs, played games and made some beautiful crafts from each area and then invited parents and supporters to afternoon tea where we presented some of our work. On Sunday 6th September some of us will take part in the all age service at Putnoe to show you a little of what we did. Many thanks to all those who gave their time to support this event in so many different ways. Liz

Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The youth team at Putnoe would like to launch The Christmas Shoebox appeal again this year, where via the Samaritans Purse organisation filled boxes will be delivered to some of the worlds poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items the children will pack the boxes, alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November so please start collecting now—soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationary items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap,

hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper Please leave at Putnoe office for the youth team. Thank you.

1st Putnoe Brownies kindly ask for donations of empty clean baked bean tins and glass paints. Items can be left at Putnoe for Liz. Thank you

Thank you everyone who supported us in fundraising for our Girl Guiding trip to South Korea. We had an amazing time and really appreciate all the help from the church. Thank you! Samantha and Louise, 1st Putnoe Brownies.



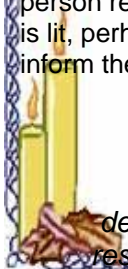
Visit our online chapel We have now provided the opportunity to visit our online chapel and light a prayer candle. Please visit thischurch.com and click on the

Keep in mind that our community is not composed of those who are already saints, but of those who are trying to become saints. Therefore let us be extremely patient with each other's faults and failures.

Mother Teresa, 20th century

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.




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



Please consider using Amazon.com for your shopping needs. Free delivery on orders over £5
Please always log on to Amazon through www.ThisChurch.com. Only if you do this do we get usually 5% of the cost donated to thischurch.com. Please remember that if you go and look at items first without going through our link - we will not get the commission. They know!!

You can now also buy gift vouchers !

 **Forthcoming Funerals**
None this week