



# Partnership News

## Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

### 17 August 2014

### Ordinary 20



#### Sunday Services

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

#### 17 August - Ordinary 20

##### St Marks - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Intercessions - Mrs. Mary Stubbs  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

##### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

#### 24 August - Ordinary 21

##### St Marks - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Bank  
Intercessions - Mr. Ian Farthing  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

##### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mr. Barry Southam  
Intercessions - Mr. Alan Bayliss  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Exodus 1:8-2:10  
2. Romans 12:1-8 3. Matthew 16:13-20

**Midweek Holy communion** at St. Mark's Chapel every  
Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on  
first Monday of every month at 10.00am.

#### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Gerry and Sue Allen in memory of their parents, Alec & Jessie Allen and Jack & Barbara Hellawell.

All the flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Janet and Brian Ibberson to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

*We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.*

#### Prayer for Sunday

In our need, O Lord,  
we come to the Divine Physician,  
as thirsty to the fountain of life,  
as blind to your healing light,  
as beggars to stretch out our hands,  
as pilgrims to see you face to face. Amen.

*Thomas Aquinas (c.1225-1274)*

**The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman**  
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

**Deacon Jane Mills**  
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre  
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535  
jane@thisischurch.com

**The Reverend Canon Charles Royden**  
The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

**Partnership News** is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

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

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**Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators**  
Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@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.*

**Churchyards Administrator**  
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

**Putnoe Heights Church Centre**  
**Open Monday to Friday 9am - 12pm,**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630** putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Geoff Gypps 365630  
**Leadership Team** Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417  
**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

**St. Mark's Church Centre**  
**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613** office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mrs Jean Bank 355698  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm

For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or [www.hazeldeneheights.com](http://www.hazeldeneheights.com)

**8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's

**9.00-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

**9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955

**10.30am U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**1.30pm Chat & Make.** Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts 8 September

**12.00 noon 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. Contact Carolyn Morris [youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com) 365630

**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm U3A Italian** Putnoe Heights— fortnightly

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

**5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active** at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234 792013

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

**6.30pm Boot Camp** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's (1st week in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

**7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club** at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's ( Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting— 18 August Judith Stanton. 823313

**7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club** St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

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

**7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

## Tuesday

**9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking** at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507

**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389

**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Contact Janet King 313946

**1.15pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

**1.30pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**7.30-8.30pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

**7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

**7.00pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in January 2015.

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightl 2 September Afternoon Tea at 2.30pm Details Janet King 313946

**8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee** St Mark's ( week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

## Wednesday

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

**10am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

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

**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights

**12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery** Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 10 September Putnoe Heights Office 365630

**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** at St Marks.Contact Janet King 313946

**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers.

Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 17 Sept 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

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

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

**6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865**

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 3 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's ( Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

### Thursday

**8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery** Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. Will not meet on July 31 and August 7

**9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus** at Putnoe Heights

**10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival** at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

**9.45am Chat and Play** St. Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts September 11

**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. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613 Restarts 4 September

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic** at St Mark's ( Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

**1pm-2.30pm Drop in** (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm - Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

**2pm U3A Current Affairs** - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St. Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

**5.45pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094

**7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's (3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504

**Bedford Folk Dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or

Shirley 01767 651767

**8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

### Friday

**8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery** Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**8.30am Diabetic Centre** St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist** St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance** Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation** St Mark's. Cheryl Green 07729187399

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St Marks(2nd week in month )Carol Brown 01438 233385

### Saturday

**9.00am Faith Temple Ministries** St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

### Sunday

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

**10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre.** 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

**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.

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Adrian Felice

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 14 October

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 9 September

**Annual Congregational Meetings—**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 1 October

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** -25 September

**Putnoe Church Council** - 16 October

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Commemoration Service** - 2nd November

**Circuit meeting** – 15 September

**Deanery meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees—**

**Putnoe Heights Children**

**& Youth Meeting** - 29 September at 2.00pm

*Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.*

# Ordinary 20

## Sentence of Scripture Psalm 67:1

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship*

## First Bible Reading Genesis 45: 1-15

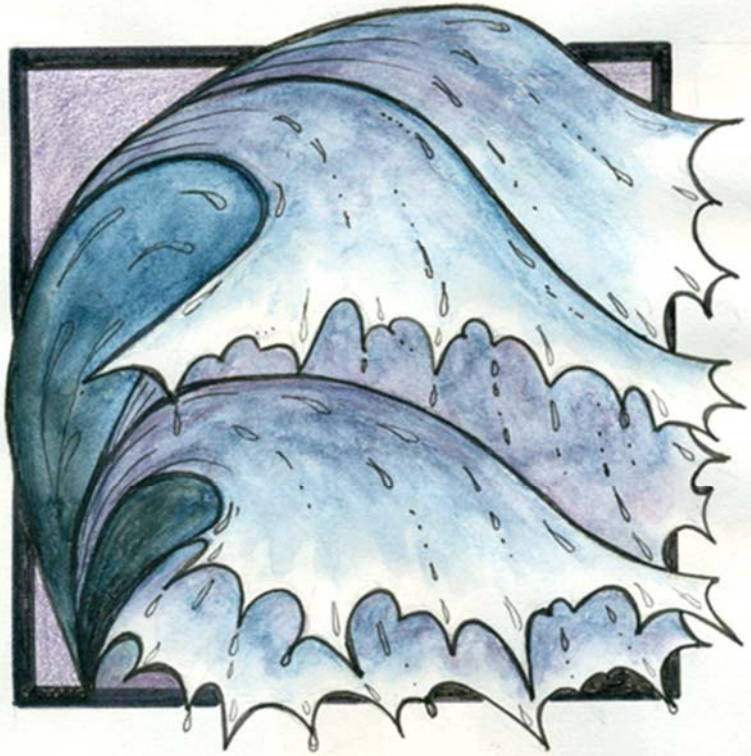
Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, 'Make everyone leave my presence!' So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph! Is my father still living?' But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come close to me.' When they had done so, he said, 'I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been a famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no ploughing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 'So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me - you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' 'You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. Tell my father about all the honour accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly. Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterwards his brothers talked with him.

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

## Second Bible Reading - Romans Chapter 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

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



*Even the winds and the water obey him*

*c Marilyn Bailey*

## **Gospel Reading - Matthew 15:10-28**

*Please stand and when the Gospel is announced we say - **Glory to Christ our Saviour***

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'" Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit." Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'" Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

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

## **Post Communion Prayer**

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, 758;
- 2 O bread to pilgrims given, 620;
- 3 Shout for Joy, Partnership News;
4. Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour, 616

## **Mediation**

There is a temptation when we read today's gospel reading to split it into two distinct halves. There is the section on the Jewish regulations regarding what makes a person clean or unclean, which follows on from a discussion Jesus is having with the Pharisees and the scribes on the subject, and then a story relating to a meeting with a Canaanite woman when He travels to the region of Tyre and Sidon. At first they don't seem connected, especially when in our bibles we often put a break between them and label the second section something like 'the faith of the Canaanite woman'. But they are part of the same story which Matthew is telling. Jesus is in the middle of a debate with the Pharisees and the scribes. They are questioning the authority of Jesus and He is questioning their understanding of the law, and by extension, God and His Kingdom. The fundamental question is about how the New Covenant which Jesus brings fit together with the Old which was familiar to the Jews. The story of the Canaanite woman demonstrates visibly how the New, which Jesus inaugurates, is complementary to the Old. It's not a replacement of it, more an extension of it, just as the church today is not some kind of New Israel. Paul tells us in a part of the Romans passage which is omitted in today's reading, we are in-grafted branches into the roots of the Jewish faith. Jesus had come not to do away with Israel, God's chosen people, but to fulfil the purpose for which they existed in the first place.

## **Commentary – Open to Questions**

One of the underlying precepts that Jesus is highlighting in the gospel passage today is that it's not just knowing what you believe and why you believe it which is important – it's also what that means in your life. This was one of the challenges Jesus raised with the religious rulers when He quoted a passage from Isaiah to them just prior to our reading today, where He accuses them of hypocrisy, honouring God with lip service but with hearts far from Him. Just as for the Jewish authorities it's important to know what we believe and why we believe it. There is nothing wrong with questioning our faith, and Jesus was certainly not against anyone asking questions about what was happening, what it meant and how it related to the faith and beliefs they already had. Sometimes questioning our faith is more an indicator of a faith that is maturing, rather than one that is being swamped by doubt and uncertainty. Indeed,

sometimes having an unquestioning faith can lead to its own difficulties when things just don't seem to make sense or add up as they would expect them to. Life and faith then can become much more uncertain. Jesus doesn't discourage anyone from questioning their faith, but He does ask that, even with all our questions, we live out what we believe to the best of our ability so that others can see visibly the difference our faith makes to us and what it means in our lives. For some of the religious rulers it seems that they were more interested in debating the minutiae of the law rather than living out its holy precepts. Not only this, the Pharisees had added oral tradition to the law in an attempt at making it all the more encompassing. In the gospel reading Jesus is not so much questioning or undermining the written law on kosher food but more 'the tradition of the elders', the oral tradition, the Pharisaic practice which had evolved and which was not in the written law. The Pharisees believed their tradition and oral law came from Sinai, therefore God. But Jesus was the recipient and embodiment of divine tradition, (Mt 11 v 27) '... everything has been entrusted to me by the Father...'. So who has the right to interpret tradition?

It's a question which is as relevant today as it ever was. So often we get caught up in discussions and debates about tradition, rather than the essence of the gospel. That's why, even today we need to have people like the Canaanite woman who come along and ask seemingly impertinent questions at awkward times. Times when we too are, like the Pharisees, are trying to impose our own 'traditional' views and perspectives into situations, times when we try to limit and restrict the scope of what God has intended and wants to bring to fruition. Matthew, writing to a Jewish audience, points out in the manner he reports the story, that faith and tradition should not divide or split communities but rather bring them together through a fuller understanding of the true mission and purpose of God. Whenever our smallness of thinking comes to the surface we need to remember God's provision is broader and deeper than we can ever imagine, sometimes in very unexpected ways.

The Canaanite woman speaks of eating the crumbs that fall from the table. The disciples have just witnessed the feeding of over 5000 people from five loaves and two fish. They've also seen that from these meagre rations twelve baskets of crumbs were left over, they certainly didn't expect that! With just mere crumbs, there is more than enough to satisfy, but God's riches offer us so much more. The gospel reading speaks of God doing unexpected things. The reading from Genesis speaks of a God who does unexpected things. In the light of the Christ who had come, the Gentile believers in Rome who Paul was addressing might have expected God to reject his people in some way, but he did not as Paul is at pains to point out in the part of his letter to them we heard today. God was not rejecting them, but as Jesus shows in the gospels, He often reminds the Jews that the promises they hold from God are now being fulfilled and the Messiah they are looking for has come before, He then goes on to speak to a wider audience, often including Gentiles. The Canaanite woman understands this. She addresses Jesus as the son of David, the Jewish Messianic title, but goes on to underline the fact that as such, the Messiah will ultimately bring blessing to the whole world. The Pharisees were generally respected for the seriousness with which they took the law and the pursuit of righteousness, but the source of their perspective had moved from God to themselves. They appeared to value items of minor significance but often seemed to miss the bigger, more Godly perspective, such as the coming of the Messiah and all that His appearance would signify. In their pursuit of the ritualistic formalism and tradition they seemed not to grasp what made a person truly unclean.

Jesus is making a fundamental point in this story; sin comes not from failing to perform some minutiae of human making, but from the things, such as the often less than perfect thoughts, words and deeds, that come from our hearts. The Pharisees seemed to have confused this bigger picture of moral righteousness with tradition and ritual purity. As we all know, sin, that which separates us from God, is more than skin deep. Jesus came to address the problem of sin and evil, and to overcome it, and to reveal the true nature of God. As he did, sometimes He needed to speak out against traditions and practices which, rather than support this mission, confused and obscured it. *Sam Cappelman*

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

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits be opened to the goodness of your creation. **Amen**

O Lord, take our minds and think through them; take our lips and speak through them; take our lives and live out your life; take our hearts and set them on fire with love for you; and guide us ever by your Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed for your disciples that they might be one, even as you are one with the Father,; draw us to yourself, that in common love and obedience to you we may be united to one another, in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

I know what must be done. Only now am I beginning to be a disciple. May nothing of powers visible or invisible prevent me, that I may attain unto Jesus Christ. **Amen** *Ignatius of Antioch*

May God grant that we who have worshipped Him may be witnesses to Him in His world, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**

### Holiday Children's Activities

**Storybox** (Age 0 to 5 yrs.) and Storybox plus (Age 6 to 13 yrs.) will meet at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 18 at 12 noon for a story, games and crafts with a Biblical theme. Please bring a picnic lunch with you, drinks provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For further details please contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

**Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 8 September 2014 at 12 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help to make this group such a success.

**Junior Church** at Putnoe Heights Church will have a break during August and meet again on Sunday 7th September for our All Age Family service. Thank you to all our volunteers who help with this group. We are constantly looking for new volunteers for this group. If you would like to be part of our Junior church group to help our children grow in faith please speak to Carolyn Morris or one of the Ministers.

**St Mark's Chat and Make / Play** Next holiday meeting will be August 21 from 9.30 to 11.30am. Chat and Make/Play start again on Monday 8 September at 1.30pm and Thursday 11 at 9.30am. Please contact Janine 01234 297481 for more details. **Storybox** at St. Mark's starts again on 4 September at 12 noon.

**Messy Church at Celebrate 100** Wanted by Sunday 24 August small plastic containers with lids. E.g. small margarine tubs; Aldi individual ice cream tubs; max size about 4" x 3". Contact Wendy Waters 401834.

**Action for Children** September House to House Collection. Action for Children has a 140 year history of working with children, young people and parents living in tough circumstances in Britain today. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church where it has its roots. Our annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in September. St. Mark's Church is allocated the Brickhill collecting area and last year we raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during September to distribute 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)*



**Short Mat Bowls  
Today Sunday  
17 August at 2.00pm  
at St Mark's**

**On August 25** there will be a fabulous festival of fun, worship and praise at the College



Equestrian Centre in Keysoe, to celebrate 100 years of the St Albans Diocese. We hope that you will all join us for this day from 10am onwards. There will be so much to do and it's all free. Expect to see the best international dog display team, flying birds of prey, a fairground, classic car display and a central outdoor stage with music and a special celebration service. (Plus - Lots More !) One of the things which we are hoping to do is organise a team from each church to take part in 'It's a knockout.' If you would like to take part in a team and you are over 16 then please speak to Ian Farthing at St Mark's or Sam Ware at Putnoe.

**Putnoe Heights Office** - It is good to hear that Geoff Gypps is back in situ as Centre Manager at Putnoe Heights. Welcome back! The office will be open from 12 noon during August, not mornings.

**Beds, Essex, Herts. District Methodist Women in Britain (Network) Autumn Craft Day** on Saturday 4 October from 9.45am to 4.30pm at Priory Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to come and learn a new skill. 16 Workshops available at £4.00 per half day session. Closing date for bookings is 25th September. Details of workshops and booking forms are available from Pam Seymour Tel 305695 email -pams@tgis.co.uk or Ruth Watkins Tel 01296 485087 email- ruthwatkins@aol.com

**Wanted:** Car Booster seat on loan for approx. 1 week from 31st August .Please contact Brian & Janet Ibberson tel: 403497

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Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase.

Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and we receive a commission. You can shop at John Lewis, M&S etc - please always shop through www.thisischurch.com

## Presumed Consent



The Joint Public Issues Team of the Methodist Church in Britain, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church has produced a free resource on the ethics of organ donation ahead of a change in the law in Wales. The resource is designed to help people think through questions around "presumed consent", which will become legal in Wales from December 2015. The free guide is entitled "Sharing the gift of life?" It includes arguments, concerns and issues around organ donation, the rights and concerns of patients, personal experiences as well as a discussion on whether there is a distinctly Christian way of seeing the body. People are invited to use it for personal reflection or to support a group discussion. In July 2013, the Welsh Assembly voted in favour of "presumed consent" for organ transplantation. Under this legislation, unless people explicitly opt out, they are regarded as having given consent to their organs being available for transplantation. This is a change from an opt-in to an opt-out system of organ donation. Northern Ireland has already held a consultation on presumed consent and Scotland is currently consulting on it. It is possible that similar proposals will be debated in England and that Bills to introduce presumed consent will be introduced in the rest of the UK, following Wales' lead.

According to NHS Organ Donation statistics, from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, 1,160 lives were saved in the UK through a heart, lung, liver or combined heart/lungs, liver/kidney or liver/pancreas transplant. The statistics also showed that 3,052 patients' lives were improved by a kidney or pancreas transplant, and 3,697 people had their sight restored through a cornea transplant. Around 1,000 people a year (almost three a day) will die waiting as there are not enough organs available.

The Methodist Church is strongly in favour of organ donation but doesn't have a position on presumed consent. The debate in Wales has shown that many in our Churches find presumed consent an uneasy principle. Churches have an important role in supporting donors, recipients of organs, and their families, both pastorally and publically. "Sharing the gift of life" is intended to help Christians participate in the national discussion around presumed consent, so that the wonder of organ donation can be fulfilled in our society."

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## A Hymn for Sunday

Shout for joy! The Lord has let us feast;  
heaven's own fare has fed the last and least;  
Christ's own peace is shared again on earth;  
God the Spirit fills us with new worth.

Celebrate with saints who dine on high,  
witnesses that love can never die.  
"Hallelujah!" - thus their voices ring:  
nothing less in gratitude we bring.

No more doubting, no more senseless dread:  
God's good self has graced our wine and bread;  
all the wonder heaven has kept in store  
now is ours to keep for evermore.

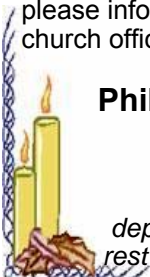
Praise the Maker, praise the Maker's Son,  
praise the Spirit - three yet ever one;  
praise the God whose food and friends avow  
heaven starts here! The kingdom beckons now!

## 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

**Philip Andrew Benjamin (Phil)  
Sedgwick**

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



## Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Eileen  
Alexander** will take  
place at St. Mark's  
Church at 2pm on 27th  
August.