

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 4TH JUNE, 10am – 12 noon: Memory Cafe in the foyer of Westbury Grange/The Limes, Westbury Lane, Newport 16 8JA.

THURSDAY, 12TH JUNE, 7.45pm at the Methodist Church: CTNP Forum and AGM. Rev Canon John Robertson, Director of Ecumenical Mission will be joining us to talk about the work of the Milton Keynes Mission Partnership. All welcome. Please come if you can.

FRIDAY, 13TH JUNE at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church: U3A Spring Concert.

SATURDAY, 14TH and SUNDAY 15TH JUNE: Stoke Goldington Church is holding a Flower Festival over the weekend of June 14th and 15th with the theme 'The Circle of Life'. Cream teas are being served and the event will be rounded off with a 'Songs of Praise' at 4.30pm on the Sunday. The church is signposted at the very far end of the village.

WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY, 10am – 12 noon: Memory Cafe in the foyer of Westbury Grange/The Limes, Westbury Lane, Newport Pagnell.

THURSDAY, 10TH JULY from 7.30-9pm at the URC: Dementia awareness session.

SATURDAY, 12TH JULY, 2pm – 4pm: Annual garden party for the Emergency Help Scheme at 120 Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH JULY, 2.30-4pm at LOVAT HALL: Dementia awareness session

SUNDAY, 27TH JULY, 2pm-5pm: Cream tea in aid of Mother's Union projects at 120 Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 10am – 12 noon: Memory Cafe in the foyer of Westbury Grange/The Limes, Westbury Lane.

CTNP President: Vacancy
Secretary: Beth MacKay, beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk Tel. 612475
Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com Tel. 210048
CTNP web-site: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS JUNE 2014

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and you will renew the face of the earth.

O God, Who instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, Grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen”

Whilst the above traditional Catholic prayer can be seen as being most fitting for Pentecost Sunday which we celebrate this month, I do not mind sharing with you that this is one prayer I recited together with others at least once every week whilst at seminary during my time of formation toward the priesthood. Our New Testament lecturer, Fr Ken Collins, would begin every lesson with this prayer.

Whilst at the time some of us eager students thought saying the same prayer every time a “routine way” of beginning our class, I’ve now come to appreciate that the prayer is anything but “routine”. I can easily see right away how simply and elegantly the prayer to the Holy Spirit invokes God’s loving help in the daily ups and downs of life. Fr Ken wasn’t unimaginative in his words after all!

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Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay
Preferably by e-mail to beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk 612475
Copy Deadline - 20th of each month

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And read again the phrase, "... the fire of your love..." Fire is a particularly fitting image. An eminent American Archbishop once noted that "fire has two great qualities: light and heat. Light is the symbol of truth. Heat is the symbol of love." The reference to fire also brings to mind the Holy Spirit's essential role in the creation not only of the world, ("moving about the face of the waters," from Genesis 1:2) but also of the Church as well! We read in the Acts of the Apostles how the Holy Spirit came as "tongues as of fire" (Acts 2:3) enlightening the disciples to spread God's Word with power and love.

This is crucial for us today when speaking about the church: not simply about bricks and mortar or even denominational structure, but the "fire of God's love" within us. When someone says you're "on fire" about something, aren't they saying you're passionate about it? We, the people who make up Churches Together in Newport Pagnell; we, who dare call ourselves Christian; we are called to be that way in expressing our love for God's truth in how we live and spread our Faith – on fire with the love of God! This too is being church! This too is living church!

May this prayer help bring you His support! "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful".

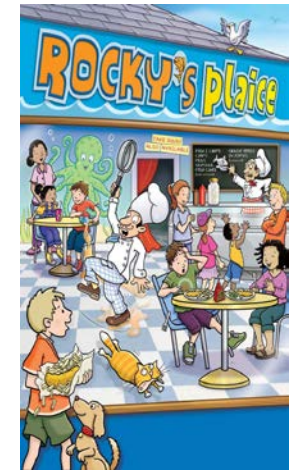
*Fr James Evans
St Bede's RC Church*

Emergency Help Scheme

Once again it is that time of year when we begin to look forward to summer days. This year our Annual Garden Party will take place on **12th July from 2pm-4pm**. We are indebted to Jennifer and Ralph Mazzone who have invited us, once again, to use their lovely garden at 120 Wolverton Road (if wet we will relocate to St Lukes Church). Please come along if you enjoy a cream tea and/or a lovely garden. We look forward to seeing you there.

HOLIDAY CLUB 11th – 15th August 2014

This year we are using Scripture Union's Rocky's Plaice material (yes it is spelt like that!) We are planning and praying for 150 primary school age children and are busy recruiting the team. The Bible content centres on the life of Peter.



Join up and have great fun with the kids and the team. If you are inexperienced – don't worry, we will provide some training and support – and we're looking for help with all sorts of tasks, not just working with the children.

For example, we need people to help prepare the hall, clear up afterwards, help run a crèche for younger children of volunteers, prepare mid-morning refreshments and lunch for the helpers, etc... There are lots of ways you can help so contact us at **Info@npbc.org.uk** or through the Holiday Club contact in your church. It's a wonderful venture to be involved in so don't miss out!

The club runs from 10am to 12.30 each day but the site at Lovat Hall will be open from 8am so you can arrive as early as you like to set up each day. Children will be divided by age group into groups of roughly ten and each group will have a leader and helpers. At other times, we all gather together for teaching, games and fun led from the front. You'll be in good company. In the midst of serving the children, the team have a lot of fun. It's great to work together. At the end of the week you will have made new friends!

Registration for children wishing to attend the Holiday Club takes place in advance via Cambourne Travel, 52 High Street, Newport Pagnell.

www.newportpagnellholidayclub.co.uk

Memory Cafe – 1st Wednesday of each month

Come along to our Memory Cafe - a safe place where people living with dementia and their carers can find a warm welcome and support. The next Cafe runs on Wednesday, 4th June from 10am to noon at Westbury Grange. Cost is £1.50 for tea/coffee, cake and a raffle. For more information phone 01908 210322.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have good listening, communication and interpersonal skills? We are looking for welcoming and engaging volunteers to join our friendly team. We need people to help us make our Memory Café a warm and supportive environment for people with dementia and their carers. The Café runs for 2 hours on the first Wednesday of every month from 10am to 12 noon at Westbury Grange Care home.

If you would like to find out more, please contact B Grace at Westbury Grange on 01908 210322.

BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIEND

Many of us have family members or friends coping with dementia. We want our churches to be Dementia Friendly, welcoming and loving to all. To achieve this, we need to understand more about what it's like to live with dementia, and to know how to help. If you would like to know more about dementia and become a Dementia Friend, come to one of the two sessions, an afternoon or an evening session, being held in Newport Pagnell during July.

- **Thursday 10th July in the United Reformed church from 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

OR

- **Wednesday 16th July in the Baptist church from 2.30pm - 4.00pm.**

Hazel Reynolds is a Dementia Friends champion (part of the national initiative to create 1 million Dementia Friends by 2015), and an Alzheimer's Society volunteer, and she will be running these sessions for CTNP. The usual Dementia Friends session lasts one hour, and by adding a further fifteen minutes to these sessions we will also consider the role of *churches* within a dementia friendly community.

You can sign up for the sessions via the Dementia Friends website at www.dementiafriends.org.uk or by emailing Hazel at hazel_reynolds@hotmail.co.uk.

CTNP NEEDS YOU!

Our next Forum/AGM is on **Thursday, 12th June** at 7.45pm at the Methodist Church and we **desperately** need volunteers to fill the vacancies for President and Secretary. Neither role is hugely time consuming but both are important to the smooth running of CTNP activities.

Please give this prayerful consideration and email **beth.mackay@ctnp.org.uk** if you think you might be able to help with either of these roles. We would love to hear from you!

President/Chair (vacant since June 2013)

- Chairs the two meetings of Forum each year (January and June) and the four Executive meetings (February, May, September and November) and approves minutes prior to circulation by the Secretary
- Represents CTNP at occasional external meetings as required (although in practice this can be delegated to other members of the Executive)
- Deals with any issues that might arise in between meetings
- Maximum term of office is two years.

Secretary (vacant from 12th June 2014)

- In consultation with the Chair and other members of the Executive, prepares and circulates agenda and accompanying papers for the two meetings of the Forum each year (January and June) and for four Executive meetings per year (February, May, September and November) and prepares and circulates minutes for each of these meetings.
- Drafts any ad hoc CTNP correspondence as required throughout the year (in practice this is generally minimal)
- Acts as one of the initial contacts for CTNP (from the website and newsletters), circulating/forwarding information as appropriate
- Maximum term of office is five years.

U3A SPRING CONCERT – FOREVER ENGLAND

Come and enjoy a concert given by the U3A Choir on **Friday, 13th June at 7.30pm** in the United Reformed Church, Newport Pagnell

Tickets available from: 07762178379 or from Jennifer Mazzone (613088) at £6 each which will include refreshments. Proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion.

One More Angel is a beautifully healing song written to raise funds and awareness for Harry's Rainbow, bringing sunshine to bereaved children in Milton Keynes.

The single was released on Sunday 25th May and we need 3,500 downloads in the first week to enter into the UK Top 40 official charts.

Help Harry's Rainbow reach more families and continue with the amazing work they do across our city. Follow the link below and download #harryssingle 'One More Angel'.

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/id876336542>

Ffald-y-brenin - 4th - 7th September

An exciting opportunity has arisen to visit this amazing Christian Retreat Centre near Fishguard, Pembrokeshire. Ten people are already attending and we need another seven to secure the booking. We have two drivers at the moment and need at least two more to help with transportation (your fuel costs will be covered). Accommodation and food are provided at a cost of £140 (which also includes a contribution towards travel expenses). The idea of the retreat is a time to reflect and come closer to God. To this end there is not a structured program and you will have lots of free time to meditate and explore.

More information can be found at www.ffald-y-brenin.org/. I also have a copy of their latest book 'The Grace Outpouring'. I do need to get a £10 deposit per person off to them as soon as possible to secure the booking.

Please contact Lisa Huckle on **01908 217429** or lisahuckle30@sky.com if you would like to go or if you would like more information.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL - CONSULTATION

At the United Reformed Church we want to redevelop the existing hall and create a flexible, multi-purpose space available for use by the local community and for outreach by the Church as part of our mission: **‘At the centre of the town, at the heart of the community’**.

Currently the hall can only be used by one group or event at a time; our vision is to create a space that consists of a large hall (the same size as we have already) and some additional smaller meeting rooms, hopefully including a Sensory Room, that can be used by many people and can support local activities and groups.

The Community Vision team from the Church are trying to put together a document that shows that there is a need for this space in the town and that people will use it.

We are therefore asking if there are groups or organizations that may be interested in using a space (large or small) on a regular, occasional or permanent basis in the future. If you know of any, please let us know.

Our aim is that the project will be completed within a three-year timescale and so an expression of interest will not be binding, but it will greatly help us to plan more effectively.

If you are interested in anything to do with this project or want more information, please contact revdjmills@btinternet.com or call **07703 485017**.

We would love to hear from you!