

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER, 10am to 12 noon: Memory Cafe at Westbury Grange (see inside for details)

MONDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green: Annual Woughton Lecture, preceded by an act of worship at 7pm. To be given by Rev Dr Stephen Mosedale, "Poison Fruit? Does scientific and technological achievement spell life or death for humanity?" All are welcome.

SATURDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 10am to 4pm at the Well at Willen: 'Mindful Contemplation – Christian Prayer and Buddhist Tradition. A Quiet Day to explore the practice of mindfulness from the Buddhist tradition and contemplative prayer in the Ignatian tradition, to support and deepen your spirituality. With Fr. Colin Griffiths SSM and Helen Stephenson. Cost £15 (includes lunch). To book a place or get more details email bookings@thewellatwillen.org.uk or phone 01908 242190.

SATURDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER: Ride and Stride and Newport Muster (see inside for details)

SATURDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm at Newport Pagnell Methodist Church: instrumental and singing concert to raise money for Westbury MHA. Further details and tickets from Phil Mitchell (01908 510731) or from Westbury reception (01908 210322).

For dates and details of Mission Partnership courses (coMPass) starting in September see inside.

CTNP President: Vacancy
Secretary: Vacancy
Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com Tel. 210048
CTNP web-site: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS SEPTEMBER 2014

Lord of Heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you.

HOLIDAY CLUB 2014

Once again the holiday club was a great success! The venue was changed to Lovat Hall this year to enable more children to attend. We had 137 children taking part, and they thoroughly enjoyed all the fun and activities. The sessions ran from 10am - 12:30pm Monday to Friday. On the Thursday evening we held a family-friendly Fish Feast! The hall was packed with families finding out about what their children had been doing all week.



A total of 57 volunteers from all the churches gave their time to help the event happen, and enjoyed being part of the Rocky's Plaice Crew.

Jenny Mills and Geoff Morris ably presented the main programme, and AJ masterminded the games. Jack Walker tried to keep it all running in order whilst Jill created crafty chaos. Who would have guessed bandages could be so much fun!

The provisional date for next year is 10th -14th August 2015.

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

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

In the last month, I have been overwhelmed with images of suffering people in the news. We have seen displaced people in Iraq and bereaved casualties of war in the Middle East. It can be difficult to relate to such events when most of us have a roof over our heads, live in relative security and have something to eat every day. It somehow doesn't feel real. Even though most of these things are a distance away, they can leave us with feelings of fear and helplessness.

There are, however, things that we can do that can change these situations. We can give financially to humanitarian and church organisations who work directly on the ground. We can commit to pray specifically by keeping ourselves informed of events.

Closer to home, we can also come across situations that may leave us feeling vulnerable and fearful. Sometimes these things can be out of our control such as illness or injury. However, there are times and situations when we can do things to help.

We can respond to our neighbours when they are in need. We can encourage communication and be attentive to one another. Often people hurt one another because of misunderstanding or just because we don't listen or give time to process the other person's point of view. Charity begins at home when we choose to respond to those around us. We can practice love and generosity and make an impact just where we are.

Birgitte Grace
Chaplain, Westbury Grange

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 Cafe runs on the first Wednesday of each month from 10am to noon at Westbury Grange. Cost is £1.50 for tea/coffee, cake and a raffle. For more information phone 01908 210322.

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Just an early heads up for your diaries about the Winter Night Shelter. Last year around 50 adults were helped towards long term accommodation by the shelter which will operate again on Tuesday evenings through to Wednesday mornings at Lovat Hall.

Fancy a bigger role? Could you be a new team leader? Talk to Jack at the Baptist church via the office there. Phone 01908 618898 or email info@npbc.org.uk. Search for *Milton Keynes Night Shelter* for web updates.

Diary dates are as follows:

Training for Team Leaders:

- Thursday 23rd October 8-10pm Ridgeway Centre

Training for Volunteers:

- Saturday 8th November 9.30am -12.30 Stony Stratford.
- Saturday 29th November 9.30am -12.30 Stony Stratford.
- Saturday 6th December 9.30am -12.30 Stony Stratford.

First duty at Lovat Hall:

- Tuesday 2nd December/3rd December. Every Tues/Wed through to 10th March/11th March.

Just a reminder that we are still looking for a new CTNP President and Secretary. Neither role is hugely time consuming but both are important to the smooth running of CTNP activities. You'll find full details of these roles on our website at www.ctnp.org.uk. Please give this prayerful consideration and email beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk if you think you might be able to help with either of these roles. We would love to hear from you!

IN ANTICIPATION OF OUR BICENTENARY



BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
1815–2015

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Exhibitions by
Charities

Christmas Cards

Sale of Hand-
Made Crafts
and Gifts

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER

10.30AM–3.30PM

Coffee Shop open,
Cream Teas etc.

FREE ENTRY

NEWPORT PAGNELL METHODIST CHURCH
HIGH STREET MK16 8AQ

coMPass Autumn Courses



Those of you who attended the CTNP Forum in June will have heard Rev Canon John Robertson talking about **coMPass** – the new guide to adult learning about Christian faith across the Mission Partnership. Its purpose is to build capacity for mission by helping us all to find new or renewed excitement, depth and confidence in Christian faith. There are five different courses running this autumn and they are open to members of all the churches. Do consider enrolling on one or more of these courses if you can. There is a £40 fee for each full course but bursaries are available on application to the Mission Partnership.

“**Journeying into Prayer**” with Liz Baker. Mondays at 7.45 pm starting September 29th at Holy Cross Two Mile Ash.

“**How to Read the Bible**” with Steve Chilcraft. Tuesdays 7.45 pm starting 23rd September at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone.

“**Human Identity in a Risky New World**” with Stephen Mosedale. Wednesdays 7.45 pm starting Wednesday 3rd September at Stony Stratford Methodist Church.

“**Understanding Faith**” with John Robertson. Thursdays 7.45 pm starting 2nd October at Christ Church, Stantonbury.

“**Work Matters: the Place of Work in our Faith Journeys**” with Stephen Norrish Thursdays 7.45 pm starting 2nd October at the Christian Foundation, Wolverton.

For more information or to enrol on a course go to the Mission Partnership website www.missionpartnership.org.uk. Here you can download a form and pay via PayPal or by returning the form to the Mission Partnership office. Alternatively pick up a leaflet from your local church. If you have any problems you can e-mail the office at missionpartnership@talktalk.net or tel: 01908 311310.

RIDE AND STRIDE

The annual Historic Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride is also known as 'Ride and Stride' as it is open to walkers as well as horse-riders and cyclists. It takes place on Saturday, 13th September between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m., and the object is to raise money for the repair and restoration of churches and chapels of any Christian denomination. Half the money raised goes to the church or chapel of the participant's choice, and the other half to a general fund administered by the Bucks Historic Churches Trust, to which applications may be made for grants for this purpose.

Participants are given lists of churches taking part, which is the vast majority of those in the county, and go from one to another either singly or in groups, having planned their own routes. Many churches are open with someone on duty (and often serving refreshments); otherwise a form will be left on the door for arrivals to enter their details. Forms and more details should be available from your own church or from Barry Messham tel: 01908 665662.

NEWPORT MUSTER

Also on Saturday, 13th September is the annual Newport Muster. Walks start from 10am onwards from the United Reformed Church hall. Dogs are welcome! For more information and to register go to www.newportmuster.org.uk.

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU TO FATHER JAMES

Father James Evans will leave St. Bede's (Christ the King parish in Kents Hill) at the end of August. He will move to a parish in Aston le Walls near Daventry, but sadly won't be replaced. The parish priest from Olney, Father Malcolm Bull, will celebrate Mass at St. Bede's on Sundays. Over the past eight and a half years Fr James has been very much involved in CTNP and made many friends among the churches.

We will miss him and wish him God's blessing in his new parish.

MARRIAGE ALPHA AT LOVAT HALL

This is a seven-session course set in a fantastic atmosphere on Tuesday evenings. You will be served an appealing dessert and tea/coffee at a romantic table for two while listening to practical talks that are informative and fun, either given live or played on DVD.

There won't be any group work and you will never be asked to share anything about your relationship with anyone other than your partner. Any marriage at any stage would benefit.

Contact Jack Walker at the office on 01908 618898 or email info@npbc.org.uk.

Check it out online at the Alpha site.

www.alpha.org

