

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TUESDAY, 4th NOVEMBER, 11am and 12.45pm: Dementia awareness sessions in John Lewis community room in Central Milton Keynes

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, 8th/ 9th NOVEMBER: Traidcraft event in Sherington (see inside for details)

SATURDAY, 8th NOVEMBER, 9.30am: training for night shelter volunteers

SATURDAY, 22 NOVEMBER, 9.30am – 12.30pm: coffee morning and sale for RNLI at 66 Lakes Lane, Newport Pagnell.

SATURDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER: Bridgebuilder Barn Dance at Lovat Hall, 7.15 for 7.30 pm start (see inside for details)

SUNDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER, 6pm: united Songs of Praise at the Parish Church

SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER, 9.30am: training for night shelter volunteers

SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER: Christmas Lights Bazaar at the Parish Church (all day)

SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER, 2pm to 6pm: Christmas Tree event at the Methodist Church

SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER: 'Get in the Picture' stall on High Street

TUESDAY, 2nd DECEMBER: Night Shelter at Lovat Hall begins

SATURDAY, 6th DECEMBER, 9.30am: training for night shelter volunteers

FRIDAY/SATURDAY 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th and 19th DECEMBER: Advent 'Winter House' coffee mornings at 5 Bramley Meadows (more details in next edition)

SATURDAY, 20th DECEMBER, 11am: open-air nativity drama at Market Hill

THURSDAY, 1st JANUARY, 10am: New Year's Day walk around the churches (more details in next edition)

CTNP President: Vacancy
Secretary: Vacancy
Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com Tel. 210048

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS NOVEMBER 2014

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

J Neander (1650-80) tr Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)

SONGS OF PRAISE

Following the popularity of the united Songs of Praise service held last November in the Parish Church, the ministers of the town are arranging another one this year on **Sunday, 23rd November at 6pm** – to be held once again in the Parish Church and led by Rev Mindy Bell.



Each church has been asked to select a favourite hymn and we are hoping to be joined by choirs from the Parish Church, St Luke's and the Limes along with the Baptist Band so do come along if you can. Bring a friend too and let's see if we can fill the church and raise our voices in united praise to God!

There will be a special collection at this service for Christian Aid's 'Food for Change in Burkina Faso' – which is a charity project that CTNP is going to be raising funds for over the next two years. (See inside for more details.)

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

I suppose I am envious of Scotland. The energy and engagement engendered by the independence election was incredible. As the campaign came to a crescendo, we saw both fervour and deep debate.

There are places in the world with no real democracy. I have met people in such situations scared that an opinion might cost their life. Others have fled these places leaving all and risking all for sanctuary in the West. This reminds us that the ability to choose a government is a valuable right.

Politicians here have not had the easiest of times in recent years and some of this has no doubt increased disaffection and disengagement with the whole system. This is despite the hard work and integrity that many of our elected representatives bring to their work. Sometimes when I see our relatively low rates of participation in voting it raises concerns that our democracy might be waning. Chief amongst these concerns is the thought that it allows a low quality of policy debate. Some of which can deteriorate into rival slogans proclaiming “we will make you better off” rather than vying for any moral high ground.

Politics I would hope would be about inspiring people to want a fairer world. The Gospel has this moral imperative built in. It constantly reminds us that we need each other and that our happiness is never complete when it has a primarily selfish focus. Indeed I believe that when we look back on our lives, our chief satisfaction will come from making a difference to others rather than just personal material gain.

This week I have been reading in the bible the almost comical account of Zacchaeus’s conversion in Luke 19. A wealthy grown man climbing a tree to see Jesus! On meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus has a complete change of heart. His response is both of spontaneous joy and generosity. He gives half his wealth to the poor. This transformation towards caring for others has my vote. I pray for this moral direction in the midst of the run into a general election. I hope for something of the excitement of the Scottish referendum to strike south of the border around an important debate on how to create a fairer Britain.

*Rev Jack Walker
Newport Pagnell Baptist Church*

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Lovat Hall opens its doors as a Night Shelter on **Tuesday, 2nd December and will be open each subsequent Tuesday night through to 10th March.** If you’d like to know more about volunteering, 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.

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.

NP MC
BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 1815–2015

CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT

Come and help us decorate our three Christmas trees with your own dedication or wish
(We provide everything you need!)

Wish Tree Memory Tree Nativity tree

Saturday 29th November 2 to 6pm
Tea & Coffee available

NEWPORT PAGNELL METHODIST CHURCH
HIGH STREET MK16 8AQ

DEMENTIA AWARENESS SESSIONS

In his Dementia Strategy our Prime Minister, David Cameron, called for Dementia Friendly Communities and part of that goal is the objective to create 1 million Dementia Friends in England by 2015. On 4th November, Healthwatch are holding their annual event in Middleton Hall, in the centre: Milton Keynes.

There will be lots of stands covering all aspects of healthcare in Milton Keynes. On that day, there will be two Dementia Awareness sessions held in the John Lewis community room, just off their espresso bar which overlooks Middleton Hall. Hazel Reynolds will be running two Dementia Friends sessions there at 11am and 12.45pm, each lasting 45 minutes.

If you haven't already become a Dementia Friend, this is your opportunity. You can register online by going to the Dementia Friends website and looking for these sessions on 4th November or you can telephone Hazel to book on **01908 614124** or email: hazel_reynolds@hotmail.co.uk.

Pearl Teasdale invites you to the:

ANNUAL TRADICRAFT EVENT IN SHERINGTON

at

33 CROFTS END

on

SATURDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 2014

10.00 am - 6.00 pm

and

SUNDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 2014

2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

***Fair Trade gifts for children and adults
craft goods, cards, wrapping paper,
notelets, Advent Calenders etc.***

Dried fruits, nuts, sweets, chocolates.

Orders also taken from the catalogue.

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

The Parish Church will be supporting a new **'memory club'** for people who've been diagnosed as having dementia or who have symptoms of cognitive impairment. Together with CTNP, we recognise the importance of a supportive and caring community to men and women living with dementia whether it's Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia or any of the other less well known forms of dementia. Newport Pagnell already has groups which support Carers but, at present, there is nothing for those experiencing dementia themselves. Our target audience is those living in their own homes and managing with only intermittent support.

Starting in early 2015, the memory club will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons each month from 2.30-4pm, at Brooklands. The club will offer memory assistance techniques and group activities to build enjoyment and confidence and help keep each member as a valued functioning resident of the community for as long as possible.

We are seeking volunteers now because references need to be taken up and DBS (formerly CRB) checks made, and training has to be provided before the memory club starts up. Training will include information about dementia, safeguarding, health & safety, etc. Volunteers will be required from 2-4.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, assisting with setting up in advance, running sessions and activities, supporting members, providing refreshments....men as well as ladies please.

If you are interested in joining in this new venture, please contact Hazel Reynolds on 01908 614124 or 07518412389 or email: hazel_reynolds@hotmail.co.uk.

NOTE FROM CTNP EXECUTIVE

As you are probably aware, we have for some time now been unsuccessfully trying to recruit a new President and Secretary. This along with feedback from the ministers and from the MK Mission Partnership has led members of the Executive to arrive at the view that perhaps CTNP needs to become less committee-based and have a more informal and flexible structure to enable it to be driven primarily by mission opportunities. The Executive agreed that the number of formal meetings per year should be reduced to one Forum/AGM in June and two Executive meetings. This means that the Forum planned for 15th January will not now take place. (The working group meetings will not be affected by these changes.)

Volunteers are still sought for the offices of President and Secretary and it is hoped that the above changes will make the roles less time consuming.

NEW CHRISTIAN AID PROJECT

At the June Forum it was agreed that CTNP should commit to supporting a Christian Aid community partnership project by pledging to raise £5000 over a two-year period. The project discussed at the Forum related to maternal and child health in Kenya. Since then, however, we have been asked by Christian Aid if we would instead consider signing up to a new Burkina Faso project called 'Food for Change' as the Kenyan project now has the maximum number of churches signed up for it. If CTNP can raise £5000 the EU will match fund it by 5:1 which means that £5000 becomes an impressive £30,000!

So what is this new project about? 'Food for Change' focuses on improving resilience and food security for poor communities in Northern Burkina Faso who face extreme hardship as they eke out a living on the edge of the Sahara desert. Our partners are working with local families to increase agricultural production, boost household income and improve the nutritional state of babies under two. Focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable in 45 villages, our project's ambitions are rooted in the needs of the community. Our partners are local men and women who understand first-hand the experiences, uncertainties and challenges that families in Burkina Faso face. Through the project, households will receive improved seeds and fertilisers, as well as training in production, develop farming collectives so that work is collaborative and benefits everyone. Additionally, livestock such as goats and hens will also be provided in order to protect families from ongoing droughts, providing them with food and an income when harvests fail.

The Food for Change Community Partnership will run until March 2017 so we have time to plan lots of fundraising activities over the next two years.

Suggestions so far include:

- Special collection at Songs of Praise service on 23rd November
- Advent 'Winter House' coffee mornings at 5 Bramley Meadows between 10am and 12 noon on the following dates in December: 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, and 19th December (more information in next month's edition)
- Spring Barn Dance
- Church Quiz nights
- Harvest lunches at one of the churches

Posters and information sheets will be displayed at the Songs of Praise service on 23rd November and will also be circulated to each of the churches.

COFFEE MORNING!

There will be a coffee morning on **Saturday 22nd November** for RNLI at 66 Lakes Lane from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Christmas cards, diaries and calendars will be on sale as well as Christmas gifts. There will also be refreshments available.

If you would like items but cannot attend that morning please let us know on **01908 617050** and we can get them to you. Hoping to see you!

Linda & Geoff Morris

PS For more information about our local fundraising group please look at rnlmk.wordpress.com

BRIDGEBUILDER BARN DANCE – Saturday, 22nd November.

7.15pm for 7.30pm start at Lovat Hall. Dancing finishes at 10.30pm.

- Live music
- fish and chip supper
- bring your own drinks/glasses
- Toucan Crafts and Traidcraft food on sale.

Join us to raise funds for Bridgebuilder. Tickets £10. E-mail :

office@mkb.org.uk or tel: 01908 270670.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On **Saturday 29th November** the Christmas lights are switched on in Newport Pagnell High Street, and the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul is holding its annual Christmas fete. This year stalls include homemade cakes, a human fruit machine, raffles, face painting, tombolas and lots more. Throughout the day local school children will be coming in to sing Christmas songs and the day will culminate with carols from the choir after the lights have been switched on.

GET IN THE PICTURE

Also on **Saturday, 29th November**, members of the Newport Pagnell Baptist Church will be setting up a stall on the High Street for a repeat of last year's popular 'Get in the Picture' event. It's a chance for you and your children to participate and experience being part of the nativity in a fun way. And it's all free! For more information about this event and about the Christmas story, visit www.getinthepicture.org.uk.