

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY, 5th TO SUNDAY, 7th JUNE: Open Weekend at The Well to provide an opportunity for everyone to join in the rhythms of daily prayer and share work and recreation with members of the Community. Arrive from Friday evening, depart by Sunday afternoon. Contact

bookings@thewellatwillen.org.uk or **01908 242190** for more information.

WEDNESDAY, 10th JUNE, 7.30pm: Mission Partnership Assembly and AGM at Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley. 'A City Alive to God' All are welcome.

SATURDAY, 13th JUNE at 5pm: Community Meal in the United Reformed Church Hall

SATURDAY, 20th JUNE, 10am -1pm: Table Top Sale in the United Reformed Church Hall

SUNDAY, 21st JUNE at 7pm: An evening with John Wesley at Newport Pagnell Methodist Church. with Mark Topping as John Wesley. In this inspiring presentation John Wesley shares something of his life and adventures. History is brought to life, providing an insight into what Wesley was like and into his Christian faith. With wit and passion Wesley challenges listeners afresh to join him in what he sees as his mission. Tickets £8 in advance (£10 on door) from 01908 976193 or 01908 615080. Profits to Willen Hospice & Karibuni Trust.

SUNDAY, 21st JUNE, 7-9pm: Holiday Club training meeting at Lovat Hall

THURSDAY, 25th JUNE, 7.45pm: CTNP Forum/AGM in the Methodist Church hall

SATURDAY, 27th JUNE, QUIET DAY AT THE WELL: C.S. Lewis 'The Screwtape Letters' and The Banality Of Evil with Philip Derbyshire. Contact **bookings@thewellatwillen.org.uk** or 01908 242190 for more information

SUNDAY, 26th JULY, 2-5pm: Cream Tea at 120 Wolverton Road

MONDAY, 10th to FRIDAY 14th AUGUST, 10am – 12.30pm: CTNP Children's Holiday Club

CTNP President: Vacancy

Secretary: Vacancy

Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com

Tel. 01908 615729

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS JUNE 2015

God of Glory, you inspire us with the breath of life which brought to birth a new world in Christ. May we who are reborn in him be transformed by the renewal of our lives, that the light of your new creation may flood the world with your abundant grace; through Christ our Lord, Amen

CTNP FORUM

Our next Forum and AGM will be held on **Thursday, 25th June at 7.45pm in the Methodist Schoolroom**. Please note the date in your diary and encourage people to come along. I have it on good authority that there will be **CAKE!!**

Please also pray that people would feel able to come forward to take on the vacant positions on the CTNP Executive. We are currently looking for a new President and Secretary for CTNP and a new Chair for the Emergency Help Scheme. In addition, Paul Tolley's term of office as CTNP Treasurer officially comes to an end in June/July so we will also be looking for a new Treasurer.

Come along and find out how the churches have been working together over the last six months and what plans there are for the rest of the year. Not been to one of our Forums before? Come to this one – we would love to see some new faces and always welcome fresh ideas. If you attend any of the churches in the town you are part of CTNP so come along and participate.

CTNP needs YOU!

Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay

Preferably by email to beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk 01908 612475

Copy Deadline - 20th of each month

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

Following the election I am struck by the discussions and postings and conversations I have been hearing, reading and having. I am struck by the fact that people are showing an interest in, a concern about and a growing awareness of the effect of politics on society. For many years there has been a growing sense of helplessness and a feeling of disengagement. I feel that with this election, both locally and nationally, the tide is beginning to turn.

I am not sure if you saw the posting by the URC minister Mike Walsh whose post election letter to David Cameron was shared over 100,000 times on Facebook and made its way into the papers. This was a piece which shared concerns for the impact of policies on the weakest and most vulnerable of society, the ones we should be protecting not vilifying. And then the Joint Public Issues Team, made up of the United Reformed Church, Baptist Union, Church of Scotland and Methodist Church, wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister asking him to support the most vulnerable.

Who knows what the next 5 years will bring with a Conservative majority Government? We haven't had one for 20 years so we do not really know. But whatever it brings, we need to be prepared to speak up, be heard, find ways to engage with politics and policy to make the voices of the unheard heard-locally, nationally and globally. We are all in this together and if we talk, act and pray together over issues that affect all of us or some of us or even a few of us, then we can make a difference and we can turn the tide from seeking the best for self to seeking the common good for humankind. And it is things like that which lead to change and bring hope and reflect the teachings of Jesus, which Christians believe are the model for living well in community together.

What will you do?

Blessings,
Rev Jenny. Mills
United Reformed Church

MANDY'S TRIP TO ROMANIA

Mandy Pateman is flying out to Romania on 25th July to help at a children's camp which is being run by GNfR – www.stpetersparish.info/GNfR. This camping trip is a time when the children can be away from the varying hardships of their home lives. All the families struggle with extreme poverty and many of the children will go to the camp with only the clothes they are wearing. There is a great need for all children's clothes (aged 2-18) but in particular for teenagers' sizes as they are often missed out. Pants and socks are needed and also children's vitamins.

Mandy will be collecting new clothes (the Romanian government stipulates that they must be new) which she will send ahead via courier. Closing date for receipt of clothes is 10th June.

If you are able to help out by donating any item of clothing, children's multi-vitamins or a financial contribution towards a child going on the camp which costs £60 per child, please contact Mandy on **01908 218679**.

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COMMUNITY MEAL Saturday 13th June at 5pm.

Fancy a night off cooking for the family? Fancy sitting down to a meal with a bunch of people?

Come along to the United Reformed Church Hall (under the archway opposite Nationwide). Bring a pudding, bring some friends and sit down with others to eat together and share conversation. No charge, all ages welcome! Ending by 7pm.

For catering purposes, please let us know you are coming:
revdjmill@btinternet.com or call **07703485017**.
Gluten free and vegetarian options will be available.

TABLE TOP SALE Saturday, 20th June 10am-1pm United Reformed Church Hall

Clothes, toys, books, bric-a-brac and much much more...

Tea, coffee and home-made cakes will also be served.

All proceeds to the United Reformed Church Hall redevelopment

For more information or to reserve a table, contact cathy68@tiscali.co.uk

CREAM TEAS

Come and enjoy a delicious Cream Tea and good company in the garden of Ralph and Jennifer Mazzone at 120, Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell on Sunday, July 26th from 2 pm – 5 pm. There will be a raffle. Everyone is welcome.
Proceeds for Mother's Union projects.

QUIZ NIGHT AT BROOKLANDS

I am pleased to announce that the quiz night at Brooklands on 16th May raised £148 towards the Christian Aid 'Food for Change' project. With Gift Aid this will rise to £185. Special thanks to Bill Watson for organising a fun evening. Thanks also to everyone who supported this event.

Paul Tolley

KEECH HOSPICE CARE

I've been asked by Keech Hospice Care to include a short article in Connections about the work they do. Many of us have, I'm sure, visited their charity shop on the High Street, and I know that others amongst us have experienced their support and compassionate care in a more personal way.

Keech Hospice Care provides emotional support for children diagnosed with life-limiting conditions. Our aim is to help patients enjoy the highest quality of life, while providing vital support for their family and friends. At Keech Hospice Care we can't add days to life, but we can add life to days.



"Keech is so important to all of us as a family. We love coming to Tots and Toys because it allows Megan social time where she is treated like a normal little girl, and for us as parents, not just for social interaction, but we are also learning how many things we can do with our daughter. We have had lots of fun making special memories as a family."

For more information about Keech Hospice Care and ways in which you may be able to help, visit their website at www.keech.org.uk.



Landlubbers is a five-day fun filled holiday club for around 150 primary school-age children. It has a pirate theme and follows Paul's life from Philippians and Acts. We have video characters, Poop and Dec who star in 'I'm a pirate, get me out of here'!

We are still looking for more volunteers to help with this. Whatever your skills there's a role for you. If this is all new to you don't worry, we will support you. We are all in this together. Roles include: teaching team leaders; apprentice helpers; drama; music; cooking; crèche, tidy-up people, practical helpers who cut things out etc. If you are new to children's work we will give you a supportive role and put you through a DBS check.

Children will be divided into groups of roughly 10 and each group will have a leader and helpers. Children will enjoy crafts, teaching and refreshments in the groups and 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 children the volunteers have a lot of fun. It's great to work together and by the end of the week you will have made new friends.

To help us with our planning, we ask all volunteers **to please sign up as soon as possible to enable us to finalise teams**. There should be forms available in all the churches for you to fill in to register your desire to help or you can send an email to jack.walker@talk21.com or come by the office at Lovat Hall.

A training meeting has been arranged for **Sunday, 21st June, 7-9pm** at Lovat Hall. Here you can get up to speed by meeting your team, touring the venues and reviewing our materials.

Holiday Club 2015


10th-14th August, 10am-12.30 at Lovat Hall

For primary school aged children who attend reception through to year six. Registration for children is now open via Cambourne Travel Agency up to 30th June

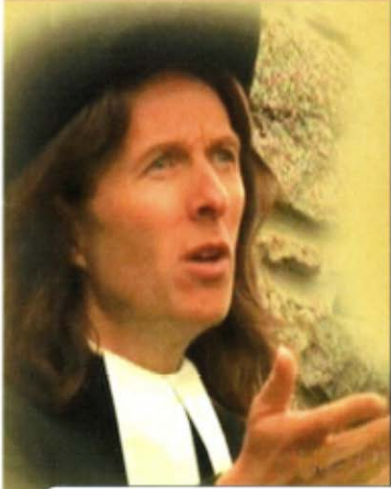
(Registration forms also available from www.ctnp.org.uk)

John Wesley is travelling the country once more...

An Evening with
John Wesley
with Mark Topping as John Wesley



"Mark's presentation brings John Wesley to life and allows him to speak to our day" Rev. Dr John Newton




In this inspiring presentation John Wesley shares something of his life and adventures. History is brought to life, providing an insight into what Wesley was like and into his Christian faith. With wit and passion Wesley challenges listeners afresh to join him in what he sees as his mission:

My business on earth is to do what good I can.

"I want to commend this presentation - Wesley speaks to the present age" Rev. Inderjit Bhogal

"I felt I stood in the presence of John Wesley - history is brought to life" Rev. Norman Wallwork

At Newport Pagnell Methodist Church
Sunday 21 June at 7.00pm



Tickets £8 in advance (£10 on door)
 From 01908 976193 or 01908 615080

Profits to Willen Hospice & Karibuni Trust

WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN HELP US RAISE THE FUNDS TO BUILD THE MEAD CENTRE?

As you know we have launched the fundraising bid and are waiting for the Planning Permission decision. So we are really beginning to look at fundraising. We have the team of local fundraisers and another team to seek grants, donations, etc. BUT we have agreed that we need to encourage regular giving by Church folk and by people in the community.

If you would like to give on a regular basis by Standing Order, please notify your bank. The Payee Details are: **Newport Pagnell United Reformed Church**. Payee reference should begin with **MC** (Mead Centre) and the reference of your choice (it means we can identify it on the accounts!) and the **sort code is 20-57-40 and the account number 00898031**.

ALL regular donations (large or small) are welcomed and we encourage you to think about how you can help. **AND DON'T FORGET THAT IF YOU ARE A TAXPAYER YOU CAN GIFT AID YOUR DONATION AND WE GET AN EXTRA 25%**- email revdjmills@btinternet.com with your name and address and Jenny will get the Treasurer to send you a Gift Aid form. Please think about doing this and encourage family and friends too.

Below find some thought provoking ideas about what you may need to give up in order to help the Mead Centre become a reality:

Donate £3 per month for 5 years

This is only the cost of one cake or two ice creams or three bags of sweets!

Donate £5 per month for 5 years

This is only the cost of one glass of wine or one magazine or two coffees!

Donate £10 per month for 5 years

This is only the cost of one cinema ticket or one bottle of wine or one takeaway!

The other suggestion is to get people to commit to raising £1000.

Are you up for the challenge?