

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TUESDAY 1st MARCH, 2pm at Methodist Church: Lent group film 'Mr Popper's Penguins'.

WEDNESDAY, 2nd MARCH: Memory Cafe from 10am to 12 noon in the foyer of Westbury Grange on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information please contact Westbury Grange on 01908 210332.

WEDNESDAY, 2 March 7.30-10pm: Parent Talk event at the Ridgeway Centre

THURSDAY, 3rd MARCH, 7.30pm at Westbury Grange: Lent group film 'Mr Popper's Penguins'

FRIDAY 4th, 11th and 18th MARCH, 12 noon to 1.15pm: Lent lunches in URC Hall

FRIDAY, 4th MARCH, 2pm: Women's World Day of Prayer service in the Methodist Church.

TUESDAY, 8th MARCH, 2pm at Methodist Church: Lent group discussion

THURSDAY, 10th MARCH, 7.30pm at Westbury Grange: Lent group discussion

SATURDAY, 12th MARCH, 10am – 3pm at St Luke's: Healing event led by Rev Nick Evans

SATURDAY, 12th MARCH: 6.45pm: Bridgebuilder Quiz, Whaddon Way Church Centre, Bletchley

FRIDAY, 18th MARCH, 7.30pm at Parish Church: Thanksgiving service to mark Revd Glynis Bell's ministry in Newport Pagnell Benefice

SATURDAY, 19th MARCH, 7.30pm: Mead Centre Ceilidh

TUESDAY, 22nd MARCH at 7pm: 'An Impossible God' at the Methodist Church

FRIDAY, 25th MARCH: Good Friday 'walk of witness' starts from Market Hill at approx. 11.45am followed by a united service at the Parish Church at noon.

SATURDAY, 26th MARCH: distribution of Easter biscuits on High Street as happened last year on Easter Saturday morning.

CTNP President: Vacancy

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CONNECTIONS

March 2016

I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.
John 11: 25-26 (NLT)

GOOD FRIDAY – 25th March



Come and join people from all the churches for our traditional walk of witness starting at Market Hill at 11.45am followed by a united service at the Parish Church at noon.

EASTER SATURDAY – 26th March



We are repeating last year's well received 'Love Won' heart-shaped biscuit distribution on the High Street on Easter Saturday morning. We are asking for volunteers to bake biscuits, shortbread, gingerbread or similar, cut into heart shapes no larger than a digestive. Biscuits to be delivered to the **Methodist Church 9.30-10am on 26th March.**

Last year we distributed **well over 500 bags** containing a biscuit and a card carrying our Easter message. We also need volunteers to help package the biscuits on the Saturday morning (from 9.30am) and/or distribute them (10.30-11.30am or 12-1pm). Please help us by joining in with this joyful Easter activity!

Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay

Preferably by e-mail to beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk 01908 612475

Copy Deadline - 20th of each month

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

The pulpit exchange in the Newport Pagnell churches on Sunday 7th February gave both clergy and congregations an opportunity to meet each other, hear new voices and be challenged by different thinking. And I used this quote in the worship at the Methodist Church where I preached, 'I wanted to ask God why he allows poverty, famine and injustice in the world when he could do something about it...but I am afraid he may ask me the same question.'

On the same day I visited the mosque in Milton Keynes as part of the 'Visit my Mosque' event run countrywide. The welcome I received was open and genuine. We were given tours of the mosque, there was information about what being a Muslim is all about and there were even demonstrations by some of the young women on how to wear a hijab, and they took 'selfies'!

If we learn more about those alongside whom we live, we learn more about ourselves. Christ went out of his way to welcome all. And to challenge people to live well together, to work together and seek change if there was injustice, struggle or suffering.

As we continue towards Easter where we remember Jesus' death and rising again to show the world the love and power and forgiveness of God, so let us think about how we can continue to share this amazing gift to the world by being the change we want to see in the world. By being more understanding of each other and seeking to challenge the unfairness and injustice and inequality in the world - one step at a time, where we are and with all those whom we meet as we journey through life.

*Revd Jenny Mills
United Reformed Church*

MILTON KEYNES BRIDGEBUILDER TRUST ANNUAL QUIZ Saturday 12th March

We invite you to join us for our annual fundraising quiz...could your team be the winners of the Bridgebuilder Quiz shield this year?!

Join us on Saturday 12th March 2016, Whaddon Way Church Centre, Bletchley, starting 6.45pm and finishing 10pm. Teams of up to 8 people; tickets are £7.50 to include tea & coffee & a slice of cake. Additional snacks/cold drinks will also be on sale in order to raise funds.

To book your places, phone 01908 270670 or email office@mkbtrg.org.uk.

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NEWPORT PAGNELL METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesday 22nd March at 7pm

Mark Topping

returns to Newport Pagnell with

"An impossible God"

a dramatic presentation of the Easter Story as seen through the eyes of those involved.

Tickets £8 (or £10 at the door)
are now available from

Revd. A Harbey 01908 976193
Phil Mountford 01908 615080

All welcome.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE


A thanksgiving service to mark Revd Glynis Bell's ministry in the Newport Pagnell Benefice will be held on **Friday, 18th March at 7.30pm** in St Peter & St Paul's Church. The service will be led by the Area Dean, Claire Wood. Refreshments will be served after the service. All welcome!

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Discovery Day

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN HEALING

- Come and explore God's healing power with reference to scripture, church tradition and its place in our lives today.



This will be a relaxed day, led by Revd Nick Evans, involving presentations, discussion and practical demonstrations. Participation will be encouraged but if you just want to listen and observe then that is fine too.

The day is free and open to anyone regardless of belief or church denomination. Tea and coffee will be available but bring your own lunchbox!

Sat 12th March from 10am-3pm
St Luke's, Wolverton Road

Please let the Parish church office know if you are interested in attending so we have an idea of numbers.
Tel: 01908 611143
Email: npperish@gmail.com



HOLIDAY CLUB: 15-18 AUGUST 2016 CAN YOU HELP?

This is a four-day fun filled holiday club, for around 150 infant and junior school-aged children. We have a great time with people from all the churches and can share lunch daily. It is a highlight event for church children and reaches many others who never go to church. This year's theme, *Guardians of Ancora*, features great Bible stories within a fun-filled program. Check out the Scripture Union Holiday Club website.

Teams: Whatever your skills there's a role for you. If this is all new to you don't worry, we want to help and 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.

What is helping like? The site is open from 8am so you can be as early as you like to set up each day. Children will be divided by age groups into groups of roughly 10. Each group will have a leader and helpers. Children will enjoy craft, teaching, refreshments in the groups. 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. There is a crèche to facilitate helpers with young children.

Diary dates:

15th -18th August: Holiday Club runs from 10am-12.30pm (with a clear up on the morning of Friday 19th).

Sunday July 3rd: Training meeting, 7-9pm at Lovat Hall. Here we bring you up to speed and you can meet your team, tour the venues and review our materials. We plan to create an amazing magical space in the hall with a library/museum feel to enchant the children with. Set up is **Sunday 14th August** 6-9pm.

To volunteer: fill in a recruitment form available from your church or from Lovat Hall (01908 618818 jack.walker@talk21.com).

Everyone: PRAYER PLEASE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday 4th March, 2pm*, Methodist Church

The service has been written by the Christian women of Cuba. Speaker will be Mrs Mary Shepherdson. Everyone is welcome to join us in this wave of prayer that travels round the world in 24 hours.

*Note earlier time this year.

QUIZ NIGHT AT BROOKLANDS Saturday, 9th April at 7pm

Gather a team together and sharpen your wits on Bill Watson's latest quiz. Enjoy a convivial evening and make a donation to Christian Aid's 'Food for Change' project in Burkina Faso to help poor families trying to eke out a living on the edge of the Sahara Desert,

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Co-ordinator needed for Christian Aid week

We always seem to be looking for volunteers and here is another request. Christian Aid week will be **15th to 21st May** and we are looking for someone to co-ordinate the collections in Green Park. This would mean distributing material to the collectors and then at the end of the week counting and banking the money.

If you are willing to help, or would like more information, please speak to Pat Parker, telephone 01908 610837.



MEAD CENTRE FUND RAISER!
A Community space for the 21st Century

CELLIDH

to celebrate St Patrick's Day

THE WORKING MEN'S CLUB,
SILVER STREET, NEWPORT PAGNELL.

ON SATURDAY MARCH 19TH 2016
7.30PM - 11.00PM

TICKETS: ADULTS £15.00
KIDS 15 AND UNDER FOR A QUID.
TICKET PRICE INCLUDES A HOT MEAL AND DESSERT.
GRAND RAFFLE WITH EXCITING PRIZES.
NAME OF BAND : CORYBANTIC

TICKETS ON SALE AT CAMBOURNE TRAVEL, HIGH STREET,
NEWPORT PAGNELL & FROM ALISON SHAW ON 01908 661251 &
ALISONSHAW_1999@YAHOO.CO.UK