

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 4th MAY: 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.

SATURDAY, 14 MAY: Christian Aid Coffee morning at URC and collection on High Street

SUNDAY, 15th MAY, 6pm: United Service to mark start of Christian Aid Week

SUNDAY, 22nd MAY, 3pm at LOVAT HALL: an opportunity to find out more about next year's Spring Harvest

MONDAY, 23rd MAY, 7.30pm, Christ the Vine, Jonathans, Coffee Hall, MK6 5DD: An open discussion for thinking Christians with contributions by Huw Humphreys and Sherry Gladwin

FRIDAY, 27th MAY, 7.30pm in the URC: U3A Spring Concert

SUNDAY, 12th JUNE, 12.30pm: Royal picnic at URC followed by games on Bury Field

THURSDAY, 23rd JUNE, 7.45pm: CTNP Forum and AGM at Methodist Church

SATURDAY, 25th JUNE: Newport Pagnell Carnival

FRIDAY, 8th JULY: Celebration of Hymns at the Methodist Church

For up-to-date information on events and activities check our website regularly at

www.ctnp.org.uk

CTNP President: Vacancy

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CTNP website: - **www.ctnp.org.uk**



CONNECTIONS

May 2016

Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love into action.



Christian Aid week is **15th to 21st May** and we desperately need more door-to-door collectors to enable us to cover as many streets in the town as possible during that week. On **Saturday, 14th May** there will be a coffee morning at the URC and a Christian Aid collection on the High Street.

If you are able to help with any of the above, or would like more information, please speak to Pat Parker as soon as possible, telephone 01908 610837.

UNITED SERVICE

To mark the start of Christian Aid week, and to commission the collectors, there will be a united service on **Sunday, 15th May at 6pm** in the United Reformed Church. The service will be led by Revd Jenny Mills. Everyone welcome – from all churches and none!

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 Winter Night Shelter is a unique player in the ongoing battle to ameliorate homelessness in Milton Keynes. It provides temporary accommodation via “pop up” shelters in church buildings across the town. It helps individuals when no other service can because it is able to include those who have no recourse to public funds. The shelter offers a solution off the streets over the coldest months of the year and creates a platform for advancement. As homelessness is growing on a national scale, it's becoming increasingly difficult to support and house individuals who find themselves in this situation. Put simply, more homeless people are chasing very few beds in hostels and very limited access to any other housing.

In Milton Keynes we have few targeted services compared with many other towns. This means accessing basic services such as health can be difficult. So much of our society is now dependent on having good proof of your identity that, once you have lost this, almost nothing can happen for you. For many the Winter Night Shelter has been a lifeline and a catalyst for true progression and change. Those helped range from folk who have been on the street for many years through to those for whom this is a devastating new experience.

As we conclude for this year, I am delighted to report that we have had an incredibly successful season in which a great deal has been achieved. A huge thank you to all those who support by volunteering and giving. You have made a difference and it is appreciated! We have been able to provide temporary accommodation to a total of 59 individuals over the period of 15 weeks. Overall we helped 35 people into more settled accommodation. The logistics are substantial, over 2000 meals served, well over a 1000 bed nights, and perhaps most important of all, guests treated with the warmth of human kindness.

We are still following up a number of individuals with help towards work, gaining ID, bank accounts, benefit claims, National Insurance numbers and access to health services. The work needed to help one individual through to mainstream life is no small matter and your prayers and practical support are valued. More information is available through the Milton Keynes Winter Night Shelter website.

Rev Jack Walker, Newport Pagnell Baptist Church

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON
SUNDAY 12TH JUNE AT 12.30PM?

*You are invited to the Churches'
Together in Newport Pagnell*

Royal 
PICNIC!

A sit down picnic lunch at the URC.
(Outside if dry...)

EVERYONE WELCOME.

Followed by games on Bury Fields. Come and join
in our 'Happy Birthday to the Queen' celebrations!!

For more information ask at one of the churches or go to
www.together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/np/

FUN AND GAMES!

Now that Spring is here, don't forget that CTNP giant games can be borrowed by churches for their events free of charge.
(Giant snakes and ladders, Connect 4, Jenga)

Church members can also borrow the games for a small donation to CTNP.
Please contact Linda or Geoff Morris 01908 617050.

U3A Spring Concert Celebrations

Come and enjoy a concert given by the U3A Choir on Friday, 27th
May 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church, Newport Pagnell

Soloist Ralph Mazzone

Tickets available from: 07762178379 or Jennifer Mazzone
(01908 613088) at £7 each to include refreshments.

All proceeds for Air Ambulance and URC Mead Centre Fund

CELEBRATION OF HYMNS

Following our successful Celebration of Hymns last summer, we are going to use the same format this year, with people choosing and introducing a hymn that is special to them. The Salvation Army have kindly agreed to lead the evening again, which will be on **July 8th at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church**, so please put the date in your diaries! We will advertise it more nearer the time, but this is an early request to all the Churches for hymns to be included in the programme.

My phone number is 01908 615080, or you can contact me by email - pjm12@btinternet.com. I know there are people happy to choose in our congregation, but it would be lovely to have more contributions from other churches as well.

Many thanks
Pat Mountford



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 and we need an army of volunteers to ensure the children have a great time. 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 www.ctnp.org.uk or from Paul Tolley (Methodist), Hazel Reynolds (Parish), or from church leaders or the office at Lovat Hall (01908 618818 jack.walker@talk21.com).

Everyone: PRAYER PLEASE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!



Saturday 25th June 2016

The annual town Carnival will soon be upon us and the Churches Together in Newport Pagnell (CTNP) will be taking part in the procession under this year's theme of 'Sporting Moments'. A small, but enthusiastic, 'task group' has been doing all the planning. We have pulled out all the stops this year by hiring an 'open top' bus for the procession and have chosen the 'FA Cup Final' as our 'Sporting Moment'. Our theme will be 'Christians United' and we plan to have a gazebo on the Carnival field afterwards where we can promote the work of the churches in Newport Pagnell.

We are now looking for volunteers from each of the churches in the town to take part both in the parade and also to man the stall in the gazebo afterwards. We are also looking for the loan of football shirts, scarves and flags that can be used to decorate the bus. If you have any football banners, flags or scarves and are willing to let us borrow them for the day (we will make sure they are returned to you), please could you let us know as soon as possible.

We hope that others will be as excited about this venture as we are; it should be a very enjoyable and successful day! If you feel inspired and would like to be part of this, or can help in any way, please talk to Kathy Cowell, Moira Evans, Steve Greenfield, Keith Bedford, Stephanie Proctor or one of your church leaders or CTNP reps as soon as possible and let's help make this year's carnival one to remember!

CTNP's Carnival Planning Group

SPRING HARVEST

Over 60 people from Newport Pagnell joined with thousands of Christians at Butlins, Minehead just after Easter for the 38th Spring Harvest. We took part in inspirational worship, were challenged by the teaching at the evening celebrations and morning Bible study and seminars and enjoyed concerts, chat shows, sporting events and the facilities of the Butlins site. Alongside the adult activities, there was a dynamic children's and youth programme which the children in the group thoroughly enjoyed.

This year's theme was GameChangers based on the story of Moses under the headings *Encounter, Enlist, Everyone, Equip* and *Empower*. We saw how an encounter with God led Moses to enlist in God's plan to release the people of Israel, involve everyone in the escape and journey to Caanan, and be equipped and empowered to ultimately cross the Jordan and take possession of the land. We were challenged to make space in our lives to encounter God so that we too can be a part of changing the game in our communities by demonstrating the love of Christ in our lives through the work of the Church among the community. There is something for everyone in the programme and the experience of praising God with 3500 other people was described by one of the group as awesome.

Next year, the theme is Unity. This theme will also feature in many other similar events like New Wine, Soul, and Keswick. Keith Bedford from the Baptist Church will be organising a group next year for the first week of Spring Harvest **4-8th April 2017** at Minehead. This falls within the school holidays and will ensure that those attending are back in time for Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

If you are interested in going as part of the group or are curious about Spring Harvest, there will be an opportunity to find out more on **Sunday 22nd May at 3pm at the Baptist Church.**

See you there!