

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Church Quiz – Wednesday 23rd January at 7:30pm

NP Methodist Church host the "Annual Church Quiz" admission is £5 per person, Teams of Four or Five includes Soup and Bread Roll. The Proceeds go to Willen Hospice.

Rev Jack Walker Induction Baptist Church 2nd February

MHA Westbury Grange 20th February 2013 3-5pm

Afternoon Tea Dance – All Welcome to Join in with Residents from Westbury Grange in a Tea Dance with live singing from local artist Fiona Morris – Specialising in 1940 / 50s music. Small entrance fee of £4 includes Tea / Coffee and a slice of homemade cake. Contact Cindie on MK 210322 to book or reserve your ticket.

Lent Lunches 2013 every Friday from Feb. 15 to March 22nd at the URC Hall, Newport Pagnell from 12.to 1.30. Enjoy delicious homemade soup, a variety of bread, rolls and cheeses. £3.50 and all profits go to Christian Aid

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March @ 7:30pm in St Lukes Church The Service has been prepared this year by the women of France and is entitled "I was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me" Everyone is welcome, men, women and children.

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CONNECTIONS

February 2013

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith; and this is not from ourselves, it is a gift of God...
~ Ephesians 2:8*

LENT HOUSE GROUPS 2013 - GLIMPSES OF GOD

Following many successful years, CTNP are again organizing the inter church House Groups. You may not have participated before but those who have found it very rewarding to discuss aspects of our faith with other Christians prepare themselves for Christ's journey to the cross & resurrection.

The study chosen this year is a York Course written by Canon David Winter who is very well known in the Oxford diocese & it also has an Ecumenical group of people speaking on a CD. The course is called - "**GLIMPSES OF GOD**" Hope for today's World & there will be 5 sessions. *The god who hears our cry; The Shepherd who guides & guards his people; The Son who is the Way, Truth & Life; The God who shares our pain & The God who calms our fears*. There will be one large group at St Bede's Church on Tuesday afternoons which will split into smaller discussion groups during the session & several house groups. The groups will be starting the week beginning Monday 18th February & will finish before Holy Week

To take part in this course please fill please speak to your church rep, by Sunday 3rd February. You will be contacted to take part in the House Groups but *not* about the large Group at St Bede's. There will be a modest charge of £4 per person to cover the cost of a study book & other materials

Pat Hudson

Articles to the Editor, David Huckle
Preferably by e-mail to davidhuckle@me.com Tel. 217429
Copy Deadline - 15th of each month

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

I am writing this letter in the middle of January, a time of year that to some may seem a little flat. The Christmas and New Year celebrations are over and the decorations have been taken down.

The news hardly lifts the spirits with its coverage of the situation in Syria, the killing of soldiers in Afghanistan, the publication of the report relating to Jimmy Saville, shops going into administration and the violence in Belfast. Not to mention the fact that my team has been knocked out of the F A Cup by a lower league team.

Despite all this, I still find things to keep me cheerful and optimistic. I have been listening a lot to an album by a Welsh singer/songwriter – Martyn Joseph – called *Songs For the Coming Home*. One track in particular keeps coming to mind and I find it really uplifting. It is called ***Still a Lot of Love around Here*** and it carries a simple yet profound message that despite all that is going on in the world, there is still a lot of love in the world.

Earlier today, I went for a walk with my wife around Willen Lake. It was a cold, dull morning yet every person we met said Hello and smiled at us or made us smile – as in the case of a jogger struggling up a hill near to the Peace Pagoda who questioned the wisdom of what he was doing. Our walk took us past Willen Hospice and I thought of the care and devotion given by the staff and volunteers to the patients in the Hospice – again that song came back to mind.

There is still a lot of love around here because the lord of love – Jesus Christ – is still here as he promised: “I am with you always, yes to the end of time” (Matt 28:20).

So if at some time you feel a little down or flat I would ask you to think back over the last few days and focus on those random acts of kindness that you will have experienced – whether it was just a smile or a kind word from someone – and be thankful for those acts.

There is still a lot of love around here – lets us try to pass that message and that love on to those we meet.

Deacon Jon Walls, St Bedes

BAPTIST CHURCH WELCOMES REV JACK WALKER AND HIS WIFE JILL

Our friends in the Baptist Church have been looking forward for some months to welcoming their new minister, and the time has finally arrived. Revd Jack Walker and his wife Jill moved into their new home in Queen’s Avenue in January and Jack’s Induction Service will be on 2nd February. We welcome them both to CTNP.



Jack and Jill come to us from Havant, where Jack was Minister of Leigh Park Baptist Church. Prior to that he was pastor of Wealdstone Baptist Church. He has experience of planting churches, mentoring new ministers, and community engagement, and has worked on sabbatical in Tanzania and Zimbabwe. His interests include gardening (he was employed in garden centres before his call to the ordained ministry) and keeping fit – including walking the dog on Bury Field. Jill is joining the Health Visitor team at the Newport Pagnell Medical Centre, and she is also a qualified nurse, midwife and teacher. They have four adult children.

Elder Chris Rows Newport Pagnell Baptist Church