

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **Wanted Helpers 6<sup>th</sup> May from 10am until 4pm Campbell Park**

Helpers to hand out bottles of water for Lifeboats (RNLI) at the MK Marathon in Campbell Park (opposite the theatre) on Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May. 10am until 4pm, or state which part of the day you could manage. Hopefully it will be a beautiful day this year!

If you are interested please contact Linda Morris, 617050 or [linda.morris15@btinternet.com](mailto:linda.morris15@btinternet.com)

*Volunteers Co-ordinator, Milton Keynes Fundraising Branch, RNLI*

### **Bridgebuilder Trust Sponsored Walk & Ride - 'Roundabout**

**MK'** takes place on **May 11<sup>th</sup>** starting at Furzton Lake at 10am. Walk or cycle the Milton Keynes Millennium Trail, 13 miles of redways and paths around MK's countryside-in-the-city. Too much for you? Then how about a 5 mile walk along the Tattenhoe Brook or just a stroll round the lake? More information and sponsor forms available from the Trust office on MK 270670 or Geoff Morris on 617050. Refreshments available. )

### **Churches Together Newport Pagnell Event** takes place on Saturday **11<sup>th</sup> May** at the URC. **From 9am: IF Awareness - Raising Breakfast.**

Come and join us for coffee, juice and croissants as we find out more about the IF Campaign and what we can do to bring about change.

**10am- 12 noon: Coffee Morning, Book and Cake Sale in aid of Christian Aid.**

### **Charity Concert in aid of the work of MHA Newport Pagnell**

Saturday **11<sup>th</sup> May** at 7:30pm in St Peter & St Pauls Church Newport Pagnell. Featuring The Arts1 Musical Theatre Choir with ensembles & solos from Sarah & Chris Shrimpton and Claire & Phil Myers. Tickets from Westbury Grange MK 210322. Tickets £7.50, Concessions £5 light refreshments available

**CTNP President:** Chris Row, [chris.row@which.net](mailto:chris.row@which.net) Tel. 611542  
**Secretary:** Beth MacKay, [beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk) Tel. 612475  
**Treasurer:** Paul Tolley, [PTMERCEDES@aol.com](mailto:PTMERCEDES@aol.com) Tel. 210048  
**CTNP web-site: - [www.ctnp.org.uk](http://www.ctnp.org.uk)**



## CONNECTIONS

MAY 2013

**Philippians 4:6** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

### **\*\*\*A BIG THANK YOU\*\*\***

### **PROCEEDS FROM LENT LUNCHESES 2013**

I am happy to announce the fantastic total profit to Christian Aid –

**This Year is - £2013.74**

Many thanks to those who helped by making homemade soup and to all who gave their time during the last 6 weeks to help achieve this excellent result.

There was a great community spirit and it was pleasing to see people enjoying the social occasion. We had abundant offers of help from the churches of Newport Pagnell and also from people not connected to the churches.

Thanks also to everyone who came along, spent their money and supported us. We rely on you.

Jennifer Mazzone

**Articles to the Editor, David Huckle**  
Preferably by e-mail to [davidhuckle@me.com](mailto:davidhuckle@me.com) Tel. 217429  
**Copy Deadline - 15th of each month**

## **LETTER FROM A MINISTER**

As I write this it seems that spring is finally on its way! It feels like it's been winter for a long time but as I look out of my study window at the glorious sunshine and watch the post woman delivering the mail in her shirt sleeves, I'm mindful of a verse from Genesis, Chapter 49, verse 26, 'the blessings your father gives are greater than those of the everlasting hills, greater than their eternal riches.'

Occasionally in life we pause to remember how much we have to celebrate; the many blessings and gifts that God so freely showers upon us. Sadly, such moments are all too rare. More often than not, we lurch from one demand to another, one crisis to another and one responsibility to another, scarcely finding the time to draw breath and reflect on the reasons we have to give thanks. If we're not careful, we can end up brooding on the things we haven't got, sucked into a vicious circle of self pity and the sorrier we feel for ourselves the more ground there seem to be for such feelings.

We need to stop sometimes and, in the words of the old hymn, make time to 'count our blessings', for when we do that, life can seem very different. There is so much that is not only good but indescribably wonderful and beautiful beyond words. The words of Genesis above were concerned not with God's blessing but with Jacob's blessing to his sons, but they could speak more appropriately of all God has done for us.

Hopefully this year won't be a repeat of the last, but if at times it feels like it is, and the view from our windows doesn't look quite so glorious, pause for a moment, remember all that we receive from God and far from feeling sorry for ourselves, we should stop to consider all the reasons we have to give thanks.

Rev Karen Browne

## **Enough Food For Everyone IF**

In 2013 we can take action to address world hunger as the G8 summit takes place in Northern Ireland in June and tens of thousands of people add their voices to demand action.

Over 150 charities are behind this campaign, including Christian Aid, CAFOD, Tear Fund, Oxfam and many more. At a lively meeting at NP URC in April, Jess and Steve from the Christian Aid Oxford office explained the campaign, showed us how it could benefit communities and challenged us to think what we could do locally to raise awareness.

So much progress has been made in tackling poverty around the world, but still one in eight people go to bed hungry every night and 2.3 million children die from malnutrition each year.

**IF WE FULFIL OUR EXISTING COMMITMENTS ON AID**

**IF SMALL FARMERS HAVE THE LAND THEY NEED TO GROW FOOD**

**IF WE TACKLE TAX DODGING GLOBALLY**

**IF COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENTS ARE OPEN IN THEIR DEALINGS**

What can you do? Look up [Christianaid.org.uk/if](http://Christianaid.org.uk/if) or Google 'IF campaign' to see other websites about it, add your voice to the campaign, write to Mark Lancaster MP to urge him to take action, look out for local events and support them, consider going to the London rally on 8 June, pray for the campaign, support Christian Aid week 12th –18th May in whatever way you can as its focus is also on world hunger, make others aware in your church, work, school or community group.

Rev Jenny Mills

Lord Jesus

You came that all might have life in abundance.  
Direct our attention to see beyond our own needs.  
Strengthen the hungry, the poor and their rights.  
Preserve and protect the land that brings for food for all.  
And contend with us for justice.  
Amen

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**10am- 12 noon: Coffee Morning, Book and Cake Sale in aid of Christian Aid.**

Please come along and support these important events as we focus on the needs of the poorest in our world.

For more information call Jenny on 07703485017.

### **Christian Aid Week 2013 - 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May**



Last year our collectors averaged about £50 each, much of which would not otherwise have been donated to support the important work that Christian Aid does around the world.

Your church rep will be delighted to hear from you when you respond to their request for additional volunteers or Contact Pat Parker Tel 610837 or you own church representative

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### **Bridgebuilder Trust**

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### **Churches Together Good Friday Open Air Service**



Check out the new look Churches Together Newport Pagnell Website at [www.together.ourchurchweb.org](http://www.together.ourchurchweb.org) and click Newport Pagnell where you can find more pictures from the day and all the news and events involving Churches Together, and a big thank you to Mervyn Evans for setting up the new look website.