

Newport Pagnell Methodist Church



Teapot and Sing

Meeting on

Monday 11th February 2019

2.00 to 3.00pm

*Come and join us to sing a few well known favourite
hymns whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee*

A Dementia friendly time where everyone can relax



Looking Forward to Spring

CTNP President: Vacancy

Secretary: Chris Row, chris.row@talktalk.net Tel. 01908 611542

Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com Tel. 01908 615729

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



Connections

February 2019

Churches **TOGETHER** in Newport Pagnell



Articles to the Editor, Robert Hayward
rghayward@btinternet.com

Copy Deadline 20th of each Month

Notices for activities at least a month before they will happen

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

www.ctnp.org.uk



Minister's Letter

The Promise of Spring

With signs of lengthening days comes the hope of spring and a longing for change, growth and renewal. As the long cold nights give way to brighter days our spirits begin to stir. Like Ratty, we start to emerge from our places of protection and shelter to enjoy once more the refreshing air and the brightness of the returning sun. With rising temperatures we seem to gain new courage and the desire grows within us to get out and achieve things even if it is only the spring cleaning!

I am writing this on New Year's Day, in the middle of winter when the landscape looks very stark, the trees are bare and the thin daylight quickly gives way to the darkness of early evenings. Everything seems dead and spring seems a long way off, but looking more closely it is possible to see the tiny buds and amongst the fallen leaves the bulbs are already stirring into life and starting to push up their green shoots.

The spiritual life has often been compared to the seasons each with its own unique opportunities and challenges. In our fast-paced culture, where people can work all hours around the clock, it's easy to forget the natural sense of rhythm and pattern that Christians believe we are created to enjoy. 'There was evening, and there was morning – the first day', these words can be found in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Daily and seasonal rhythms help us to pace our lives and to experience God.

The beauty of the different seasons is also an important reminder of the natural rhythm of life. Another writer reminds us in Ecclesiastes that, 'to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven'. Every season is special in some way and so is every season of our life, even if sometimes it feels more like winter than spring!

Spring is the time of resurrection, when the dead come back to life, when that which was buried rises through the bare earth. With this comes the thrill of seeing the first of the spring flowers and the return of migrant birds. New life awakens



Hall and Facilities to Hire

Portfields Primary School are delighted to be able to offer a hall, newly fitted kitchen and toilet facilities available for hire.

If you are looking for that special place for a child's birthday party, christening, family gathering or club then our hall could be the perfect space.

The hall measures approximately 15 metres by 12 metres.

The hall and facilities can be hired in the evenings or over the weekend.

Attractive hire rates are offered:

Monday to Friday

£20 per hour or part thereof for the hall only or £25.00 per hour or part thereof for the hall, kitchen and toilets.

Weekends

£25.00 per hour or part thereof for the hall only or £30.00 per hour or part thereof for the hall, kitchen and toilets.

Tables and chairs may be hired at additional cost.

Gated parking for up to 30 cars is included.

Hire is available in and out of school term times.

Block bookings of three months or more come with a reduced hourly rate to those shown above, details can be provided upon request.

Please telephone the school on 01908 616060 or email

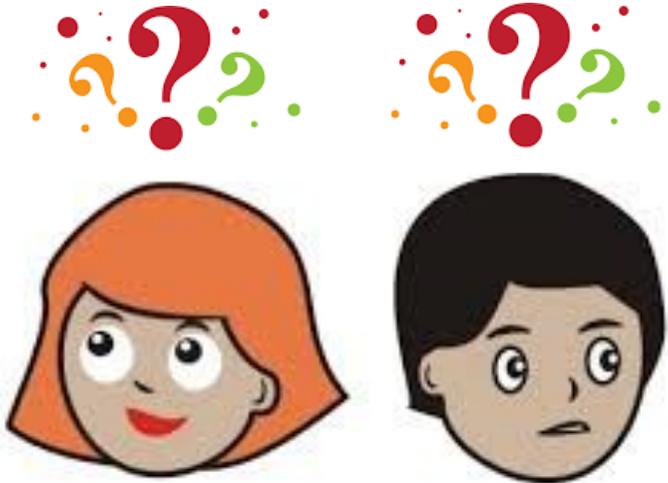
admin@portfields.org for further information or to arrange a viewing.

Westbury Lane
Newport Pagnell
Buckinghamshire
MK16 8PS

Prices effective from September 2018

CTNP Vacancy

Could it be You ?



The current Editor of CTNP Connections is no longer worshipping in Newport Pagnell so it is necessary to find a new Editor to produce and distribute (electronically) each month the Connections Magazine.

If you are interested please contact:

Neville Watson : nevillefromnp@gmail.com

For the scope of the Job please contact the Editor—See Page 1)

and hope is stirred. If we are not touched by spring, we have let something within us die, or allowed our hearts to become cold.

Sometimes this has been caused by an event that has caused this coldness and made us afraid of being touched by warmth or love.

In 'The Selfish Giant', Oscar Wilde tells the story of a garden where spring never comes. The giant is too selfish to let anyone share his garden, so he lives in the cold, lifeless world of winter. But somehow children manage to get into the garden, and with them comes the spring. The giant realises his selfishness and opens his garden and his heart to all. New warmth enters his life and surroundings. From now on he will enjoy the garden in all its seasons. He has discovered that winter was only spring asleep with the flowers resting. With the coming of spring a mighty change has come upon him and his world.

We experience all the seasons in our lives. We go through many winters and springs. Sometimes the way is dull and cheerless and anxieties can threaten to overwhelm us yet always we have the ability to turn toward the light. Even in the darkest days, through faith, we can be assured that spring will return.

So whatever season of life you find yourself in today and whether you are new to the area or have been living here for many years please know that you will find a warm welcome in all of the churches in Newport Pagnell. You can find out more about services and times of worship by looking at the CTNP website.

With every blessing!

Revd Nicola Martyn-Beck, Newport Pagnell Methodist Church





**TREASURER FOR NEWPORT
PAGNELL SINGERS
COULD IT BE YOU?**

The Singers are urgently seeking to appoint a successor to their current treasurer who will be leaving after the AGM in January 2019.

We need somebody with sound basic accounting skills who would enjoy supporting our friendly and successful community choir. We perform regularly in Newport and donate significant amounts to our charity of the year, which in 2017 was the Mead Community Centre and this year is Willen Hospice.

The post offers a small honorarium and our current treasurer would work with his successor to ensure a smooth handover.

If you this interests you please contact Pat Kearsley for more information on:

07904 299484 or palaco@btinternet.com



**REQUEST FOR HELP
FOR LENT LUNCHES
2019**

Lent Lunches 2019 to raise money for Christian Aid will take place in the United Reformed Church Hall for six weeks from **Friday 8th March – Friday 12th April**. Offers of assistance for this CTNP annual event are requested from ALL the churches in Newport Pagnell and from anyone in our community who has 2 hours to spare on a Friday, even if it is only for one Friday during the 6 weeks.

Time involved would be from 11.30am – 1.45pm. Tasks include, setting up and laying tables, stirring soup, making tea/coffee, serving tables, washing up, tidying the church at the end of the session. This may sound like hard work, but working together as a team is enjoyable, and for such a good cause!

The organisation will be slightly different this year as we are in the church but we can make it work.

Please contact Jennifer Mazzone 01908 613088 if/when you are able to give your time, and/or contribute homemade soup, one or more Friday lunchtime.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Jennifer Mazzone



Come to the Lent Lunches every Friday from March 8th to April 12th in the United Reformed Church Hall, Newport Pagnell from 12. to 1.15. Enjoy delicious home made soup, a variety of bread, rolls and cheeses. £4.00 and all profits go to Christian Aid.

For information please contact Jennifer Mazzone 01908 613088