

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY, 10am – 12 noon: Memory Cafe in the foyer of Westbury Grange/The Limes, Westbury Lane, Newport Pagnell.

THURSDAY, 10TH JULY from 7.30-9pm at the URC: Dementia awareness session.

SATURDAY, 12TH JULY, 2pm – 4pm: Annual garden party for the Emergency Help Scheme at 120 Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH JULY, 2.30-4pm at LOVAT HALL: Dementia awareness session.

FRIDAY, 18TH JULY at 1 Bassett Court, Newport Pagnell: Eclipse Counselling invites you to their afternoon tea/coffee which will be served from 1pm through to 4pm. along with homemade sandwiches, scones and cakes.

SATURDAY, 19TH JULY, 7.30pm at Newport Pagnell URC: Music for a Summer Evening.

SUNDAY, 27TH JULY, 2pm-5pm: Cream tea in aid of Mother's Union projects at 120 Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 10am – 12 noon: Memory Cafe in the foyer of Westbury Grange/The Limes, Westbury Lane.

MONDAY, 11TH TO FRIDAY, 15TH AUGUST, 10am – 12.30pm: CTNP Children's Holiday Club at Lovat Hall.

CTNP President: Vacancy
Secretary: Vacancy
Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com Tel. 210048
CTNP web-site: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS JULY/AUGUST 2014

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails; deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord.

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

How Much Do You Love Your Husband?

At the time writing this, my wife and I have just celebrated our 45th Wedding Anniversary. I remember the first time I met her, and I knew straight away that this was the girl I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. I remember the courting days well; time had no meaning. I walked on air, there were late bedtimes, as I walked home after walking her home, butterflies in the stomach, a tickle in my heart that I couldn't scratch, etc., etc. It's different now. I'm not saying I don't love her as much. In fact, I love her even more. But it's a different kind of love.

My wife and I have two beautiful daughters, and four lovely grandchildren, and God has really blessed our marriage. I am keenly aware of the value of time. I'm heavier than I should be; I'm not as light on my feet. My body creaks at times. I need my sleep so I go to bed earlier, and those butterflies don't tickle quite as much.

The church is described in Scripture as the "Bride of Christ." That implies some very specific roles and responsibilities. For instance, a bride should love her husband more than anything else. She should be supportive of his goals and life-purpose. She should be loyal at all times, defending him from criticism. She should share his joys and his sorrows.

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Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay
Preferably by e-mail to beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk 612475
Copy Deadline - 20th of each month

Continued from front cover

She should be faithful to him at all times, and listen to what he wants and do it. She should keep the temple of her body healthy, and keep vows made to him. She should bear him children. Is the Bridegroom happy with his Bride?

I do have the privilege of visiting a number of churches, and become very saddened by the falling numbers of the congregations. One very large church south of Bedford, which several years ago had regular congregations in excess of 100, is now closing, as the regular congregation is down to 3.

And yet, have you ever noticed that new people fall in love with the church, often at first sight? I do remember a couple who attended my church, who discovered us by accident and asked, "Where have you been all my life?" I could almost hear those "sour grapes" thinking, "What's the matter with them? When they find out what we are really like, they won't be so exuberant!"

The problem is that many of us have never had the joy of discovering the church for the first time. We were carried in as babes, dragged in as toddlers, or pushed in as teenagers.

We should, of course, be asking, "What do they see in us that we don't see for ourselves?" If we discovered the answer to that question, maybe we'd fall in love with the church – perhaps for the first time. Who knows what might happen then!

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Stuart Grant
Chaplain
The Limes MHA

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING

Saturday 19th July, 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church.
Horizon Ensemble (Geoff Colmer on Bassoon, Katie Cannell on clarinet, Mary Coates on piano) will be playing a selection of light classical music from Mozart to Gershwin and Finzi to Joplin.
Donations on the night go to the Mead Centre redevelopment.

HOLIDAY CLUB 11th – 15th August 2014

It's almost time for the long awaited Holiday Club! Completed registrations as at 30th June had reached 120. Our upper limit is 150 so there's still room for a few latecomers. The Bible content centres on the life of Peter.

Thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help. 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!



We ask all our church friends to remember us in your prayers in the weeks leading up to the Holiday Club and pray that God would bless our work with these young people from our town.

www.newportpagnellholidayclub.co.uk



Tenth Anniversary Campaign!*

It is MK Food Banks' 10th Anniversary!! They would like to thank the church for its support in helping them ensure no adult or child goes to bed hungry in Milton Keynes. To mark the anniversary the charity are asking supporters to write their message on a tin and donate it to The Food Bank. They are currently very low on in-coming donations, particularly tinned vegetables, jam and long life milk. Please visit mkfoodbank.org.uk for more information!

**[Note from editor to the eagle-eyed among you: this is not a typo...]*

Memory Cafe – 1st Wednesday of each month

Come along to our Memory Cafe - a safe place where people living with dementia and their carers can find a warm welcome and support. The Cafe runs on the first Wednesday of each month from 10am to noon at Westbury Grange. Cost is £1.50 for tea/coffee, cake and a raffle. For more information phone 01908 210322.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have good listening, communication and interpersonal skills? We are looking for welcoming and engaging volunteers to join our friendly team. We need people to help us make our Memory Café a warm and supportive environment for people with dementia and their carers. The Café runs for 2 hours on the first Wednesday of every month from 10am to 12 noon at Westbury Grange Care home.

If you would like to find out more, please contact B Grace at Westbury Grange on 01908 210322.

BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIEND

Many of us have family members or friends coping with dementia. We want our churches to be Dementia Friendly, welcoming and loving to all. To achieve this, we need to understand more about what it's like to live with dementia, and to know how to help. If you would like to know more about dementia and become a Dementia Friend, come to one of the two sessions, an afternoon or an evening session, being held in Newport Pagnell during July.

- **Thursday 10th July in the United Reformed church from 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

OR

- **Wednesday 16th July in the Baptist church from 2.30pm - 4.00pm.**

Hazel Reynolds is a Dementia Friends champion (part of the national initiative to create 1 million Dementia Friends by 2015), and an Alzheimer's Society volunteer, and she will be running these sessions for CTNP. The usual Dementia Friends session lasts one hour, and by adding a further fifteen minutes to these sessions we will also consider the role of *churches* within a dementia friendly community.

You can sign up for the sessions via the Dementia Friends website at www.dementiafriends.org.uk or by emailing Hazel at hazel_reynolds@hotmail.co.uk.

FORUM NEWS

Rev Canon John Robertson, Director of Ecumenical Mission joined us at our Forum on 12th June to talk about the work of the Mission Partnership and how it has evolved over the years and has changed its direction from being a sponsoring body to becoming primarily a mission-focussed organisation providing resources to enable local Christians to become more confident in articulating and spreading their faith. One of these resources is a series of courses known as coMPass. You can find more information about these courses (and lots more) on the Mission Partnership's website at www.missionpartnership.org.uk. Well worth a look!

Arrivals and departures: Pat Hudson has stepped down as Anglican rep on the Mission Group after many years of service to CTNP in a variety of roles. Pat Parker has also stepped down as Anglican rep on the Executive but will continue her work organising the annual Christian Aid collections. Hazel Reynolds is the new Anglican rep on the Mission Group and Hazel is also Anglican rep on the recently resurrected Communications Group. Neville Watson (also from the Anglican church) has taken over leadership of the Communications Group. Other members of the new Communications Group are Eva Bangle (URC), Ian Palmer (Methodist), Mary Howard (St Bede's), Keith Bedford (Baptist) and Paulona Wong (Chinese Church). Beth MacKay has now stepped down as CTNP Secretary but will continue in the role of Media Officer. Paul Tolley reminded the Forum that his term of office as Treasurer will come to an end in June 2015 so we will need to be on the look out for a new Treasurer to replace him next year.

To those who are leaving the Executive, sincere thanks for your faithful service to CTNP and a warm welcome to those who have recently joined us! Our thanks too to Klaus Reidel for chairing the Forum and all the Executive meetings over the past year in the absence of a President.

In the meantime, we still **desperately** need volunteers to fill the vacancies for President and Secretary. Neither role is hugely time consuming but both are important to the smooth running of CTNP activities. You'll find full details of these roles on our website at www.ctnp.org.uk. Please give this prayerful consideration and email beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk if you think you might be able to help with either of these roles. We would love to hear from you!

And finally... the date of the next Forum has been fixed for **15th January** starting at 7.45pm. Please note the date now for next year's diary.



IT'S CREAM TEA TIME!

**Saturday
12th July
2pm - 4pm**

Emergency Help Scheme Annual Garden Party

Once again it is that time of year when we begin to look forward to summer days. This year our Annual Garden Party will take place on 12th July from 2pm-4pm. We are indebted to Jennifer and Ralph Mazzone who have invited us, once again, to use their lovely garden at 120 Wolverton Road (if wet we will relocate to St Luke's Church). Please come along if you enjoy a cream tea and/or a lovely garden. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Sunday
27th July
2pm - 5pm**

Mother's Union Cream Tea

Come and enjoy a delicious Cream Tea and good company in the garden of Ralph and Jennifer Mazzone at 120, Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell on Sunday, July 27th from 2 pm – 5 pm. There will be a raffle. Everyone is welcome.

Proceeds for Mother's Union projects.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Milton Keynes Foodbank is asking for volunteers to help raise awareness and collect donations in supermarkets. Supermarket collections help us get in vital food items – so by joining one you will be making a huge difference to the needy in your local community. All you will have to do is hand out Food Bank 'shopping lists' to customers as they come into the store, encouraging them to buy an item or two from the list to donate to The Food Bank. We will have a trolley/collection point at the other side of the check-outs for customers to put their donations into.

We are looking for volunteers to help for just a couple of hours during a collection and we provide Food Bank vests and shopping lists as well as other leaflets if shoppers are interested in finding out more.

Friday 18th July

ASDA, Bletchley-next to the DONS stadium (10-4pm)
Waitrose, Oakgrove (10-4pm)
Waitrose, Buckingham (10-4pm)

Saturday 19th July

ASDA, Bletchley-next to the DONS stadium (10-4pm)
Waitrose, Oakgrove (10-4pm)
Waitrose, Buckingham (10-4pm)

Sunday 20th July

ASDA, Bletchley-next to the DONS stadium (11-5pm)
Waitrose, Oakgrove (11-5pm)

If you can spare two hours to help with this important work, please contact **Rebecca Savage**, Business Development Manager at the MK Foodbank.

01908 321108 / foodbank.rebecca@mkcc.org.uk

Web: www.mkfoodbank.org.uk