

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 1st OCTOBER, 10am to 12 noon: Memory Cafe at Westbury Grange

THURSDAY 2nd OCTOBER, 6–7pm: Prayers for Peace at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone. Vigil of Prayer for those whose lives and families are under threat because of their faith. A time of prayer and reflection open to all.

SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER, 8.45–10.30am: Men's Breakfast at Frost's Garden Centre, Woburn Sands. Speaker Jonathan Bass from Flitwick Baptist Church. Cost £6.00 tickets available from Jim Langford jclangford@btinternet.com or tel: 01908 583922.

SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER, 10.00am– 4.00 pm at the Well at Willen: **Exploring Franciscan Spirituality**. This is a quiet day to experience the depth of Franciscan spirituality with an exploration of the life and legacy of St. Francis. Cost £15, includes lunch. To book a place or get more details e-mail: bookings@thewellatwillen.org.uk or phone 01908 242190.

SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER, 8.30–10.30 am: Ladies' Breakfast at Frost's Garden Centre, Milton Keynes. Sister Josephine will talk about her work in Bosnia. Cost £5.50 tickets from Chris Langford jclangford@btinternet.com or tel: 01908 583922.

SATURDAY, 18th OCTOBER, 10.30am – 3pm: Open day at the Methodist Church, Newport Pagnell (see inside for details)

SATURDAY, 25th OCTOBER at 6.30pm: Fish and Chips with Eclipse at St Mary's Church Woburn on 25th October (see inside for details)

SATURDAY, 22 NOVEMBER, 9.30am – 12.30pm: coffee morning and sale for RNLI at 66 Lakes Lane, Newport Pagnell.

SATURDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER: Bridgebuilder Barn Dance at Lovat Hall, 7.15 for 7.30 pm start (see inside for details)

SUNDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER, 6pm: united Songs of Praise at the Parish Church

SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER: Christmas Lights Bazaar at the Parish Church (all day)

TUESDAY, 2nd DECEMBER: Night Shelter at Lovat Hall begins (see inside for dates of training sessions)

CTNP President: Vacancy
Secretary: Vacancy
Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com Tel. 210048

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS OCTOBER 2014

The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few: therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.

Luke 10: v2 (NRSV)

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

Saying “goodbye” is extremely painful. The French “au revoir” is much more gentle. “Goodbye” has finality about it. A moment, a time, a relationship has ended. There is heartache and tears. We may not meet again. It is a sort of death.



In October we have to say “goodbye” to Newport Pagnell (and Lathbury and Moulsoe, where I have also been the Rector). It has been six happy years. Elena and I have loved our time here.

We have lived in a strong community with great churches and so many wonderful Christian people.

Together, as Christian churches we have striven to show our love for God and God's love for people. There have been so many happy times, wonderful occasions and memories to cherish. I hope during my time here to have strengthened my churches for mission and service by encouraging faithful Christian communities which share in the love of God and want to share His love with others.

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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

But now we must go our separate ways as I go into retirement. In retirement Elena and I will be living in Bidford-on-Avon, which is six miles from Stratford-upon-Avon. Elena hopes to continue working for World Vision. We also hope to be able to spend far more time with family – with children and grandchildren in Ireland (where my son John is an Anglican priest); in Brighton; and with eldest son, David and his family who are only thirty minutes' drive away from our new home. My intention is to retire as a rector but not from being a priest. Leading worship and sharing God's love with people will, I hope, continue in the local churches. As a recently retired clergy friend has told me "when I was a vicar at least I used to get one day off a week, now I get none".

The Anglican churches will also be going their separate ways. By faith, commitment and teamwork together hopefully they will build on the developments of the last few years, becoming stronger and striving further to serve God.

The Church of England does not start the official recruitment process for replacing an incumbent [vicar/rector] until after the previous incumbent has left the post. Inevitably there will be a gap of several months. My prayer is that a new rector will be appointed who will lead the Anglican churches forward in mission and work alongside the other town churches in being outward-looking communities of faith.

Saying "goodbye" is difficult and painful: it is a sort of dying. I hope we can say goodbye with so much to be thankful for and with so many happy memories, believing in faith that there is indeed new life after death for all of us.

*Reverend Michael Godfrey
Rector Newport Pagnell with Lathbury & Moulsoe*

BRIDGEBUILDER BARN DANCE – Saturday, 22nd November. 7.15
for 7.30 pm start at Lovat Hall.

- Live music
- fish and chip supper
- bring your own drinks/glasses
- Toucan Crafts and Traidcraft food on sale.

Join us to raise finds for Bridgebuilder. Tickets £10. E-mail : office@mkb.org.uk or tel: 01908 270670.

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Just an early heads-up for your diaries about the Winter Night Shelter. Last year around 50 adults were helped towards long term accommodation by the shelter which will operate again on Tuesday evenings through to Wednesday mornings at Lovat Hall.

Fancy a bigger role? Could you be a new team leader? Talk to Jack at the Baptist church via the office there. Phone 01908 618898 or email info@npbc.org.uk. Search for *Milton Keynes Night Shelter* for web updates.

Diary dates are as follows:

Training for Team Leaders:

- Thursday 23rd October 8-10pm Ridgeway Centre

Training for Volunteers:

- Saturday 8th November 9.30am -12.30 Stony Stratford.
- Saturday 29th November 9.30am -12.30 Stony Stratford.
- Saturday 6th December 9.30am -12.30 Stony Stratford.

Note that Lovat Hall opens its doors as a Night Shelter on Tuesday 2nd December and will be open each subsequent Tuesday night through to 10th March 2015.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets; curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too; let my care be active, healing just like you.

John L Bell (b.1949)

IN ANTICIPATION OF OUR BICENTENARY



BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
1815–2015

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M C
P

Exhibitions by
Charities

Sale of Hand-
Made Crafts
and Gifts

Christmas Cards

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER

10.30AM–3.30PM

Coffee Shop open,
Cream Teas etc.

FREE ENTRY

NEWPORT PAGNELL METHODIST CHURCH
HIGH STREET MK16 8AQ

MILTON KEYNES FOODBANK

We need your help this Autumn and Winter season - we have some great events but we need you to help make them happen! ☺

Car Raffle and Christmas Food Collection, Shopping Centre MK

We need three to four people for just a couple of hours on each of the dates below to help sell car-raffle tickets and collect in festive food items at The Shopping Centre MK.

Thursday 30th October from 1-3pm

Saturday 15th November 2-4pm

Thursday 4th December 1-3pm

Sunday 14th December 1-3pm

Monday 22nd Dec 1-3pm.

Cans for Carols, The Kingston Centre We are holding this festive event in conjunction with MK Music Service on 20th December and a food collection on Sunday 21st at The Kingston Centre! We need volunteers to help for just a couple of hours on either of the days, handing out shopping lists and collecting funds.

Cans for Carols - Saturday 20th December: 9am – 6pm

Food Collection - Sunday 21st December: 10am – 4pm

Please let Rebecca Savage know if you are able to help with any of the above by contacting her on:

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

Web: www.mkfoodbank.org.uk

SONGS OF PRAISE

Following the popularity of the united Songs of Praise service held last November in the Parish Church, the ministers of the town are arranging another one this year on **Sunday, 23rd November at 6pm** – to be held once again in the Parish Church and led by Rev Mindy Bell.



There will be more details in next month's edition of Connections but please note the date in your diary now.

Let's see if we can fill the church and raise our voices in united praise to our Lord!

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU TO MICHAEL

Rev Michael Godfrey retires this month as Rector of Newport Pagnell with Lathbury and Moulsoe. He will conduct his final service at the Parish Church on Sunday, 12th October at 10am. Everyone is welcome.

Over the past six years Michael has been very much involved in CTNP, serving on the Executive and representing the churches on the Newport Pagnell Partnership.

Michael has made many friends throughout the churches and we will miss him and wish him and Elena God's blessing as they move on to pastures new.

FISH AND CHIPS WITH ECLIPSE

We at Eclipse Counselling Service would like to invite you to join us for **FISH AND CHIPS** – the very British meal.

We will be meeting in the crypt at **St Mary's Church Woburn** on **25th October**. Come for **6-30pm**. and we will welcome you with a refreshing drink, to be followed by a fun evening which will involve a light hearted quiz and a hearty meal of chips to accompany fish, sausage or chicken – the choice is yours, to be made on the evening. You will also have the chance to buy some raffle tickets, should you wish to do so, and there will be a table prize for the winners of the quiz.

Tickets cost £10 per person, and we will provide tea/coffee and condiments.

We have held this event for the past 2 years and each time it has been a resounding success, so do come along and be a part of this enjoyable feast. All in all, this will be a splendid evening and with the added knowledge that you will be enabling Eclipse to carry on its sterling work of giving hope.

We hope to see you there. If you intend to come, please will you let us know so that we have an idea of numbers. Then we can make sure that we have enough tables and chairs for you all!!

Have fun!

Contact us on **01908 211288** or email info@eclipse-addiction.org.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE!

There will be a coffee morning on **Saturday 22nd November** for RNLI at 66 Lakes Lane from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Christmas cards, diaries and calendars will be on sale as well as Christmas gifts. There will also be refreshments available.

If you would like items but cannot attend that morning please let us know on **01908 617050** and we can get them to you. Hoping to see you!

Linda & Geoff Morris

PS For more information about our local fundraising group please look at nlimk.wordpress.com