

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY, 3rd APRIL: CTNP GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION AND SERVICE OF WITNESS: starting outside the Parish Church at 12 noon.

FRIDAY, 3rd APRIL from 9am to 1pm: Prayer stations at the Methodist Church

SATURDAY, 4th APRIL, 10.30am -1pm: distribution of Love Won Easter biscuits on the High Street.

13th to 26th APRIL: MK Foodbank's Big Little Give

TUESDAY, 21st APRIL, 7.30pm at Lovat Hall: Holiday Club Planning meeting

TUESDAY 28th APRIL, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Parklands, Great Linford: Meet the Candidates of the Milton Keynes North Constituency

THURSDAY, 30TH APRIL, 6.45pm: Eclipse Counselling Service Fundraising Dinner and Auction at Eversholt Hall

SATURDAY, 9th MAY, 10am to 12 noon: Christian Aid coffee morning and cake stall at the United Reformed Church

SUNDAY, 10th MAY, 6pm at United Reformed Church: United service for Christian Aid

10th MAY to 16th MAY: Christian Aid Week

SATURDAY, 16th MAY from 7.30pm to 9.30pm: Quiz evening at Brooklands

SUNDAY, 24th MAY: CTNP PENTECOST PICNIC: from 12.30pm on Bury Field

THURSDAY, 25TH JUNE, 7.45pm in the Methodist Schoolroom: CTNP Forum/AGM

10th to 14th AUGUST: CTNP HOLIDAY CLUB: 10am to 12.30pm at Lovat Hall

For up-to-date information about events and CTNP activities visit our website regularly at

www.ctnp.org.uk

CTNP President: Vacancy

Secretary: Vacancy

Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com

Tel. 01908 615729

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS APRIL 2015

*Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord,
alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to his name.*
(Donald Fishel, b. 1950)

GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION AND SERVICE

The traditional Good Friday procession will start outside the Parish Church at **12 noon on 3rd April** finishing at Market Hill with music and singing and some readings and reflections chosen by members of each of the churches, after which everyone is invited to the Methodist Church schoolroom for tea/coffee and hot cross buns (free of charge).

EASTER SATURDAY BISCUIT CHALLENGE!

We are looking for volunteers from all the churches to bake some heart-shaped biscuits that we can put in small bags along with an Easter message for handing out to people on the High Street on the morning of **Easter Saturday (4th April)** when the town is likely to be busy with shoppers. Just use your own favourite biscuit recipe and cut into heart shapes (no bigger than a digestive). We want to tell the people of the town that after the solemnity of the Good Friday events, Jesus rose from the dead and **Love Won!**

Just bring your baked biscuits to us between 10 and 10.30am on the Saturday morning and we will bag them up and insert the message cards. We will be located on the High Street near the Methodist Church. We also need volunteers to help with distribution from 10.30 to 11.30am or 12.00 to 1pm. We would be glad of your help!

HAPPY EASTER FROM CTNP!

Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay

Preferably by email to beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk 01908 612475

Copy Deadline - 20th 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 sorer we feel for ourselves the more grounds 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.

Revd Karen Browne

QUIZ EVENING at BROOKLANDS

Saturday 16th May from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Cost will be £2 per person but there will be an opportunity to donate to the Christian Aid "Food for Change" project. CTNP has made a commitment to raise £5000 over the next two years for this project to help poor families trying to eke out a living on the edge of the Sahara Desert. If we reach our target, the EU will match fund it by 5:1.



BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 1815–2015

Good Friday

3rd April 2015

The Methodist Church will be open from 9.00am to 1.00pm with prayer stations for private prayer.



Then, following the town procession and open air Service of Witness, we will be serving tea & coffee and hot cross buns in the Schoolroom free of charge.

All are welcome

NEWPORT PAGNELL METHODIST CHURCH
HIGH STREET MK16 8AQ

ROBIN MARSH

The Methodist Church was packed this afternoon (25th March) as family and friends gathered to pay their respects and give thanks for the life of Robin Marsh. Robin was a much loved and very active member of CTNP for many years and will be greatly missed by his many friends from all the churches in the town. Our thoughts and prayers are with Brenda and the family.

*Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Saviour hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!*

**Eclipse Counselling Service
invites you to attend their
FUNDRAISING
DINNER & AUCTION
(with magician)**

Eversholt Hall, Church End, Eversholt MK17 9DU
THURSDAY 30TH APRIL
6.45pm for 7.15pm



Price: £39.50 per person
Smart Attire

For ticket or further information please ring Eclipse on 01908 211288
or email info@eclipse-addiction.org.uk
Charity No 1111366

**ENGAGE WITH THE ELECTION PROCESS AND FIND OUT
WHAT THE CANDIDATES HAVE TO SAY!**

Milton Keynes Mission Partnership has arranged an opportunity for us to meet the candidates for the Milton Keynes North Constituency at the forthcoming General Election.

The meeting will take place at **St Andrew's Church, Parklands, Great Linford at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th April**. All electors in the Constituency are welcome.

CTNP has been asked to publicise this widely and to encourage people in our Newport Pagnell churches to go to this meeting and to offer lifts to others so that as many people as possible will feel better informed to engage with the election process.

If you would like to pose a question to the candidates, please forward it by email to John Moffoot at moffoot285@btinternet.com by Sunday 19th April.



Come on all you Landlubbers, join our pirate infested holiday club. What could be more fun! We are using Scripture Union based material. Last year over 130 children attended our week and we plan for up to 150 this time round. We are going to give them a great time learning about faith as well as creating opportunity for great fellowship across the churches.

Whatever your skills there's a role for you. How can you play your part and how can we help you in this? Roles include: teaching-team leaders; apprentice helpers; drama; music; cooking; crèche. If you are new to children's work we will give you a supportive role and put you through a DBS check. The next planning meeting is on **21st April at 7.30pm at Lovat Hall**. All welcome.

There should be forms available in all the churches for you to fill in to register your desire to help or you can send an email to jack.walker@talk21.com or come by the office at Lovat Hall.

Holiday Club 2015

10th-14th August, 10am-12.30 at Lovat Hall
For primary school aged children who
attend reception through to year six.
Registration for children is after Easter via
Cambourne Travel Agency

LOKO'S DAILY BATTLE TO STOP HER CHILDREN STARVING

Loko walks alone for eight hours a day, in shoes so thin that thorns repeatedly pierce through to her feet, to gather and sell firewood so she can feed her children. Loko is frightened of being attacked by hyenas with no one to hear her screams. So she prays as she walks. Her faith pushes her on. It's a job she dreads, but she has no choice; she must continue, week after week. If she doesn't, her children will starve.

"I pray to God as I walk asking him to change my life and lead us out of this."

As it is, Loko can only afford to give them one small meal a day. Loko refuses to give up hope. She dreams of owning a cow one day; its milk would help her children to grow strong, and she could also sell some so she could save enough money to set up a small business buying and selling tea and coffee.

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTORS URGENTLY NEEDED!

If you are willing to help people like Loko by joining the team of collectors in Newport Pagnell during Christian Aid week (**10th to 16th May**), please contact Pat Parker on **01908 610837** or talk to the Christian Aid representative in your church.

There will also be a coffee morning and cake stall at the United Reformed Church on **Saturday, 9th May from 10am to 12 noon** in aid of Christian Aid and a collection on the High Street on the same day. Your support for these would be greatly appreciated.

UNITED SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN AID

The annual united service to mark the start of Christian Aid week will take place on **Sunday, 10th May at 6pm at the United Reformed Church**. Please join us if you can.

MK FOOD BANK *BIG Little Give* Monday 13th to Sunday 26th April 2015

It is time once again for our amazing *BIG little Give* and we would like to invite you to join us to make a difference.

On **Saturday 18th April and Saturday 25th April, 10am-2pm**, MK Food Bank will have a presence at several major supermarkets in Central Milton Keynes. We will be handing out our Food Bank shopping lists and asking the customers to add some donations for us into their shopping trolley.

If you are able to join us on one or both of the days, please contact Nicholas on foodbank.nicholas@mkcc.org.uk. We would love to see you!

CTNP FORUM/AGM

The next Forum and AGM will be held on **Thursday, 25th June at 7.45pm in the Methodist Schoolroom**. Please note the date in your diary and encourage people to come along. I have it on good authority that there will be **CAKE!!**

Please also pray that people would feel able to come forward to take on the vacant positions on the CTNP Executive. We are currently looking for a new President and Secretary for CTNP and a new Chair for the Emergency Help Scheme. In addition, Paul Tolley's term of office as CTNP Treasurer officially comes to an end in June/July so we will also be looking for a new Treasurer.

COMPASS

There will be three compass courses starting in April/May.

- *Journeying into prayer 2*: led by Anthony Purvis, Mondays at 7.45pm at Holy Trinity, Wolverton starting on 20th April
- *Reading Ruth – A fresh look at a favourite story*: led by Steve Chilcraft on Tuesdays at 7.45pm (venue TBA) starts 5th May
- *You are Here: journeying through the Bible*: led by Carolyn Sanderson, Wednesdays at 7.45pm at Christ the Vine, Jonathans, Coffee Hall starting on 22nd April.

For more details visit www.missionpartnership.org.uk/compass.