

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TUESDAY, 28th APRIL, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Great

Linford: Election Hustings organised by MK Mission Partnership

THURSDAY, 30th APRIL at 2.30pm: planning meeting for Flower Festival at Methodist Church

WEDNESDAY, 6TH MAY from 3pm - 4.30pm: Cream tea and live music in the Limes atrium

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

FRIDAY, 22ND MAY 7.30 in the URC Church: U3A spring concert

TUESDAY, 26TH MAY, 2.30-4.30pm: Celebration day at Methodist

SATURDAY, 30th MAY, 7.30pm: Concert at Methodist Church

SUNDAY, 31st MAY, 10.30am : President's Day in Methodist Church

Sunday, 24th May, Churches Together PENTECOST PICNIC

from 12.30 on the sports area of Bury Fields (near the Health Centre entrance to the common) in Newport Pagnell

A chance to mix and have fun on the birthday of the church. All age games to join in with, drinks provided, just bring yourselves and a picnic. Some folding chairs will be there for those who really need them, but you might want to bring a blanket. Come along and get to know people from other churches and meet up with friends already known!

Let's celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church!

CTNP President: Vacancy

Secretary: Vacancy

Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com

Tel. 01908 615729

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS MAY 2015

Lord God, as the general election approaches, we ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

For sixteen years I was a member of the Board of Christian Aid and on a number of occasions I visited partner organisations overseas working with some of the poorest people in the world. I went, for example, to a remote area of Guatemala to a community of refugees returning from Mexico where they had been exiled for several years by the repressive government in Guatemala. They had been violently uprooted from their homes and villages and forced to flee for their lives.

Christian Aid was helping them to resettle in new surroundings in the forest. On another occasion I visited a rural community in El Salvador and saw for myself what a huge difference the support of Christian Aid had made to the peasants through the provision of training and agricultural equipment. With that help they were harvesting their first crop of pineapples to sell in the local markets and they had organised a school for the children.

May is the month for Christian Aid's annual house-to-house collection. With the support of local people we can make a difference to the lives and communities of people who otherwise are trapped in poverty without access to food, education and medical care. It's amazing and heartening to see how the money raised here can help to transform seemingly hopeless situations and bring the light of new hope to forgotten people. I hope we can all be generous when the collectors call.

*Rev John Reardon
United Reformed Church*

Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay

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

Copy Deadline - 20th of each month

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTORS URGENTLY NEEDED!

If you are willing to help 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.

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.

PROCEEDS FROM LENT LUNCHEAS 2015

We are happy to announce the fantastic total profit to Christian Aid this year is **£2078.10**.

Many thanks to those who contributed homemade soup and to all who gave their time during the six weeks of Lent 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

The Election is on Thursday 7th May. I encourage you to get involved and VOTE! Before that I encourage you to get involved by attending the Hustings being arranged by Milton Keynes Mission Partnership on **Tuesday 28th April at 7.30pm**. We had thought of holding one as CTNP, but John Moffoot had already set this one up at St Andrews, Great Linford and so it makes sense to go to that one and boost the numbers! We are hoping that everyone who wants to go will go and so are offering LIFTS to those unable to get there. **THIS MEANS WE NEED VOLUNTEER DRIVERS FOR THE NIGHT**. Please let Jenny Mills know if you are planning coming and also have a space in your car and can offer a lift. Many people died to enable us to vote, Jesus challenged the political system of his day and championed the cause of social equality and justice. We cannot pretend that it does not matter- even if we feel hopeless about the state of politics and those representing us. If we do not speak our voice will not be heard! And if we do not take part, then we cannot complain if we do not like who gets into power and challenge what they have done! Thanks, *Rev Jenny Mills*

HUSTINGS- MILTON KEYNES NORTH CONSTITUENCY MEET THE CANDIDATES

Milton Keynes Mission Partnership has arranged an opportunity for you 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 7.30 p.m. on
TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2015.**

All electors in the Constituency are welcome. Please call 07703485017 or email revdjmill@btinternet.com to offer a space in a car or ask for a lift!

MANDY'S TRIP TO ROMANIA

Mandy Pateman is flying out to Romania on 25th July to help at a children's camp which is being run by GNfR – www.stpetersparish.info/GNfR. This camping trip is a time when the children can be away from the varying hardships of their home lives. All the families struggle with extreme poverty and many of the children will go to the camp with only the clothes they are wearing. There is a great need for all children's clothes (aged 2-18) but in particular for teenagers' sizes as they are often missed out. Pants and socks are needed and also children's vitamins.

Mandy will be collecting new clothes (the Romanian government stipulates that they must be new) which she will send ahead via courier. Closing date for receipt of clothes is 10th June.

If you are able to help out by donating any item of clothing, children's multi-vitamins or a financial contribution towards a child going on the camp which costs £60 per child, please contact Mandy on **01908 218679**.

**200th ANNIVERSARY FLOWER FESTIVAL - SATURDAY 11th
& SUNDAY 12th JULY 2015**

We are inviting members of the churches in Newport Pagnell to take part in our Flower Festival to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Methodist Church, built as a Wesleyan Chapel in 1815. Those of you who are familiar with the Methodist Church building will know that it is a small church, which is simply decorated and furnished and which has plenty of light coming through the large sash windows. We are hoping to have approximately 20 arrangements of various sizes and interest throughout the main body of the church and possibly arrangements or plants outside the church entrance.

The proposed title of the festival is '*Newport Pagnell 1815 - 2015*' and we hope that will give flower arrangers plenty of scope for interesting and colourful displays. We will have a list of ideas available at the first meeting for all those who kindly offer to help with the festival. This meeting will be held in the **Methodist Church, High Street, Newport Pagnell on Thursday, 30th April at 2.30 pm**. If you would like to join in this Flower Festival with us please could you (and/or any other interested person) attend this meeting. If you would like to be involved, but are unable to attend the meeting please contact me: *Pearl Teasdale (tel: 01908 610661 or email pt@croftsend33.freeserve.co.uk)*.

**U3A Spring Concert
Music For A May Evening**

Come and enjoy a concert given by the U3A Choir
on Friday, 22nd May 7.30pm in the URC Church,
Newport Pagnell
Soloist Ralph Mazzone
Tickets available from: 07762178379 or Jennifer
Mazzone (613088) at £6 each to include
refreshments.
Proceeds for Willen Hospice



Landlubbers is a five-day fun filled holiday club for around 150 primary school-age children. It has a pirate theme and follows Paul's life from Philippians and Acts. We have video characters, Poop and Dec who star in 'I'm a pirate, get me out of here'!

We are still looking for more volunteers to help with this. Whatever your skills there's a role for you. If this is all new to you don't worry, we will support you. We are all in this together. Roles include: teaching team leaders; apprentice helpers; drama; music; cooking; crèche, tidy-up people, practical helpers who cut things out etc. If you are new to children's work we will give you a supportive role and put you through a DBS check.

Children will be divided into groups of roughly 10 and each group will have a leader and helpers. Children will enjoy crafts, teaching and refreshments in the groups and at other times we all gather together for teaching, games and fun led from the front. You'll be in good company. In the midst of serving children the volunteers have a lot of fun. It's great to work together and by the end of the week you will have made new friends.

To help us with our planning, we ask all volunteers **to please sign up as soon as possible to enable us to finalise teams**. 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.

A training meeting has been arranged for **Sunday, 21st June, 7-9pm** at Lovat Hall. Here you can get up to speed by meeting your team, touring the venues and reviewing our materials.

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 now open via Cambourne Travel Agency up to 30th June

(Registration forms also available from www.ctnp.org.uk)

METHODIST CHURCH BICENTENARY EVENTS

May is the most significant month in our celebratory year, with several events taking place in which other churches are warmly invited to participate:

Celebration Day! - Tuesday 26 May - 2.30pm to 4.30pm in the church

Do come and join the church family in celebrating our 200th birthday. There will be drinks and birthday cake, and **Great Gappo** the clown will be with us the whole time to amuse everyone of all ages. (Children should be accompanied by a responsible adult/carer.)

Heart & Music Concert – Saturday 30 May – 7.30pm in the church

Please see the separate poster/flyer for the concert by this talented local singing group, which has been distributed to churches. This is a ticket only event (please phone Phil on 615080 for more posters or tickets - £5 for adults, £1 children – free refreshments).

President's Day – Sunday 31 May – 10.30 in the church

We are welcoming Rev. Ken Howcroft (President of the Methodist Conference) to lead our service and we anticipate a capacity congregation on this occasion. All local churches will have received an invitation to send two representatives.

Mark Topping evening – Sunday 21 June – 7.00pm in the church

Mark is nationally known for his portrayal of John Wesley's life and faith. Full details about this all ticket event will be distributed in the June Connections.

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CREAM TEA AND LIVE MUSIC

6th May from 3pm - 4.30pm

Westbury Grange are holding a cream tea afternoon with live music in The Limes atrium. £5 per person.

Proceeds to MHA.

WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN HELP US RAISE THE FUNDS TO BUILD THE MEAD CENTRE?

As you know we have launched the fundraising bid and are waiting for the Planning Permission decision. So we are really beginning to look at fundraising. We have the team of local fundraisers and another team to seek grants, donations, etc. BUT we have agreed that we need to encourage regular giving by Church folk and by people in the community.

If you would like to give on a regular basis by Standing Order, please notify your bank. The Payee Details are: **Newport Pagnell United Reformed Church**. Payee reference should begin with **MC** (Mead Centre) and the reference of your choice (it means we can identify it on the accounts!) and the **sort code is 20-57-40 and the account number 00898031**.

ALL regular donations (large or small) are welcomed and we encourage you to think about how you can help. **AND DON'T FORGET THAT IF YOU ARE A TAXPAYER YOU CAN GIFT AID YOUR DONATION AND WE GET AN EXTRA 25%-** email revdjmills@btinternet.com with your name and address and Jenny will get the Treasurer to send you a Gift Aid form. Please think about doing this and encourage family and friends too.

Below find some thought provoking ideas about what you may need to give up in order to help the Mead Centre become a reality:

Donate £3 per month for 5 years

This is only the cost of one cake or two ice creams or three bags of sweets!

Donate £5 per month for 5 years

This is only the cost of one glass of wine or one magazine or two coffees!

Donate £10 per month for 5 years

This is only the cost of one cinema ticket or one bottle of wine or one takeaway!

The other suggestion is to get people to commit to raising £1000.

Are you up for the challenge?