

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER: **Memory Cafe** from 10a.m. to 12 noon in the foyer of Westbury Grange on the first Wednesday of each month. A safe place where people who suffer from Dementia and their carers meet others and share experiences. There is a charge of £1.50 per person which includes a hot drink, cake and a raffle. For more information please contact Westbury Grange on 01908 210332.

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER – MEN'S BREAKFAST - 8.45am at Frosts Garden Centre, Woburn Sands. Speaker will be the Rev. Stephen Norrish from the Milton Keynes Christian Foundation, who'll be talking about "*The Church - a Subversive Community?*" To reserve tickets, email jclangford@btinternet.com, text 07787 342450 or phone 01908 583922

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER – STOP THE TRAFFIK TRAINING BREAKFAST – 10am – 12 noon at John Lewis CMK, Community Room in the Espresso Bar. Hosted and delivered by Stop the Traffik Milton Keynes. "We will equip you to understand what human trafficking is, How to spot it, And how to respond to it. Why? We want to see an end to trafficking. We want to raise awareness of this global crime. We want to help build communities which are resilient to Human trafficking." Please email Charlotte Holman stopthetraffikmiltonkeynes@outlook.com to book your free place. A continental style breakfast with tea and coffee will be provided.

TUESDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER, 5.30-6.30pm at Newport Pagnell Library: informal meeting of Friends of Newport Pagnell Library

TUESDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER, 7.30pm: 'Baked Alaska' performed by the Riding Lights Theatre Company at Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley.

FRIDAY, 2nd OCTOBER, 7.30pm: 'The Art of Flower Arranging' presented by Lloyd Andrews at the United Reformed Church, Newport Pagnell.

SATURDAY, 10th OCTOBER, 9.30am – 12.30pm: RNLI coffee morning and sale at 66 Lakes Lane.

For up-to-date information on events and activities check our website regularly at www.ctnp.org.uk

CTNP President: Vacancy
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Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com 01908 615729

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS SEPTEMBER 2015

*I can do everything through Him
who gives me strength to do it.*
Philippians, 4 v13
(verse of the week at holiday club)

HOLIDAY CLUB 2015



Ahoy there shipmates! Well, that's holiday club over for another year, but what fun we had! Capt Geoff and Capt AJ kept us all in order, ably assisted by Professional Pirate Angie who put us through our paces every morning with her specially designed pirate-themed aerobics routine. Amidst all the fun, crafts and drama, the children heard about the life of the Apostle Paul through video characters, Poop and Dec who starred in 'I'm a pirate, get me out of here'!

Thanks to all the children who took part and the 57 volunteers who made it possible. Too many to mention here by name but you know who you are!



Special thanks to Jack and Jill from the Baptist church who did **SO** much behind the scenes. Already looking forward to next year's holiday club planned for week beginning **15 August 2016!**

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

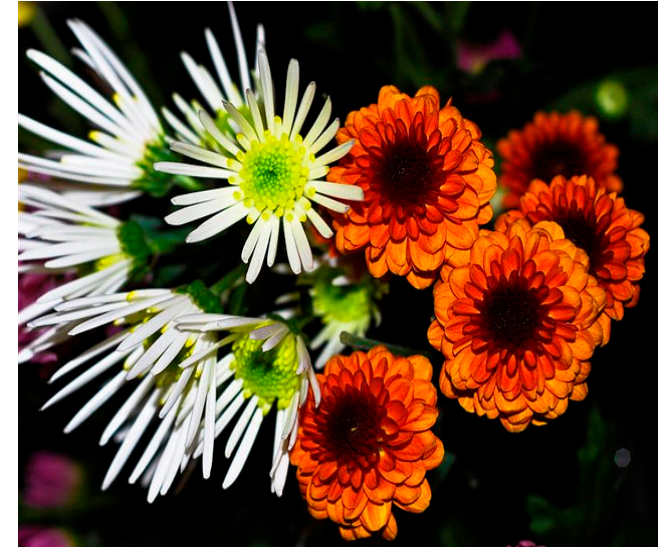
I hope most of you have had a holiday over the summer or are at least looking forward to a break later this year. I find that I come to points in the year when I need to 'get away from it all' and have a change of my four walls. I crave relaxation and rest. I need to build up my strength and I want to return to my lot in life feeling refreshed and energised.

I revisited the book of Isaiah chapter 35 in recent weeks and found it to be a chapter that offers a vision of hope, new strength and courage. The vision is presented with an image of a desert - a desert of weakness, fear, without sound or sight. It is a thirsty and needy place. Then the promise of God's life-giving water will flow through the desert; the burning sand will become a lake, and dry land will be filled with springs. Where jackals used to live, marsh grass and reeds will grow. Then 'the desert will rejoice, and flowers will bloom in the wastelands. The desert will sing and shout for joy'.

Is there an area of your life that is parched and listless? Is your spirit in need of refreshment and encouragement? Turn to God who meets all our needs in Christ Jesus. He promises to 'Give strength to hands that are tired and to knees that tremble with weakness. Tell everyone who is discouraged, "Be strong and don't be afraid! God is coming to your rescue". The blind will be able to see, and the deaf will hear. The lame will leap and dance and those who cannot speak will shout for joy!'

Hoping blessings of encouragement, vitality and joy for each one of you.

Birgitte Grace
Chaplain, Westbury Grange



The Art of Flower Arranging

presented by Lloyd Andrews
at the United Reformed Church
Newport Pagnell
on
Friday 2nd October
at 7.30 pm

Tickets @ £10
in aid of the new church hall
THE MEAD CENTRE
available from 01908 217559
members of the church and Merlin Blinds



The *CoMPass Courses* (run by the MK Mission Partnership) for the Autumn term have now been finalised and full details including weekly topics are available on their website www.missionpartnership.org.uk/compass/. Courses are held on different days of the week and in different venues as shown below.

There are 3 courses this term. Each course has 8 sessions.

- ***Big Questions Christians Are Asked:*** Stephen Mosedale et al at Holy Cross, Two Mile Ash on Mondays at 7.45pm from 21st September to 9th November.
- ***That's a Good Question! Building on the Basics of your Faith:*** Steve Chilcraft & Carolyn Sanderson at Stony Stratford Methodist on Tuesdays at 7.45pm from 29th September to 24th November.
- ***Beginning to Pray...:*** John & Sue Robertson at Christ the Cornerstone on Thursdays at 7.45pm from 24th September to 12th November.

CoMPass courses are for everybody and the message from the Mission Partnership is that they want everybody to be able to come if they would like to. There is a £40 fee for each full course but bursaries are available. They would love the grant they have set aside to be used for bursaries to enable more take up so please do ask.

You can enrol on a course through the Mission Partnership website or there may be forms available in your church for you to fill in.



MK Christian Environment Group is delighted to announce that the highly-regarded theatre company, Riding Lights, will be including Milton Keynes in their UK tour itinerary this autumn. ***Baked Alaska*** has been commissioned by the Diocese of Lichfield, Christian Aid and Operation Noah. The show is presented by a solidarity of Christian organisations committed to raising a passionate voice in the call to worldwide action.

From the four corners of the earth come colourful, inter-connecting stories of people living with the wild, unpredictable effects of climate change. This is a comedy with a challenging message which Riding Lights says will be 'serving up a recipe for hope ready for the 2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change taking place in Paris this December'. *'A high-energy, seriously funny show!'*

The production takes place on **Tuesday 22 September at 7.30pm at Whaddon Way Church, Beaverbrook Court West, Bletchley MK3 7JS**, and is aimed at adults and young people over the age of 12. Ticket prices are £12, concessions £9. Youth groups (8 or more under 18s) £7.50. They are available now from Lisa Pye at lisapye@sky.com or 07969 383854 evening/weekends). Note that if you wish to buy tickets using a credit card, please contact the Riding Lights national box office on 01904 613000.

Read more about the show at <http://ridinglights.org/introducing-baked-alaska>



Coffee Morning
Saturday 10th October, 9:30am – 12:30

Saving lives with tea.

We will be holding a coffee (and tea!) morning for RNLILifeboats MK at 66 Lakes Lane, Newport Pagnell. Christmas cards and RNLILifeboats merchandise will be on sale.

Linda Morris, Milton Keynes Fundraising Branch

FRIENDS OF NEWPORT PAGNELL LIBRARY

Would you like to be involved with supporting the future of your local library?

Then please come along to an informal meeting of the Friends of Newport Pagnell Library group

Where: Newport Pagnell Library

When Tuesday 22nd September 5.30-6.30pm

For further information please contact 01908 610933.

CAN YOU HELP?

Additional helpers are needed to help organise CTNP activities relating to Christmas/Lent/Easter. If you can spare some time to help with any of these events, please contact Hazel Reynolds (hazel_reynolds@hotmail.co.uk).

We are also looking for a team of volunteers to do some leaflet dropping in mid-December. If you can spare a couple of hours (or more) in December, please contact Neville Watson (nevillefromnp@gmail.com) now to register your willingness to help with this.

MESSAGE FROM THE WELL AT WILLEN

Due to this year's 'Reaching out' *Forgiveness* workshop being overbooked, we have arranged a second one for **Saturday, 12th December** from 10am to 4pm at the Well, Newport Road, Willen MK15 9AA.

Why and how do we give and receive forgiveness? What happens if we can't? A reflective workshop – lunch included.

This is a free workshop and places are limited so if you are interested, please book in now even if December seems a long time away.

Marcus Armstrong
The Well at Willen
07967 819514