

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

SATURDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 7pm: Rugby World Cup, England v Australia on the big screen at Lovat Hall with refreshments. £2.50 per ticket includes pizza, nibbles, tea and coffee.

WEDNESDAY, 7th OCTOBER: **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.

WEDNESDAY, 7th OCTOBER, 7.30pm: start of Marriage course at Lovat Hall.

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

SATURDAY, 7th & 21st NOVEMBER, 9.30am : training for Winter Night Shelter volunteers at New Life Church.

SUNDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 6pm: Songs of Praise at the Parish Church.

SATURDAY, 19th DECEMBER: 10-11.30am: CTNP Nativity event on the High Street and at the URC.

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

CTNP President: Vacancy
Secretary: Beth MacKay beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk 01908 612475
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CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS OCTOBER 2015

And one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

James 2: v16 (ESV)

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER at LOVAT HALL

Aims: Safety and compassion for rough sleepers in the worst of the winter with a pathway to long-term accommodation.



This project is in its fifth year and this is our third as participants. From December, through to mid-March overnight accommodation is available for up to 15 rough sleepers per night. Last year the scheme saw 1353 bed nights, 60 different people spent at least a night in the

shelter, 68 people were assessed, 27 sleeping bags were given out and 2700 meals served.

Guests are signposted to a café in the early part of the evening. Here they receive tea and cake and a check is made to make sure they are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The welfare officer will have already assessed health needs, and processed a risk assessment.

Continued on next page

Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay
Preferably by email to beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk 01908 612475
Copy Deadline - 20th of each month

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The Welfare Officer is also the person who seeks to find a pathway to longer term housing for the guests. Guests are then transported to the venues. This is when our local responsibility starts. We are committed to running 15 Tuesday evenings. We do this by forming two teams so that volunteers only need to commit to half of the Tuesdays (7 or 8) on an every-other-week basis. Past experience elsewhere shows that this is a more pragmatic and feasible commitment from those who help.

Volunteer roles are varied and range from setting up the venue, cooking and serving food or engaging with guests through conversation, games or quizzes. Some volunteers stay overnight and others arrive first thing to serve breakfast and help clear up. All new volunteers attend a training day to ensure the safety and well-being of both guests and volunteers.

Volunteers will need to book by filling in a form. There should be forms available in most of the churches or you can get one from the office at Lovat Hall, Silver Street, Newport Pagnell, MK18 0EJ (info@npbc.org.uk 01908 618898). David Wright at Lovat Hall will track the numbers and place in teams.

Training for volunteers takes place on the mornings of **7th November and 21st November** at New Life Church, The Ridgeway Centre, Featherstone Rd, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK12 5TH. These sessions start at 9.30am and finish at 1pm with a lunch following which will be provided. Only one training session needs to be attended. If you attended last year, you are welcome to come again but it is not compulsory. 16 and 17 year olds can volunteer but will not count towards the minimum numbers of adults required.

There will be a familiarisation evening for our site on **Friday 20th November 8pm – 9pm at Lovat Hall**. If you Google 'MK winter night shelter' you will find more information.

“We aim to relieve poverty, distress and homelessness and help homeless people rebuild their lives.”

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

I hope that you had a good summer and that whether you went away or not, you were able to find time to unwind, relax and re-charge your batteries. As I write this letter, the weather has changed and the forecasters are using the word autumnal more and more frequently to describe the weather.

“The summer sun is fading as the year grows old
And darker days are drawing near”

These are the opening lyrics of a song that has been running around in my head for some time – ‘Forever Autumn’ – partly, I suppose because of the changing season but also because in the last few weeks, my family has marked the anniversaries of the deaths of my father-in-law and my mother and it has reminded us all of just how much we miss them. The song ‘Forever Autumn’ is a love song but it is also a song of loneliness, a loneliness expressed so clearly – “My life will be forever autumn, ‘cos you’re not here”.

In November, we will celebrate Remembrance Day and remember and give thanks for those who laid down their lives in war, and throughout the month of November, the Catholic Church invites its members to pray for all those who have died – the month begins with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. But at this start of autumn and during this month of October I would ask that we try to give some thought and time to those who are lonely. Loneliness is not just something that affects the elderly or the bereaved. A recent survey of young parents found an alarmingly large proportion stating that they felt lonely.

In the Book of Genesis, we read “God said, ‘it is not good that man should be alone (gen 2:18) And so God created woman to be a companion. So let us try to do what we can to support those who are lonely so that as the darker days are drawing near, we may hold up the light of companionship, the light of love – the light of Christ.

*Deacon Jon Walls,
St Bedes Roman Catholic Church*

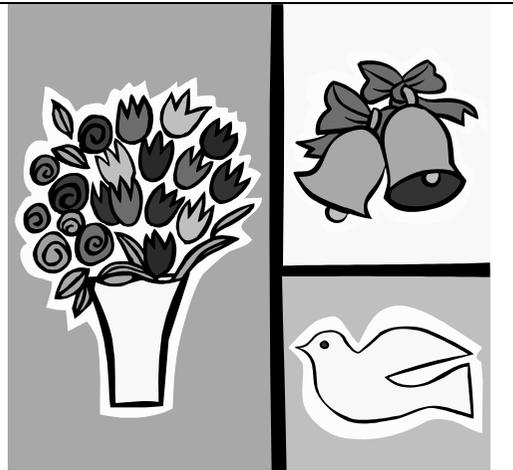
theMarriage Course

A chance to enhance your marriage. A seven session course set in a fantastic atmosphere. You will be served with a candlelit dessert at a romantic table for two while listening to practical talks that are informative and fun,

There is never any group work and you will never be asked to share anything about your relationship with anyone other than your partner.

7nd October
14th October
21st October
28th October
4th November
11th November
25th November

**7.30pm – 9.30pm at
Lovat Hall**



Email info@npbc.org.uk to get on board.

The Art of Flower Arranging

presented by Lloyd Andrews
at the United Reformed Church

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 19th December from 10-11.30am

CTNP NATIVITY EVENT WITH A DIFFERENCE!

A search through Newport Pagnell High Street to find the Nativity.

You can start the hunt from 10am onwards and finish up at the URC at 11.15 with refreshments and carols and a gift for children. Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, angels, shepherds and wise men will all be there - and of course our friendly local donkey! Curious? More details to follow...

WATCH THIS SPACE!



Lifeboats

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

Saving lives with tea.

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

Linda Morris, Milton Keynes Fundraising Branch

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, 22nd November at 6pm** – to be held once again in the Parish Church and led by Rev Nick Evans.



We want this to be a really special service for the whole community and are asking people to bring friends, neighbours and relatives.

Lots of people love to sing so let's see if we can fill the church and raise our voices in united praise to our Lord!

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