

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER:** 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, 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 9am – 1pm:** Mission Fair. MK Mission Partnership presents: *Milton Keynes, a city alive to God: The Cross and Stable, Downs Barn.*

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

**SATURDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 10am-1pm:** Charity coffee morning at 33 Crofts End, Sherington

**SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER:** Interfaith service at 10.30am at Gifford Park Synagogue.

**SATURDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER, 6.45pm:** Bridgebuilder barn dance at Lovat Hall

**SUNDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER, 6pm:** Songs of Praise at the Parish Church.

**SATURDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER:** Christmas Lights events on the High Street and Christmas Bazaar inside the Parish Church.

**FRIDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 7.30pm:** U3A choir concert in the URC.

**SATURDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ctnp.org.uk)**

**CTNP President:** Vacancy

**Secretary:** Beth MacKay [beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk) 01908 612475

**Treasurer:** Paul Tolley, [PTMERCEDES@aol.com](mailto:PTMERCEDES@aol.com) 01908 615729

**CTNP website: - [www.ctnp.org.uk](http://www.ctnp.org.uk)**



## CONNECTIONS NOVEMBER 2015

*Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, praise his name;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.  
(Psalm 96)*

### SONGS OF PRAISE

#### Let's make a big noise together!

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, 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 6pm** – to be held once again in the Parish Church and led by Rev Nick Evans. Representatives from each of the churches have been asked to choose a favourite hymn and say a few words about why that hymn is special to them.



We want this to be a really special service for the whole community and ask you to invite friends, neighbours, relatives, strangers...

Lots of people love to sing so let's see if we can fill the church and make a big noise!

There will be an opportunity to donate to Christian Aid's Burkina Faso project and refreshments will be served after the service.

**Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay**

Preferably by email to [beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk) 01908 612475

**Copy Deadline - 20th of each month**

## LETTER FROM A MINISTER

What turbulent times we are in. The refugee crisis seems to have blown a hole in the very fabric of the cohesion of Europe. The impact of the Arab Spring promised much but sadly has largely engendered instability and suffering. Politicians are seen to be floundering; unsure of how to respond to the Syrian crisis. National borders open and close like traffic lights. Commentators describe wholesale despair and contradictory responses of generosity or fear. Sometimes the news reports are too distressing to watch, so what can be done, is there any hope?

I have tried to understand what has gone on but am aware that this is no easy task. Syria experienced a four-year drought prior to the uprising which meant many people lost their livelihoods on the land. A thirteen-year old boy from a family displaced by the drought was murdered by the government and this provided a flashpoint for this revolution. But now the six ethnic groups that comprise Syria have in addition seen the arrival of Isis and Hezbollah. International support of the various groups gives the conflict a "proxy war" edge. Indeed none of the main factions seem to run out of munitions, so candid suppliers such as Russia must be balanced by others that are more surreptitious. Here is a list of the conflicts as at the moment: government v opposition rebels; government v Isis; Kurds v Isis; Turks v Kurds; the west (bombing) v Isis; opposition rebels v Isis; Hezbollah supporting the government v the rebels and Isis. I suspect my analysis is inadequate and this is not a comprehensive thesis but it is illustrative of three things: Syria is in a huge mess, it will not sort quickly, **but the problems it creates need attention now**. Over four million refugees outside of Syria and a further six or seven million displaced within is a problem needing a global response.

My own response starts by remembering that Jesus was a refugee in Egypt. I want to respond personally with hospitality and generosity and plead for it to all. I like to think that when Britain has been generous in the past, for example to the Ugandan Asians, we have benefitted as a nation in the long run. I am glad of the funding of refugee camps, essential now, but this will never be the long-term answer. Indeed Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey are bearing the brunt of this burden. If by birth I had found myself in the situation of the refugees, I would no doubt be shouting "we are humans" as they do, and doing my best to seek a future away from conflict for my family. Meanwhile, I pray for world leaders to dry up the supplies of arms that only exacerbate the situation and seek for peace - however hard this is to create.

*Jack Walker, minister of Newport Pagnell Baptist Church*

*Pearl invites you to a:*

### **CHARITY COFFEE MORNING IN SHERINGTON**

*at*

**33 CROFTS END**

*on*

**SATURDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**10.00 am - 1.00 pm**

***Fair Trade food (including chocolates,  
sweets etc.); Christmas cards  
and small gifts.***

***Orders also taken from Traidcraft and  
Tearfund catalogues.***

***Coffees, teas and cakes served - donations  
for Willen Hospice and Karibuni Trust***



# Lifeboats

Thanks to all who came to the RNLI MK coffee morning.

A fantastic £449.56 was collected.

Linda Morris, RNLI MK Fundraising committee

## INTERFAITH SERVICE

An interfaith service will be held at the synagogue on **Saturday 14th November at 10.30 a.m at Gifford Park Synagogue**. The focus of the service will be on the common perspectives of the 3 Abrahamic faiths, i.e. Christianity, Islam and Judaism, on the story of Abraham and his descendants (we will be reading the story of Jacob and Esau from the Book of Genesis), and implications for modern times. However, we also wish to welcome to the synagogue, as on previous occasions, members of other faiths.

The service will be a Sabbath morning service led by Student Rabbi Naomi Goldman, with contributions from Rev. Paul Smith from the Christian community and Mr. Syed Mohseni from the Islamic community. It will be followed by light refreshments in keeping with the Sabbath morning tradition, and a golden opportunity to socialise and find out more about the synagogue if you wish.

This is an open invitation, and all are welcome. We would be very grateful if you could circulate this widely to your communities and contacts.

Kind regards  
Lynda Gilbert  
Interfaith Coordinator, Milton Keynes Jewish Community

## U3A Christmas Concert

Come and enjoy a Christmas Concert given by the U3A Choir on **Friday, 18th December at 7.30pm** in the United Reformed Church, Newport Pagnell .

Tickets available on 07762178379, from members of the Choir or Jennifer Mazzone (613088) at £6 each.

Seasonal refreshments will be served. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds will go to Keech Hospice Care for Children which covers the Milton Keynes area.  
We look forward to seeing you.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



The Christmas Lights day (November 28<sup>th</sup>) is fast approaching and Newport Pagnell Parish is again planning for its Christmas Bazaar in the Parish Church. We'll be there all day with our usual stalls and some new ones as well. This year we are running a Silent Auction – a great opportunity to acquire some really original and special Christmas gifts/treats for someone.

Children from some of the local schools will be singing at various times, and tea, coffee and delicious home-baked cakes will be available throughout the day (plus mulled wine in the afternoon!). We are aiming to make the church a warm, welcoming place to come and enjoy some part of your trip to the Christmas Lights events.

And when the lights have been switched on, why not come back in and join us for some carol singing. It's a lovely way to end the day!

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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!**

## **SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER – MISSION PARTNERSHIP**

**MISSION FAIR** –The Cross and Stable, Downs Barn. 9am – 1pm. Our Mission Fair is an initiative under our vision for *Milton Keynes: A City Alive to God*. We are dividing Cross & Stable into four colour zones, one for each of ‘Children, Young People & Families’, ‘Hospitality’, ‘Nurturing Faith’, and ‘Faith and Community’. During the morning each zone will host four different conversations of 45 minutes each under that topic. Come along, enjoy the fair and take some steps in mission as a result, with some ideas to get you going and maybe some contacts to help you move forward. More details on our website [www.missionpartnership.org.uk](http://www.missionpartnership.org.uk)

---

## **MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER: MILTON KEYNES THEOLOGY FORUM: VALUES – BRITISH OR CHRISTIAN?**

7.30 - 9.00 pm at The Ridgeway Centre, Featherstone Road, Wolverton Mill South MK12 5TH. An open discussion for thinking Christians with contributions by Fr. Allan Jones, Revd. Peter Ballantine and Sherry Gladwin

*What are British values? How coherent are these values? Is the UK government right to promote them? Are they compatible with Christianity? Do they mark a shift away from historic Judaeo-Christian ethics? Should they be taught in school? Should they be taught in church? Is tolerance a Biblical value? What happens when secular values clash with Christian convictions? What takes precedence, British citizenship or the Kingdom of God? How did the early Church respond to the values of the Greco-Roman world? Is the promotion of British values a necessary antidote to extremism? Are religious liberties being compromised?*

Contact Steve Chilcraft for further info: [stevechilcraft@talktalk.net](mailto:stevechilcraft@talktalk.net)

---

## **SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER – BRIDGEBUILDER BARN DANCE**

6.45pm for 7pm with dancing from 7.30pm. Ending at approximately 10.30pm at Lovat Hall. A night of fun, fundraising & food! Baked potato & choice of four toppings included in cost of ticket. Puddings & cold drinks available for purchase to raise funds. Plus a chance for a brief catch up on our news in the interval. Tickets £10 each (no concessions). To book tickets, choose your topping & pay, visit our website ([www.mkbt.org.uk](http://www.mkbt.org.uk)) & click on Events.

For queries, contact the office: 01908 270670 or [office@mkbt.org.uk](mailto:office@mkbt.org.uk)  
Toucan Crafts and Traidcraft food will be on sale - bring your purse and buy some early Christmas presents!

## **CTNP ECUMENICAL LENT GROUPS 2016 ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY NOW!**

Our Ministers support the principle of the various CTNP congregations getting together during Lent, to study together and learn from one another. As a change from the York courses we have opted to use two films for Lent 2016. The format will be one meeting to show a film and then, a week later, meeting together to talk about it. This will be repeated the following fortnight.

Each week there will be an afternoon meeting on Tuesdays at 2pm, held in the Westbury Grange Activities Room, Westbury Lane, and an evening meeting on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm at the URC.

**To enable as many people to attend as possible, we are publishing the dates now. (Details of the films will follow later.)**

Tues 16 Feb 2pm or Thurs 18 Feb 7.30pm for viewing Film 1  
Tues 23 Feb 2pm or Thurs 25 Feb 7.30pm for talking about Film 1  
Tues 1 March 2pm or Thurs 3 March 7.30pm for viewing Film 2  
Tues 8 March 2pm or Thurs 10 March 7.30pm for talking about Film 2

You only attend one session each week, but each week you have the option of whether to attend the 2pm or the 7.30pm one.

Hazel Reynolds

---

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER**

8.45am at Frosts Garden Centre, Woburn Sands. Speaker is Rev. Tim Cutting from Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley, who'll be telling us that, "As for God, His Way is Perfect". Tickets £6 (includes 5 item breakfast and drink). Small collection for speaker. Call Jim 01908 583922 or Matt 01908 282423 for tickets or email [jclangford@btinternet.com](mailto:jclangford@btinternet.com).