

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 6th APRIL: **Memory Cafe** from 10am to 12 noon in the foyer of Westbury Grange on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information please contact Westbury Grange on 01908 210332.

SATURDAY, 9th APRIL at 7pm: Quiz night at Brooklands

TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2016 at 7.30pm: Council Election Hustings at Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley

THURSDAY 14th APRIL 2016 at 7.30pm: Council Election Hustings at Christ Church Stantonbury

SATURDAY, 16th APRIL, 8.30 to 10.30 am: Ladies' Breakfast at Frosts

SATURDAY, 14 MAY: Christian Aid Coffee morning at URC and collection on High Street

SUNDAY, 15th MAY, 6pm: United Service to mark start of Christian Aid Week

FRIDAY, 27th MAY, 7.30pm in the URC: U3A Spring Concert

SUNDAY, 12th JUNE, 12.30pm: Royal picnic at URC followed by games on Bury Field

THURSDAY, 23rd JUNE, 7.45pm: CTNP Forum and AGM at Methodist Church

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

Tel. 01908 612475

Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com

Tel. 01908 615729

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS

April 2016

See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of spring has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

[Song of Solomon 2: 11-12]

PROCEEDS FROM LENT LUNCHESES 2016



I am happy to announce the fantastic total profit to Christian Aid this year is

£2277.85

Many thanks to those who contributed homemade soup and to all who gave their time during the last 6 weeks 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

Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay

Preferably by e-mail to beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk 01908 612475

Copy Deadline - 20th of each month

What would you do?

Suppose you had a disagreement with someone. Would you handle the situation differently depending whether that other person was your boss, your colleague, an acquaintance, a close friend, or a family member? Stop for a moment to think carefully about this. What if the disagreement rested on something you knew to be true, but which the other person wanted to see differently, or even worse, wanted you to act differently, to deny the truthful case?



© BY-NC-

What would you do?

Is this an unusual situation to be in? We can choose how much we make the other person feel good, or how much we might avoid trouble by minimising 'troublesome details' or avoiding the truth. It's the same when a politician uses 'plausible denial'. So where are you, in your day-to-day dealings, on the slippery slope between the whole truth, and a complete pack of lies?

Where did Jesus stand? What did Jesus do?

In his exchanges with both the population at large, and the religious authorities of his day, Jesus always stuck to the whole truth. He told it how he knew it was, but with immense love, compassion and gentleness. There is, of course, a price for doing this, and we seem to understand this, by the way we try to dilute the pain we might otherwise feel by sticking too much to the truth.

If the truth is too threatening for the other party, and the other party is too powerful, we could be in real trouble—damage or lose a relationship, lose our job, or in a severe situation, lose our life. For us there is a risk calculation.

When Jesus met Pilate and faced this, there was no question, and he paid for it with his life, in the crucifixion.



©Veneratio licensed

It's a hard act to follow, but we have help in the living presence of the Risen Lord, Jesus The Christ. This is why Easter is so important!

prepared by Churches Together in Newport Pagnell

www.ctnp.org.uk

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON
SUNDAY 12TH JUNE AT 12.30PM?

*You are invited to the Churches'
Together in Newport Pagnell*

Royal 
PICNIC!

A sit down picnic lunch at the URC.
(Outside if dry...)

EVERYONE WELCOME.

Followed by games on Bury Fields. Come and join in our 'Happy Birthday to the Queen' celebrations!!

For more information ask at one of the churches or go to
www.together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/np/

FUN AND GAMES!

Now that Spring is here, don't forget that CTNP giant games can be borrowed by churches for their events free of charge.
(Giant snakes and ladders, Connect 4, Jenga)

Church members can also borrow the games for a small donation to CTNP.
Please contact Linda or Geoff Morris 01908 617050.



Ladies' Breakfast

We meet at Frosts Garden Centre – Woburn Sands
16th April 2016
8.30 am to 10.30 am

Our Speaker will be
Sister Josephine Walsh

Come and join us at Frosts, bring your friends. You can be sure of a good cooked breakfast (no washing up!) Wonderful fellowship and a good chat.

Tickets £5.75 available from Mai 07928288075
Email: jclangford@btinternet.com

Next meeting will be 21st May 2016 when
'Mercy Ships' will be sharing about the work they do.

U3A Spring Concert Celebrations

Come and enjoy a concert given by the U3A Choir on Friday, 27th May 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church, Newport Pagnell
Soloist Ralph Mazzone
Tickets available from: 07762178379 or Jennifer Mazzone (01908 613088) at £7 each to include refreshments.
All proceeds for Air Ambulance and URC Mead Centre Fund



HOLIDAY CLUB: 15-18 AUGUST 2016 CAN YOU HELP?

This is a four-day fun filled holiday club, for around 150 infant and junior school-aged children. We have a great time with people from all the churches and can share lunch daily. It is a highlight event for church children and reaches many others who never go to church. This year's theme, *Guardians of Ancora*, features great Bible stories within a fun-filled program. Check out the Scripture Union Holiday Club website.

Teams: Whatever your skills there's a role for you. If this is all new to you don't worry, we want to help and 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.

What is helping like? The site is open from 8am so you can be as early as you like to set up each day. Children will be divided by age groups into groups of roughly 10. Each group will have a leader and helpers. Children will enjoy craft, teaching, refreshments in the groups. 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 the children, the team have a lot of fun. It's great to work together. At the end of the week you will have made new friends. There is a crèche to facilitate helpers with young children.

Diary dates:

15th -18th August: Holiday Club runs from 10am-12.30pm (with a clear up on the morning of Friday 19th).

Sunday July 3rd: Training meeting, 7-9pm at Lovat Hall. Here we bring you up to speed and you can meet your team, tour the venues and review our materials. We plan to create an amazing magical space in the hall with a library/museum feel to enchant the children with. Set up is **Sunday 14th August** 6-9pm.

To volunteer: fill in a recruitment form available from your church or from Lovat Hall (01908 618818 jack.walker@talk21.com).

Everyone: PRAYER PLEASE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!

QUIZ NIGHT AT BROOKLANDS
Saturday, 9th April at 7pm

Gather a team together and sharpen your wits on Bill Watson's latest quiz. Enjoy a convivial evening and make a donation to Christian Aid's 'Food for Change' project in Burkina Faso to help poor families trying to eke out a living on the edge of the Sahara Desert.



Christian Aid week will be **15th to 21st May** and we are always looking for more door-to-door collectors to enable us to cover as many streets in the town as possible during that week. On **Saturday, 14th May** there will be a coffee morning at the URC and a Christian Aid collection on the High Street.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love into action.

If you are willing to help, or would like more information, please speak to Pat Parker, telephone 01908 610837.

To mark the start of Christian Aid week, and to commission the collectors, there will be a united service on **Sunday, 15th May at 6pm** in the United Reformed Church. The service will be led by Revd Jenny Mills. Everyone welcome!

MK Mission Partnership - coMPass courses

Details of coMPass courses for the Summer Term are now available. This term we are offering something a bit different: we have two one-day events, plus two short courses.

- **The Bible at the Museum** – Saturday 7th May at The British Museum, London
- **Hymns: Do the words matter? Exploring faith through the words we sing** – Wednesday 18th and Wednesday 25th May at All Saints, Milton Keynes Village (daytime)
- **Joy and forgiveness, mercy and love: Reflecting on our lives as Christians** - Saturday 4th June at St Michael's Priory, Willen
- **Art and Spirituality** - Thursday 9th and Thursday 16th June, venue tba (evening)

All these courses are FREE!

Do take a look at the leaflet on our website www.missionpartnership.org.uk/compass/ and share this information within your churches.

Council Elections Hustings

Following the success of the two 'hustings' meetings held before the General Election last year, Mission Partnership has organised two similar meetings ahead of the Milton Keynes Council Elections on 5 May. The meetings will be held as follows:

- Tuesday 12 April 2016 at 7.30pm at Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley
- Thursday 14 April 2016 at 7.30pm at Christ Church Stantonbury

Representatives of the major political parties contesting the elections have been invited to attend. If you want to submit questions in advance for either of these meetings, please forward them to John Moffoot (moffoot285@btinternet.com) by Friday 8 April.