

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY, 2nd JULY, 6pm: Beetle Drive at the URC

SUNDAY, 3rd JULY, 7-9.30pm: Holiday Club training session at Lovat Hall

WEDNESDAY, 6th JULY: 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.

FRIDAY, 8th JULY: Celebration of Hymns at the Methodist Church

SATURDAY, 9th JULY, 2-4pm: Emergency Help Scheme Garden Party/AGM at 120 Wolverton Road

FRIDAY, 15th JULY, 7pm-midnight: Summer Extravaganza for the Mead Centre at Christ the Cornerstone

SUNDAY, 24th JULY, 2-5pm: Mother's Union Garden Party at 120 Wolverton Road

MONDAY, 25th JULY, 7.15pm: 'Exploring Healing' at St Luke's

MONDAY, 15th to THURSDAY 18th AUGUST, 10am to 12.30pm: CTNP Holiday Club

For up-to-date information on events and activities check our website regularly at

www.ctnp.org.uk

CTNP President: Vacancy

Secretary: Chris Row, chris.row@which.net Tel. 01908 611542

Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com Tel. 01908 615729

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS

July 2016

Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Mark 4: v39 (NIV)

LETTER FROM A MINISTER



I'm a child of the sixties who was brought up by the seaside in Southport on the North West coast. So for me thoughts of holidays inevitably lead to humming 'We're all going on a summer holiday' as I plan a getaway to the beach. Just the thought of wide seascapes, sea air, sand between my toes and ice cream cones can get me into a holiday mood as I reach for my suitcase.

As a probationer Methodist minister I entered the stationing system knowing that the Church would send me to the place where it judged I was needed so there was no advert to answer or interview panel to meet. I was sent and the churches I serve welcomed me because that's the Methodist way. When I heard I was coming to Milton Keynes it was like being given a blank canvas as I had no knowledge of this part of the country. But one thing I did know was that it's a contender for being the farthest place in England from the seaside!

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Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay

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

Copy Deadline - 20th of each month

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But the sea has many faces. It can offer adventure and opportunity or danger and tragedy. For some of us, it means relaxation and fun while for others it is the source of a hard-won livelihood. An inflatable dinghy may provide an afternoon's light hearted entertainment or be the desperate means of escape in search of safety and a new life. Every day we read of people rescued from unseaworthy boats or the tragedy of the lost lives of those who have drowned. Ordinary men and women fleeing from war who are more terrified of the threat war poses to their children than the uncertainties and danger of taking to fragile boats at night to cross the open sea.

In biblical times the sea was the home of monsters and the symbol of chaos and unpredictability. People were terrified by its dangers and sailors were wary of going out of sight of the land. When ancient people wanted to describe what it was like when God started to create they talked of things being without form like the chaos of sea waters. Out of the chaos God brings form, out of nothing something, out of darkness light. For the disciples Jesus' authority over the wind and the waves was a sign of his divinity for only God could command the sea and take charge of the deep. Today Christians recognise Jesus as the still centre at the heart of the storms of life, a sign of God's ultimate grace in a changing and uncertain world. We all need a place of safety when the storms blow and the waves crash down on our lives and we fear we will sink under the weight of our anxieties. At such times God comes alongside us and just as Jesus calmed the storm so he offers us peace and the comfort of his presence. If you want to find out more about the Christian faith then do visit our website at www.ctnp.org.uk.

In the meantime, I hope this holiday season will be a time of refreshment for you and a time of re-creation whether you are 'beside the seaside' in this country or you go further afield in search of sunshine.

With blessings

*Revd Nicola Martyn-Beck
Newport Pagnell Methodist Church*

FUN, GAMES and TEA PARTIES!

Now that Summer 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.



Emergency Help Scheme GARDEN PARTY with Cream Teas

9th July 2 – 4 pm



Adults: £3, Children: £1.50 (includes refreshments)

120 Wolverton Rd (In St Luke's Church if wet)

ALL WELCOME

(EHS Drivers – Please bring your ticket with you)

MORE CREAM TEAS!

Come and enjoy yet another delicious cream tea and good company, also at 120 Wolverton Road (in the garden of Ralph and Jennifer Mazzone), on **Sunday, 24th July from 2-5pm**. There will be a raffle. **Everyone is welcome!**

Proceeds are for Keech Hospice and Mother's Union projects.
(If wet, it will be held in St Luke's church nearby.)

HEALING PERSPECTIVES WITH REV NICK EVANS AT ST LUKE'S

So far three meetings have been held at St Luke's for those interested in finding out more about healing. These meetings were well attended and included members from various churches. All are welcome.

The next meeting is on **Monday, 25th July, 7.15pm at St Luke's.**

We will spend some time on practical and will also include worship, bible study and other healing perspectives. For more information, see '**What about healing?**' on the CTNP website at www.ctnp.org.uk.

coMPass courses Autumn 2016

Details of our coMPass courses for the Autumn Term are now available. This term we are offering 4 courses:

- **Getting to Grips with Paul** – *Tuesday evenings at Christ the Vine, Coffee Hall*
- **Mission Shaped Intro** – *This course will be run twice, once before the October half term holiday – Wednesday evenings at Christ Church, Stantonbury (Sept – Oct) – and again after – Monday evenings at Holy Cross, Two Mile Ash (end Oct – Dec)*
- **Feminist Perspectives on Theology: Looking at our faith through a different lens** – *Thursday evenings at Christ the Cornerstone, Central MK*

More information can be found in the coMPass leaflet on our website - www.missionpartnership.org.uk/compass/. Bursaries are available on application – money has been set aside for this, so do ask.



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 and we need an army of volunteers to ensure the children have a great time. 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. Set up is **Sunday 14th August** 6-9pm.

To volunteer: fill in a recruitment form available from www.ctnp.org.uk or from Paul Tolley (Methodist), Hazel Reynolds (Parish), or from church leaders or the office at Lovat Hall (01908 618818 jack.walker@talk21.com).

Everyone: PRAYER PLEASE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!

BEETLE DRIVE

Newport Pagnell URC

Saturday, 2nd July at 6pm

£3 entry on door and £1 for children

Refreshments at half time!

Come along and have fun and raise awareness and funds for the Mead Centre.

All ages welcome – all you need to be able to do is draw a beetle!

For more information email revjmill@binternet.com or call 07703485017.

NEWPORT PAGNELL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Fundraising for a new building which will be called 'The Mead Centre'

Our current Church Hall, built in 1926, requires extensive repair and refurbishment. Estimates for this work were only a little less than the cost of demolition and replacement with a new purpose-built facility for all to use and enjoy, and planning permission has been granted. So now we are working towards making our vision of a flexible community space become a reality. Can YOU help us raise funds for

A community space for the town for the 21st century??

Our next BIG fundraiser is the Mead Centre Summer Extravaganza – fundraising event will take place on **July 15th from 7pm – midnight**, at Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes.

Great fun for all ages. The first 2 hours there will be funfair stalls, Disney style music and BBQ food. Then we dance the night away after that.

Come along. Invite your friends. Tickets available from Alison on 07949268650 and 01908 661251 or from Cambourne Travel in Newport Pagnell.

FRESH FROM THE FORUM

Having exercised our democratic right at the polling booth, twenty five of us gathered together on the evening of Thursday, 23rd June at the Methodist Church for the CTNP Forum and AGM.

It was my last meeting as Secretary after eight years in the post and I'm delighted to say that Chris Row has been unanimously elected to replace me as CTNP Secretary. Chris has been involved in CTNP for many years, including holding the post of President a few years ago, and I know he will do an excellent job. The post of President remains vacant but Paul Tolley has agreed to continue as Treasurer for another year. Thank you, Paul!

Discussion covered the 2016 Lent groups where the consensus was that we should consider a similar format for 2017; and Good Friday/Easter activities where it was agreed that we should continue with our traditional Good Friday walk of witness and service but consider putting on a passion play or something similar - perhaps on the Saturday as a more mission-focussed activity. It was agreed that the 'Love Won' biscuit distribution on Easter Saturday was a great success and well worth repeating.

Jack Walker pointed out that volunteers are still needed for the Holiday Club (see more detailed article elsewhere in this leaflet), and Steve Greenfield told us about the CTNP open top bus for the carnival parade and asked for volunteers to take part in the parade and also to help man the stall in the gazebo on the field.

Nick Evans told us a bit about the 'Exploring Healing' events being held at St Luke's (next one on 25th July) and that interest in and engagement with the topic has been very encouraging. Nick reflected on the fact that there are many ways in which people are drawn towards God and an experience of healing can be one of them. The power of testimony should not be underrated and Nick encouraged us to 'tell our stories' on the website (www.ctnp.org.uk) so that they might be a witness to others.

The evening ended with refreshments, fellowship and short, informative and entertaining talks from Jack Walker and Nicola Martyn-Beck about the Baptist and Methodist denominations respectively. All in all, an informative and entertaining evening. The date set for the next Forum is 22 June 2017 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church. Please note in diaries now!

Beth MacKay