



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

THERE WAS NO ROOM

U3A

Christmas Concert

Come and enjoy a Christmas Concert given by the U3A Choir on:

Friday, 15th December at 7.30pm

in the Lovat Hall,

Newport Pagnell .

Tickets available on 07762178379, from members of the Choir or Jennifer Mazzone (01908613088) at £7 each to include seasonal refreshments. There will also be a raffle.

Proceeds are to be divided between the Tip Children in Cambodia and St. Francis Children's Society

We look forward to seeing you.

CTNP President: Vacancy

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CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



Connections

December 2017

Churches **TOGETHER** in Newport Pagnell



*The world needs
a stable influence*



★ **Newport Pagnell
on the High Street**

Saturday 16th December

Family Nativity Event

10.30am - 11.30am

(followed by carol singing to 11.45am
and refreshments)

★ **In the churches**

During December to Christmas Day—services include:

- Carol services
- Christingle
- Crib services
- Holy Communion

Christmas starts with Christ

Find details at
www.ctnp.org.uk

Churches Together in Newport Pagnell



Wishing all Connections readers a truly Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year from your Editor

Articles to the Editor, Robert Hayward
rghayward@btinternet.com

Copy Deadline 20th of each Month

Notices for activities at least a month before they will happen

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

www.ctnp.org.uk



Christmas Letter from a Minister. December 2017. CTNP.

One Christmas I cried because the potatoes didn't brown properly in the oven and I thought I had ruined the whole day. I appreciate now that this is not a rational response! I don't know about you, but when I start thinking about Christmas it seems such a long way off and suddenly... bam...I find myself in December and the mad rush of presents and food and cards and activities and parties begins and I feel overwhelmed and underprepared! (I know I do not speak for you all- haven't we all got that 1 friend who has it all wrapped and sorted by 1st September and spends the next 3 months gloating...?!)

For those of us who find ourselves under pressure, I would recommend going back to the story in order to get some perspective (for it is a story, filled with truths, but a story we have put together with bits of text we find in the Bible and made a whole).

Go back to the story and take time to think- how does what we hear about a tiny baby have to do with today? It can seem, within the rush of the season, that there is a disconnect with what we see and hear all around us and the story that this celebration stems from, but there really isn't. Into a difficult world a baby was born, surrounded by love in various forms (parents, shepherds, wise men) and facing all sorts of difficulties, including having to flee to safety. Stuff we still see going on around the world today.

When the pressures of Christmas threaten to reduce you to tears or the difficulties of family life are too much to bear, stop and listen again to the message of love: when a tiny baby came to show the world that we could live together in peace, that love is stronger than anything else, and that we are loved- perfect roasties or not!

Jenny Mills

Minister of Newport Pagnell United Reformed Church
and West End United Church, Wolverton



December Events

**Saturday December 2nd at 19.30 MK
ACAPELLA Concert in the URC.**

**Tickets £10 from Cambourne Travel, or Alison
Shaw Tel: 07949268650**

Thursday December 14th at 19.45 ANDANTE Concert in the URC.

Tickets £10 from Cambourne Travel, or Angela Tearle Tel: 07523885669

Saturday December 16th at 15.00 CHILDREN'S Concert in the URC

Tickets £5 for adults, children £1, on the door.

All these Concerts are fundraising events for the Mead Centre.

Newport Pagnell Methodist Church



***Teapot &
Sing***

Next meeting

Monday 11th December 2017

2.00 to 3.00pm

*Come and join us to sing a few well known favourite
hymns whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee*

A Dementia friendly time where everyone can relax

Calling all CTNP Churches
Free Giant games for your Event

Giant games are available from :

Linda and Geoff Morris,
 Telephone : 01908 617050.



Snakes and Ladders,



Connect 4



Jenga

- ◆ Free for church events.
- ◆ A small donation is requested please for a private event.

Early Notice - New Year's Day Services

Parish Church	10.00 "I am the bread of life"	John 6: 25-51
Methodist Church	10.20 "I am the light"	John 8: 12-30
URC	10.35 "I am the good shepherd"	John 10: 10-21
Baptist Church	10.55 "I am the resurrection"	John 11: 1-27
St Bedes	11.15 "I am the way"	John 14: 1-14
St Lukes	11.55 "I am the true vine"	John 15: 1-8, followed by refreshments.



CHRISTMAS
TREE FESTIVAL

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church,
Newport Pagnell



Friday 15 Dec 10am-4pm

Saturday 16 Dec 10am-4pm

Sunday 17 Dec 2-4pm

Come and marvel at a Christmas tree extravaganza; a host of different trees designed and decorated by children's groups, schools, organisations and businesses in Newport Pagnell.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



Are you willing to respond to the challenge?

Christmas is not just about the birthday story of baby Jesus in a stable with shepherds and angels. Think about the adult Jesus too.

It is a good time to remind ourselves about why Jesus was, and still is, so radical. It is because of what he said and did in his life and because he said of himself, "I am the way the truth and the life". Jesus was the embodiment of God in this world. His call was a radical call to a transformed way of life, to live by radical ideals. He showed us all how God wants us to live.

Jesus did not teach with fine speeches and grand theories, but by example and stories. He showed how to relate to other people with different backgrounds and attitudes, including severe critics and those who condemned and persecuted him. He refused to respond negatively. For us to adopt similar ideals can be an enormous challenge. If we want to follow Jesus it must be a work in progress. He showed us what God's unconditional and abundant love can look like in this world.

Jesus' response to questions such as *'Who is my neighbour?'* was to look around at the nearest person who needed help, irrespective of prejudice and judgement. His teaching was not about cultural norms and habits, but about what needs to be done for the benefit of another. Other examples include, *'love your enemies'*, *'go the extra mile'*, and *'forgive your enemies'*. The magnitude of the challenge is now clear. As in the time of Jesus, so today, it seems too radical to be achievable in an ordinary life of struggle and compromise. It is not so much about 'doing good', as about our relationships with the people we encounter. Those we struggle to live and work with; those we dislike or who are actively antagonistic to us.

And this is the reminder of Christmas, the radical challenge of Jesus: in adopting Jesus' example and ideals, whatever our current circumstances, we make a difference by how we treat those we meet in our daily lives. We can try to do it alone, or we can do it in close communication with a loving God, through prayer and listening to the still small voice within.

Will you respond to the challenge of Jesus' example and give it a try?



www.ctnp.org.uk



FAMILY NATIVITY EVENT

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER

On Newport Pagnell High Street from 10.30am – 11.45am

At Christmas, baby Jesus was born, but who else was there as well? If you search along Newport Pagnell High Street you will find the other folk around in Bethlehem at the time. They'll stamp the trail map you can pick up at your first stop. Make your way to the stable where Mary & Joseph will be waiting - there will be refreshments and concluding carols 11.30am -11.45am.



CHRISTINGLE

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER, PARISH CHURCH, NEWPORT PAGNELL at 4.00pm

Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the service. In Newport Pagnell Parish Church, everyone assembles their own Christingle using an orange, red ribbon, sweets and a candle; all provided. Each piece of the Christingle holds special symbolism to help children understand the importance of Jesus; the lit candle represents Jesus as the light of the world.

Because Christingle was specifically created with children in mind, the celebrations are the perfect event to take children along to, and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. As families stand in a circle, with the Christingle candles all lit, it is a time of wonder and awe and a lovely way to begin your Christmas.