

## CTNP (Churches Together in Newport Pagnell)

### Communications Group

Has a vacancy—would you be interested?

To see what CTNP is about, have a look at his *Connections* newsletter or the website [www.ctnp.org.uk](http://www.ctnp.org.uk) . Basically through CTNP all the different churches of Newport Pagnell join together to arrange a few events each year to witness and celebrate our shared faith in the Lord Jesus.

The Comms Group meets on an occasional basis for the purpose of publicising all aspects of CTNP.

If you are interested, please e-mail :

[nevillefromnp@gmail.com](mailto:nevillefromnp@gmail.com)

with your contact details.



**CTNP President:** Vacancy

**Secretary:** Chris Row, [chris.row@which.net](mailto:chris.row@which.net) Tel. 01908 611542

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

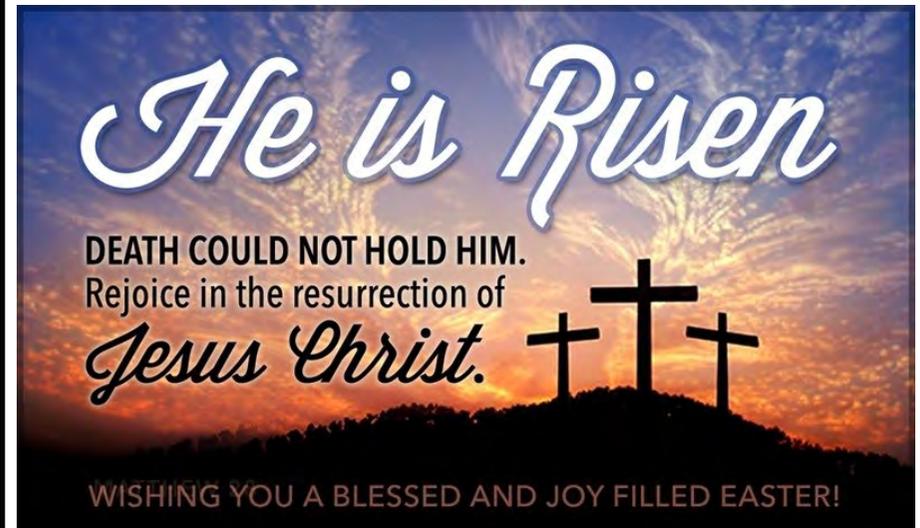
**CTNP website:** - [www.ctnp.org.uk](http://www.ctnp.org.uk)



## Connections

April 2018

Churches **TOGETHER** in Newport Pagnell



The great theologian Charles Spurgeon once said, "... the singing of the pilgrims ... is the most delightful part of worship and that which comes nearest to the adoration of heaven." I couldn't agree more, especially at Easter when we, as Christians, come together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Please enjoy worshipping at the many services at the churches in Newport Pagnell this Easter - God Bless Editor

Articles to the Editor, Robert Hayward  
[rghayward@btinternet.com](mailto:rghayward@btinternet.com)

Copy Deadline 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ctnp.org.uk)**

### Editors Item

My fondest Easter memories are centred around singing together as a church congregation. I can remember the church being filled with Spring flowers and the girls decked out in pastel-coloured Easter dresses some also wearing their Easter Bonnets. But more than anything, I recall everyone's voice being raised to God in worship, praising Him for sending His Son to die for our sins. Including my own.

Here are some quotes I love by famous Christian folk:

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can .  
*John Wesley*

True conversion means turning not only from sin but also from depending on self-made righteousness. Those who trust in their own righteousness for conversion hide behind their own good works. This is the reason that self-righteous people are so angry with gospel preachers, because the gospel does not spare those who will not submit to the righteousness of Jesus Christ! *George Whitfield*

You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.  
*John Bunyan*

When we believe that God hears us, it is but natural that we should be eager to hear Him. Only from Him can come the word which can speak peace to troubled spirits; the voices of men are feeble in such a case, a plaster far too narrow for the sore; but God's voice is power, He speaks and it is done, and hence when we hear Him our distress is ended.  
*Charles Spurgeon*

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace! *Charles Wesley*

God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'  
*Billy Graham*

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf of springtime  
*Martin Luther*

Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection  
*Watchman Nee*

## New CTE General Secretary appointed

The Revd Dr Paul Goodliff has been appointed as the new General Secretary of Churches Together in England.

Speaking of his appointment, Paul says, 'At a time of renewed commitment to the ecumenical process, with a more missional focus to the work as Churches Together in England, I am looking forward immensely to participating in this new chapter of the ecumenical life in England. It is a privilege to be able to offer some leadership to this process, as together CTE serves the churches of this land. I hope to prayerfully encourage the whole church of Jesus Christ to 'move in the Spirit as we are called to transformative discipleship', to echo the theme of the very recent WCC Commission for World Mission and Evangelism Conference held in Arusha, Tanzania, and which I attended as a delegate.' As the ecumenical movement in England embraces the mission of God to make Christ known in word and deed, I am certain we discover more of what that that transformative discipleship means together than when we do so alone, always trusting in the gracious enabling of the Holy Spirit'.



Dr Goodliff will take up his appointment in September. This follows the retirement of the present General Secretary, the Revd Dr David Cornick, who says, 'It is very good news indeed that the leadership of CTE will be in such capable hands as the churches of England build on their excellent relationships and reflect on ways in which they can collaborate in mission together.'

Paul is presently co-minister of Abingdon Baptist Church, having served previously as General Superintendent of the Baptist Union's Central Area, and then as the Baptist Union's Head of Ministry.

### Easter Good News

There were only a few years of public teaching and healing before Jesus faced the challenges and trials in Jerusalem which led to his death in the crucifixion. The events remembered at Easter.



Those years of public life were a working example of how to behave and relate to people whilst keeping in harmony and communication with a loving God. How it could be done in this world, in the here and now, despite the troubles and obstacles of day-to-day life. Jesus never said a wave of a magic wand would instantly fix everything in this life; although Jesus did promise that the way was to follow his way his example. And Jesus never ceased healing people; to help each one along their individual live path. But he didn't fix their whole lives.

Each person has to bring God's influence into this world themselves, with God's help; listening to the still small voice within. Rather than ask why Jesus went through the Easter confrontations (for which mountains of theology have been written), look at how he approached them; Jesus' behaviour and responses as examples of how to approach conditions of extreme injustice. Jesus faced the confrontations directly, but also accepted the consequences calmly, and without resistance and violence.

Throughout the events of the Easter story Jesus remained true to his convictions, but also stayed calm and composed, no sign of anger when falsely accused, and under the extreme physical pain of his treatment. His response was not about anger, violence, retaliation or revenge. Although our difficulties may not be as great as these, we can try the same approach.

The good news is that the loving God is always near each one of us; but there is still work for each of us to do; we each have to choose to be open to hear and be aware of that support and guidance; and even more, we then have to act on that communication in whatever big or small way applies in our day-to-day lives.

Take courage and hope from whichever of Jesus' examples most speaks to a specific current situation; and with God's help look for the way forward; it is a work in progress, not an instant fix., but certainly worth a try!

*Newport Pagnell Methodist Church*

# *Teapot & Sing*



*Monday 9th April 2018*

*1.30 to 2.30pm*

*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*



## Christian Aid Week 13<sup>th</sup> – 19 May.

When the earthquake hit Haiti in 2010 Vilia's home was destroyed and she and her children had nowhere safe to stay. Christian Aid's partner KORAL helped by building a new home for them, safe and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters. This house has also been a safe haven for dozens of people when they needed it most. When hurricane Matthew hit, Vilia's house was the only one in the area sturdy enough to cope with the storm, and her neighbours fled to her house. She shared food and a safe shelter to sleep in for several days. Many other homes in the area were totally destroyed.

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world, making it much harder for people to cope with the relentless natural disasters. Seven years on from the devastating earthquake an estimated 38,000 people are still displaced. Christian Aid will not forget or ignore these people and are fighting for justice for Vilia's neighbours and the many displaced people around the world.

### Christian Aid week in Newport Pagnell.

We will be holding house to house collections, but need a great many more people to help with this as there have previously been many streets in the town we have been unable to cover. Even if you can only manage a small area it would be helpful, or perhaps you could get together with a friend to collect – it's always easier collecting with someone else.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May there will be a bucket collection in the High Street, and also that day a coffee morning and cake stall at the United Reformed Church.

A united service will be held at the URC at 6pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Any help you can give with any of these events will be very much appreciated.

Please speak to Pat Parker telephone 01908 610837  
or your own church representative



## Walk of Witness

The Good Friday

30<sup>th</sup> March

**Walk of Witness will start at 12 noon outside Boots, and we shall walk up to the Parish Church for a short Service.**

After the Service volunteers will be required to prepare bags for the distribution of biscuits and tree decorations on Easter Saturday



## Correction to March Advert

**The Newport Pagnell Emergency Help Scheme gives support to local (usually elderly) residents who need assistance with transport, primarily to local clinical appointments.**

The contact is now John Gordon our apologies to Nita Tolley  
John can be contacted on 01908 612060.