



Connections

March 2019

Churches **TOGETHER** in Newport Pagnell



The Last Supper of Leonardo da Vinci (Cenacolo Vinciano) is one of the most famous paintings in the world painted between 1494 and 1498 .



Full details of the 2019 House to House Collection is contained within the pull-out centre section which enables you to keep as a helpful guide..

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



Minister's Letter

Brexit and Other Stuff

This month will see the Brexit debate really heating up as the ominous date of 29th March looms up when some sort of decision about the UK's future will have to be made. Now whatever your views are about the politics of it all, and whoever you vote for, I have to say that the Prime Minister could probably do with a good holiday from the steamy and sometimes hot tempered debates in the House of Commons. Perhaps the PM has been handed the almost impossible job of trying to hammer out some sort of Brexit agreement that can satisfy so many divergent views upon the issue – even within each political party.

It reminds me of childhood days when people of different religious denominations rarely worshipped together and treated each other with suspicion like they did in the days of Henry VIII. Even these days there are still those who don't discuss religion or politics just in case a nasty atmosphere develops as others' prejudices clash with our own. However, if we do not calmly and openly discuss these things then we never learn from each other or inch forward as individuals or as a nation. Discussion and debate are how we learn about each other and God. Keeping religion and politics off our discussion and sharing agendas only serves to keep us in a sort of religious and political stone age and binds us only to our own very particular prejudices and view of the world.

Many churches in MK have for years blazed an exciting trail to follow by worshipping and sharing together our involvement in the community. For example, in Newport Pagnell the Christian leaders from the C of E, Methodist, URC, Roman Catholic and Baptist churches meet and pray together every Tuesday morning. We plan joint services and community events together and share the church buildings building that we use for these events. Other groups of local churches practise a similar pattern across the UK.

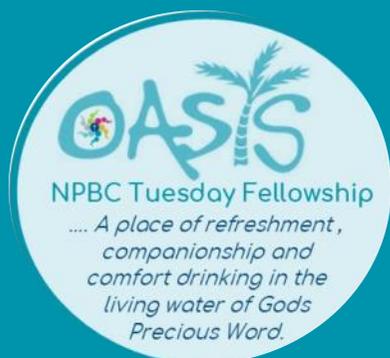
This is a long way from the world I knew as a kid when very little was done together by the different churches.

Of course, we all have our differences about the way we do things, but we have learnt from each other over the years and gained some great ideas to initiate in our own particular churches. Recently there was a joint service held at the Baptist church in Newport Pagnell and the congregations from the other churches in town went there for morning worship. Imagine all of the above denominations all in one place worshipping together?!

Indeed, the atmosphere was terrific. The theme of the service was Christian healing and many people, there and then, requested prayers for healing for all sorts of emotional and physical ailments. Members of the different churches prayed for the sick since what mattered was not the church label but the fact that those involved in the healing ministry were believers in the power of God to transform our lives.

So, the message for lent is to unite around what we all do well together and to learn from those we are more unfamiliar with about new ways of doing things – and accept that sometimes, as individuals and churches – and in our politics - we are not right about everything all of the time. This is the real spirituality behind lent which stretches us into exciting realms that are just waiting to be discovered.

Rev Nick Evans
Rector
Newport Pagnell C of E Benefice



Tuesday 10.00 in NPBC Chapel

A great place to meet for Coffee/ Tea and fellowship. Meeting together to share and learn together from the Bible also supporting each other through chatting and praying together..

**Chaplain Vacancy to serve
MHA at Westbury Grange
Newport Pagnell**

Job Title: Chaplain

Reports to: Home Manager/Scheme Manager and Director of Chaplaincy & Spirituality and Regional Chaplain

Line Management of: No other staff

Responsible for: No other staff

Purpose of Position

To be a focus for the spiritual life of the Home and Scheme, ensuring that the spiritual needs of service users and staff are addressed, and to ensure that relationships are developed and maintained between MHA and the local churches and other faith communities.

The post-holder will be part of the staff team and responsible to the local Managers, but will also work under the auspices of the Chaplaincy and Spirituality Department.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. To be responsible for developing and sustaining the spiritual and worship life within the home/scheme.
2. To be the first point of call for staff regarding pastoral support of residents and other service users
3. To work alongside other members of staff in providing spiritual care and support within the home/scheme

4. To make visits to hospitals and other homes when required.
5. To liaise with local Christian communities and other religious leaders to ensure that relevant religious services are provided.
6. To act as an advocate for MHA within the local faith communities.
7. To attend and participate in staff meetings and residents/relatives meetings as appropriate.
8. To be aware of and adhere to the organisation's policies contained in the Employment Policies and Procedures Manual.
9. To attend and participate in regular formal one to one meetings and appraisal sessions.
10. There will be a requirement to travel to Regional Offices or other locations for the purpose of meetings or training relevant to your job.
11. It is a condition of employment that this post is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure.

This is not a complete description of the duties and responsibilities of the post, and the post holder is expected to carry out other reasonable duties as required by the Home Manager/Scheme Manager and/or the Director of Chaplaincy & Spirituality

All the information regarding the post is available at
www.mha.org.uk



Or Contact Sue Coleman

**Regional Chaplaincy Advisor
South Regional**

**47 Parkstone Road, Poole, Dorset,
BH15 2NX**

Tel: 07484 534126

E-mail: Sue.Coleman@mha.org.uk



2019

Come to the Lent Lunches every Friday from:

March 8th to April 12th

In the United Reformed Church Hall, Newport Pagnell from 12.00 to 1.15. Enjoy delicious home made soup, a variety of bread, rolls and cheeses. £4.00.

All profits go to Christian Aid.

For information please contact:

Jennifer Mazzone

On : 01908 613088





Christian Aid Appeal 2019. DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE TO MATERNAL HEALTH IN SIERRA LEONE?

Pat Parker and I met together to discuss this year's Christian Aid Week and the House To House Envelope Collections. We feel strongly that the envelope collection can still raise a good amount of money (£2049 in 2018). Christian Aid themselves admit that each year realises a diminishing return, but it is the only national charity with a significant annual house to house collection and it raises much needed funds. Even they admit that it is an alien concept to the younger generations, but that when Christians do the collecting and bear witness to their faith in their local community by inviting others to be a part of making a positive difference in the world, it is powerful. We are aware that, locally, there are people who think it should be stopped. The issue we have is that there are no viable alternatives that we can do locally in Christian Aid Week that can raise that sort of money. Therefore, we are going ahead with the house to house collection in 2019 to support a charity that works with local organisations to change lives. We need more collectors (or those who have collected in previous years) to offer their help. It involves delivering the envelopes and then going back to collect them in the week (12th-18th May). This can be done alone, in pairs, as a group. (One alternative suggestion this year is you deliver the envelope and put a drop off point in a note with it, so people bring them to you.)

We KNOW the money raised makes a massive difference and this year the focus is on helping the world's poorest mums to give birth safely. EVERY penny makes changes lives. For more information go to <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week>

PLEASE consider offering your help. Contact Pat Parker on:
contactpatparker@gmail.com or call her on 01908 610837.

And if you can help us by being a Coordinator (contact collectors, drop off envelopes, get them brought back to you after collection, count and bank the money- you DON'T have to be a house to house collector) then she would LOVE to hear from you as we are one short this year.

Meanwhile here is a piece reflecting on the reality of doing the collecting, that I wrote. And some responses we commonly get and how to deal with them. I encourage you to consider this for 2019 and am happy to talk to anyone who has questions or concerns.

Blessings, **Jenny Mills. 07703485017.**

Christian Aid Envelope collector dilemmas and retorts! By Jenny Mills

Every year before I start.

OK, here it is again, that day when I have to knock on the doors and ask for the envelopes back. I don't know about you but it really takes me out of my comfort zone! I post the envelopes on the Sunday, quite easy and I start to think back

and the overwhelming feeling is dread. And I build it up in my head and it gets bigger and bigger!! It's going to be awful, no one will answer the door or those that will, won't give they'll just say they had no envelope and shut the door....Oh I wish I hadn't volunteered. But hang on, what actually happened last year? Can you vaguely remember? It wasn't as bad as you expected was it? Most were polite and those that refused did so kindly. It was only that one house with the two 4x4's and the boat and caravan that were rude telling you they had no spare cash for anyone- they needed all they had to keep themselves afloat....! Right, so it wasn't that bad, was it? And just remember that video you saw last year...remember? The one where the small child, aged about 4 or 5 was piling bricks to dry in the hot desert sun. 12 hours she worked. Remember how it upset you? Remember how strongly you felt about how wrong it was that could happen? And what about that other one where the young boy and girl were picking over the stuff thrown away on the tip? Finding scraps and rubbish and hoping to make some money, coming into contact with all sorts of bugs and germs and dangerous objects. And remember how cross you felt that this was allowed? With those lorries driving past at speed? And you said that the next time you had to collect envelopes you would hold that image in your head. Do you remember? So, a door being slammed in your face once won't kill you; a rude person won't hurt anything except your pride; someone saying we need the money in this country will only upset your sensibilities. No lasting damage and think about what a difference can be made with the money you collect? And think about why you offer to do this? Because this is an actual physical demonstration of your faith- you believe Jesus sought world justice and peace? Well, this is contributing to that equality so desperately needed. And if you do this and you are seen knocking on doors and you raise the plight of people around the world. And then this may make them question what they are doing too. Something about leading by example. May be a vain hope- but we never know where the Spirit moves, do we? And so already I'm feeling better. It is a small inconvenience in my life- but what I am about to do could make a massive difference to someone else...into the breach....

DING DONG: Hello- I've come to collect the Christian Aid envelope....

I didn't get an envelope.

No problem, I have another one here. I can come back and collect it in 15 minutes when I have done this part of the close. Or if it is more convenient, I can come at 6pm tomorrow.

(Tip: Always have some spares and always offer them, but give a specific time that you will come back, don't be airy fairy.)

Not today.

Are you sure? Because even a little donation will make such a big difference. Ah well, thank you. Goodbye.

(Tip: Smile, graciously accept their answer and walk away. Not everyone will give and we all have the right to choose.)

I have my own charities and anyway I think charity should begin at home, not abroad.

OK. Thank you for sharing that. It is good to be able to make a difference through charitable giving- whoever we give to, isn't it? Bye.

(Tip: This can be a brush off and picking an argument. By saying your piece you may prompt thinking in future.)

Why should we give to other people when I am struggling and have my own problems?

I do understand what you are saying and am sorry to hear things are tough. Christian Aid aims to give support to the poorest people in the world who have none of the things we take for granted. But I do understand if you are unable to donate at this time.

(Tip: A difficult one- may actually be easier to say, I am sorry to hear that and leave it....)

Here it is: I had it ready.

Oh thank you. That really makes a difference. Is Christian Aid important to you for any particular reason? Have you filled out the Gift Aid form?

(Tip: It's good to recognise people's efforts and try to get a little more interaction. We all like to be appreciated and listened to. Don't forget to ask them if they are able to Gift Aid.)

Where's the money going to?

This year the focus is..... Any help or support is welcome.

(Tip: Refer people to the website and raise their awareness of the adverts etc.)

Can you give me a minute?

No problem. Thank you so much for taking the time to give. Just to let you know that if you are a tax payer, you can Gift Aid your donation by filling in the flap on the envelope.

(Tip: This time it's easy. They want to give- always say something encouraging!)

I'll ask my mum.

Great- thank you. And if she cannot find the envelope I have another one here. It really will make a difference.

(Tip: Almost give them the words to say to mum. Then they understand what it is for and may influence their mum to give!)

It's not a lot, but it's all I've got in change.

Big thank you! If everyone gave just a little it would soon mount up. Every little helps. Sounds like a cliché, but it's true.

(Tip: Just like the widow's mite- always be grateful and let them know you appreciate their giving.)

Get lost! Leave me alone you Do Gooder!

(SMILE) I am sorry that you feel like this. I am just trying to help make a difference for the world's poorest. Thank you!

(Tip: This hurts. But remember that names don't really hurt you. Not like working a 12 hour day in rain or shine with no food or drink. Remember why you are doing this and the difference you will make. And remember, this sort of person is few and far between.)

I don't have any change.

No problem. I can come back tomorrow at 6pm and collect it then. If that is no good, you can donate online- look, here is the address.

(Tip: This is a brush off, but make it clear there are alternatives. They may not take them but you have offered them!).

NO! (And the door shuts.....)

(SMILE) Thank you. (And turn and walk away).

(Tip: This hurts too. It feels upsetting. But it is only likely to be 1 person if any and this is only 2-3 hours of your life and you hopefully never have to see the person again. Put it in perspective and move on! You can moan about it later!!

Meanwhile don't shout or be rude or let yourself down, however hard it feels!)





Hall and Facilities to Hire

Portfields Primary School are delighted to be able to offer a hall, newly fitted kitchen and toilet facilities available for hire.

If you are looking for that special place for a child's birthday party, christening, family gathering or club then our hall could be the perfect space.

The hall measures approximately 15 metres by 12 metres.

The hall and facilities can be hired in the evenings or over the weekend.

Attractive hire rates are offered:

Monday to Friday

£20 per hour or part thereof for the hall only or £25.00 per hour or part thereof for the hall, kitchen and toilets.

Weekends

£25.00 per hour or part thereof for the hall only or £30.00 per hour or part thereof for the hall, kitchen and toilets.

Tables and chairs may be hired at additional cost.

Gated parking for up to 30 cars is included.

Hire is available in and out of school term times.

Block bookings of three months or more come with a reduced hourly rate to those shown above, details can be provided upon request.

Please telephone the school on 01908 616060 or email

admin@portfields.org for further information or to arrange a viewing.

Westbury Lane
Newport Pagnell
Buckinghamshire
MK16 8PS

Prices effective from September 2018

CTNP Lent Event 2019

We shall be showing and discussing a different film each week, and there will be two chances to see the film each week.

Film	Date 1	Time	Date 2	Time	Venue
Jesus Christ, Superstar	11 March	2.00 pm	14 March	7.30 pm	URC
Godspell	18 March	2.00 pm	21 March	7.30 pm	URC
Life of Brian	25 March	2.00 pm	28 March	7.30 pm	URC (25 th) or NPBC (28 th)
Son of God	1 April	2.00 pm	4 April	7.30 pm	URC
General discussion/reflection	8 April	2.00 pm	11 April	7.30 pm	URC



Jerusalem



Tower of David

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem."

Psalms 122:1-2



World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March 2019

**This year's service will be held at :
The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul,
High Street, Newport Pagnell
at 2 pm, and everyone is welcome.
Refreshments will follow.**

The World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries and we shall be part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe – starting as the sun rises over Samoa, continuing as it makes its way around the earth, and ending some 38 hours later as the sun sets on American Samoa. The service has been translated into over 60 languages and 1,000 dialects and here in the British Isles some 6,000 services will take place.

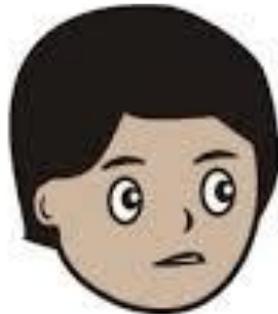
This year's service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe. They have faced barriers since the end of the Second World War when their country was part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. Through this service, they share the challenges they have met and their hopes for the future.

Come – Everything is Ready!

To find out more about World Day of Prayer please visit their website www.wwdp.org.uk

CTNP Vacancy

Could it be You ?



The current Editor of CTNP Connections is no longer worshipping in Newport Pagnell so it is necessary to find a new Editor to produce and distribute (electronically) each month the Connections Magazine.

If you are interested please contact:

Neville Watson : nevillefromnp@gmail.com

(For the scope of the Job –See Page 11)



CTNP Editor Job Actions



The person who accepts the task will:

- Monthly ensure a suitable master is produced from supplied event content with some researching or requesting further information.
- Be able to access the internet to receive and send e-mail and data.
- Maintain a list of all Ministers who are willing to write a Minister's letter and remind them at the end of the previous month and again usually a week before the required Phonebox publication date of 16th of the month prior to issue.
- Requesting the provision, and ensuring the supply, of the monthly Ministers Letter which will also be sent to the editor of the Phonebox Magazine for publication.
- Not all event details include a poster or eye catching copy so the ability to use a publishing programme would be preferred to produce relevant improved information details for inclusion in the magazine.
- Supply of the magazine in a PDF format to all CTNP Church Contacts every month where possible to ensure photocopy and distribution on the last Sunday of the previous Month.

The current Editor will supply the applicant all relevant materials and layout masters plus historic copies of the magazine since taking it on in April 2017 and any other help required.

Newport Pagnell Methodist Church



*Teapot
and Sing*

Meeting on

Monday 11th March 2019

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

Looking Forward to Spring

CTNP President: Vacancy

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

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

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk