

CTNP

Churches *Together*
in Newport Pagnell

Many Churches One Purpose

The Churches of Newport Pagnell

*St Bede's Catholic Church,
Church of England Parish Church (St Peter & St Paul)
(including St Lukes, Lathbury & Moulsoe),
Newport Pagnell Baptist Church (NPBC),
United Reformed Church (URC),
Methodist Church,
The Calvary Chinese Christian Church*

also
check CONTACTS for video and Zoom sessions

CTNP President: Vacancy

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www.ctnp.org.uk

IF you need
someone
to talk to,
or pray with



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Why not check
out one of the
local churches
in
Newport Pagnell?

CONTACTS
at
www.ctnp.org.uk



www.ctnp.org.uk

Connections

September 2020

Remember Covid-19
precautions

Churches **TOGETHER** in Newport Pagnell

- **memorial of a historical landmark**
- **a real and present danger**

6th August 1945 MARKS A LANDMARK EVENT.

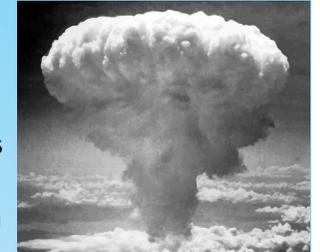
Last month was the 75th anniversary.

This anniversary of the Hiroshima event can be a remembrance for the many instantaneous deaths, many lingering deaths over the following decades, and the many survivors with lingering physical problems.

It is also a reminder of a real and present danger—the continuous daily threat of the devastating damage of even a few nuclear weapons.

What to do?
Maybe pray —For whom...? those in positions of political power? military power? advisors?
—For what...? for peace; disarmament; compromise; negotiation; compassion; to be more of an activist?
Something to remember when voting?

...what are you going to do?



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Shigeo Hayashi public domain

Articles of all sorts to the Editor nevillefromnp@gmail.com

Copy Deadline 20th of each Month

Notices for activities at least a month before they will happen

Regularly check for events and activities and find the **Connections** archive at

www.ctnp.org.uk

Minister's Letter

Distractions

STORIES ARE TOLD OF LIFE IN THE OLD SOVIET UNION, when there were waves of petty theft in factories, as people searched for any way they could to make some extra money.

In a bid to stop these thefts, the authorities placed guards around the factories.

At one timber works in Leningrad, the guard knew the workers in the factory very well, and one in particular who he knew he had to watch: Pyotr Petrovich.

He recalled the night that Petrovich came out of the factory with a wheelbarrow and, on the wheelbarrow, a great bulky sack with a suspicious-looking object inside.

"All right, Pertovich," said the guard, *"what have you got there?"*

"Oh, just sawdust and shavings," Pretovich replied.

"Come on," the guard said, *"I wasn't born yesterday. Tip it out."* And out came nothing but sawdust and shavings. So, he was allowed to put it all back again and go home.

When the same thing happened every night that week the guard became frustrated, to the point that finally, his curiosity overcame his frustration.

"Petrovich," he said, *"I know you. Tell me what you're smuggling out of here, and I'll let you go."*

"Wheelbarrows, my friend," said Petrovich, *"wheelbarrows."*

Let's face it, we're all easily distracted, and when we are, the job we're doing—or meant to be doing—can suffer. But to succeed, we need to stay focused on what's important; to pursue the goals that really matter.

CTNP FORUM

**the annual public meeting of
Churches Together in Newport Pagnell**



This event had been planned for 18h June, but in the light of the lockdown, it is currently scheduled for

Thursday 15th October, 7.30pm

at the Newport Pagnell Methodist Church (on the High Street)

September's Songs of Praise

unfortunately

cancelled for this year

because of Covid-19 conditions

CTNP Holiday Club

Next Year

(Covid-19 conditions permitting)

planned for 9th-12th August 2021

Lovat Hall,
Newport Pagnell Baptist Church



**The Newport Pagnell Emergency Help
Scheme (EHS)**

**currently
SUSPENDED
because of Covid-19/Coronavirus**

it is impossible
to maintain safe distancing
in a car

Time is running out...

...to find an editor

to continue the production
of this monthly CTNP newsletter
Connections.

**If you would like
to see the publication of this newsletter continue**

Please Contact

Neville Watson nevillefromnp@gmail.com



Source acknowledged:
pinclipart.com

The longer that coronavirus has persisted, it seems it has become easier to fall back into ‘the way things were’; for our own needs and concerns to once again trump everything else.

In allowing that to happen, there is a risk that we are distracted from the real need in our communities and neighbourhoods—the isolated and lonely; the sick and vulnerable; those who lost their livelihoods as a result of the pandemic.

I want to encourage you. In the days ahead, may we be people who hold onto the incredible feeling that came from being a community who, quite literally, poured out love and care through the everyday things we did for one another. It felt good didn’t it.

I don’t believe that’s a coincidence. When we show love for one another, we’re tapping into the same love that God has for every one of us. Love that the Bible tells us, “*always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love that never fails.*”

As life in our community looks forward, let’s watch out for the distraction of lives focused only on ourselves, or on the negative. Instead, let’s be people characterised by the every day love and positivity we show towards those we live, work and journey alongside.

Revd Steve Wood

Minister of Newport Pagnell Baptist Church.



Newport Pagnell Methodist Church



Teapot and Sing

SUSPENDED

Until further notice

Because of Covid-19/Coronavirus

FOOD BANK XTRA — FOOD BANK XTRA

New collection for Food Bank donations in front of the URC,
or a pick-up can be arranged .

Find details at <https://www.npcovid19.org/>



If you would like to

- ◆ contribute a short article of comment or testimony
- ◆ join in discussions about how to communicate about CTNP

Contact Neville Watson
nevillefromnp@gmail.com



Newport Pagnell Covid-19 Response Group

Local volunteers helping Newport Pagnell residents

Newport Pagnell Covid-19 Response Group is an umbrella group of around 60 local volunteers who are helping the elderly, vulnerable and isolated in Newport Pagnell during the current pandemic emergency.

Operating in clusters, on a street-by-street basis across the town, to bring together volunteers, the medical centre, pharmacies, the town council, local churches and the Newport Pagnell General Chit-Chat Facebook group, to help the community during the pandemic.

- ◆ **WEBSITE** www.npcovid19.org
- ◆ **TO VOLUNTEER**—join the Facebook group, contact the Town Council on 01908 618756, or email nresponse@hotmail.com
- ◆ **TO ASK FOR HELP**—see the flyer here on page-5, or one may have already been pushed through your letter-box
- ◆  find the group at [Newport Pagnell Covid-19 Response](#)

Covid-19/Coronavirus—a short reminder

(to complement anything else you may have heard)

- ◆ **Wash hands** thoroughly with soap/use hand-sanitizer
- ◆ **Wear a mask**, when inside with others, or in groups
- ◆ **Keep your distance** from others, especially in big groups
- ◆ **Minimise touching** surfaces, and never the face
(virus lifetime on aluminium and plastic more than 1 day)
- ◆ Beware of **asymptomatic carriers** (only a test will show this)
- ◆ Listen to medical experts

A note on viewing the CTNP website

From time to time someone reports having difficulty seeing the latest version of a website page.

Here are two things you might try.

1. Use your browser **page-refresh** button (somewhere near the top left part of the screen) to force an update of the page from the server.
2. For some cases, like the recent update of the home page, you may need to delete all browser temporary data. Do this by finding the **History** function, and then within that the **Clear Browsing History** sub-function. Use that, to delete all browser history <for all time>.

Nothing beats seeing the latest information!

Giant games

available from

Linda & Geoff Morris

Telephone: 01908 617050



Snakes & ladders



Connect4



Jenga

- * Free for church events
- * A small donation requested for private events
- * No charge, if without income during lockdown

IF YOU ARE SELF-ISOLATING, WE CAN HELP



NEWPORT PAGNELL COVID-19 RESPONSE

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS HELPING NEWPORT PAGNELL RESIDENTS



My name is

My phone number is

or contact me via email at npresponse@hotmail.com

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19, I can help you.

Collecting and delivering your shopping
A friendly phone call | posting mail
Other urgent requests

I will do my best to help you (for free!) - just ask.

Coronavirus is contagious. We will avoid physical contact (2m distance). We will always show you a volunteer card. If you want to verify our official status, please call the Newport Pagnell Town Council office on 01908 618756, or find us on Facebook - **Newport Pagnell Covid-19 Response Group**

IF YOU DON'T NEED HELP, CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

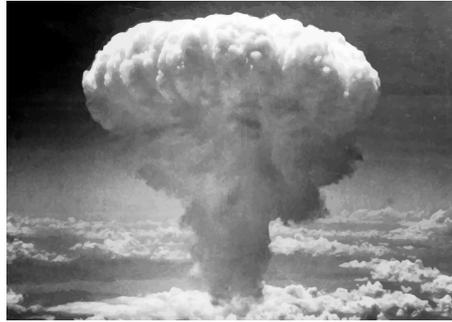
You can do this by joining the Facebook group, calling the Town Council office on 01908 618756 or emailing us at npresponse@hotmail.com

We take your privacy seriously. Your information will be kept secure. It will NOT be used for anything other than the Newport Pagnell COVID-19 response and will NOT be shared with third parties. At the end of the emergency all details will be erased.

Please wash your hands after reading this leaflet

75 years of living under nuclear military threat

6th AUGUST 1945 HIROSHIMA is a date and event worth remembering because of the consequences we still live with today. That event confirmed nuclear physics as the basis for the massive destructive power of nuclear weapons; a science that also brings benefits like power generation, and supporting medical applications.



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The current worldwide stockpile of nuclear weapons is around 6000 in each of Russia and the US, and over 13000 total world-wide. Of these, about 2000 are on high-alert for near immediate launch; the cost in 2019 over \$70 billion. [ICAN May2020; Michael Brooks, *NewStatesman* Nov2012] To put these numbers in perspective, a hand-full of detonations, say three from each side in a 'small exchange', would put enough dust in the atmosphere to create a nuclear winter. That is the sun is blocked, surface temperatures fall everywhere to 0°C or less, no food can grow anywhere for maybe three years, and current civilisation is at an end. This is the threat we live under every day.

One example of a political close shave was the Cuban crisis in 1962, when John F Kennedy confronted Krushchev over missile installations being made on the island of Cuba. Unknown at the time, and only exposed decades later, were two additional dangers. First the submarine accompanying the vessels approaching Cuba was carrying nuclear missiles, and was authorised to fire them if the three commanders on board unanimously agreed. No missiles were fired only because there was no unanimous agreement. Secondly, it has since come to light that short-range nuclear missiles were already installed and operational on the island, and would likely have been triggered by an attempted US invasion.

To undermine any sense of complacency because weapons are stockpiled but not used, consider the daily risk from (1) false positive detection by monitoring stations, and (2) military accidents. Both of these have occurred.

Regarding false positives, both in the former USSR, and in the US, there has been one admitted case where a monitoring station had a false indication of incoming activity. In both cases, the reason the cases were not escalated was the level-headed evaluation and handling by the mid-level commander in charge of monitoring at the time.

Regarding military accidents, the US has so many events they use the term 'broken arrow' to label them. They involve bomber crashes when armed with nuclear or thermo-nuclear weapons. Of 32 events, 21 have been made public, but 11 are so sensitive that details have still not been disclosed. An example is a thermo-nuclear device which fell in the US. One part was found some 100m down in the ground, and it was discovered that the final switch in the detonation sequence was set on. It has never been explained why the bomb did not go off. Another part of the bomb has never been located. [PBS America documentary]

A nuclear event is always top of the list of impending world-wide threats, even above pandemic and climate change.

War has many causes, but one is an expression of a failure to resolve differences by more peaceful means—negotiation and compromise.



GroundZero of the blast now part of the Hiroshima Peace Park Shigeo Hayashi public domain

From this point of view, remembering the Hiroshima anniversary is not only to remember the deaths, the survivors, the scale of damage, and the military purpose to end a war, but also to be reminded of the urgency of the new threat of annihilation now in the world.

As an individual, what can we do?

If war represents a failure to peacefully resolve difference, then as individuals we can also be reminded of that lesson—to examine and reflect on our own individual handling of aggression and violence, and our own handling of conflict and difference resolution. This anniversary warns of the extreme consequences of not doing a peaceable job.

How patient and peaceable are we in our dealings with each other?

Could we do better?