

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

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

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

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

October 2020

**Remember Covid-19
precautions**

Churches **TOGETHER** in Newport Pagnell

A prayer for peace

This prayer is directed to those in positions of power in the world. By changing the third and fifth lines, it could instead be directed to a personal issue needing more peace. Feel free to use as personally appropriate.

**Our Father, there are individuals with power in this world,
because you have made it that way.**

**As Jesus said to Pontius Pilate, "you would have no power over me
if it were not given to you from above." [John 19:11]**

**Therefore we pray for all those with power in this world, at all levels
from the least to the most powerful; those with political power; those
with military power; those with commercial power.**

**Help them all to see more clearly the path towards peace,
as they exercise their power.**

**The path of compassion, negotiation, peaceful co-existence,
compromise; recognising the power of words.**

**That conflict may reduce in this world,
and Thy Kingdom may come on earth as it is in Heaven.**

In the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen.

*If while using this prayer, you have thoughts or experiences you would like
to share in Connections, please email them to the editor.*

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

Your Red Sea experience?

THE RESTRICTIONS ON OUR LIVES KEEP CHANGING due to the latest government advice about the Covid-19 situation. It makes many feel very insecure and it must be a nightmare if you are running a business, or need a holiday.

We all feel a little like Moses standing at the Red Sea and wondering if there will ever be a way through to the promised land of 'normal life'. When in the middle of difficult situations we can lose hope that there is ever a way through it all. It is like being trapped in a bubble and only seeing a blurred haze where we want to be, outside the bubble.

In the Bible story the waters of the Red Sea did eventually part and a safe way through was provided by God. Moses' patience and faith were tested by the waiting and the uncertainty—but God provided a way through.

Similarly, we all have our own personal Red Seas to pass through since life throws many difficulties our way. The way ahead can appear to be blocked through relationship, health, work or monetary problems. In these situations remember the story of the parting of the Red Sea. What is your Red Sea that needs to be parted, and who is playing the part of Moses to lead and guide you through? God answered Moses' prayer for freedom and release. God responds and provides a path ahead.

We hope that the virus restrictions will end soon—but what then? What is our vision for the future and how do we apply all that we have learnt this year to it?

CTNP FORUM

the annual public meeting of
Churches Together in Newport Pagnell



an internet Zoom session

Thursday 15th October, 7.30pm

TO ATTEND: please send an email to Chris Row (CTNP secretary) to get the Zoom link

chris.row@talktalk.net

All are welcome.

Please mention in your email which church you attend, if you are a member of one of the Newport Pagnell churches.

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*

What will we do differently and how will we be when things 'get back to normal'? Will we use the memory of these difficult times to enhance the lives of others and ourselves? We can plan ahead with this before the crisis is over since history shows that no pandemic lasts forever. Even the Black Death and the dreadful Spanish Flu virus after the First World War ended eventually.

We can learn to make a 'silk purse out of a sow's ear' regarding recent months. An example of this is how many families have grown closer to each other. Many have resumed cycling again or walking together along the canal bank—appreciating the natural world around them. Others have revisited the territory of exploring their faith in God and the quest for real meaning in life.

Times have been bad for some families where friendships, bereavement and working arrangements have been under real pressure. We can still put these things before God and seek His discernment and way through these Red Seas in our lives. The Christian belief that He became a person called Jesus, living amongst us, shows that God cares and wants us to seek His help and love, whatever we are facing in life.

Trust and hope in God our deliverer.

*Revd Nick Evans,
Rector of Newport Pagnell*



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.



oneclipart.com acknowledged

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?