

# 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

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[www.ctnp.org.uk](http://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](http://www.ctnp.org.uk)



[www.ctnp.org.uk](http://www.ctnp.org.uk)

## Connections

New Year  
January 2021

Remember Covid-19  
precautions

Churches **TOGETHER** in Newport Pagnell

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Wednesday 27th Jan 2021

**Theme for 2021:** *Be the light in the darkness*

**Be the light in the darkness** is an encouragement to everyone to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide.

**Be the light in the darkness** is an affirmation and a call to action for everyone. This theme asks everyone to consider different kinds of 'darkness', for example, identity-based persecution, misinformation, denial of justice; and different ways of 'being the light', for example, resistance, acts of solidarity, rescue and illuminating mistruths.

**Be the light in the darkness**



[www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

Articles of all sorts to the Editor [nevillefromnp@gmail.com](mailto:nevillefromnp@gmail.com)

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

[www.ctnp.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.ctnp.org.uk/whats-on)

[www.ctnp.org.uk/about](http://www.ctnp.org.uk/about)

# Minister's Letter

## Is it time to lose hope?

**2020 TAUGHT US MANY THINGS. We rediscovered what it means to be community; going on holiday in the UK never seemed so appealing; the NHS and teachers really are angels; it's incredibly hard to recognise someone when they're wearing a mask; and sometimes, it's just good to call someone.**

It also taught us, that we simply don't know what's around the corner. We can hope, or even pray, all we like but we can never guarantee things are going to work out in exactly the way we'd like them to.

Way back in 1999, an Australian film director called Baz Luhrmann wrote a song called 'Sunscreen', which includes the words:

*"Don't worry about the future  
Or worry, but know that worrying  
Is as effective as trying to solve an algebra equation by chewing bubble gum.  
The real troubles in your life  
Are apt to be things that never crossed your worried mind  
The kind that blindsides you at 4 p.m. on some idle Tuesday."*

If you haven't heard the song, it's a classic and I'd encourage you to give it a listen.

These words encapsulate something of what it feels like as we approach 2021. We all have hopes for the year ahead, just as we did for 2020. They may or may not come to fruition, and there's little point holding onto them too tightly as who knows where the year might take us.

So, should we give up hoping? Dreaming what might be? Then we can't be disappointed. Of course not. Where would the world be without hope?

Instead, the bigger challenge is for us to place our hopes in the things that really matter.

I don't say this as someone who claims to always get that right. In fact, there have been many times in my life when I've got it absolutely wrong. However, my faith has taught me that when I place my hope in God, I'm never let down.

Paul, one of the most prolific writers in the Bible, wrote this:

*"I pray that God, the source of all hope, will infuse your lives with an abundance of joy and peace in the midst of your faith so that your hope will overflow through the power of the Holy Spirit."*

[Romans 15:13]

None of this promises an easy ride, but don't you love the way that it speaks of joy for the moments when life is all going to plan, and peace for the moments when it's not. These are the words of someone who knew real life, with all of its twists and turns.

As I write this, looking ahead to 2021, there is hope in the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, hope in the journey towards normality; and hope that the renewed sense of community we've found will remain. Unfortunately, all of these hopes and more are susceptible to the events of an 'idle Tuesday'.

Maybe this is the year to look for your hope at the source.

Revd Steve Wood,

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

*Newport Pagnell Methodist Church*



*Teapot  
and Sing*

**SUSPENDED**

*Until further notice*

*Because of Covid-19/Coronavirus*

## CTNP events coming in January

**Friday 1st January (2021)**

Unfortunately the planned New Year's day walk has been cancelled because of Covid-19 conditions.

**Sunday 17th January 2021**

starting at 10.30am

**United Online Service** by internet zoom

To mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The theme is 'Abiding in Christ', using material prepared by the sisters of the Monastic community in Grandchamp, Switzerland. The service will be led by Revd Nick Evans of St Peter and St Paul and the preacher will be Revd Nicola Martyn-Beck of Newport Pagnell Methodist church.

**All are welcome**

zoom invitations will be emailed before the day;  
to request the zoom link, please email  
Chris Row (CTNP secretary) [chris.row@talktalk.net](mailto:chris.row@talktalk.net)



**Wednesday 27th January (2021) at 7.30pm**

**Open Meeting for All** by internet zoom

ALL WELCOME for discussion of future of CTNP.  
Zoom link as above.

for events, see

[www.ctnp.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.ctnp.org.uk/whats-on)

for the churches of CTNP, see

[www.ctnp.org.uk/about](http://www.ctnp.org.uk/about)

## Finding God within, in the stillness

Some thoughts from the 14th-century author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*

*In the beginning, it is usual to feel nothing but a kind of darkness about your mind, or as it were, a cloud of unknowing. You will seem to know nothing and to feel nothing except a naked intent towards God in the depths of your being. Try as you might, this darkness and this cloud will remain between you and your God. You will feel frustrated, for your mind will be unable to grasp him and your heart will not relish the delight of his love. But learn to be at home in this darkness. Return to it as often as you can, letting your spirit cry out to him whom you love, for if, in this life, you hope to feel and see God as he is in himself it must be within this darkness and this cloud.*

### 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***



### 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/>

## some prayer suggestions

(1) the prayer recommended by Jesus to his disciples

[Luke 11; these words Matthew 6]

(2) a prayer for peace.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray:

**“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come.  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.”**

*[NIV 1984; Matthew 6:7-13]*

**For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory. Amen.**

## A prayer for peace

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 YOU ARE SELF-ISOLATING, WE CAN HELP



## NEWPORT PAGNELL COVID-19 RESPONSE

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS HELPING NEWPORT PAGNELL RESIDENTS



Newport Pagnell

My name is .....

My phone number is .....

or contact me via email at [nresponse@hotmail.com](mailto:nresponse@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 [nresponse@hotmail.com](mailto:nresponse@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



## 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](http://www.npcovid19.org)
- ◆ **TO VOLUNTEER**—join the Facebook group, contact the Town Council on 01908 618756, or email [nresponse@hotmail.com](mailto: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



#STANDTOGETHER

# Holocaust Memorial Day

theme for 2021: *Be the light in the darkness*

27th Jan 2021



Auschwitz Concentration camp  
GIRAUD Patrick, CC BY-SA 2.5

- ◆ **to remember** the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution (1933-45), and millions more in genocides in Cambodia (1975-9), Rwanda (1994), Bosnia (1995) and Darfur (2003 on)
- ◆ **to together bear witness** for those who endured genocides, and honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition

**T**HE VERY WORD **HOLOCAUST** is a word charged with meanings and associations—with the Second World War, Germany, Hitler and his inner circle; with concentration camps and death camps; but also with racism, hatred of Jews, hatred of other ‘undesirables’ like Roma, Sinti, the disabled, gays, disliked religious and political critics; other associations are with war crimes, genocide and mass killing, crimes against humanity; with ideas of justice (for both individuals and state actors), international justice, war and peace, democracy or dictatorship, dignity of a person—to name a few starter points with current relevance and application.

To be a memorial to the Holocaust, to other Nazi persecutions, and to subsequent genocides, is to remember the deaths and killings; but also to remember the consequences for both survivors and perpetrators, the consequences for the children of survivors, perpetrators and the dead, and the consequences for the relatives of those who died or survived.

In the case of Germany, this is a memorial of a process which started with thugs in the streets from 1933, beatings, insult, humiliation and abuse of ‘undesirables’ including but not exclusively Jews, being fired from jobs, excluded from occupations, businesses closed, theft of assets, expulsion from the country, cancellation of citizenship, ghettos, denial of liberty through arrest, imprisonment, detention in camps (the first camps date from 1933)—all this in the run-up to WWII. During the war the number of camps and sub-camps increased to the hundreds. These camps, the concentration camps, were about detention, forced labour, and poor conditions; deaths arose from brutality, lack of food, poor conditions, disease and incidental killing. But camps purely intended to kill, the death camps, were a later and parallel development during 1942-1944.

These later camps, part of the ‘final solution for the Jews’ were only for killing. Some of the infamous camp names are Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Chelmno. Here cattle-wagon trains full of people would arrive in the morning, and be dead by afternoon. Only a few kept alive to move corpses, before they too were murdered. Burning corpses was a later development to hide the evidence.

To remember just Auschwitz is to remember only a part of the Holocaust. Killing took place at many places, and required organisation. In Poland, plenty of killing, brutal shooting at point-blank range, did not take place in camps at all. Auschwitz was certainly a big camp (with 50 sub-camps), and provided much forced labour to organisations such as I.G.Farben, Krupp, Borsig and Siemens. Many died from the labour, from disease, from the very harsh conditions, and by explicit murder in the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the local death camp.

For a hint of how destroyed people can be, but still be alive just enough to have work extracted from them, there are survivor testimonies. Some have written short books of testimony, like Viktor Frankl, Primo Levi, Chil Rajchman, Edith Eger. Some of the last living survivors give talks. There are a few PBS film documentaries. They show through snap-shots the abject struggle for survival, needing cunning, shrewd and robust psychology, and some luck; and how extremely destructive the conditions were. But even in those dire conditions, there were a rare one or two who were able to show compassion for another, though that might only be a few crumbs of bread or a word of comfort.

In facing up to the barbarity of what happened, responsibility is of course divided. There were a few headline prosecutions at Nuremberg, and more later under West German law, although many avoided any prosecution. Genocides probably cannot flourish without first a driving leadership from the top, but they must be supported by many willing accomplices and participants.

**H**ow can such things happen? Would I be an accomplice? Would I be a participant? Would I find a way to obstruct/resist/aid the victims? Would I be an active by-stander or a passive complicit observer? Even today in the UK, the Home Office maintains detention centres for deportations of people who only know this country, who came to this country when only a few years old.

**Plenty to reflect on. Will you  
be the light in the darkness?**

Auschwitz-Birkenau Crematorium IV (public domain)



#STANDTOGETHER

[www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

links for  
Rwanda, Bosnia, Darfur  
and the Holocaust