



Articles of all sorts to the editor
nevillefromnp@gmail.com
copy deadline 20th of the month
at least a month's notice for activities

June 2022

Connections
the monthly newsletter of

ChurchesTogether
in Newport Pagnell

*There is no rehearsal. The time is
Now
Now
Now,
Because the reversal of harm
And protection of a future so universal
Should be anything but controversial.
So, earth, pale blue dot
We will fail you not.*

24 hours of reality: 'Earthrise'

by

Amanda Gorman [4th December 2018]

Find the full poem on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwOvBv8RLmo>

-from the Editor

The time is Now Now Now...

A Personal Testimony

I have been informed that, in a recent CTNP Executive meeting, it was decided that there was too much content on the current CTNP website and in *Connections*, and that Revd Steve Wood and Revd Jo Clare-Young are to replace the website, focus on Facebook, and reduce or eliminate *Connections*.

I have no problem with the wish to present the website or any other communications in a different way. I do, however, take issue with the way this decision has been handled, and communicated to me.

This will therefore be the last *Connections* under the current editor.

I have freely given my time over quite a few years, not only to the website & *Connections*, but also at various times to leaflet and advertisement preparation. In addition, I have supported the current website server arrangement with CTBI, which provides free-of-charge hosting for the website and its data, to the financial benefit of CTNP.

My intention has been to include some content which questions, challenges, or triggers some thought or reflection.

A recent reader/viewer poll, with a 33% response, gave the following results:

	<i>Connections</i>	<i>CTNP website</i>
very or generally satisfied with the content	77%	66%
didn't like or didn't access the content	22%	33%

My thanks to all readers, viewers & contributors.

For anyone who has found any content of help on the website or in *Connections*, you may wish to make a copy soon, before it is all replaced.

Neville Watson

Encountering the unexpected

WHOD'VE YOU THOUGHT that Newport Pagnell Town FC would have reached the final of the FA Vase? This wasn't on the agenda a year ago! Things happen so unexpectedly and at the time of writing the FA Vase final hasn't happened—but even as an Aston Villa fan I've still bought my ticket to see The Swans at Wembley! Unexpected things happen in life.

Three months ago, on a more tragic level, we never expected to see the battered remains of Ukrainian cities. One day people were living normal life and then the next day they were bombarded by artillery, killing family members and obliterating homes. Within days folk were forced to flee and live in a different country. It reminds me of my army chaplain days, during the 1990s, when I saw the destruction of the Bosnian conflict brought to cities like Sarajevo.

It is a stark reminder that life can change suddenly and turn our feeling of security upside down. The unexpected can also come in the form of serious illness, relationship break up or crime. Sometimes bad things happen because of others, ourselves, or a bit of both. Sometimes it is hard to see where the blame lies and we are understandably only conscious of our own pain and confusion.

I do not know of anyone who has never had bad things happen to them?!

However, Jesus has been to every dark corner of this life. The Bible speaks of a God who was crucified in order to himself pay the just penalty for all the crimes that humans commit. He knows what it is like experiencing every human mental and physical hellhole—because He has been there. Remember that Jesus was beaten, tortured and descended to hell.

The Lord paid the price for us, instead

of us, and because of us. We are forgiven because of what He did for us. He laid his life down to set us free. Not only did he descend into hell, but he rose again rescuing those who were in hell. Nothing can destroy the depth and power of God's love.

Since things can change so suddenly, and we won't be living on earth forever, surely it is important to seek to encounter God now? His Biblical promise is that He will wipe away all tears, pain and heartache—now and in the life to come.

Even though unexpected things happen, God's love and resurrection power still triumphs in the end. The resurrection of Jesus was unexpected to his generation and there are signs of the resurrection in our world today despite all the pain and heartache. Look for them and you will find them.

Soon we celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. She too has endured her share of private tragedy in this life. She has a faith in the same God I am writing about today. He is your God, her God and my God. He is the Lord of the Resurrection.

Even though you may be enduring difficult circumstances, ask Him into your heart and see what wonderful unexpected things then happen.

*Revd Nick Evans,
Rector of Newport Pagnell*

from 24 February 2022

for the people of Ukraine, the wounded and the dead, young children and school children, newly born infants, pregnant women, women and men, old women and old men, including those who experienced bombing and destruction here once before in 1942 (WWII), those ill in hospitals who had to be moved into basements or other locations, those killed in a theatre or shopping mall, those fleeing for their lives, those mourning, those defending their homes

Україна — Ukraine

*Lead us, Lord, from death to life,
from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope,
from fear to trust,
from hate to love,
from war to peace;
and let peace fill our hearts
our world, our universe.
Peace Peace Peace*

*Lord Jesus,
you are the prince of peace;
you speak 'peace' to our hearts;
you are the peace that breaks down the dividing walls between us.
Help us to be your peacemakers
in this world of rivalries and fears,
so that your peace like a river
might flow freely and heal our world.
Amen*

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

NIV Matthew 5:9 (2011)

international prayer for peace

prayer for peace

written by BRF's prayer advocate
and author, Martyn Payne.
Bible Reading Fellowship (2022)

The Climate Crisis: What to do? Where to start?

COMMENTS follow on some current headline issues:

sustainable home energy—moving home energy towards sustainable energy sources is a multi-part issue; whether renting or owning, now regular electricity suppliers claim 100% sustainable electricity, so everyone can make that switch;

removing gas, a fossil fuel, is more difficult, as the property owner is needed to make changes like switching the boiler for central-heating & water, and kitchen appliances; for big changes like these, the priority is not to do it immediately, but next time an appliance needs changing;

the goal is to be all electric; whether to have solar panels is a separate cost issue, although a consideration for intelligent regional grid supplies of the future;

beef & steaks—first, cows are only part of the methane problem; the fossil fuel industry itself leaks much into the atmosphere; for food, start with small changes and review as you go;

grow something—an indoor plant has leaves and processes CO₂ and also can give joy; with a front door-step or patio you can add a few pots; even grow a small fruit-tree and enjoy the fruit; with a few square meters of garden or more, the sky's the limit: fruit, vegetables, flowers, fragrant scents & greenery;

electric cars—if you have a car, don't



image Ria Sopala at pixabay image imaresz at pixabay

rush out and replace it with an electric version; that replacement car has already caused its own allocation of manufacturing emission costs, which in themselves, take some time to offset against the emission savings from electric operation; but next time you need to change the car, review the options at the time;

recycling—reuse an item as a whole, repaired, or for the parts and metals;

plastic—is a special case, because the damage is now so enormous, and the distribution worldwide; the preferable option is elimination—avoid the need for the plastic item in the first place;

one glimmer of hope is plant-based starch clear plastic, which can be composted after use;

BACKGROUND articles and links for the Climate Crisis may be found at

- [ConnectionsDec2021](#): why time has run out—the UN Emissions Gap Report 2020
- [ConnectionsOct2021](#): why we are running out of road—unsustainable life-styles & too little action
- [ConnectionsMar2022](#): why do anything? Why care?

e-BOOKS

[Speed & Scale
The Future We Choose](#)

Thanks to Virginia Bell, a UK Laudato Si Animator, for this article

FROM NOW ON, if we haven't been emphasising the urgency of the Environmental Crisis, we must start doing so. Let's use the word 'must', not 'should' or 'could'. Let's not be embarrassed or weak-hearted about stressing the urgency of the situation. I have four demands.

1. go vegan A University of Oxford Report 19May2019 concluded that adopting a vegan diet is "the single biggest way to reduce your impact on planet Earth." And in the latest UN IPCC Report, three steps are indentified to end climate catastrophe, to protect the planet from environmental disasters linked to climate change. Commit to: (i) eat plant-based, (ii) use less carbon energy, and (iii) remove CO₂ from the atmosphere.

2. buy organic Healthy soils store carbon, help prevent flooding & droughts, provide healthy food and support nature and wildlife. We need healthy topsoil for growing crops, but it's rapidly disappearing, eroded when trees are cut down for growing cash crops and grazing livestock. It is being washed away into rivers and seas from lack of trees and vegetation to hold it in place, and it is being degraded by the use of chemical fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides. Global warming, spread of diseases, flooding and water ecosystem contamination all worsen with loss of topsoil. One estimate gives us only 6 more decades before we run out of topsoil. That is a nightmare scenario.

3. live simply Basically, buy nothing at all without questioning the need. Our economy thrives on advertisements urging us to buy goods, and on everyone buying and selling. But the manufacture, use and disposal of those goods are damaging the environment, so we must change that old economic model. Production which

enhances or at least does not harm the natural environment needs to take over from the old model. We can help force the change by not buying if we can do without, and when we do buy, choosing the eco-friendly offering.

Also, living simply doesn't just mean doing the least damage to the planet. It means living in harmony with our fellow humans and animals, sharing resources, taking only what we need so that other beings have what they need to survive. Truly a holy lifestyle.

4. lobby the powerholders Your vote has put our political leaders—Local Authority and Government—in power. Is it surprising that they act out of petty, short-term self-interest? We need to use our vote to change the old models. Jobs and incomes which are not eco-friendly are not acceptable.

A vote for the Animal Welfare Party or the Green Party is not wasted, because it is telling the other parties what your vote depends on; it's an incentive for them to become more eco-friendly.

Also, regularly write to your representatives calling for more eco-friendly policies—rewilding/promotion of plant-based meals in schools, hospitals, events/transition to green jobs, green businesses, green farming/retrofitting homes for energy efficiency/new homes to be made energy efficient and so on.

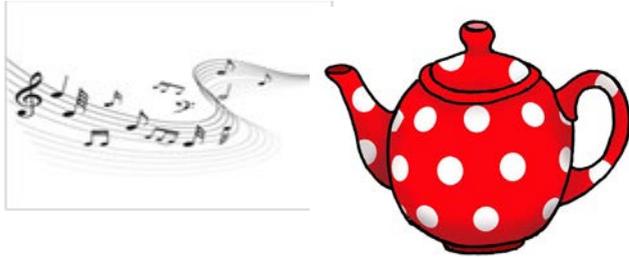
These four lifestyles are necessary to combat climate change, and we should (must) make sure that everybody knows. They are all part of the renewing and rewilding that is necessary to save our planetary ecosystems and ourselves.

Everything helpful is worth doing. Don't ask 'is that worth the effort?'. Ask 'what more can I do?'

contributed by Virginia Bell

Newport Pagnell Methodist Church

Teapot and Sing



Tuesday 12th July 2022
Tuesday 9th August 2022
Tuesday 13th September 2022
Tuesday 11th October 2022
Tuesday 8th November 2022
Tuesday 13th December 2022

2.00 to 3.00 pm

Come and join us for hymn singing, welcome refreshment and thoughtful reflection all in a dementia-friendly environment.



Coming events in JUNE and beyond

ctnp.org.uk/whats-on

JUNE

Floral Jubilee

Friday 3rd–Sunday 5th
10am–4pm
Parish Church, High Street.

CTNP Forum & AGM

Thursday 16th
7.30pm
Methodist Church, High Street

Baby & Toddler Fair

Saturday 18th
11am–2pm
United Reformed Church, High Street

Community Larder–combat food waste

Wednesdays
11am–1pm
United Reformed Church, High Street

JULY

Walk through the Bible

Saturday 9th
10am–4.30pm
Parish Church, High Street.

AUGUST

Cream Tea

Sunday 7th
2pm–5pm
garden of Ralph and Jennifer Mazzone,
120 Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell
(If wet, in St. Luke's Church)

coming in August

Churches Together in Newport Pagnell

CTNP HOLIDAY CLUB

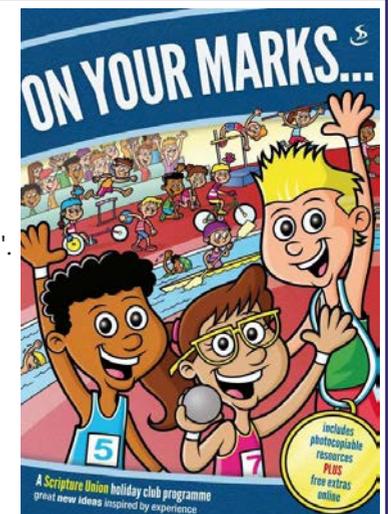
PLANNING for this year's CTNP Holiday Club has begun. This year a sporting theme uses material from Scripture Union 'On your marks'. We look forward to welcoming children aged 5 to 11.

10am–12.30pm

15th–18th August 2022 (planned)

IF YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER to help with the Club, please complete the application form that appears when you click **VOLUNTEER**.

IF YOU ARE A PARENT OR GUARDIAN wishing to register your child/ren to attend the Club, please click **REGISTER**. You will be asked to submit your own details, and will then receive an email with a further link to register a child. You can use the second link as many times as necessary to register all your children who want to attend.



(Covid conditions permitting)

Memory Clubs

Helping you live well with memory loss, dementia or cognitive impairment



NEWPORT PAGNELL MEMORY CLUB

The Brooklands Centre, Ousebank Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8AN
Call: 07518 412 389 Email: hazel_reynolds@hotmail.co.uk

STONY STRATFORD MEMORY CLUB

Stony Stratford Community Church, Horsefair Green, MK11 1JW
Call: 07518 412 389 Email: office@stonystatfordcommunitychurch.co.uk
or hazel_reynolds@hotmail.co.uk

ASPLEY GUISE MEMORY CLUB & Carers Group

Aspley Guise Village Hall, Woburn Lane MK17 8JS
Call: 07896 060 200 Email: dianebroadbent6@gmail.com

WATER EATON MEMORY CLUB

Water Eaton Church Centre, Drayton Road, MK2 3RR
Call: 07510 203 166 Email: info@memoryclub.co.uk

On-going activities

ctnp.org.uk/info



Teapot and Sing

monthly
next date
Tuesday 14th June
2pm-3pm

Newport Pagnell Methodist Church

COME AND JOIN in hymn singing, welcome refreshment and thoughtful reflection, all in a dementia-friendly environment.

Future dates at
ctnp.org.uk/whats-on

near others, especially
vulnerable people of all ages,
remember
Covid-19 precautions
*The virus can move between
people, vaccinated or not;*

EHS co-ordinators

Jenny	01908 616718
Julie	07921 194378
	01908 615197

Also: vacancies for a deputy chair and committee reps for St Bede's and the Anglican churches.

More about EHS at

CTNP.../info/ehelpscheme

FOOD BANK XTRA

FOOD BANK donations accepted at

- the Parish Church, High Street, NP
- Lovat Hall (NP Baptist Church)
- the Medical Centre, High Street, NP
- major supermarkets with a Food-Bank trolley/container for donations
- the new FoodBank depot at 14 Burners Lane, Kiln Farm MK11 3HB

There is no longer a collection point at the URC in Newport Pagnell.

see www.mkfoodbank.org.uk for

- FoodBank Helpline numbers
- FoodBank Xtra contact details
- contact to make donations of money

The Newport Pagnell CTNP Emergency Help Scheme

FOR NEWPORT PAGNELL residents, who need help with a lift to attend a clinical appointment at a local hospital or medical centre. **Please contact an EHS co-ordinator.** Passengers are asked for a small fixed contribution to cover driver expenses.

Volunteer drivers are DRB checked (at no charge to the volunteer) and maintain Covid-safe standards on all journeys.

There is a constant need for drivers. If you drive a car and are willing to spare the odd hour during the week to take Newport Pagnell residents to local healthcentres, MK hospital or occasionally further afield, then **please get in touch** with

- one of the EHS coordinators, or
- the EHS chairman, John Gordon (07790626814 email: jandagordon@yahoo.co.uk)

ChurchesTogether
in Newport Pagnell (CTNP)

Many churches
One purpose

The churches of Newport Pagnell

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

church contacts and more at
ctnp.org.uk/about

check the website or church contacts
for video and Zoom sessions
ctnp.org.uk/whats-on

*Churches Together in Newport Pagnell makes no claims about the accuracy
or nature of opinions expressed in content on other websites referenced*

Secretary:

Chris Row
01908 611542 chris.row@talktalk.net

Treasurer:

Paul Tolley
01908 615729 ptmercedes@aol.com

**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
ctnp.org.uk

