

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CTNP FORUM, THURSDAY, 16th JANUARY 2014

If you'd like to find out what the churches in Newport Pagnell have been getting up to recently, come along to our next Forum which meets on **Thursday, 16th January at 7.45pm** in the Methodist Church. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome. It's a chance for you to have your say about the work the churches do in the community and an opportunity to influence plans for future projects and events. So do come and join us if you can.

HOLIDAY CLUB 11th – 15th August 2014

This year we are using Scripture Union's Rocky's Plaice material (yes it is spelt like that!) This fish shop backdrop should generate plenty of humour:- 'Why are fish so smart?' 'They are always in schools!!' Moving swiftly on... we are planning and praying for 150 primary school age children and are busy recruiting the team. The Bible content centres on the life of Peter. Join up and have great fun with the kids and the team. If you are inexperienced – do not worry, we will provide some training and support. You will not be thrown to the Sharks! You can let us know your interest via Info@npbc.org.uk. Don't miss out! **Our next planning meeting is on Jan 15th 8pm at Newport Pagnell Baptist**, i.e. Lovat Hall. All welcome.

MEMORY CLUB – Meets first Wednesday of the Month

Memory Cafe is a safe place where people who suffer from Dementia and their carers meet others and share experiences. It's held on the first Wednesday of every month at Westbury Grange, Westbury Lane, Newport Pagnell. There is a charge of £1.50 per person which includes a hot drink, cake and a raffle. For more information please contact Westbury Grange on 01908 210332.

CTNP President: Vacancy
Secretary: Beth MacKay, beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk Tel. 612475
Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com Tel. 210048
CTNP web-site: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS JANUARY 2014

*May the mind of Christ my Saviour live
in me from day to day, by His love and
power controlling all I do and say.*
Kate Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928)

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

A Happy New Year! What will it have in store for us in 2014? Will England get past the first round of the World Cup in Brazil? Will my own football team get promoted? We don't know. We have our hopes; we have good intentions; we even make our plans. But life has a habit of taking us by surprise and forcing us to change our plans.

Some in Newport Pagnell are planning to join the Well at Willen in going on a summer pilgrimage to the holy places of the North East, eventually spending time on Holy Island itself. Pilgrimage, whether by foot or by vehicular transport, in modern times as in ancient times, is a journey of discovery. It's a journey from the known into the unknown. The intention in travelling to a holy place is the hope of making a discovery – perhaps of healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, faith, or God. The pilgrimage starts with an act of dedication and commitment. Along the way there is fun and friendship, adventures to be had, new places found and stories to be told. What was expected at the outset is not always the outcome, but if along the way the pilgrim discovers more about himself, people, life and God, he is enriched by the experience.

Whatever 2014 brings to us may we seize the opportunities, embrace the challenges and become better people for the experiences.

Michael Godfrey, Rector Newport Pagnell with Lathbury & Moulsoe

Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay
Preferably by e-mail to beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk Tel. 612475
Copy Deadline - 15th of each month

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

What better way to start the New Year than with a bracing (or leisurely!) walk and fellowship with other Christians! The CTNP annual New Year's Day walk around the churches of the town starts at St Luke's Church with a short act of worship at 10am. We then move on to the Baptist Church for another short service at 10.40am, followed by one at St Bede's at 11am, the Methodist Church at 11.20am, the United Reformed Church at 11.35am, and finally at the Parish Church at 11.55am where we will end with refreshments and an opportunity to chat together.

The theme of all the acts of worship will be 'Peace' which is particularly apt as 2014 is the centenary of the outbreak of the 1st World War. Everyone is welcome so do come and join us if you can! If you don't feel like doing the whole walk you can join in at any point.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Saturday 18th to Saturday 25th January is a very special week for our churches as we take part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The week begins with a prayer vigil on the morning of Saturday 18th January in the Methodist Church. People from all the churches in the town are invited to take part in the vigil by going along to the Methodist Church any time between 9am and 1pm for half an hour or more of silent prayer.

The next day, Sunday 19th January, a united service will be held at St Bede's Church at 6pm and members of all the churches will be encouraged to continue to pray for unity throughout the following week. The theme for the week is 'Is Christ divided?'

Everyone is welcome to come along to both the vigil and the service. Christian Unity is something that is at the heart of CTNP and it would be great to see people from all the churches at both these events.

CAN YOU HELP WITH OUR LENT LUNCHES?

Lent Lunches 2014 to raise money for Christian Aid will take place at the URC Hall for six weeks from Friday 7th March – Friday 11th April. Offers of help for this annual CTNP event are requested from ALL the churches in Newport Pagnell and from anyone in our community who has two hours to spare on a Friday, even if it is only for one Friday during the six weeks.

Time involved would be from 11.30am – 1.45pm. Tasks include, setting up and laying tables, stirring soup, making tea/coffee, serving tables, washing up, tidying the hall at the end of the session. This may sound like hard work, but working together as a team is enjoyable, and it's for such a good cause!

Please contact Jennifer Mazzone on 01908 613088 to let her know if/when you are able to give your time, and/or can contribute homemade soup, on one or more of these Friday lunchtimes.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PRESIDENT OF CTNP?

For the past few months we have been looking for a new President for Churches Together in Newport Pagnell but so far nobody has come forward. We've been wondering why that might be. *Are you put off by the rather grand title of 'President'?* If so, please don't be. It's just another word for 'Chairperson'.

Are you afraid that the job will be too difficult and time consuming? Nothing could be further from the truth! The main task is to chair the meetings of the Executive (four times a year) and the Forum meetings (twice a year). So that's a total of six meetings each year. Beyond that it's just a matter of dealing with the occasional issue that might arise in between meetings and representing CTNP on a few rare occasions if required. Other officers and members of the Executive are always happy to help with this part of the role too so it's very much a team effort! And of course... as the term of office is only two years, there is no danger of being stuck with it for ever!

Please give this some thought, pray about it, and if you think you might be able to take it on for a couple of years, please get in touch with Klaus Reidel (klausreidel@googlemail.com), Beth MacKay (beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk) or any other member of the CTNP Executive.