

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY 5 JULY - REV. MINDY BELL'S FAREWELL at St James's Church, New Bradwell, 3pm. Join them to celebrate Mindy's 10 years of ministry in Milton Keynes before she moves to a new appointment. Refreshments will follow.

SATURDAY 11 JULY - MEN'S BREAKFAST at Frosts Garden Centre, Woburn Sands. Guest speaker Val Symon who will be talking about her visit to and 'Focus on Malawi'. Tickets £6 (includes cooked breakfast) from Jim (01908) 583922, Matt (01908) 282423 or email: jclangford@btinternet.com

SATURDAY 11 JULY - SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE at The Well. 10am - 4pm with lunch. A FREE workshop (donations towards their hospitality fund warmly welcomed). A day to explore what social and environmental change is, and the roles involved. Contact bookings@thewellatwillen.org.uk or (01908) 242190 for more information or to book.

SATURDAY, 11th JULY, 2-4pm: Emergency Help Scheme Garden Party and AGM at 120 Wolverton Road.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 11th/12th JULY: Flower festival in the Methodist Church (Saturday, 10am – 4pm; Sunday, 1-4pm). Drinks available all day, cream teas in afternoon

WEDNESDAY, 15th JULY, 7.30pm, St Peter & St Paul Church: service for institution and induction of Revd Nick Evans as Rector

SATURDAY, 18th JULY, 7.30pm in Methodist Church: Celebration of hymns

SUNDAY, 26th JULY, 2-5pm: Cream Tea at 120 Wolverton Road (in aid of Mother's Union)

MONDAY, 10th to FRIDAY 14th AUGUST, 10am – 12.30pm: CTNP Children's Holiday Club

CTNP President: Vacancy
Secretary: Beth MacKay beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk 01908 612475
Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com 01908 615729

CTNP website: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS JULY 2015

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace.
Ephesians 2. 13-14

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

My wife and I have taken the decision to downsize. Perhaps I ought to rephrase that statement. My wife and I are being forced into downsizing as we have decided to move from a 3 bedroomed semi-detached house with a garden to a two bedroom first floor flat, no garden, but a large veranda, which will look beautiful with some of our treasured flower pots. This seems to be the opposite of what is expected, as we are constantly being forced to face the issue of size. Very occasionally I visit the well-known fast food restaurant, where I am always asked: "Would you like to go large? Where for just a few pence more you could get an extra-large serving of French fries and an "ocean-sized" soft drink. How I wish I had said "No!" and then perhaps my waist size would have down-sized much sooner. There are many self-help books that tell us that there are no problems too big or too small to overcome. More importantly, they tell us we have the ability to win; we possess the power to succeed, to overcome, with no outside help. This is not always the case. It is always easier when you have someone to lean on, someone to confide in, and someone to call when you falter.

In the House Fellowship group which I attend we have been sharing together an excellent book written by Max Lucado called "Facing Your Giants". I'm sure most of you know the story of David and Goliath, and how David the young shepherd boy picked up five stones from a small brook and with his sling killed the giant of the Philistines, Goliath, with just one stone. We frequently use this story metaphorically. Any time we are facing a problem bigger than us, we are "facing our Goliath."

Continued overleaf

Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay
Preferably by email to beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk 01908 612475
Copy Deadline - 20th of each month

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David's Goliath was tangible – a 9-foot-tall man with super-human strength, carrying an appropriately sized spear and shield. Our Goliaths don't carry swords or shields. They don't prance and parade about the hills of Elah, they are up close and personal – the office, the bedroom, the classroom, even sometimes the church. You know your Goliath. You recognize his walk, the thunder of his voice. He taunts you with bills you can't pay, people you can't please, habits you can't break, failures you can't forget, and a future you can't face. But just like David, you can face your giant, even if you aren't the strongest, the smartest, the best equipped. You could read David's story and wonder what God saw in him. He fell as often as he stood, stumbled as often as he conquered. But for those who know the sound and roar of the giant, David gives this reminder: Focus on giants - you stumble; focus on God - your giants tumble. If you're ready to face your giants, let his story inspire you. The same God who helped him will help you.

The story is told of a lady who had a small house on the seashore of Ireland at the turn of the century. She was quite wealthy but also quite frugal. The people were surprised, then, when she decided to be among the first to have electricity in her home. Several weeks after the installation, a meter reader appeared at her door. He asked if her electricity was working well, and she assured him it was. "I'm wondering if you can explain something to me," he said. "Your meter shows scarcely any usage. Are you using your power?" "Certainly," she answered. "Each evening when the sun sets, I turn on my lights just long enough to light my candles; then I turn them off."

She tapped into the power but did not use it. Her house is connected but not altered. Don't we make the same mistake? So often we are connected but not altered. Let us trust in God, like David did when facing his giant. David used God's power to win his battle. We need to flip the switch, and not settle for the shadows.

*Stuart Grant, Chaplain,
The Limes MHA
Newport Pagnell*

CELEBRATION OF HYMNS

Newport Pagnell Methodist Church – July 18th – 7.30pm

As part of our Bicentenary events of 2015, we are holding our annual Celebration of Hymns on the evening of July 18th at 7.30pm, sadly without Robin this year.

The Salvation Army Band will be playing as usual and an ex-minister of NPMC, Revd. Margaret Goodall will compère the evening. Each church has been asked to contribute by encouraging someone to choose and introduce a hymn that is special to them. (It would be really helpful if they could give a couple of options, in case we have a clash!) If preferred, a substitute, or Margaret could read out the introduction.

Although only one person from each church has been asked to choose a hymn, *everyone* is welcome and we hope that this will be a very special evening celebrating both our 200th year and Robin's life of faithful service. Any queries contact Pat Mountford (01908 615080 / 07713154762 or pjm12@btinternet.com)

CELEBRATION WEEK at THE METHODIST CHURCH

Thanks to everyone who supported us in our 200th Birthday celebrations, 24th -31st May. We were pleased to welcome a number of new faces at our Birthday Party. Folk of all ages enjoyed entertainment by The Great Gappo – as well as a generous portion of Birthday Cake!



Our special service on May 31st, led by Revd. Ken Howcroft, President of the Methodist Conference, was an uplifting experience and we thank all those who came to represent their church and to celebrate with us. At the buffet which followed we were well provided for and, as at The Feeding of the Five Thousand, there was plenty to spare!

We look forward to sharing other Bicentenary events with you as the year progresses.

(Team 200 committee, Methodist Church)

EMERGENCY HELP SCHEME

This year our Annual Garden Party and AGM will take place on **11th July from 2pm-4pm**. We are again indebted to Jennifer and Ralph Mazzone who have invited us to use their lovely garden at 120 Wolverton Road. Cream teas and a cake stall will be available. We'd love to see you for a chat over a cup of tea. In the event that it is raining we will meet at St Luke's Church, but as the sun usually shines for us we do not anticipate having to do this! ALL are welcome.

This will be Nita's last year as chair of the EHS. We are actively seeking a new chairperson so if you feel you would like to take on this role or know someone who would, please speak to Nita who will be happy to explain what is involved. She can be contacted on **01908 615729** or by email at nitagt53@aol.com or you can speak to her at the Garden Party!!

CREAM TEA

Come and enjoy a delicious Cream Tea and good company in the garden of Ralph and Jennifer Mazzone at 120 Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell on **Sunday, July 26th from 2 pm – 5 pm**.

There will be a raffle. Everyone is welcome.
Proceeds for Mother's Union projects.

SUMMER FUN!

A reminder that Giant games (jenga etc) are available from CTNP.

- For church events - free!
- For birthdays etc you may like to offer a small donation to CTNP.

Contact Linda or Geoff Morris on **01908 617050**.



Landlubbers is a five-day fun filled holiday club for around 150 primary school-age children. It has a pirate theme and follows Paul's life from Philippians and Acts. We have video characters, Poop and Dec who star in 'I'm a pirate, get me out of here'!

We are still looking for more volunteers to help with this. Whatever your skills there's a role for you. If this is all new to you don't worry, we will support you. We are all in this together. Roles include: teaching team leaders; apprentice helpers; drama; music; cooking; crèche, tidy-up people, practical helpers who cut things out etc. If you are new to children's work we will give you a supportive role and put you through a DBS check.

Children will be divided into groups of roughly 10 and each group will have a leader and helpers. Children will enjoy crafts, teaching and refreshments in the groups and at other times we all gather together for teaching, games and fun led from the front. You'll be in good company. In the midst of serving children the volunteers have a lot of fun. It's great to work together and by the end of the week you will have made new friends.

To help us with our planning, we ask all volunteers **to please sign up as soon as possible to enable us to finalise teams**. There should be forms available in all the churches for you to fill in to register your desire to help or you can send an email to jack.walker@talk21.com or come by the office at Lovat Hall.

If you missed the training meeting on **Sunday, 21st June** and haven't yet signed up as a volunteer but would like to, contact Jack asap (as above).

Holiday Club 2015

10th-14th August, 10am-12.30 at Lovat Hall

For primary school aged children who attend reception through to year six. Registration for children via Cambourne Travel officially closes on 30th June but there may still be places available.



BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 1815–2015

Flower Festival

'Newport Pagnell 1815–2015'

Weekend of 11/12 July



Free admittance

Sat 10.00am to 4.00pm

Sun 1.00pm to 4.00pm

Drinks available all day

Cream Teas in afternoon

Donations to Willen Hospice
and Karibuni Trust

NEWPORT PAGNELL METHODIST CHURCH

HIGH STREET MK16 8AQ

See back page for more information about events in the Methodist Church over the Flower Festival weekend.

EDUCATION GRANTS FROM THE JANE GOODMAN CHARITY

The charity has an income of approximately £250 per annum, from which small grants are available for students undertaking further education and apprentices. Applicants must be aged under 25 and residents of Newport Pagnell.

Those wishing to be considered for grants to be made later this year can obtain an application form by writing to
The Secretary, Jane Goodman Charity, 19 Nene Close, Newport Pagnell MK16 9DE

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NEW RECTOR

A special service for the institution and induction of Revd Nick Evans as the new Rector of the Benifice of Newport Pagnell with Lathbury and Moulsoe will be held in St Peter & St Paul Church, Newport Pagnell on **Wednesday, 15th July at 7.30pm**. All welcome. The service will be followed by refreshments. CTNP extends a warm welcome to Nick and his wife, Moira, as they join the Christian community in our town.

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FRESH FROM FORUM

The CTNP Forum/AGM was held on 25th June. In the absence of any other nominations, Paul Tolley and Beth MacKay agreed to continue in the roles of Treasurer and Secretary for a further 12 months.

Disappointment was expressed that there had been no CTNP inter-denominational Lent house groups in 2015 and views are to be sought from people in the churches about whether they should be reinstated for 2016.

Additional helpers are always needed to help organise CTNP activities e.g. relating to Christmas/Lent/Easter. If you can help with any one of these events, please contact Hazel Reynolds (hazel_reynolds@hotmail.co.uk).

We are also looking for a team of volunteers to do some leaflet dropping in mid-December. If you can spare a couple of hours (or more) this December to post some Christmas leaflets through people's doors, please contact Neville Watson – nevillefromnp@gmail.com to register your willingness to help with this.