

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**WEDNESDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE:** **Memory Cafe** from 10am to 12 noon in the foyer of Westbury Grange on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information please contact Westbury Grange on 01908 210332.

**WEDNESDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE:** Coffee morning at Mandy Pateman's home (see inside for details)

**SUNDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 12.30pm:** Royal picnic at URC followed by games on Bury Field

**MONDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 7.15pm:** 'Healing Perspectives' at St Luke's

**THURSDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE, 7.45pm:** CTNP Forum and AGM at Methodist Church

**SATURDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE:** Newport Pagnell Carnival

**FRIDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> JULY:** Celebration of Hymns at the Methodist Church

**SATURDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2-4pm:** Emergency Help Scheme Garden Party/AGM at 120 Wolverton Road

**SUNDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2-5pm:** Mother's Union Garden Party at 120 Wolverton Road

**MONDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> to THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 10am to 12,30pm:** CTNP Holiday Club

For up-to-date information on events and activities check our website regularly at

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

**CTNP President:** Vacancy

**Secretary:** Beth MacKay, [beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk)

Tel. 01908 612475

**Treasurer:** Paul Tolley, [PTMERCEDES@aol.com](mailto:PTMERCEDES@aol.com)

Tel. 01908 615729

CTNP website: - **[www.ctnp.org.uk](http://www.ctnp.org.uk)**



## CONNECTIONS

June 2016

*Gracious God, give our Queen continued wisdom and strength to carry out the promises she has made; and bless us all, that, sustained by service for others, we may faithfully serve you, all the days of our life.*



This is to be a 'bring & share' picnic so please bring along some food and/or drink to share with others. Tables, chairs, crockery and cutlery will be provided. After the picnic we hope to walk over to Bury Field for some games. Do come along if you can to help make this a special celebration to mark the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bring family and friends - the more the merrier!!

**Articles to the Editor, Beth MacKay**

Preferably by e-mail to [beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk) 01908 612475

**Copy Deadline - 20th of each month**

## LETTER FROM A MINISTER

So what has poking a sharp stick through a balloon without bursting it got to do with Easter? That was the opening of a recent assembly to get children thinking about 'the unexpected' - you expect the balloon to pop, of course, but that it does not is just a trick, whereas the unexpected resurrection of Jesus - even his disciples were stunned - is the greatest event in world history, the miracle of miracles.

A tenuous link? Well, when you have an audience of up to 400 easily-bored primary school children then you have to get their attention! When explaining the events of the first Easter, you also have to be careful to ensure you are educating them, not preaching at them. You can tell them that Jesus has had more influence on world history than anyone else - a fact - but that he rose from the dead has to be put in the context of personal belief rather than history. And, while we always finish assemblies in Primary Schools with a prayer, joining in is an option rather than an order.

Milton Keynes Bridgebuilder Trust has been taking this approach for over 20 years, looking to get children thinking for themselves about what they believe and explaining where we stand as Christians on a range of topics. Fundamentally, we are telling them we believe that God loves them and is always there for them - something they may well not hear anywhere else - and do it in a fun and engaging way. I am proud to be a Schools Worker for them.

Is this something you could do? 'Not for all the tea in China' as my old Mum would have said? Well I beg to differ. Anyone can show God's love for our children by helping at this year's CTNP Holiday Club (in Lovat Hall August 15th to 18th). There is no need to stand at the front and do the 'entertaining' bit if that is not your cup of tea, but there is a need for helpers to be with the children in their groups, just giving them your time and showing that you care for them, helping them with their craft activities or explaining something they do not understand. Most importantly, just listening can be the most important contribution of all and something we can all do to show God's love for them.

So there you are - for four mornings in August you can become a children's evangelist. Well how unexpected is that!

Geoff Morris

*(More information about the CTNP Holiday Club further on in this leaflet and on the CTNP website [www.ctnp.org.uk](http://www.ctnp.org.uk)).*

## FUN, GAMES and TEA PARTIES!

Now that Summer is here, don't forget that CTNP giant games can be borrowed by churches for their events free of charge.  
(Giant snakes and ladders, Connect 4, Jenga)

Church members can also borrow the games for a small donation to CTNP.  
Please contact Linda or Geoff Morris 01908 617050.



### Emergency Help Scheme GARDEN PARTY with Cream Teas

9th July 2 – 4 pm



*Adults: £3, Children: £1.50 (includes refreshments)*

120 Wolverton Rd *(In St Luke's Church if wet)*

**ALL WELCOME**

*(EHS Drivers – Please bring your ticket with you)*

## MORE CREAM TEAS!

Come and enjoy yet another delicious cream tea and good company, also at 120 Wolverton Road (in the garden of Ralph and Jennifer Mazzone), on **Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> July from 2-5pm**. There will be a raffle. **Everyone is welcome!**

Proceeds are for Keech Hospice and Mother's Union projects.  
(If wet, it will be held in St Luke's church nearby.)

## HEALING PERSPECTIVES WITH REV NICK EVANS AT ST LUKE'S

So far two meetings have been held at St Luke's for those interested in finding out more about healing. These meetings were both well attended and included members from various churches. All are welcome.

The next meeting is on **Monday, 13th June, 7.15pm at St Luke's.**

We will spend a bit longer on the practical this time as feedback has been that we hadn't spent enough time on that aspect, and will also include worship, bible study and other healing perspectives. For more information, see '**What about healing?**' on the CTNP website at [www.ctnp.org.uk](http://www.ctnp.org.uk).

### GOOD NEWS FOR ROMANIA (GNFR) COFFEE MORNING/BRING & BUY STALLS/RAFFLE Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 11am – 4pm At 31 Whitton Way, Newport Pagnell

(Phone 01908 218679 or email [mandypateman@hotmail.com](mailto:mandypateman@hotmail.com) for more information.)

Donations of cakes, finger food, and/or one item to sell on stall would be helpful and appreciated but no worries if you haven't anything.

I am also collecting new and 'as new' children's clothes (young children/older teens) for the youngsters to be given at their annual Summer camp and **will be sending them out for distribution on 3<sup>rd</sup> June**. Also school bags/rucksacks. If anyone reading this enjoys knitting/crochet we would love knitted scarves, gloves, knitted over-shoulder bags, toys to send out to the children and families at Christmas. We already have plenty of knitted hats that have been kindly donated.

For more info on the charity see [www.stpetersparish.info/GNFR](http://www.stpetersparish.info/GNFR)

**Mandy Pateman**



## HOLIDAY CLUB: 15-18 AUGUST 2016 CAN YOU HELP?

This is a four-day fun filled holiday club, for around 150 infant and junior school-aged children and we need an army of volunteers to ensure the children have a great time. It is a highlight event for church children and reaches many others who never go to church. This year's theme, *Guardians of Ancora*, features great Bible stories within a fun-filled program. Check out the Scripture Union Holiday Club website.

**Teams:** Whatever your skills there's a role for you. If this is all new to you don't worry, we want to help and 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.

**What is helping like?** The site is open from 8am so you can be as early as you like to set up each day. Children will be divided by age groups into groups of roughly 10. Each group will have a leader and helpers. Children will enjoy craft, teaching, refreshments in the groups. 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 the children, the team have a lot of fun. It's great to work together. At the end of the week you will have made new friends. There is a crèche to facilitate helpers with young children.

### **Diary dates:**

**15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> August:** Holiday Club runs from 10am-12.30pm (with a clear up on the morning of Friday 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Training meeting, 7-9pm at Lovat Hall. Here we bring you up to speed and you can meet your team, tour the venues and review our materials. We plan to create an amazing magical space in the hall with a library/museum feel to enchant the children. Set up is **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August** 6-9pm.

**To volunteer:** fill in a recruitment form available from [www.ctnp.org.uk](http://www.ctnp.org.uk) or from Paul Tolley (Methodist), Hazel Reynolds (Parish), or from church leaders or the office at Lovat Hall (01908 618818 [jack.walker@talk21.com](mailto:jack.walker@talk21.com)).

**Everyone: PRAYER PLEASE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!**



**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The annual town Carnival will soon be upon us and the Churches Together in Newport Pagnell (CTNP) will be taking part in the procession under this year's theme of 'Sporting Moments'. A small, but enthusiastic, 'task group' has been doing all the planning. We have pulled out all the stops this year by hiring an 'open top' bus for the procession and have chosen the 'FA Cup Final' as our 'Sporting Moment'. Our theme will be 'Christians United' and we plan to have a gazebo on the Carnival field afterwards (on the Saturday and Sunday) where we can promote the work of the churches in Newport Pagnell.

**We are now looking for lots of volunteers from each of the churches in the town to take part in the parade and also to man the stall in the gazebo on Saturday after the procession and on Sunday.** We are also looking for the loan of football shirts, scarves and flags that can be used to decorate the bus. If you have any football banners, flags or scarves and are willing to let us borrow them for the day (we will make sure they are returned to you), please could you let us know as soon as possible.

We want to make sure that our churches are a visible part of this town celebration and we hope that others will be as excited about this venture as we are; it should be a very enjoyable and successful day! If you feel inspired and would like to be part of this, or can help in any way, please talk to Kathy Cowell, Moira Evans, Steve Greenfield, Keith Bedford, Stephanie Proctor or one of your church leaders or CTNP reps as soon as possible and let's help make this year's carnival one to remember!

*CTNP's Carnival Planning Group*

## Finding Out About Beliefs



6pm at Newport Pagnell United Reformed Church

Sundays 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> June

I am a Salvation Army member

I am a Jehovah's Witness

I am a Buddhist

I am a Quaker

I am a Sikh

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - What more do I know now?**

Each week a person who holds the beliefs of the faith will speak about what they believe and how they live this out in today's world. This will be followed by questions and discussion.

**ALL WELCOME.**

For more information contact [nevdmills@btinternet.com](mailto:nevdmills@btinternet.com) or call 07703485017.

*'When there is peace among religions, there will be peace in the world'*  
-Dalai Lama

## CTNP FORUM and AGM Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.45pm in Methodist Church

An important day for Britain! Don't forget to exercise your democratic right to cast your vote in the EU Referendum! And once you've done that... we invite you to the Methodist Church to find out what CTNP has been getting up to and what plans there are for the future. If you attend any of the churches in the town, you are part of CTNP and we value your input and suggestions.

Although this is an AGM, we want it to be as informal as possible, and an enjoyable evening with refreshments, some interesting talks, and possibly an auction of a painting or two by local artist, Loretta Ramsay, in aid of our Burkina Faso appeal (to be confirmed). So please do come and share this time with us!

*Beth MacKay*