

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST:** 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.

**THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 7.30 - 9.30pm:** "Challenges and opportunities for Christianity in the 21st century with special reference to Britain" Dr Daleep Mukarji, OBE, Quaker Centre, 1 Oakley Gardens MK15 9BH

**MONDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> to THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 10am to 12.30pm:**  
CTNP Holiday Club

**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST and MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST:** 'The Great Battle in Newport Pagnell'. English Civil War Society bring Pike, Musket, Cannon and Horse to Bury Field (free event, charge for car park).

**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 11.30am to 5pm and MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 10am to 4pm:** Flower festival at Parish Church (English Civil War theme)

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:** Chris Row, [chris.row@which.net](mailto:chris.row@which.net) Tel. 01908 611542

**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

August 2016

*Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'*

*Matthew 19, v14 (NRSV)*



**CTNP HOLIDAY CLUB 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST  
10am to 12.30pm at Lovat Hall**

Holiday Club is nearly here again! The great news is that we have more than 140 children booked in this year and teams are in place for all the groups. We need lots of help setting up on **Sunday evening, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 6pm to 9pm** so come along to Lovat Hall if you can.

Thanks again to everyone who has volunteered this year – **YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**

**Finally, a plea to everyone who reads this – please pray for all the children, families and volunteers involved in the Holiday Club this summer.**

**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

As I write this letter, there is a theme of uncertainty dominating the news stories and the media seems to be full of questions: Who will be the next leaders of the Labour and Conservative parties? Who will be the next manager of the England Football team? And perhaps the biggest question of them all, what will happen to the country following the vote to leave the European Union? Some things, however, do not seem to change: terror attacks and violence continue to make the headlines, rain continues to interrupt the play at Wimbledon and England's football team fails again in a major tournament.

This time of year is a time of change for many. Children finish the Summer term and in September will move to new classes or new schools or universities. Older children may have graduated from university and now, hopefully, face the step into employment. For others, the change is something they look forward to with great anticipation – the change of scene as they take their Summer holiday and perhaps visit places they have never been to before or return to a favourite resort to recharge their batteries.

Change is often unsettling, whether this is a change in employment, home or personal circumstances and the prospect of facing these changes can cause us to be worried or nervous. Even the change of scene brought about by a holiday can generate some worries – will we travel safely and without incident or will our luggage get mislaid or our flights be delayed or cancelled because of circumstances beyond our control?

It is reassuring to know that some things do not change and for me the most important thing for me that does not change is the love of God. The love of God is unending, unchanging and unconditional.

If you are going on holiday, I hope that you will have an enjoyable break and be able to return safely, refreshed and reinvigorated.

*Deacon Jon Walls, St Bede's*

## 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.

Thanks to the kind people who supported the  
Lakes Lane open gardens this year.  
A massive £2001 was raised for the Eclipse  
counselling centre.  
12 gardens were open this year and extra money  
came in from a raffle, refreshments, face  
painting etc.  
A fantastic community effort!

Linda Morris



## Autumn 2016

Details of our coMPass courses for the Autumn Term are now available. This term we are offering 4 courses:

- **Getting to Grips with Paul** – *Tuesday evenings at Christ the Vine, Coffee Hall*
- **Mission Shaped Intro** – *This course will be run twice, once before the October half term holiday – Wednesday evenings at Christ Church, Stantonbury (Sept – Oct) – and again after – Monday evenings at Holy Cross, Two Mile Ash (end Oct – Dec)*
- **Feminist Perspectives on Theology: Looking at our faith through a different lens** – *Thursday evenings at Christ the Cornerstone, Central MK*

More information can be found in the coMPass leaflet on our website - [www.missionpartnership.org.uk/compass/](http://www.missionpartnership.org.uk/compass/). Bursaries are available on application – money has been set aside for this, so do ask.

*Note: the first of the Mission Shaped Intro courses starts on 14<sup>th</sup> September, which is earlier than our coMPass courses usually start in the Autumn.* Applications have already started coming in so do let us know ASAP if you wish to attend to secure your place.

## SYRIAN REFUGEES

Three Syrian refugee families are arriving in Milton Keynes soon. The Refugees Welcome group is working hard with MK Council and the Red Cross to support them as they arrive, and they will come with very little.

**They urgently need donations of furniture and household items.** The Church of Christ the Cornerstone has made it possible to take donations of money so that items can be purchased directly.

For more information see

[www.citizensmk.org.uk/campaigns/refugees-welcome/support/furnishings](http://www.citizensmk.org.uk/campaigns/refugees-welcome/support/furnishings)

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## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 13<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

Led by Peter Ballantine. Staying very near the walls of Jerusalem and on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

More details from Peter on [pballarev@yahoo.com](mailto:pballarev@yahoo.com) or phone 07876 797507.

## EMERGENCY HELP SCHEME

**Thanks to all involved for making the garden party for the Emergency Help Scheme such a great event.**

**We raised a fantastic £111.78 (profit).**

**Particular thanks go to Ralph and Jennifer Mazzone for the use of their lovely garden.**

**Thanks also to the wonderful drivers who give up their time to take local residents to medical appointments throughout the year.**

**Linda Morris, Anglican rep on EHS Committee**



**Newport Pagnell Parish Church** is hosting a **Flower Festival** during the August Bank Holiday weekend using the English Civil War period as its theme.

We can't guarantee any Roundheads and Cavaliers, but we couldn't let this historic weekend pass without a tribute in flowers in the Parish Church, where events of the Civil War took place over 300 years ago.

The festival will be open **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August, 11.30am to 5pm and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 10am to 4pm** and we will have refreshments for our visitors.