

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

New Years Day Walk – Starts 10am at St Lukes

The walk will start at St Lukes at 10am then we'll walk to the Baptist church at 10.40am, The URC at 11am, the Parish Church at 11.20am, The Methodist church at 11.40am, then onto St Bede's at 12noon.

There will be a short talk, prayers & a hymn in each church & we will finish with refreshments at St Bede's. The theme will be "New Year, New Hope"

Churches Together Forum- 17th January at 8pm

If you want to find out how the churches are working together in Newport Pagnell come along to the next Forum in January at the Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the discussion. It's an opportunity to have your say!

Annual Church Quiz – Wednesday 23rd January at 7:30pm

NP Methodist Church host the "Annual Church Quiz" admission is £5 per person, Teams of Four or Five includes Soup and Bread Roll. The Proceeds go to Willen Hospice.

Rev Jack Walker Induction Baptist Church 2nd February

More details to follow

Lent Lunches -February 15th – 22nd March – Every Friday at URC Hall

Thank You from Linda and Geoff Morris

Thank you to all who came to the Lifeboats coffee morning we recently had at our house. With donations and sales, £116 was raised, and on behalf of RNLI MK, thanks for your support.

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CONNECTIONS

January 2013

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight

REQUEST FOR HELP FOR LENT LUNCHESES 2013

Lent Lunches 2013 to raise money for Christian Aid will take place at the URC Hall for six weeks from Friday 15th Feb – Friday 22nd March. Offers of assistance for this CTNP annual event are requested from ALL the churches in Newport Pagnell and from anyone in our community who has 2 hours to spare on a Friday, even if it is only for one Friday during the 6 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 for such a good cause!

Please contact Jennifer Mazzone 01908613088 if/when you are able to give your time, and/or contribute homemade soup, one or more Friday lunchtime.

Organist wanted – St Luke's

St Luke's church is looking for an organist, or good pianist, who will play at the 11.00am service on Sunday mornings. This is a fee paid post. For information contact the Rector, Rev Michael Godfrey, on 01908 611145 or rector_08@btinternet.com

Articles to the Editor, David Huckle
Preferably by e-mail to davidhuckle@me.com Tel. 217429
Copy Deadline - 15th of each month

LETTER FROM A MINISTER

During Advent we reflected the-fact that in sending Jesus into our world, God made himself dearly and plainly known. Despite the baggage we all tend to bring to this season, God's coming to earth involved no complicated rituals or intricate symbolism, but a child in a stable who was worshipped by poor, uneducated shepherds and well-to-do wise-men. Now I'm not breaking any theological ground when I say that in this momentous event, God took the initiative. Rev Rosie Dymond, a Welsh rector wrote, "The Incarnation is not about our reaching out to gather a helpless infant in our arms, rather, it is about none other than the Godhead reaching out in welcome to us." Not us welcoming God, but God welcoming us! I am privileged to be a Chaplain with the Methodist Homes Association: at The Limes in Newport Pagnell. This position I started just 12 months ago, and what a year it has been. I have met a new set of neighbours at The Limes, and the message of Advent is something that I have tried to share with them all. The simple, yet astounding fact that God entered the world in the person of Jesus.

Now as we enter yet another New Year, my message will be just the same. God entered the world in the person of Jesus. We all crave for new things, especially at New Year. I understand that for the Chinese, they always wear new clothes, new shoes, even new furniture if possible. Anything that is external that is. That's what we can change. But we cannot change us - the real me. I can change my clothes but it's still me. I can change my hairstyle, but it would still be me. I carry with me the Same old handicaps, worries, fears, the same sadness and miseries, and no amount of new gadgets, clothes, things, can really give me what my heart longs for. What we need are not new things, but a new life. We can have many new things but we cannot have a new life, unless we allow Jesus, that Child in the Manger to be part of our lives. Listen to Jesus, where it is recorded in John's Gospel, Chapter 10, and verse 10: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" Let me put it to you with the story of a simple, illiterate man Who was converted through the work of the Salvation Army. "He went regularly to the Salvation Army citadel. One day he came home rather disconsolate. His wife said, "What's the matter?" He said, "I've just noticed that all the people in the Salvation Army wear red sweaters, and I don't have a red sweater." She said, "I'll knit one." So she knitted him a red sweater

The next Sunday after he went to the-citadel, he 'still wasn't happy. His wife said, "What is wrong this time?" He said, "I just noticed all their red sweaters have yellow writing." They Were both illiterate, but she said, "Don't worry about it. I'll embroider some writing on for you." She had no idea what the yellow writing on the red sweater said, a Salvation Army man said. Any of you know what it is? The man's wife had no idea what the letters said, and she couldn't read anyway. So copying a sign from a store window opposite their home, she embroidered the words of that store sign onto his red sweater. When he came back the next Sunday, she said, "Did they like your sweater?" "They loved my sweater. Some of them smile at me when they saw my sweater." What neither of them knew was that the sign on the store window she had copied read, UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT. (Stuart Briscoe, "Christmas 365 Days a Year") We don't really need better gadgets, better things, or better programmes. We need Jesus. Make this one of your resolutions this year - get to know Him better. Spend time with Him.

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

Milton Keynes Foodbank

New Donations Point...

There is now a donations box for Milton Keynes Food bank in the Newport Pagnell Medical Centre to the right of the main desk as you go in. Donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome and there is a more detailed list of preferred items on the box or see <http://www.mkfoodbank.org.uk/> for more details and info on the Foodbank generally.

Thanks to all at the medical Centre for allowing us to have a donations point there and especially to Glenda Wingfield for organising.

...and a local distribution point

The Food bank Van now calls at Lovat Hall in Newport Pagnell on Tuesday mornings at around 11.45. Anyone who has a Foodbank voucher can now collect their bags from there rather than have to trek into MK.