

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Lent Lunches 2013 every Friday from Feb. 15 to March 22<sup>nd</sup>** at the URC Hall, Newport Pagnell from 12. to 1.30. Enjoy delicious homemade soup, a variety of bread, rolls and cheeses. £3.50 and all profits go to Christian Aid

**Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March** @ 7:30pm in St Lukes Church The Service has been prepared this year by the women of France and is entitled "I was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me" Everyone is welcome, men, women and children.

**MK Bridgebuilder Annual Quiz** - Calling all Quizzers! Milton Keynes Bridgebuilder Trust is holding its annual quiz on March 9<sup>th</sup> at Netherfield Chapel, 6.30 for 7pm. Tickets are £7.50 which includes a hot home-cooked meal. Questions for all levels, teams of up to 6. To book in please contact the Trust office on 01908 270670 or [office@mkbt.org.uk](mailto:office@mkbt.org.uk)

**Concert at St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** @ 7.30pm Newport Pagnell Singers, joined by guest soloists and an instrumental quartet of organ, harp, cello and violin will perform a programme of music for Passiontide. Items include 'God so Loved the World' from *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer, 'The Lord is my shepherd' by Howard Goodall and Gabriel Faure's beautiful *Requiem*. Tickets £10 from Cambourne Travel or contact Pat on MK 610623 NPSingers charity of the year is Willen Hospice.

**Eclipse Counselling Service Dinner & Auction** - Thursday 18th April Eclipse will be hosting their annual Dinner and Auction at Eversholt Hall, Church End, Eversholt MK17 9DU. Time: 7pm for 7.30. Cost: £35 per ticket. Smart attire. If you would like to come to this fun fund-raising event please contact Jenny at Eclipse 01908 211288 or email: [jenny.duncombe@eclipse-addiction.org.uk](mailto:jenny.duncombe@eclipse-addiction.org.uk) or speak to Mandy 01908 218679.

**CTNP President:** Chris Row, [chris.row@which.net](mailto:chris.row@which.net) Tel. 611542  
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## CONNECTIONS

March 2013

*John 11:25-26*

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."*

**Bumper Connections this month includes details of the Easter Services in Newport Pagnell**

### **EMERGENCY HELP SCHEME VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

Mrs Brown lives on her own with her cat Tiddles. Since her husband passed away and her son moved to London she doesn't see many people. Last week, however she fell on the ice and broke her wrist. She needs to get to the hospital for an out-patient appointment on Wednesday. Fortunately she knows about the Emergency Help Scheme and the wonderful work they have been doing for the last 30 years.

Did you know that?

The Emergency Help Scheme has been running in Newport Pagnell as part of Churches Together for nearly 31 years. Many of the original drivers have left but there is still a small core of volunteers who in the last year have taken 360 people to local and regional appointments.

We want to be able to continue to do this but need more drivers. Could you provide a much-needed lifeline by driving people who need transport to essential appointments? This could make the world of difference to people like Mrs Brown.

For more information contact Nita Tolley on 01908 615729  
Or email [nitagt53@aol.com](mailto:nitagt53@aol.com)

**Articles to the Editor, David Huckle**  
Preferably by e-mail to [davidhuckle@me.com](mailto:davidhuckle@me.com) Tel. 217429  
**Copy Deadline - 15th of each month**

## LETTER FROM A MINISTER

The whole of March this year will be in that period we call Lent. As the days lengthen (which is the origin of the word Lent) Christians prepare for Easter. We remember the journey Jesus made to Jerusalem where he faced opposition and eventually death. Many people give up something in Lent, for example, chocolate, cigarettes, or other luxuries, as a form of self-denial and that custom is a reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus. It's interesting how that custom continues to be observed even among many who are not particularly religious.

In Newport Pagnell we have Lent Lunches every Friday in Lent from 12.15 onwards in the United Reformed Church hall in the High Street. These lunches are simple, just a bowl of soup and a slice of bread and cheese for £3.50, perhaps a little more than most spend on their lunches normally, but the purpose of these lunches is to raise money for Christian Aid to assist poorer communities around the world. Rather than giving something up for Lent, or as an additional act of self-denial, many take the opportunity to do something extra at this time of year.

Perhaps we could all do something extra this Lent. In recent weeks we have heard of the huge increase in the number of Food Banks around the country, offering emergency food supplies for families who have fallen on hard times. In Milton Keynes the demands on the local Food Bank have risen in the past year and sometimes it is difficult to supply food for all those needing it. Lent would be a good time to show that we care by giving something extra from our shopping bags to help others. The churches and some of the shops in Newport Pagnell have collection points to make it easy for us all to give – if everyone who reads this were to give something like a tin of soup, a box of cereals, a packet of spaghetti or a tin of salmon, that could make a big difference to the ability of the Food Bank to meet the needs of those who come to it for help.

There are many ways to make a difference to the lives of others. Why not think of ways in which you could do that this Lent?

*John Reardon*



**March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2013**

Last year the Milton Keynes Foodbank issued over 9,000 food parcels to some of the most needy families in the city. Could you donate one or more items of non-perishable food this year? Cartons of long-life fruit juice would be especially welcome. There are permanent collection points in most of our churches and in Newport Pagnell Health Centre. See the website: [www.mkfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.mkfoodbank.org.uk) for a full list of food items needed and for other ways to help. Thank you – *Geoff Morris*

## **Eclipse Counselling Service Charity Dinner & Auction**

For the past 14 years Eclipse has helped hundreds of people with addictions and other life affecting problems. They work closely with local doctors and other agencies to provide a lifeline to those in need by offering them free counselling and support. Alongside the help given to the client, they also offer much needed support to family members who often suffer greatly due to the addiction. All their counsellors are fully qualified, professional volunteers who give their time freely, willingly and with great enthusiasm. In order to continue this specialist service they need to raise money to cover day-to-day running costs: telephone, rent, lighting, heating etc. Just a few thousand pounds would enable them to keep offering this valuable support network plus it will give them more opportunity to widen their reach in order to help more people

**On Thursday 18th April Eclipse will be hosting their annual Dinner and Auction at Eversholt Hall, Church End, Eversholt Time @7pm for 7.30. Cost: £35 per ticket. Smart attire,**

To ensure the evening is a success Eclipse will need desirable prizes (items and experiences) that will create a buzz and excitement around the auction to encourage all who attend to place their bids!! If you are able to help with this by providing a prize or experience for the auction or raffle please could you phone Jenny Duncombe on MK 211188 or *Mandy Pateman* on MK 218679. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

**EASTER SERVICES**  
**PARISH CHURCH**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March - 8am – Palm Sunday Holy Communion  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March - 9:30am Palm Sunday Procession, sung Passion Gospel and Holy Communion  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March - 6pm – Evensong  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March - 8pm – 30 minutes for reflection  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March - 8pm – 30 minutes for reflection  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March - 8pm Short Service led by Young Peoples group  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - 8pm Maundy Eucharist with foot washing, followed by Vigil from 9.00 pm until midnight  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - 9am end of vigil with Morning Prayer  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - 11am family service for Good Friday  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - 2.00pm Liturgy of the Cross  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March - 8.00pm Easter eve service followed by an Easter party  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March - 8.00am Easter day Holy Communion  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March - 9.30am Blessing of Easter Garden and Easter Day Eucharist  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March - 6pm Evensong

**BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March - 10:30am – Palm Sunday Morning Service  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Communion  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - 10:45am – Good Friday Service  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March - 7:30am Son-Rise Service  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March - 10:30am Easter Sunday Service

**ST LUKES**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March Palm - 11am Eucharist. Easter Day

**METHODIST CHURCH**

Thursday 28 March - 7.30pm Maundy Communion Service at the URC  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – 10:30am Good Friday Service  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March – 10:30am Easter Day Service

**ST BEDES**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Mass - 6.30pm  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March – 9am Palm Sunday  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - 3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Service)  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March - 8pm Easter Vigil: Mass  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March - 9am Easter Day: Mass

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March - 10:30am Palm Sunday. Church Family  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - 7.45pm Maundy Thursday Communion in the Gallery.  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February - 7pm: Good Friday TENEBRA service. Tenebrae is the Latin word for 'darkness' or 'shadows'. In the service we will identify symbolically with Christ's suffering and pain on the day of his crucifixion in a powerful, reflective and moving service. We hear the story of the Passion of Christ and gradually the Church descends into darkness and we leave in silence. For more information call 07703485017.  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March - 10.30am Easter Sunday morning Service

**CTNP GOOD FRIDAY OPEN AIR SERVICE**

Good Friday 29th March Churches Together in Newport Pagnell at 9.30am there will be a procession from the Parish Church down to Market Hill, for a short service

**VACANCY FOR A PARISH ADMINISTRATOR**

A vacancy exists for a part time, 12 hours weekly post of Parish Administrator for the Parish of Newport Pagnell. Flexible hours for rates of pay and details contact rev Michael Godfrey, 01908 611145 or rector\_08@btinternet.com