

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

An Evening of Christian Aid – Tuesday 9th April at 7:30pm – Find out how you and your church can rid the world of hunger an evening of Christian Aid to help you and your Church engage with the IF campaign in your community for more information contact Ruth Tompsett on 01908 617798 or email ruth.tompsett@googlemail.com

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 or speak to Mandy 01908 218679.

Wanted Helpers 6th May from 10am until 4pm Campbell Park
Helpers to hand out bottles of water for Lifeboats (RNLI) at the MK Marathon in Campbell Park (opposite the theatre) on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May. 10am until 4pm, or state which part of the day you could manage. Hopefully it will be a beautiful day this year! If you are interested please contact Linda Morris, 617050 or linda.morris15@btinternet.com
Volunteers Co-ordinator, Milton Keynes Fundraising Branch, RNLI

Bridgebuilder Trust Sponsored Walk & Ride - 'Roundabout MK' takes place on May 11th starting at Furzton Lake at 10am. Walk or cycle the Milton Keynes Millennium Trail, 13 miles of redways and paths around MK's countryside-in-the-city. Too much for you? Then how about a 5 mile walk along the Tattenhoe Brook or just a stroll round the lake? More information and sponsor forms available from the Trust office on MK 270670 or Geoff Morris on 617050. Refreshments available.)

CTNP President: Chris Row, chris.row@which.net Tel. 611542
Secretary: Beth MacKay, beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk Tel. 612475
Treasurer: Paul Tolley, PTMERCEDES@aol.com Tel. 210048
CTNP web-site: - www.ctnp.org.uk



CONNECTIONS

APRIL 2013

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT CTNP PRESIDENT

As Chris Row is coming to the end of his second term of office, a new President will have to be elected at the next Forum on 20 June. Supported by the other officers, members of the Executive and working groups, the President provides a general leadership role for CTNP and acts as Chair to the Forum which meets twice a year (January and June) and to the quarterly Executive meetings. Please think prayerfully about whether this is a role you might consider taking on for the next two years or whether there is someone else in your congregation who you think might be interested.

For more information please contact Chris Row, Paul Tolley or Beth MacKay (see contact details at end of *Connections*), or ask the CTNP representative in your church.

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

Do you remember the Make Poverty History Campaign?

Drop the Debt? Can you remember the protests and the difference it made. Do you know that it is only when people jointly make a fuss about injustice and stand up and are counted, that things begin to change. Well, there's power in numbers. The more people who join the campaign to push the message that there's "**Enough Food For Everyone IF...**", then the harder it'll be for our governments to ignore it.

Here's some of the background: Why now? Nearly one billion people go to bed hungry every night and two million children die from malnutrition every year. We've made progress in other areas, but hunger is still the great scandal of our age. All around the world, even in the UK, people are struggling to feed their families.

In 2013, the government has promised to provide 0.7% of national income for aid and to host a Hunger Summit. We must make sure they keep these promises. In June, the world's most powerful leaders will meet in the UK at the G8. This is our best opportunity to tackle hunger. We must make **IF** happen.

What do we want?

We want our leaders to act on the four big issues that mean so many people do not get enough food.

Aid: **Enough Food For Everyone IF** we give enough aid to stop children dying from hunger and help the poorest families feed themselves.

Tax: **Enough Food For Everyone IF** governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries.

Land: **Enough Food For Everyone IF** we stop poor farmers being forced off their land and grow crops to feed people, not fuel cars.

Transparency: **Enough Food For Everyone IF** governments and big companies are honest and open about their actions that stop people getting enough food.

Together, we can make IF happen.

The more of us who get involved, then the greater pressure there will be on world leaders to tackle global hunger in 2013.

Who is involved? We can all be.

They want millions of people to share the message "**Enough Food For Everyone IF...**" so that, together, we'll be too loud for our governments to ignore.

We are called, as people of faith, to look out for the weak, the poor, the marginalised. We are called to feed the hungry and clothe the poor. This is our chance to make a difference. Over the coming months there will be opportunities for us to find out more and to get involved. I have signed up


at http://enoughfoodif.org/?gclid=COzd8ai_kLUCFYXLtAodwisAIQ and will get updates and information.

We have a future for mission as a Church in our local area, but our calling is to look beyond ourselves and to the wider world **AS WELL**. Let us embrace this and get involved. We have so much, even at our worst moments, we will never know hunger like some of our brothers and sisters around the world. *Let us get involved. And change the world.*

Rev Jenny Mills



ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF



"Hunger is not an incurable disease or an unavoidable tragedy. We can save lives. We can make hunger a thing of the past IF we act now."
Desmond Tutu

Find out how you and your church can help rid the world of hunger!
An evening with Christian Aid to help you and your church engage with the 'IF' campaign in your community

Newport Pagnell URC, High Street
Tuesday 9 April 7:30pm

Contact: Ruth Tompsett
Email: ruth.tompsett@googlemail.com
Tel: 01908 617798

christian aid

UK Registered charity no. 105055
UK Company no 5171525

christianaid.org.uk/if

COULD YOU BE A BRIDGEBUILDER M.O.U.S.E

We are looking to tell year 11 & 13+ young people about the opportunity to join Bridgebuilders M.O.U.S.E Team this year – M.O.U.S.E stands for **M**oving **O**n **U**p to **S**econdary **E**ducation and is a transition project delivered by a team of young people to year 6s preparing them for the move to secondary school.

The team of young people benefit greatly from participating in M.O.U.S.E – the project grows their confidence, gives them an unforgettable experience of working with their peers and the Bridgebuilder team on our latest project, reaching 2500 year 6s in over 50 primary schools. Last year 81% of the eligible number of primary schools in MK booked a session. For many past M.O.U.S.E team members, this has been their first experience of serving as part of a Bridgebuilder project (rather than being on the receiving end) and leads to a deeper and long-standing involvement with the trust

The project runs from Monday 24th June to Friday 12th July 2013, If you know of any interested young people in your church or you are an interested young person yourself, you can download an application form from www.mkbt.org.uk/ and find out more about M.O.U.S.E

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOODBANKS BIG LITTLE GIVE IN MARCH

If you missed it, then there is always a need for non-perishable food items and collection points in our churches and at the Medical Centre. Thanks also to those who give regularly to this important cause - you really do make a difference to MK's poorest families.

See www.mkfoodbank.org.uk for more information on the Foodbank.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2013 – A COLLECTORS

VIEWPOINT

How does the annual request for Christian Aid door-to-door collectors strike you? Are you one of those who jump for joy, or do you prefer to jump for your book of excuses? Do you think it's all too much like hard work and you would rather put £30 in the envelope yourself and have done with it?

Well, if you fall into the latter category, please think again. It may not be a task that I enjoy, but it is not particularly onerous either. The aim is to visit about 50 houses per collector, so putting the envelopes out (ideally on the Sunday afternoon) takes around half an hour. Collecting them back in (those that have not vanished into Monday's recycling) takes about an hour and a quarter, in which time you will get answers at about half the houses on your route. A second visit a couple of days later (another 30 minute job) will find half of the remainder in. Some will have the envelope ready for you; others will take an age to find it and put something in; others will decline, usually politely. Some are brusque, but in the years I have done it I have never had anything rude or unpleasant said to me. My tips for a new collector:

- Find a buddy and sign up for two rounds to do between you: it is much more pleasant to go out with someone else.
- Vary the time between your first and second visit, but don't go before 5.30 or after 8.30.
- Keep a smile on your face, and always be polite yourself. I have found that "Good evening, I'm collecting for Christian Aid; I put an envelope through your door" works quite well.
- Say thank you (for their time) even if they don't contribute – or just return the empty envelope.

And remember that although it may seem like hard work but it is worthwhile. Last year our collectors averaged about £50 each, much of which would not otherwise have been donated to support the important work that Christian Aid does around the world.

Your church rep will be delighted to hear from you when you respond to their request for additional volunteers or Contact Pat Parker Tel 610837 or you own church representative

David Tompsett