

Dates for Your Diary

December 2011

- 1.12.11 **Creaton** 12.00 Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
 3.12.11 **Long Buckby** 10.00-12.00 noon Christmas Coffee Morning
 3.12.11 **Crick** 10.30-12.00 Grand Coffee Morning
 6.12.11 **Kilsby** 7.00 pm Christmas Concert with S.A. band
 9.12.11 **Long Buckby** 10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 11.12.11 **Long Buckby** 6.00 pm Christmas Celebration with Daventry Brass
 13.12.11 **Kilsby** 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild - Anne & Brian Haynes
 15.12.11 **Creaton** 12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
 19.12.11 **Creaton** 7.00 pm Carols by Candlelight
 22.12.11 **Crick** 7.00 pm Carols by Candlelight
 23.12.11 **Long Buckby** 10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 24.12.11 **Long Buckby** 2.30 pm Christmas Eve service with tenor solos

January 2012

- 3.1.12 **Kilsby** 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild AGM & looking forward
 5.1.12 **Creaton** 12.00 Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
 6.1.12 **Long Buckby** 10.30 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 7.1.12 **Crick** 10.30-12.00 noon Coffee Morning
 11.1.12 **Kilsby** 10.00 am Church meeting
 17.1.12 **Kilsby** 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild
 19.1.12 **Creaton** 12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
 20.1.12 **Long Buckby** 10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 31.1.12 **Kilsby** 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild

The Good News

From Long Buckby, Creaton, Crick
and Kilsby
(North West Northants. Pastorate)



December 2011 & January 2012

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We wish all the readers of "Good News" a very enjoyable
Christmas and a happy and healthy new year



Rosemary's Ramblings

Does it matter when you're born?

Well, I was born at the end of August and the debate about whether August babies get a raw deal when it comes to education, since they end up in a class with children who can be almost a whole year older than they are, has gone on for years. I think it made a difference to me because I had to skip a whole year in primary school and I can remember still being 15 when I took my O' Levels whilst my friend was almost 17 when she took hers.

My dad was born 1st January - which he hated. In his view his birthday came far too close to Christmas and he regularly suggested that he, like the Queen, should have an "official" birthday later in the year.

Which brings me to another example of your birth date making a difference. I guess an April birthday isn't really conducive to good weather, especially when it comes to public events, so the present Queen has an "official" birthday in June. Mind you, the weather in June isn't always conducive to public events either.

If you read your horoscope, then the date of your birth will determine your birth sign.

In December, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas Day, the 25th of December, is the day we set aside to remember the story of the nativity and the birth of Christ. Biblical scholars will tell you that it is highly unlikely that Jesus was born on 25th December; it is far more likely that he arrived at the end of September.

What really matters is not when he was born, but the fact that he was born and the difference his life has made to our world.

Happy Christmas.

Rosemary Pullen

What's Going on in the Pastorate

COFFEE - If you fancy a coffee, a warm welcome awaits you:-

Kilsby is open for coffee and snacks every Monday and Thursday from 9.00 am until midday.

Long Buckby runs a charity Coffee Morning, the 1st Saturday morning in every month 10.30-11.30 am

Crick also runs a charity Coffee Morning, the 1st Saturday morning in every month 10.30-12.00 noon.

Creton has Poppies Coffee Shop - open from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (closed Thursday).

BIBLE STUDY

Long Buckby offers Bible Study on alternate Fridays at 25 Wright Road, starting at 10.00 am. Contact Michael Bond (01327 842234) for more details.



Creton offers Bible Study every Tuesday afternoon (term time only) at 2.00 pm. Contact the Church Secretary (01604 881495) for more details.

FELLOWSHIP

Creton's Over 70's lunch Club meets at 12.30 pm on 3rd Thursday of each month.

For the Ladies: Kilsby Guild meets on alternate Tuesdays at 2.15 pm. More details from the Church Secretary (01788 823752)

Long Buckby Ladies' Circle meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month in the small hall at 2.15 pm. (No meeting during December & January)

For the Men - Creton host "Nosh and Natter" (Men's lunch) on the 1st Thursday of every month at 12.00 noon

Children and Young People - Junior church is offered at Creton and Long Buckby every Sunday.

Dear Friends

The end of the year is fast approaching and whatever your age, we will all be one year older and I can say that I have been very grateful to have come to the end of 2011 with no other problems except my eyes. As I well now know, our eyes are very precious to us, especially at this time of the year when the leaves are changing colour and there are still lots of changes to be seen as nature dons her winter coat.



It is lovely also to see all the decorations that are going up for Christmas and enticing people into the shops to see all the goods on offer, although some parents do go over the top buying their children expensive toys and maybe, getting into debt.

In the Chronicle and Echo the other evening there was a paragraph from the staff of the Hope Centre, appealing for any mugs that one may have to spare. So I suggest we collect some at Church, and send them along with the food we collect - I think that baked beans and soup will be good items for this time of the year.

We thank God for the "Salvation Army", an organisation that does such wonderful work amongst the homeless. They give up their time over the Christmas season to go out with hot soup and drinks whilst we are at home in the warm. We should be praying for these people .

Also remember in your prayers those who are sick and troubled, with not only physical but also mental illness. I know of quite a few people who are in need of our prayers, but we should also give thanks to God for our own strength and well being.

Have a wonderful time over the Christmas season and the remember it is all about the birth of Jesus Christ.

Gwennie

Poppies Coffee Shop - On 28th November 2010 Poppies Coffee Shop opened with a flourish. We are now 1 year old and during it we have made new friends and cemented relationships with many old friends and villagers.



Our coffee machine which we have named "Valerie" has both served and perplexed us throughout. I hope we have finally got to grips with her female foibles.

My sincere thanks to the Creaton Church members and pastorate friends for their support but very special thanks go to the wonderful team of volunteers. May God continue to bless us all in the future as we enter our second year.

Sylvia Watt

Pilots - On 5th November the Creaton Pilot Company held a fund raising event to raise money for Simone the Lebanese girl that the church sponsors. The children brought some toys to sell and some of the older ones made cards to sell. There was also a cake stall for which contributions were gratefully received. The Pilots also made jigsaw puzzles to which people gave donations. The whole event raised £172.30. Many thanks to all who helped in anyway.

Marion Heard

"I was born with a pencil in my hand" says Vera Curtis, one of our church members, who joined Network Arts almost 20 years ago. Vera said she was shocked to find that she had won Network Arts "Best Picture in Show" category in the "Network of Light" exhibition at 78 Derngate (the Charles Rennie Mackintosh - designed house). Vera's work was a pastel entitled Edward, using her 13 year old grandson as subject. It was one of a 100 works submitted by members of "Network Arts". Vera told the Chronicle and Echo she had been drawing all her life which is what prompted the above words. Furthermore, Vera said she did not know there was a competition and was so thrilled when she realised she had won. **CONGRATULATIONS Vera- well done!**

MISSION STATEMENT

- Worship God joyfully
- Offer Christ faithfully
- Promote growth hopefully
- Serve others lovingly



Creaton News

John William Harold Tucker (Peter) - It is with sadness we announce that John Tucker (*known to us all in the church as Peter*) passed away peacefully on 8th November. Peter was a loyal member of Creaton URC for many years. His practical abilities have proved invaluable in the maintenance of the church building particularly Peter's skill as a joiner and cabinet maker.

Creaton URC was packed to capacity, folk standing in the church and in the vestibule on Thursday afternoon 17th November to celebrate the life of our dear friend Peter. The service was conducted by Rev. Geoff Townsend and music was provided by Wendy Baker at the organ.

The Eulogy was very skilfully prepared and given by Stephen, one of Peter's sons. Each part of the Eulogy contained two contrasting statements, for example Peter suffered with heart problems in his latter years, one line of the Eulogy was "*weak heart - strong faith*".

Geoff mentioned a number of items made by Peter during his many years as a member of the church, which are still in use today. Perhaps in some small way they will serve to remind us of Peter's craftsmanship and love for his Lord who he is now with.

Peter wrote thanks-giving graces for the Creaton over 70's lunch club. He also wrote poetry. To end this tribute to Peter, one of his poems, which he wrote about his working life, is reproduced opposite,

Our prayers and thoughts are with June, Peter's wife, and the whole family at this time of loss.

- o O o -

We wish all our friends at Long Buckby, Crick and Kilsby a very happy Christmas and every blessing for 2012.

Reg Thomas

For more information on the activities at Creaton United Reformed Church, please visit the Creaton website www.creaton.org.uk Click on Churches and then click on United Reformed Church

Long Buckby News

OUR CHRISTMAS EVENTS - please come along and support them!

We are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on 3rd December from 10.00 am until 12 noon. This is replacing the usual Bazaar and we will be having some Christmas stalls and a raffle.

After the Band Service on 11th December at 6.00 pm we will be serving mince pies and coffee in the Large Hall. All are welcome to come along to this very popular service, listen to the band, sing plenty of Carols and enjoy seasonal refreshments afterwards.

On Christmas Eve we are having a service at 2.30 pm. This will include a soloist (Andrew Howes—a tenor). Following the service refreshments will be served in the Large Hall. A warm welcome to join us is extended to everyone. We are not having a Christmas Day Service, which is a Sunday.

World Survey by Phone

A world-wide survey has been carried out by the UN. The only question asked was: "Would you please give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?"

The survey was a huge failure because of the following:

- ◆ In Eastern Europe they didn't know what "honest" meant.
- ◆ In Western Europe they didn't know what "shortage" meant.
- ◆ In Africa they didn't know what "food" meant.
- ◆ In China they didn't know what "opinion" meant.
- ◆ In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant.
- ◆ In South America they didn't know what "please" meant.
- ◆ In the USA they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.
- ◆ In UK they hung up as soon as they heard the Indian accent.

Long Buckby News

A Christmas Celebration with Daventry Brass

We are looking forward once again to welcoming Daventry Brass to a service of Christmas Celebration with music and carols in Long Buckby URC on Sunday 11th December at 6.00 pm

Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the Band and popular Christmas Carols, followed by refreshments.

Flower Rota

4th December - Beryl Chapman

11th December - Gill Best

18th December - Sian Ellison

25th December - Christmas Day
(no service)

1st January - No Service

8th January - Sian Ellison

15th January - Gwennie Wilkes

22nd January - Rachel Cole

29th January - Group Service

Please contact Eva Brownlie (01327 844056) for any enquiries regarding your Flower Sunday.

Cantare Singers Evening a Great Success

Thanks to Wendy and all her helpers, we had a marvellous evening in October when the Cantare Singers entertained 120 people with solos, duets and choral singing. The wine and nibbles went down well in the interval and we are grateful for the small group who missed the second half to make the draw and deliver the winners list to close the evening.

Well done everybody for such an enjoyable evening and for encouraging people to come. By the way over £640 was raised for funds.

Birthdays

18th December Harry Ellison

7th January Dawn Chandler

28th January Edna Curtis

29th January Hilary Ketley



Ladies Circle

Ladies Circle does not meet in December and January - next meeting is 1st February at 2.15 pm

The Carpenter's Bench

I remember the day half century away,
When I started to work at the shop.
My mentor was kind, but with critical mind,
No praises from him, not a jot!

On the bench day by day, he would show me the way
To differentiate bad from the good.
And right from the start, he instilled in my heart,
A love for the feel of the wood.

I've made table and chair, pulpit, coffin and stair,
With tenon and dovetail and trench.
In vice made for gripping, while planing or ripping,
Like me, twas a part of the bench.

Many prentice I've had, to man from a lad
And all of them made a good grade.
With work days nigh finished, naught is diminished,
I've passed on the skills of my trade.

I've oft worked alone but ne'er on my own,
For another fine joiner oft came,
To help me with sawing, planing or drawing,
Jesus of Nazareth by name.

I'm leaving today, on pensioners pay,
I'll not grieve but twill be a wrench.
So I thank God with pride, he was there by my side,
Every moment I stood at the bench.

Peter Tucker

Crick News

Coffee Mornings - Our coffee mornings continue as usual, 10.30 am til 12 on the first Saturday of the month, including one on the first Saturday in 2012, January 7th.

Our November coffee morning raised £135.70 for Breast Cancer, from donations and a bring and buy stall. We have sent £100 to the following charities - React, Cystic Fibrosis and DACT.

Grand Coffee Morning - December 3rd from 10.30 am until 12.00. Our December coffee morning will be for URC funds and will include a well-stocked cake stall.

Pastorate Service at Crick - What a pleasure to see so many friends at our pastorate event in October. We hope you all felt really 'fed up' afterwards! We look forward to all our joint events in 2012.

Merry Christmas! - We hope to see you at some (or all!) of our special seasonal events. All of us at Crick URC wish you all the blessings of a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2012.

Carols by Candlelight - Come and join us at this popular service to start your Christmas celebrations on **Thursday December 22nd at 7.00 pm** led by our Minister, the Rev Rosemary Pullen. Stay on and enjoy mince pies and coffee.



Christmas Day - Our **Christmas morning** service will begin at **9.30 am**. Alan Fox will lead a short service of praise.

Birthdays



December	5	Louise Wilkin
January	16	Brenda Tomalin
	27	Jenny Goodger

Jenny Goodger

The Christmas Silence by Margaret Delano

Hushed are the pigeons cooing low
On dusty rafters of the loft;
And mild-eyed oxen, breathing soft,
Sleep on the fragrant hay below.

Dim shadows in the corner hide;
The glimmering lantern's rays are shed
Where one young lamb just lifts his head,
Then huddles 'gainst his mother's side.

Strange silence tingles in the air;
Through the half-open door a bar
Of light from one low-hanging star
Touches a baby's radiant hair.

No sound: the mother, kneeling, lays
Her cheek against the little face.
Oh human love! Oh heavenly grace!
'Tis yet in silence that she prays!

Ages of silence end tonight;
Then to the long-expectant earth
Glad angels come to greet His birth
In burst of music, love, and light!



Contributions for the Newsletter

If you have an article, events or thoughts you would like included in the February & March issue of "Good News", please forward it to Gretta Davis, 12 East Street, Long Buckby, NN6 7RA or e-mail her on gretta@longbuckby.com Any items for the next newsletter are required by 20th January.

GET WELL SOON - Margaret Worster is still needing our prayers for a speedy recovery.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE RUGBY SALVATION ARMY BAND

- Come along on Tuesday December 6th at 7.00 pm to enjoy the Salvation Army Band in Concert. Tickets costing £4 each (including refreshments) are available from the Coffee Shop or from Beryl Lees 01788 823752.



TUESDAY GUILD 2.15pm

- December 13th Anne & Brian Haynes
- January 3rd AGM & Looking Forward
- January 17th To be arranged
- January 31st To be arranged

CHURCH MEETING - January 11th at 10.00am

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2012

In 2012 we are looking forward to a year of activities to celebrate 350 years of Free Church witness in Kilsby.

The Nene Consort Woodwind Group will entertain us on Wednesday evening 28th March. Watch this space for further details of other activities throughout the year.

Our Anniversary Service on June 20th at 7.00 pm will enable you to hear Rev. Roberta Rominger who is General Secretary of the United Reformed Church. This service will be preceded by a get together from 4.30 pm for all those who have previous connections with the Church or Sunday School. We look forward to seeing you there.

Beryl Lees

In 1647, the English parliament passed a law that made Christmas illegal. Christmas festivities were banned by Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell, who considered feasting and revelry on what was supposed to be a holy day to be immoral. Anybody caught celebrating Christmas was arrested. The ban was lifted only when the Puritans lost power in 1660.

25th December was not celebrated as the birthday of Christ until AD 440.

In the 19th century, the Christmas cake was eaten on Christmas Eve. It was consider unlucky to cut a Christmas cake before dawn on Christmas Eve.



Mince pies should only be eaten between Christmas Eve and Twelfth Night and one should be eaten on every day of the twelve days of Christmas to bring good luck..

Insults with Class

An exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor: She said, "If you were my husband, I'd poison your tea." He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend.... if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill.
"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response.

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb

PREACHING DIARY - DECEMBER 2011 & JANUARY 2012

Date	Long Buckby <small>(All services at 11.00 am. except 9.00 am on 2nd Sunday in month)</small>	Crick <small>(All services at 11.00 am. except 9.00 am on 3rd Sunday in month)</small>	Creaton <small>(All services at 11.00 am. except 9.00 am on 4th Sunday in month)</small>	Kilsby <small>(All services at 11.00 am. except 9.00 am on 1st Sunday in month)</small>
Sunday 4th December	Martin Buckby	The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Pat Nimmo	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion
Sunday 11th December	9.00 am The Minister 6.00 pm The Minister and Daventry Band Service	Kath Paxton	The Minister with Holy Communion	Dorn Margetts
Sunday 18th December	Sian Ellison	9.00 am The Minister	Martin Buckby	The Minister Carol Service 2.30 pm WI Carol Service
Mon. 19th Dec.			7.00 pm Carols by Candlelight	
Thurs. 22nd Dec.		7.00 pm Carols by Candlelight		
Sat. 24th Dec.	2.30 pm The Minister + soloist			
Christmas Day 25th December	No Christmas Day service	9.30 am Alan Fox	10.30 am The Minister	9.30 am Beryl Lees
Sunday 1st January	No service	The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Geoffrey Townsend	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion
Sunday 8th January	9.00 am The Minister	Rev. Michael Bond	The Minister	John Horrocks
Sunday 15th January	Rev. Michael Bond	9.00 am The Minister	Jon Heard	The Minister
Sunday 22nd January	The Minister with Holy Communion	Kath Paxton	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion	Martin Buckby
Sunday 29th January				11.00 am Joint Pastorate Service at Kilsby The Minister - with Holy Communion Followed by lunch