

Dates for Your Diary

February 2012

- 1.2.12 Long Buckby 2.15 pm Ladies' Circle
 2.2.12 Creaton 12.00 Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
 3.2.12 Long Buckby 10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 4.2.12 Crick 10.30-12.00 Coffee Morning
 4.2.12 Long Buckby 10.30-11.30 am Coffee Morning
 14.2.12 Kilsby 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild
 16.2.12 Creaton 12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
 17.2.12 Long Buckby 10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 28.2.12 Kilsby 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild - Touch of Hope Project

March 2012

- 1.3.12 Creaton 12.00 Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
 2.3.12 Long Buckby 10.30 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 3.3.12 Crick 10.30-12.00 Coffee Morning
 3.3.12 Long Buckby 10.30-11.30 Coffee Morning
 7.3.12 Long Buckby 2.15 pm Ladies' Circle
 10.3.12 Kilsby 2.00 pm Jumble Sale
 13.3.12 Kilsby 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild
 15.3.12 Creaton 12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
 16.3.12 Long Buckby 10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 27.3.12 Kilsby 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild
 28.3.12 Kilsby 7.30 pm Musical Evening with Woodwind Group
 30.3.12 Long Buckby 10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road

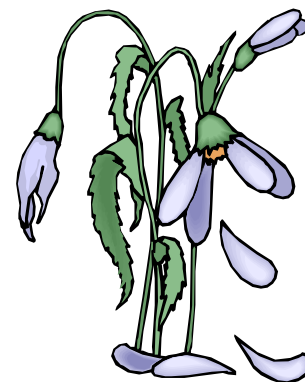
The Good News

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



The
 United
 Reformed
 Church

February & March 2012



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 Junior Church Norman Chandler 01327 843210

Creaton

Secretary Nick Boutle 01604 847435
 Treasurer David Watt 01604 505270

Crick

Secretary Tom Nisbet 01788 822679
 Treasurer Brenda Tomalin 01788 823428

Kilsby

Secretary Beryl Lees 01788 823752
 Treasurer Val Janes 01788 822751

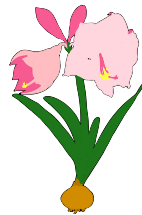
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Rosemary's Ramblings

I honestly can't remember when it started, and I certainly don't know how or why, but the tradition of the giving and receiving of an amaryllis plant between my daughters Ruth, Anne and myself, has become as much a part of Christmas as roast turkey, crackers and Christmas pudding. I buy one for Ruth, Ruth buys one for Anne and Anne buys one for me so that each one of us has an amaryllis plant to nurture and grow in January.

Of course, as with every other plant, different growers suggest different ways. Me, I always start mine off in the airing cupboard, even though the instructions on the packet say place it in the light. But whichever way you start them off, I find the humble amaryllis plant truly amazing. Within days the pointed tip emerges after which you can almost see the stem growing and the stems continues to grow and grow and grow - generally at least 18 inches before the flower starts to open. Unlike so many other plants, the bud stays tight shut, not even a suggestion of opening, until the stem reaches its fullness of height. Then, and only then, right at the end of its journey, does the flower open and the true beauty of the plant is finally revealed.



I'm not sure when the human body reaches its peak, probably somewhere around the early twenties, but I do know that as we journey through life we gradually deteriorate, particularly physically. Yet as Christians, we believe that our life on earth is simply part of the journey towards that which lies beyond - eternity.

So rather than be downhearted and struggle to come to terms with the ageing process, perhaps we should take strength from nature, particularly the amaryllis, which is at its most beautiful at the end of its journey.

God doesn't look at the outer self, the wrinkles, the grey hair, the physical signs of age. Rather God sees the ultimate beauty that will only become apparent when our journey here is ended.

Enjoy the journey, travel it well, and just like the amaryllis, keep growing up, towards God.

Rosemary Pullen

What's Going On in Our 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.

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,

These are the really dark, dismal days of winter when you sometimes wonder if you are going to see the sun ever again - and then wonder of wonders, the next day can be completely different; we see the sun and our spirits rise and we are happy and elated.



Or maybe we receive a letter from an old friend and it is so good to hear from someone you have kept in touch with over the years. That is why I hope that Christmas cards never go out of fashion, as other things seem to have done. In the build-up to Christmas day, I guess that many of us look forward to the odd card or two popping through the letter box. I hope you have all had a peaceful New Year.

Unfortunately for some the new year has not been a very happy one. There have been several disasters in various parts of the world. Following the recent tragedy of the cruise liner there must be many families who have been torn apart.

Nearer to home, we think of those who are poorly amongst our own little flock - I pray that you soon return to good health.

Best wishes to you all, and God's blessings for our Minister and our group of Churches.

Gwennie

Christmas at Creaton - Our Christmas celebrations commenced with the Toy & Gift Service on the 11th December. The toys and gifts are given to "Women's Aid" in Northampton for distribution to families in particular need.

On Sunday evening 18th a good number of Creaton URC folk joined in the village Nine lessons and Carol Service at the Parish Church.

On Monday 18th Our Carols by Candlelight Service was well attended, this was followed by coffee and mince pies.

On Christmas morning the Church was almost full for our family service which included many new gadgets and gifts brought along by the children.

Offerings at the Carols by Candlelight and Christmas Morning Services amounted to £513.19 plus £75.25 (the proceeds from the coffee jar) meant that we were able to send a grand total of £588.44 to the Northampton Hope Centre.

Fellowship News - We welcome back Ray & Mary Chambers after their month's visit to their daughter, son-in-law and the two grandchildren in Australia. The weather was very warm; they were apparently woken early, not only on Christmas morning but every morning by the lively grandchildren who obviously were pleased and excited to have nanny & granddad staying with them. We thank God for their safe trip.

Please continue to pray for Alan & Carolyn Wilson.

Wanted Woollies - Janet Miller knits blankets, which are shipped out to different parts of the world and distributed by relief agencies. Janet is looking for any old knitwear that can be undone or old cones of knitting yarn. The blankets are made up in squares of many colours, then joined together and knitted around the edges. Small or large amounts will be welcome. If you can help please contact Janet by email ra-miller@lineone.net or by telephone 01604 847371.



Pray For Those in Authority Over Us - 1 Timothy 2v2

If you watched or listened to the Queens Christmas Day message, I am sure you will feel, as I did, greatly encouraged to hear Her Majesty speaking about her *Christian Faith*. A few weeks earlier Prime Minister David Cameron also spoke about the need to adopt Christian principles and values in our society.

We are very privileged indeed to live in a country where some of our leaders, acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. As Christians we are free to meet together to praise, worship and study God's word without fear of interference from outside influences.

In these days when we hear so much rhetoric about human rights, sadly some of our Christian brothers and sisters in certain parts of the world still do not enjoy such freedoms to worship and to read God's word.

Whilst it is accepted that down through the ages the Christian Church has always faced opposition to a greater or lesser degree, in fact it has been reported that more Christians died for their faith in the 20th century than in all other centuries of church history. It is true to say that such people and those who have gone before them have helped to keep the flame of Christianity burning across the world.

It is important that we should find a place in our prayers both corporately and privately to pray for all those who are still suffering for their faith; that they will experience God's presence and protection as they face trials and opposition. Pray also that those in positions of authority in such areas will have their hearts changed.

As we pray for this, we should also give thanks for the freedom we enjoy in this country to practise our faith and for the Christian leaders, who hold positions of authority in our own country. Pray that their faith will influence the difficult decisions that they make on our behalf.

Reg Thomas

Bible Study at Long Buckby

The group is currently studying the Gospel of Mark. We are trying to find out what it tells us about Jesus' time as he spoke to the crowds and then the disciples on their own; we are looking at what it means for us in the current times and circumstances. The morning always finishes up with drink and a biscuit along with a chat about the world at large.



This is an open invitation to join our small friendly group and to see if the morning would suit your Christian development. We usually meet at 10.00 am on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays of the month at 25 Wright Road, Long Buckby.

Tuesday Fellowship at the Baptist Church On Tuesdays at 2.30 pm

This ecumenical group is made up of members from the Roman Catholic, Church of England, Baptist and United Reformed Churches as well as some who do not go to church. If you would like join the group, you would be very welcome. We sing from our own choice of hymns from Mission Praise, as well as listening to speakers on Christian subjects. Both Rosemary and Michael speak from time to time. The meetings are fortnightly and restart on 14th February.

If you would like to come you would be most welcome. Joyce Wainwright leads the meetings. Peggy or Michael Bond would be happy to talk to you about the meetings (you can always give them a ring on 01327 842234).

**Mission Statement:
Encouraging all people to know Jesus**

Long Buckby News

Birthdays

February

21st February Kath Packer
25th February Tony Hodgkinson
28th February Mary Davies

No known birthdays in March

Church Meetings

Both a Church meeting and an Elders' meeting are due to be held shortly. The dates for both of these meetings will be announced during the Sunday service notices.

The Hope Centre

We will collect soup and tea for the Hope Centre during February and March. Donations can be left at the back of the Church.

Ladies' Circle

The Ladies Circle will meet at 2.15 pm on Wednesday, 1st February and 7th March.

Flower Rota

5th February - Beryl Chapman
12th February - Freda Collins
19th February - Rita Stowe
26th February - Dawn & Norman Chandler
4th March - Gretta Davis
11th March - Liz Osborne
18th March - Janet Wastnage
25th March - Gill Best

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

Rag Bag

If you are having a new year clear out, remember you can always put bags of clothing, textiles, bed linen, blankets, handbags, belts, shoes, accessories etc. in our Rag Bag recycling bank.

For every kilo recycled, money is raised for our church.



Creaton News

Bethany Homestead. Northampton

Over many years Creaton URC has supported the work of Bethany Homestead in Northampton.

The home was founded in 1925 by the Baptists and Congregationalists of Northampton to provide homes for the elderly and residential care for the less able in a Christian environment. Today Bethany is a registered charity, with a board of Trustees, a Manager and a Management Committee, a full complement of trained and caring staff, and a whole army of volunteers from the churches in the town and county.

The complex consists of a care home, registered for up to 40 people, and sheltered housing which provides single and double accommodation for those able to live independently. There is a lovely new chapel on site that holds regular services and bible study. Weekly outings and activities are organised for the residents. Some Creaton URC members have spent their latter years in Bethany as have some of our friends and relations.

We support the work with money donations, serving on some of the committees, helping at fund raising events, gardening and visiting the residents. If you would like to learn more about Bethany Homestead, then visit their website www.bethanyhomestead.co.uk

Ann Townsend

Website

If you need to find out anything about Long Buckby URC (including its history, events, baptisms and burial records) just log on to our website www.longbuckbyurc.org.uk

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

Birthdays

February	5	Steve Wilkin
March	5	Monica Bevin
	7	Joan Saunders



Coffee Mornings - Our coffee mornings continue as usual, 10.30 am until 12 on the first Saturday of the month.

Our last donation of 2011 was £100 to Debra, a charity supporting children with a rare and painful skin condition. We also made donations to Water Aid, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Children Today Charitable Trust, Cystic Fibrosis, React, DACT, and Cancer Research UK, totalling £835.70 for the year.

Since 1999, when coffee mornings started, we have raised a total of £10,650.05 for various charities. What generous people our 'regulars' are - our thanks to you all.

Christmas celebrations - We were delighted to welcome such a large congregation to our Carols by Candlelight service. Rosemary has recently purchased some more carol booklets so that next year we can all, quite literally, sing from the same hymn sheet! The collection, together with donations to the Mite Scheme, raised over £220 for UNICEF, and was received with sincere thanks.

Jenny Goodger

What is this life if, full of care,
 We have no time to stand and stare.
 No time to stand beneath the boughs
 And stare as long as sheep or cows.
 No time to see, when woods we pass,
 Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
 No time to see, in broad daylight,
 Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
 No time to turn at beauty's glance,
 And watch her feet, how they can dance.
 No time to wait till her mouth can
 Enrich that smile her eyes began.
 A poor life this if, full of care,
 We have no time to stand and stare.



Contributions for the Newsletter

If you have an article, events or thoughts you would like included in the April/May 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 March.



Kilsby News

JUMBLE SALE We are holding this on 10 March at 2.00 pm. Come along and bag a bargain!

MUSICAL EVENING You are invited to join us on Wednesday, 28 March at 7.30 pm when the Nene Consort Woodwind Group will be holding a Musical Evening. Tickets are £3.50 each and include light refreshments, available from Beryl Lees or Val Janes.

DO YOU ENJOY SCRABBLE? Our Scrabble Group continues to meet each Wednesday at 1.30 pm and new members are always welcome

COMMUNITY CAFÉ - This is open Mondays and Thursdays 9.00 am - 12 noon when we serve tea/coffee/bacon sandwiches etc.. If you would be willing to come along as a volunteer helper please contact Beryl on 01788 823752. to add your name to the rota.

CONTINUING TO IMPROVE - Margaret Worster, Pauline Charles and Dot Shaw continue to make slow progress. We wish them a speedy recovery

TUESDAY GUILD 2.15 pm

February 14th To be arranged

February 28th Rev. Clive Fowle - Touch of Hope Project

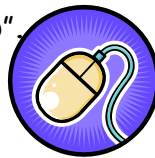
March 13th To be arranged

March 27th To be arranged

Beryl Lees

Technical Misunderstanding

Technical Support "I need you to right-click on the open desktop"
Customer "OK"
Technical Support "Did you get a pop-up menu?"
Customer "No"
Technical Support "OK. Right-click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?"
Customer "No!"
Technical Support "OK. Can you tell me what you have done until this point?"
Customer "Sure - you told me to write 'click' and so I wrote 'click'".



Letter of Thanks from The Gambia

Gunjur village Upper Basic School in The Gambia lost part of its roof during storms in 2009 making the classrooms unusable. The four pastorate churches together agreed to raise £2,000 to fund the re-roofing of part of the school. The following letter has recently been received from the School:

Dear Rev. Rosemary Pullen,

Letter of Acknowledgement and Appreciation

The Parents Teachers' Committee, the staff and pupils of Gunjar Upper Basic School wish to acknowledge and give their sincere thanks to your good gesture in contributing to the school with funds amounting to two thousand (£2,000) towards the roofing of an eight classroom block through David Footstep Lodge, who also put in three hundred pounds (£300) for the workmanship.

The money was able to roof two classrooms permanently which will last for more than twenty years. We are greatly appreciative to your contribution and your name will go into the history books of the school.



Thank you for supporting the present and a general yet unborn by providing them with a conducive learning environment. Contributing towards the education of these young children is building the human capacity of the nation which is in line with the Education Policy and Vision 2015.

May almighty God guide you and give you renewed strength in all your undertakings. Amen.

Faithfully yours,

Michael H.F. Gibbs

PREACHING DIARY - FEBRUARY & MARCH 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 5th February	Mary Barratt	The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Geoff Townsend	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion
Sunday 12th February	9.00 am The Minister	Tony Cervantes	The Minister	Mary Barrett
Sunday 19th February	Margaret Hooper	9.00 am The Minister	John Horrocks	The Minister
Sunday, 26th February	The Minister with Holy Communion	Ray Smith	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion	Tony Cervantes
Sunday 4th March	Pamela Taylor	The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Malcolm Deacon	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion
Sunday 11th March	9.00 am The Minister	Alastair Bruce	The Minister	Trevor Boys
Mothering Sunday 18th March	Alan Fox	9.00 am The Minister	Joint Service at St. Michael's and All Angels	The Minister
Sunday 25th March	The Minister with Holy Communion	Ian Mackintosh	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Michael Bond

Keep the Commandments

The Ten Commandments still have their place in our modern world. The first four enhance our relationship with God, whilst the last six help us to love other people. Obeying God's law leads to ultimate calm.

Matthew 22:37-40
Exodus 20:3-17

Read a Psalm

The book of Psalms contains the most wonderful words of comfort and reassurance. Read a portion from time to time - you're sure to find something that will encourage you.

Colossians 3:16