

Dates for Your Diary

February 2012

1.2.13	Long Buckby	10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
2.2.13	Long Buckby	10.30-12.00 noon Charity Coffee Morning
2.2.13	Crick	10.30-12.00 noon Coffee Morning
6.2.13	Long Buckby	2.15 pm Ladies' Circle (weather permitting)
12.2.13	Kilsby	2.15 pm Tuesday Guild - Favourite Poems
7.2.13	Creaton	12.00 Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
15.2.13	Long Buckby	10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
21.2.13	Creaton	12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
22.2.13	Long Buckby	10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
26.2.13	Kilsby	2.15 pm Tuesday Guild - Rev. Rosemary Pullen

March 2013

1.3.13		World Women's Day of Prayer
2.3.13	Long Buckby	10.30-12.00 noon Charity Coffee Morning
6.3.13	Long Buckby	2.15 pm Ladies' Circle
7.3.13	Creaton	12.00 Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
12.3.13	Kilsby	2.15 pm Tuesday Guild - Bobbie & Brenda
15.3.13	Long Buckby	10.30 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
21.3.13	Creaton	12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
21.3.13	Long Buckby	5.30 pm Elders' Meeting
26.3.13	Kilsby	2.15 pm Tuesday Guild - Easter
28.3.13	Long Buckby	10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road (note on a Thursday)

An Act of Gratitude A very old man went out one day onto the land beside his house and began planting fruit trees. A young man walked by and asked "What are you doing?" "Planting fruit trees" the old man replied. "But you will not see fruit in your lifetime" the young man said.

"The fruit that I have enjoyed in this lifetime", the old man answered "has been from trees that people before me planted. So to express my gratitude of them, I am planting trees to give fruit to those who come after me".

The Good News

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



February & March 2013

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Rosemary's Ramblings

The dog isn't allowed on the sofa. It's a house rule. We don't have many house rules - just 3. Blackie isn't allowed on the beds. He isn't allowed to come to the table when we are eating and he isn't allowed on the sofa. Generally he's pretty good. Except, that is when he's "home alone". As soon as he thinks we've gone out, he seems to think the rules no longer apply.

Keeping him off the beds is down to us a) making sure the bedroom doors are shut and b) putting something in front of the doors that don't shut properly, otherwise our highly inventive dog will push the door until it opens. But the sofa is a different matter altogether. When we are out, Blackie has access to the lounge; that's where he has his bed, so there is nothing to stop him ignoring the house rule and making himself comfortable on the sofa. Which he does every time we go out.

How do I know? Because whenever he gets on the sofa, he pushes the cushions off. So cushions on floor mean dog has been on sofa. Of course, he denies his misdemeanour every time, coming up with foolish excuses such as the wind blew the cushions off or West Haddon suffered a small earthquake whilst we were out. But I know exactly what he's been up to.

However, he got his come-uppance just before Christmas. We came home and as usual he raced to the door to greet us (and cover up the fact that once again the cushions were on the floor and he had been on the sofa). Except this time in pushing the cushions off, he had managed to catch the threads from one of the cushions in his collar, so when he appeared at the door "wearing" a cushion around his neck, he was unable to hide his wrong doing.

We often do things that we know are wrong but we think if we pretend, then God doesn't know. But He does know. Just like I know what Blackie has been up to by the evidence I see, so God knows what naughty things we have been up to by the evidence God sees. Just like me turning a blind eye to Blackie, God can "turn a blind eye" to us but there are times, as Blackie discovered, when the truth of what we have done wrong cannot be denied.

God loves us, just as I love my dog, but the rules are there for a reason and God knows when we break them. I doubt I will change my dog, but we can change. We can at least do our best to follow God's rules.

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 843864) 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.

Letter from Gwennie Wilkes

Dear Friends,

Here's wishing you all a very happy and healthy year for 2013. I know a number of people were poorly over the Christmas season and into the new year, but best wishes are sent to you all for a speedy recovery.

The weather has certainly given us something to talk about. It was lovely to wake up to see a blanket of snow everywhere - it looked very pretty, but felt oh so cold ...!! But we must remember we are still in our winter season.

At the same time other countries are suffering from extreme weather conditions of another sort. I have spoken to my sister in law who lives in Queensland, Australia, where the temperature has been 35-40°. Some parts of the country are also experiencing horrendous fires.



On a brighter note, I have been looking at the catalogues advertising the spring bulbs and flowers for summer. Are you like me - see something lovely and wonder if I can find a little spot to plant it? Then I turn over the page and concentrate more on vegetables seeds which will grown into something that is edible and will help with the budget.

I am also getting holiday brochures through the letterbox offering holidays in some exotic countries that look absolutely beautiful - oh well, dream on. But it certainly cheers me up on a cold winter's day.

Best wishes to you all and to those who are still poorly - may you soon return to good health. God bless you all and keep you safe.

Gwennie Wilkes

Minister's Sabbatical

The United Reformed Church encourages its Ministers to take a sabbatical on completion of 10 years' service. But what is a sabbatical? A sabbatical is a time away from the responsibilities of pastoral charge and is an opportunity for personal, spiritual and educational growth through a period of specific study or development of new skills.

Time goes quickly. I have served almost 14 years in Ministry and will be "on sabbatical" from April to June of this year. Many people have been kind enough to suggest that I have a gift for presenting God's word in an accessible, everyday fashion, particularly through my Ramblings so I plan to use my sabbatical to pursue that gift by writing my Ramblings into a published book. During that time I will remain largely at West Haddon and will continue to worship, although not within any of the four pastorate churches.

As Convenor of the Pastoral Committee, Rev Geoff Townsend has kindly offered to provide oversight to the four churches during my absence, but the four Church Secretaries will remain the first points of contact and should be made aware of any pastoral concern or need in the first instance.

I would appreciate your prayers as I continue to seek to carry out God's will away from that which has become familiar and into new and slightly scary places.

Rosemary

Church Humour - Dentist to a Minister patient "I realise how hard it is for you to open your mouth and not say anything, but please try."

CHRISTMAS AT CREATON

It was good to see so many folk attending our services over the Christmas period. It began with the Gift and Toy Service on the 16th December when members and the congregation brought presents along, which have subsequently been taken to Women's Aid for distribution to families in need.

The Candlelight Service was a great success consisting of readings and Carols and a short message by Rosemary followed by coffee and mince pies. An offering for the Hope Centre was taken at this service which amounted to £143.91.

Rosemary conducted the Christmas Morning Service; the Church was almost full including many who were visiting family in the village. The Christmas Morning offering for the work of Tear Fund amounted to £231.81.

We praise God that so many joined with us to celebrate our Saviour's birth and for the generous giving to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

WE WOULD VALUE YOUR PRAYERS:

- For David Watt - David's hip is healing well we praise God that David needs only one crutch now and that the physio is happy with his progress, continue to pray for David's continuing healing.
- For John Horrocks - John has been diagnosed with cancer of the liver; John is due to see a Consultant very soon and is likely to commence chemotherapy treatment during January. The Doctors believe the treatment will reduce the growth and may even attack the primary. Please pray for John's healing and for Dawn that they will both be at peace during this difficult time.
- For Lorna - still recovering from a heart attack
- For Alan & Carolyn - for the particularly difficult days

Our coffee mornings are held on the first Saturday of the month between February and November. Set out below are the donations we have been able to make during 2012. The Elders and members of our church would like to thank everyone who attended the coffee mornings during the past year enabling us to make the following donations from the proceeds:-

- ♦ Alzheimer's Society £100
- ♦ British Heart Foundation £100
- ♦ Cancer Research UK £200
- ♦ Friends of Cynthia Spencer Hospice £100
- ♦ Parkinson's Disease Society, Northampton £100
- ♦ Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association (PSPA) £200
- ♦ Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance £100

Proceeds from Charity Coffee Mornings 2012 £900

In addition, we donated the proceeds from our Harvest Sale and Christmas Eve Service collection as follows:

- ♦ BBC Children in Need Appeal £55
- ♦ Favell House £50
- ♦ Hope Centre £50

Total amount raised this year for chosen Charities £1,055

Your support and generosity is invaluable and greatly appreciated by us all and by all the charities to whom we have donated.

We very much look forward to seeing you all again during 2013, starting with our February coffee morning on 2nd February at 10.30 am

Long Buckby Junior Church.

I have been asked by Rosemary to write a short piece about our Junior Church. Well here goes....

Firstly, it is not an excuse for the leaders to escape the sermon every Sunday or to have fun practising their craft skills, although it does achieve both! Seriously... each week we try to take a topical topic (try saying that quickly) and show how that is relevant to God's word.

We have examined angels as the shops and greeting cards are full of them before Christmas (though the Bible's angels certainly are much more interesting) and we have looked at Christmas traditions. On the Sunday before Advent we had a traditional "Stir up Sunday" making a Christmas pudding - the whole Church had a stir and a wish!

Earlier in the year, we also made an Olympic torch "Don't hide your light under a bushel", (we also explained what a bushel was!). The armour of God caused a few raised eyebrows when about 10 fully defended warriors trooped back into Church during the last hymn after a baptism! We have also examined family trees "Who do you think you are?" and discovered that the bible is full of lists of ancestors and also that all our family trees start with God.



As we are very short of children on a normal Sunday, not all lessons can be tailored to topical events. However there is always a lesson prepared and we happily welcome young participants. We are looking forward to a new baby member joining us shortly. I will have to differentiate the lesson quite a bit in future!

Norman Chandler

YEAR 2013

I would like to share some thoughts on Philippians 4 verses 8-9 which you might find helpful as you make your journey through 2013 and face the various situations which may confront you during the year.

*Fill your mind with those things that are good.
Fill your mind with those things that are pure.
Fill your mind with those things that deserve praise,
That are noble and right and true.
They are lovely.
They are honourable.
And the peace of the Lord will be yours.*

*Practice only those things that are good.
Practice only those things that are pure.
Practice only those things that deserve praise,
That are noble and right and true.
They are lovely.
They are honourable.
And the peace of the Lord will be yours.*

May His peace that passes all understanding be yours throughout 2013.

Reg Thomas

Poppies Coffee Shop is open daily from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Poppies is closed on Thursdays. Everyone is very welcome.

You are warmly welcome to join us for Sunday Worship & Junior Church. 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

Kilsby News

Tuesday Guild at 2.15 pm

- February 12 Favourite Poems
February 26 Rev Rosemary Pullen
March 12 Bobbie Wakeleigh-Jones & Brenda Griffiths
March 26 An Easter Theme

Community Café 9.00 am until 12 noon

You are welcome to come along for tea/coffee/biscuits or even a breakfast on Mondays and Thursdays. All at reasonable prices.



Beryl Lees

Newsletter Editor

As you may know, after ten years I shall be standing down as Editor of this Newsletter after the next edition. To date nobody has come forward wishing to take over the job.

The joint newsletter for the four churches in the North West Northants. Pastorate has been edited by Long Buckby URC for the last seven years. Perhaps now is the opportunity for one of the other churches in the pastorate to get involved with publishing our Newsletter. Does anyone feel they have a calling for this type of job? If so, this could be your opportunity to take over as Editor. For more information about the role, please give me a ring (01327 842164) or e-mail gretta@longbuckby.com

Any items for the next newsletter are required by 20th March.

Gretta Davis

Welsh Humour

In Swansea there is a firm of solicitors called W.G. Christian & Sons. A letter was sent to them addressed simply W.G. Christian, South Wales. It eventually arrived at their office with a note from the Post Office attached which read: "No Christians in Cardiff - try Swansea."

Long Buckby News

Flower Rota

- 3rd February - Eva Brownlie
10th February - Freda Collins
17th February - Rita Stowe
24th February - Mr & Mrs Chandler
3rd March - Gretta Davis
10th March - Liz Osbourne
17th March - Mr & Mrs Howes
24th March - Group Service Creaton
31st March - Janet Wastnage (Easter)



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

Birthdays

February

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

No birthdays in March!



Hope Centre

We will collect soup and baked beans over the next two months for the Hope Centre..

Many thanks for all donations received during 2012.

From the Church Registers - Birth of Abbey Elizabeth Faulkner

It was good to hear that Abbey Elizabeth had safely arrived in this world on 29th November 2012. We wish Lucy and James much joy as Abbey grows up and we look forward to welcoming her to Junior church in due course.

It was very special for us to see them all in Church at the Christmas Eve Service.



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



The purpose of this church is to provide a warm, welcoming place for people of all ages to worship God and to grow in faith

Christmas Services - We were delighted to see our church so full for the carol service, and on Christmas morning. We sent £207 to UNICEF: £184.40 from the carol service and £22.60 from the Mite Scheme collected from small change through the year, and £80 to Christian Aid from our Christmas morning offertory. Thank you all for your generosity.

Coffee Mornings - We donated a total of £774 to seven charities in 2012: £174 to Cancer Research, and £100 each to Brainwave, Children with Cancer UK, Motor Neurone Disease, Northampton Hope Centre, Astro Fund (for brain tumour research), and DEBRA (research into a rare skin complaint).

Since 1999 the grand total for coffee morning donations is a splendid £11,424.05. Coffee drinkers must be generous people! Thank you all.

Home Again - Or hoping to be soon!

We are pleased to report that Mary Whitty is now at home, after a stay in hospital last month with a broken ankle. Mary is, as always, as active as she can be with a large plaster cast. We look forward to seeing you back at church as soon as you are able, Mary, and send you all good wishes for a speedy recovery.

We also send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery to Louise, who is in hospital as I write. We hope you will very soon be home and feeling much better.

Birthdays

February 5 Steve Wilkin



March 7 Joan Saunders

Jenny Goodger

"Moderator" is clearly a word that is well-used within the United Reformed Church, since we have three different kinds of Moderator, all undertaking a different role.

Moderator of General Assembly

Previously General Assembly met every year and the "Moderator" served Assembly for a 12 month term. The role alternated between "clergy" and "lay". However, General Assembly now meets once every two years so it has two "Moderators", one clergy and one lay, who serve a two year term alongside each other. The United Reformed Church website defines their role as follows: "The moderators of General Assembly are the national figureheads for the denomination, representing the United Reformed Church both internally and within the wider world; they chair major meetings, visit churches at home and abroad, and seek to provide worship, teaching and pastoral care."

Synod Moderator

Defining the role of Synod Moderator is, I think, as impossible as defining the role of a Minister. Basically, it's different in every place. However, to quote one Moderator, it is about "providing support and pastoral care to all the churches and Ministers within the Synod". Previously names of potential (ordained) candidates for the role of Synod Moderator were nominated, but nowadays although this process still exists, those interested in the role can apply as one would for any job vacancy. Currently, Synod Moderators serve for a seven year term.

Interim Moderator

This is the person appointed to oversee and help a church or group of churches during a time of vacancy. If you want to know more about the role of the Interim Moderator then have a chat with Jenny Theairs at Creaton who has recent first hand experience.

PREACHING DIARY - FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2013

Date	Long Buckby (All services at 11.00 am. except 9.00 am on 2 nd Sunday in month)	Crick (All services at 11.00 am. except 9.00 am on 3 rd Sunday in month)	Creaton (All services at 11.00 am. except 9.00 am on 4 th Sunday in month)	Kilsby (All services at 11.00 am. except 9.00 am on 1 st Sunday in month)
Sunday 3 rd February	Rev. Conrad Husk	The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Geoff Townsend with Holy Communion	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th February	9.00 am The Minister	Participation service	The Minister Café style & Pilots	Dorn Margetts
Sunday 17 th February	Rev. Geoff Townsend	9.00 am Rev. Geoff Townsend	Reg Thomas	Tony Brown
Sunday 24 th February	The Minister with Holy Communion	Ian Mackintosh	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion	Tony Cervantes
Sunday 3 rd March	Margaret Hooper	The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Geoff Townsend	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion
Mothering Sunday 10 th March	9.00 am The Minister	Tony Cervantes	The Minister - Joint service with St. Michael's at Creaton URC	Sharing together
Sunday 17 th March	Alan Fox	9.00 am The Minister	John Slow	The Minister
Sunday 24 th March	11.00 am Joint Pastorate service at Creaton with the Minister			
Good Friday 29 th March		7.00 pm The Minister		
Easter Sunday 31 th March	Rev. Conrad Husk with Holy Communion	The Minister	9.00 am Rev. Geoff Townsend Easter Day Worship & Communion	9.00 am The Minister with Easter Communion

Be Positive

It takes less energy to say something positive than it does to say something negative. In fact, doctors now say that when we speak positive words, our bodies relax and the blood flow actually increased to our brain and a well-oxygenated brain will always help us to handle situations more effectively.

Step out in Faith

The best thing about the future is that it is offered to you a day at a time ... though you may not know what the future holds you can calmly say "I know who holds the future."

Revelation 1:8