

Keeping you in

CONTACT

with

LUTON

Motto 2018

I have
hidden
your word
in my heart
that I might
not sin against you.



FEBRUARY 2018

Articles for the MARCH 2018 Contact should be given to Gwyneth Gapp -by Sunday 11TH FEBRUARY They can be handwritten, placed in the box in the front vestibule or emailed to gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com

February 2018

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From your Pastor

Andrew Gale

Lent Begins on 14th February:

We are planning to share some Bible Studies again with our friends from the Salvation Army and New Testament Church of God during this period. The people in Peter's Green, will again share fellowship with Christians from Kimpton and the surrounding area.

Lent is not a Baptist Tradition, in fact our forefathers in the faith would have called it 'a popish tradition' (Richard Baron c1700-1768). There are many benefits of taking a period of reflection before Easter but there are at least two dangers:

- 1) Lent can become seen as buying us God's favour, this is why people like Richard Baron spoke so harshly about it. There were then, and may be some now, that think if they give up something for Lent then God will forgive their sins. It is part of a teaching that suggests salvation is earned by works, including church attendance, tithing, pilgrimage, fasting, or other religious or good works. But we affirm, "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us.*" (Titus 3:5 KJV)
- 2) Lent is seen by some as a body detox, a chance to lose weight or give our liver a break. Good things to do but not of spiritual benefit. *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.* (1 Timothy 4:8 NIV-UK)

There are benefits in setting aside a period of the year to deepen our spiritual life and fasting, for some of us, will be part of that. This time of year is convenient it is a defined period, leading to our remembrance of the key events of our faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus. Other churches will also recognise this period and their members will be setting aside extra time for spiritual development too, so it is easier to arrange joint meetings. We encourage you to consider using this period of Lent as time set aside for the Lord, use it to read, study, pray, some may benefit by fasting, beware of the dangers but receive the benefits.

Andrew

From The Lantern 1887 edited by Rev. S.H. Akehurst

Nothing is Lost

To talk with God- no breath is lost;
Talk on, talk on;
To walk with God- no strength is lost;
Walk on, walk on!
To grind the axe- no work is lost;
Grind on, grind on!
The work is quicker, better done,
Not need half the strength laid on:
Grind on

Martha stood- but Mary sat;
Martha murmur'd much at that
Martha cares- but Mary heard,
Listening to the Master's word,
And the Lord her choice preferr'd
Sit on, hear on
Work without God, is labour lost;
Work on, work on !
Full soon you'll learn it to your cost:
Toil on, toil on!

Little is much, when God is in it;
Man's busiest day's not worth God's minute;
Much is little everywhere,
If God the labour do not share
So work with God and nothing's lost.
Who works with Him does best and most,
Work on, work on
A.A Rees

Save The Date

God willing, we will be celebrating a thanksgiving service on **25/03/2018** for Mr and Mrs Ron Cowle, who has now retired from travelling to Nigeria on mission services.

Ron started going with us to Nigeria on a mission trip in August 2004, and to date, he would have visited the county over 22 times lecturing at colleges and conducting conferences for pastors and church workers that are already working in churches and the community at large. Sadly, Ron and Pauline retired last October from going to Nigeria for mission services. We are very grateful to God for the thousands of pastors and students that have listened to Ron lectures over the years and those that have grown to see them and dialogue with them on various matters of life and theological issues. Both Ron and Pauline have supported the work of God in Nigeria far beyond our imagination, and we pray that the Lord will bless them even more.

Please join us in our prayer that God will send another worker that can help continue the work of God among the students and pastors that we are training and supporting in Nigeria.

As far as possible, we are trying to invite people that have been members at Central over the past decades to come and celebrate with us.

We are currently making contact with

Rev and Mrs K Reynard

Rev and Mrs M Thomas

Mr and Mrs R Bonner

Rev and Mrs Mike Banfield

Mr and Mrs D Stanbridge

Mr and Mrs J Waters

Mr and Mrs B Coen

Miss Sharon Gordon

Mr and Mrs R Parks

Mr Derek Thompkins

If anybody is still in contact with other people that I have not mentioned above, please pass our invitation to them, it will be nice to see as many of our old friends again.

Lunch will be provided after the service, and we would appreciate people staying for lunch and the opportunity to catch up with news of what God is doing in all our lives.

We thank you for your continuous prayers and support.

Samson Akinola,

Serving The Lord In Truth Ministries.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS AS AT 14TH JANUARY 2018

NEW MEMBER: -

The Right Hand of Fellowship was extended to AMOR

ALBERT at the Morning Communion Service on Sunday 17th December 2017.

Several people have been in hospital but who are now home: - DEBORAH ANIFOWOSE after many weeks of illness it was great that she was able to share in our worship today.

CYNTHIA BEST after a few days in Watford Hospital for investigation, PATRICE EVANS in for a few days with breathing problems.

After a course of treatment ERIC NORMAN has made good progress and is likely to be discharged in the next few weeks. KEITH WRIGHT has had a very painful knee and thigh after a fall.

Our love and sympathy to JEAN CORDER on the death of a life – long friend Bill.

We wish HEATHER CHANDLER all the best as she has just retired after 30 years working in a bank and to HANNAH and REECE LOWEN who have moved in with ELIZABETH and KEITH.

To all mentioned and others who we may not know about, we pray that they will soon be well, strengthened, comforted and upheld in their time of need.

Ann M. Norman

CHURCH DIARY
SUNDAY WORSHIP
Morning 10.45 am

(Services led by Minister unless, otherwise stated)

A prayer meeting is held every Sunday before the morning service from 10 am in the Prayer Room

- 4th Parade Service
- 11th “He will keep me till the river.”
God’ keeping power
- 18th Communion Service
- 25th Service led by our elders

The Sunday evening group will meet at 6 pm each Sunday evening to discuss, prayer, share and sing together

World Day of Prayer Friday 2nd March 2018



All God's Creation is Very Good!

Program written by the

World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname for WDP 2018

Genesis 1:1-31

A heri grontapu di Gado meki bun doro, dóro!

As in the beginning, God created from chaos. But everything that was created found its place in creation. All were related to each other – the earth with the light, the waters with the sky, the tree seeds with the living creatures, and the humankind with God. None could exist without the other, and the source of all was God.

There was goodness in that integrated system of relationships. But essential to that was the commitment to care. And we know that we are failing!

Women from Suriname lift up their voices to remind us that we are caretakers of God's creation! They are bringing to our attention the urgent need for caring at a time when more than 180 countries have signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. A commitment to keep the earth cooler depends on public policies implemented by governments, but also on our personal lifestyle.

As one of our Guiding Principles affirms "prayer is rooted in listening to God and to one another." Through the worship service, we listen to the multicultural and multi-ethnic people of Suriname. They take us to their communities and through their concerns. History is before our eyes! The flora and fauna are remarkable! The everyday life is weaved into the prayers.

How good is God's creation? That is the question to meditate and respond to with a personal commitment to care for creation. But it can also be an opportunity for the WDP motto "Informed prayer and prayerful action" to be affirmed in the community. What is it that we, as the WDP movement, can do to keep God's creation good?

Services to be held:

- 11 am - High Town Methodist Church
- 2 pm - Strathmore Avenue Methodist Church
- 7:30 pm - St Luke's Legrave Church of England

Poem of the Month

Our first two "poems of the month" were both on the subject of peace.

The first, by the novelist D.H.Lawrence, suggests that peace is what comes as we relax in God's presence, the other by Umera Fatima, a student at Luton Sixth Form College, sees peace as something we have to work for. Of course both are right.

The authors our first two poems are one male, one female, one famous, the other not, one long dead, the other just at the start of her adult life.

We will continue to reveal the author of a poem the month after their poem has been printed, so that each poem stands on its own merits rather than being judged by what we might know, or might not know, about its author.

We hope that you enjoy this month's poem, which is entitled "Dusty Wings".

Dusty Wings

Butterfly wings lose their magic flying dust if you touch them
—or so it was said—
in Basingstoke summers when we were allowed to escape
the confines of the playground and venture onto the sportsfield
and into The Long Grass

Those lunchtimes stretched long and lazy
like our leaking French plaits
We ran we rolled we spun we cartwheeled fearlessly
Collecting grass stains—the floor a cushion—
daisies our only chains

We found our bodies and our voices there, unbounded
But the world soon reached out to knock the magic dust from our wings
And we learned that freedom requires a fight
That freedom hides in the risk of flying, anyway
I learned that freedom doesn't stop calling our names
But that some have never ever known what it sounds like

So with those long grass memories
and the light of the summer in me
I'll wail high-pitched to shatter the glass cages
I'll dance fierce until the earth shakes, chains break
I'll sing in an aching-quaking voice:
May freedom coat your wings
May it stubbornly cling, at all costs

Why so sad?

Why would the church treasurer be sad when someone puts £100 in the offering plate? Why indeed?!

Of course he is not sad; he is grateful. But his thankfulness is tinged with sadness. Why?

On the assumption that you pay income tax, it is better (if you are willing) to let the treasurer know if you make a substantial gift to the work of the church. In order to get an extra £100 in your take-home pay, you had to earn £125 (and £25 income tax would have been deducted). The church can claim that £25 tax you paid back from the government.

If you want to give regularly you can ask Jam for a set of pink envelopes or give to the church through your bank (just ask Jam for the church's bank details to set up a standing order).

But if your giving is irregular we can still claim gift aid if you put your gift in an envelope with your name.

And if you pay income tax, please ask for a gift aid declaration so that we can claim back the tax you paid on the money that you give.

Then perhaps the treasurer might look a little more cheerful.

Remember: the Government does not expect you to pay tax on money you give away.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

- 4th Mr. and Mrs. M. Page;
Hazel and Frank Smith – In memory of
loving parents.
- 11th Mrs. Jean Wright – In loving memory
of Ron and our loved ones;
In loving memory of Mrs. Maria Abebi
Akinola from the Akinola family.
- 18th Mr. Ron Lee and family;
Birthday memories of Clive a loving
husband, dad and grandad, from Rita
and family.
- 25th In loving memory of Violet Plummer, a
very dear Mother from Audrey,
Malcolm, Michael and Gillian;
In loving memory of Peter from
Margaret Lockwood and family.

Programme of Events

JUMP (Tuesdays)

(10.00 am - 11.30 am Term Time)

6th

13th

20th

27th

Ladies in Fellowship Together(L.I.F.T.)

13th Please welcome Councillor Sian Timoney to our meeting speaking about 'The Regeneration of Luton'

OPEN MEETING

27th Tonight Vicky Trumper will be speaking about 'The History of T and E Neville from 1875'

Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

(At 2.30 pm)

1st Sandra Riley.

8th Peter Jolley

15th Diane Maple

23rd Richard Langman - Urban Saints

Nothing Is Impossible

Nothing is impossible
With the Lord in our lives,
He causes doors to open
So we can walk inside
To brand new opportunities
We never knew before,
To a new exciting level
In our walk with the Lord
With faith in our hearts
And our hand in His hand,
We can cross any canyon
And through seas on dry land
For He will make a way
As in faith our walk begins
What seems to us impossible,
Is possible with Him
When feeling like it's all too much,
Remember in the past
How God had made a way for you
When you came to Him and asked
And He again will answer you
And show you so much more
As you keep on trusting Him
And walking with the Lord.

© By M.S.Lowndes

Perry Green Services

At 6.00 pm

*** On the first Sunday of the Month there will be a Prayer meeting at 5.15 pm.**

4th. Mr Roger Barton ©

11th. Mr. Len Fowler

18th. Miss Pam Greener

25th. Rev. Andrew Gale (c)

Tuesday Fellowship at 2.30 pm

6th. Afternoon at Michaelmas

20th. Pam Greener (weather permitting)

BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme February

2nd Elizabeth Wright
15th Frank Smith
16th Roger Lake
21st Pat Slough

Contacts are posted to
you each month by

Andrew Tomblin

8 Winslow Close

Luton, LU3 1QA

Donations for postage for Contact from:

Thank You

Hazel Burley would like to thank the Church for the flowers, cards and well wishes on the passing of her sister.

FEBRUARY 2018

**In everything by prayer and petition
let your requests be known to God.**

**A monthly prayer calendar to help
us remember different aspects of
our Church life and beyond.**



TOPICS FOR PRAYER

- Thursday 1** Pray for Taiwo and Deborah as they continue to recover from her serious illness and its consequences.
- Friday 2** Pray for our BB company, for the captain, Mel, and the other officers and helpers, and for every young person who attends.
- Saturday 3** Pray for Erwin in his responsibilities as Church Secretary.
- Sunday 4** Pray for today's family and parade service.

Pray for those who prepare and serve refreshments after the service, and for Mary who buys the biscuits every week.
- Monday 5** Pray for those who attend our art club.
- Tuesday 6** Pray for Anita, Carol, and everybody else who helps at JUMP. Pray for all the children, their parents and other carers.

Pray for the deacons meeting tonight.
- Wednesday 7** Pray for Hazel as she opens her home for the Wednesday evening bible study, and for Samson, Roland and others who lead.
- Thursday 8** Pray for Eric and Ann.
- Friday 9** Pray for Ruth and her family.

Pray for those who live alone.
- Saturday 10** Pray for Rita and everybody who takes time to buy and arrange the flowers in church Sunday by Sunday, and for those who take them to elderly, sick and shut-in friends and those who would be blessed by a little extra love and encouragement.
- Sunday 11** Pray for Andrew teaching at today's service.

Pray for Pam as she takes responsibility for the work at our Perry Green Branch Church, and for Christine and Andrew looking after maintenance and finances there.
- Monday 12** Pray for the girls who attend our Girls' Brigade company, for Elizabeth the captain, and for the other leaders.
- Tuesday 13** Today is Shrove Tuesday so Lent starts tomorrow. Have a look on the Internet at 40acts.org.uk for some ideas on what you might do during Lent

this year or, if you feel that is not for you, pray for those who do observe this time leading up to Easter.

- Wednesday 14** Pray for husbands and wives.
- Thursday 15** Pray for Andrew as he leads Thursday Afternoon Fellowship, for Dennis as he arranges speakers. Pray for all who gather today and for their speaker (see elsewhere in CONTACT for a list).
- Friday 16** Pray for our brothers and sisters in the Luton Chinese Christian Church on this, the first day of the Chinese New Year.
- Saturday 17** Pray for the Youth Group meeting on Saturday evening.
- Sunday 18** Pray for our communion service today.
- Monday 19** Pray for Sue and Judy as they clean the church, and for John Whitehorn and others who pick up the rubbish that blows into the church car park.
- Tuesday 20** Pray for the little group who gather to play bowls on a Tuesday afternoon.
- Wednesday 21** Pray for Claire in her responsibility as Andrew's PA.
- Thursday 22** Pray for Lorna, Ian and Jam as they look after the church finances.
- Friday 23** Pray for Marsh and Lavita, and for the bible study group that meets in their home.
- Saturday 24** Pray for John and all the Sunday School teachers and helpers as they prepare for their classes.
- Sunday 25** One of the elders will be leading today's service. Pray for their leadership and ministry amongst us.
- Monday 26** Pray for Tim, Ian and others as they look after the maintenance of the church premises.
- Tuesday 27** Pray for the ladies of LIFT as they met together, and for the committee who facilitate their gathering.
- Wednesday 28** Pray for anyone who should have been on this month's prayer diary, but has been missed. Pray for everyone who, unseen, unnoticed, does a job around the church building or who visits and cares for people in need.

Weekly Church Activities

Sunday

10.45 am Morning Service
Communic8 and Crèche
6.00 pm Evening Service

Monday

1.00 - 3.00 pm Watercolour Art Club
6.30 - 9.15 pm Girls Brigade (5-18 years)

Tuesday

10.00 -11.30 am **JUMP** (Join Us Mums & Pre-schoolers). During term time
2.00 - 4.00 pm Short mat bowls
8.00 pm Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT)
(2nd & 4th week)
10.00 - 12.00 pm Men's Prayer Meeting

Wednesday

9.30 am (1st Week) Open Prayer Meeting

Thursday

2.30 pm Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

Friday

6.45 -9.30 pm Boys Brigade

Saturday

7.00 - 9.00 pm Youth Group -11 years plus

