



ALTOGETHER!

Creaton
Crick
Daventry
Flore
Long Buckby



JULY/AUGUST EVENTS

Welcome to you all!

In addition to the events listed there is a useful and encouraging letter from Lesley, our Interim Moderator.

Do take the time to read it and remember to pass on ideas to those in the Call group.

Creaton: Coffee Shop as usual Wednesday and Friday from 10-12

Crick: Coffee morning on Saturday July 2nd, open to all.

Flore: The Flower Festival was a triumph once again. It was so good to see new faces around the village. Thanks to the many people who worked so hard to ensure its success.

SNAPSHOTS: Flore Holiday Club is on 10th August 9.30-1.00pm for primary school children.

We still need some small rolling pins if you have any lurking, hidden in a drawer somewhere!

19th August - Afternoon Tea @ Hollandstone Farm is an annual event organised by Daphne in aid of Charity - this year it is the British Heart Foundation.

Come for lots of lovely cake and friendly chat.

Long Buckby have our monthly coffee morning this Saturday (4th July) 10am to 11.30am and then at 2.30pm we have the Whilton Warblers performing.

A date for the future: 22nd September: **Safeguarding course** Level 1 and 2 on the from 10am to 1pm at **Long Buckby** URC, refreshments will be provided. Please contact Julia below to book

your place: her email address is juliajajules@yahoo.co.uk and contact number is 07746 185771.

Greetings from your Interim Moderator

By now most of you know me or at least know who I am. I wonder, though, how much you know about what I do. One of my main tasks is to chair meetings of the Call Group. We are pretty informal and much of our meeting time has been spent getting to know each other and exploring what skills and talents we have among us. Our next meeting is on 9th July and we are going to discuss how the churches in the Northwest Northamptonshire Pastorate want to work together.

As an aside, if you want to change the name then a request has to go from each of your church meetings to OMCG* for that to happen.

There are many ways in which churches can work together. They vary in how close the relationship is. Historically, when churches joined to work together they often retained their individual identity and only shared a minister. The arrangement required arrangements to be set up for paying the minister's expenses in particular proportions and sharing manse costs etc.

As churches began to work together in more creative ways groups were formed with group treasurers, shared worship services, Lent courses and more besides. Churches knew each other better but continued to enjoy the privileges and hardships of existing as separate entities.

In more recent times, particularly in response to trying to get things done when resources, not least people, are in short supply, churches have united in a different way. They have become a single church worshipping on a number of sites. In

these days of increasing demands on local churches regarding compliance (all that essential health and safety, safeguarding, Charity Commission requirements etc) some churches have found that has freed them up to engage in mission in ways that have not been possible for many years.

In recent years much energy has been used up in churches on maintaining buildings, preparing reports and filling the pulpit. I am not the only minister who has heard the exasperated cry, 'We're tired!' Working together offers an opportunity to hand some of the compliance workload to others. For example, finding someone to audit 5 sets of church accounts takes a lot of time and effort. Finding someone to audit a single church account and liaise with Synod and any others uses up a lot less energy. Just about everything that we do as churches has a reduced workload if we work more closely together.

Of course, it's not all straightforward. There's a lot of careful negotiation at the outset to make sure everyone is taking a share of the work and everyone is feeling the benefits.

Scripture tells us how productive cooperation is, feeding the five thousand is an example that springs readily to mind. Our church functions on the cooperation of ministers and elders and the interrelationship of the councils of the Church.

The Statement Concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church reminds us that 'We commit ourselves to grow together in the peace of Christ.'

Working together is not an optional extra. It is at the centre of our faith life. Our job as churches at this point in our journey is to work out how we faithfully achieve this growing together in the peace of Christ.

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The Call Group will be wrestling with this at our next meeting.

Any input from church members should be shared with Philip, Emma, Julia, Clive, Wendy, Hilary, Geoffrey, Jon, Brenda or Jenny over the next week. Please tell them what you have to offer as well as what the huge burden is that weighs you down.

Oh, did I say that I am enjoying getting to know you all and share is a small way in your lives together and apart. What a privilege that is.

God bless

Lesley