

Dates for Your Diary

April 2012

4.4.12	Long Buckby	2.15 pm Ladies' Circle
5.4.12	Long Buckby	7.00 pm United Maundy Thursday Service
5.4.12	Creton	12.00 Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
7.4.12	Crick	10.30-12.00 Coffee Morning
7.4.12	Long Buckby	10.30-11.30 am Charity Coffee Morning
10.4.12	Kilsby	2.15 pm Tuesday Guild
13.4.12	Long Buckby	10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
19.4.12	Creton	12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
24.2.12	Kilsby	12.30 pm Tuesday Guild - Leamington Spa

May 2012

2.5.12	Long Buckby	10.00 am Ladies' Circle
3.5.12	Creton	12.00 Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
5.5.12	Crick	10.30-12.00 Coffee Morning
5.5.12	Long Buckby	10.30-11.30 Charity Coffee Morning
8.5.12	Kilsby	2.15 pm Tuesday Guild
11.5.12	Long Buckby	10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
12.5.12	Long Buckby	2.00 pm Wedding of Yvonne and Andrew
17.5.12	Creton	12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
22.5.12	Kilsby	2.15 pm Tuesday Guild
25.5.12	Long Buckby	10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
26.5.12	Long Buckby	10.00-12.00 noon Spring Coffee Morning

The Good News

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



April & May 2012



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Rosemary's Ramblings

My youngest daughter Anne has acquired a dog. Murphy. He's a collie cross. I'm not quite sure what he's crossed with. He doesn't look anything like a collie to me, but then I'm not really a dog person, so I wouldn't really know.



Anyway, Murphy is an RSPCA rescue puppy and Anne and her partner, Chris, are working hard to train him. He came house trained, so that's a bonus, but at the moment he doesn't go off lead and they are trying to teach him recall. Although they don't have a large garden, they do have a park nearby so they put Murphy on a very long lead in the park and if he comes back when they call him, he gets a treat.

It's a good plan and it's working quite well, except.....

- ♦ Murphy is now getting wise to this, so rushes back, grabs the treat and then rushes off again. (Hasn't yet grasped the concept of "stay" then.)
- ♦ Even though he knows he'll get a treat if he comes back, if he's got a better offer - like another dog to talk to or a duck to chase - no amount of calling will encourage him to return.

In many ways our relationship with God involves treats. When we come back to God, he doesn't reward us with presents but presence. He offers his love and his companionship as he walks the journey with us, his care and concern for our welfare.

But the life of a Christian can be hard and the world can offer many temptations, which at the time might seem like a better offer. Money, power, greed, are all things that can be appealing at the time, but they don't last.

Eventually the duck that Murphy is chasing will fly away or the other dog he's playing with will go home. But Anne and Chris will stay there calling Murphy until he comes back.

Which is just how it is for us, and God. The God who loves us will keep calling us until finally we return to him and he takes us home.

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.



Letter from Gwennie Wilkes

Dear friends,

It doesn't seem possible that two months have passed since we last received our Church Newsletter; and here we are all putting our news together again ready for the April and May edition.

It is wonderful to have all the spring and summer ahead of us. I am sitting here writing on a glorious sunny spring day, although there was a very sharp frost early this morning, but we expect those at this time of year. What we desperately need now are some really good rain showers. The real winter weather seems to have passed us by this time and I can just hear you saying "Let's hope we aren't having the nice weather now and then no summer later." But nature has its own way of treating the world and how many times have we commented on how lovely it is to see the vibrant colours of the beautiful spring flowers.



The birds too are enjoying the spring and are busy building their nests, preparing for this year's young ones.

I know that there are always disasters happening somewhere in our world, as there have always been since time began. I am thinking of the recent coach crash in Belgium and wept for the parents and families of the children killed. When one loses a child in the family, it leaves a gaping hole that can never be filled as many of us have experienced. Such sadness - but we must look forward and keep our faith and do what we can for family and friends.

As Easter fast approaches, we think of all the pleasures it brings with it.

Keep smiling always - it does help; and I wish you well for the future days. Happy Easter to you all.

Gwennie

From My Window - Roy Hobbs

I look out at the glorious view
Of pastureland and woodland scenes
And praise the Lord for his great gift
Set in a sea of various greens.

Folk talk of places where they've been
In foreign countries so exciting,
Where sun and sea and waving palms
Combine to make them so inviting.

But I don't have to pack my bags
Or travel miles to catch a plane,
I simply pull my curtains back
To look on paradise again.



And what is more, it's all for free,
No rush, now queues or upset tum,
I stand and breathe clean English air
And count my blessings, my old chum.

Insults with Class

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." *Winston Churchill*

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." - *Clarence Darrow*

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." *Mae West*

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - *Oscar Wilde*

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." - *Samuel Johnson*

Creton News

Modern Technology to Assist Worship - Until quite recently two excellent musicians in our fellowship shared the music leadership between them, Alan Wilson and Rachelle Heard. Sadly Alan, who so faithfully served the church as organist and pianist for many years, recently had to give up playing for health reasons. We at Creton URC are so grateful to Alan, for the way he enhanced the Worship at Creton through his skills in music and leadership.

This situation has put a heavy load onto Rachelle; obviously there are times when Rachelle is unable to be at church. On such occasions rather than find ourselves without music at the service, the church decided to purchase, at a cost of just over £2,000 a computerised piece of equipment called **Hymnal Plus**. This contains the entire collection of tunes from Mission Praise, Rejoice and Sing plus many other hymn books. The instrumental accompaniment can be set to organ, piano, brass band etc. Quite a remarkable piece of kit, we have used it once in a service, everyone was pleasantly surprised at the sound quality and how well the congregation adapted to it.

Of course it is a machine, and as such it will only play what you programme it to do, there is not the spontaneity that you have with a musician who is able to respond according to the moving of the Holy Spirit in Worship. Whilst this is an excellent and clever piece of equipment, I think everyone will agree that it cannot replace a skilled live musician leading the music in our Worship.

The cost of the **Hymnal Plus** equipment, as mentioned earlier, was approx. £2,000. A donation from Winifred Weekley's family (see page 6) of £1,000 was put towards the cost of this equipment, ensuring that the church will always have a musical accompaniment to worship and praise God in His house. **Is this not an example of God's perfect timing in providing the necessary funds just when we needed them, partially through someone who has now passed on, whose talent was to provide the music for praise and worship so many years ago. I like to think it was.**

Long Buckby News

Maundy Service - The village Maundy Thursday Service will be held in our Church at 7.00 pm on 5th April.

Anniversary Service - a date for your diary - Our 305th Anniversary will be on 27th June. We will be holding a service at 7.00 pm which will be conducted by the Rev. Simon Ellis, North West Northants Mission Enabler and Minister of Duston U.R.C. The Service will be followed with refreshments being served in the Large Hall.

Forthcoming Wedding - The Wedding of Yvonne Taylor and Andrew Howes will be held in our Church on 12th May at 2.00 pm. Yvonne and Andrew have worshipped in our Church since Christmas. All good wishes to them for a lovely day and very best wishes for their future as husband and wife.

Maundy Thursday Customs



Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. Christians remember it as the day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist.

In Britain, the Queen takes part in the Ceremony of the Royal Maundy, which dates back to Edward 1. This involves the distribution of Maundy Money to deserving senior citizens (one man and one woman for each year of the sovereign's age). They receive ceremonial red and white purses which contain coins made especially for the occasion. The white purse contains one coin for each year of the monarch's reign. The red purse contains money in place of other gifts that used to be given to the poor.

In the 17th century, and earlier, the King or Queen would wash the feet of the selected poor people as a gesture of humility, and in remembrance of Jesus' washing the feet of the disciples. Nowadays that doesn't happen any more; in fact the last monarch to do this was James 2.

Long Buckby News

Birthdays

April

8th April Janet Wastnage
17th April Alan Wastnage
18th April Moira Hodgkinson
25th April Don Bird



May

13th May Richard Bignall
23rd May Mark Ellison

The Hope Centre



During April and May we will collect tea or coffee to help support the homeless. Donations can be left at the back of the Church.

Ladies' Circle

Our meetings are due to take place on 4th April at 2.15 pm and 2nd May at 10.00 am.

Flower Rota

1st April Grace Mawby
8th April Eva Bownlie
15th April Moira Hodgkinson
22nd April Kath Packer
29th April Group Service
6th May Alastair Bruce
13th May Rita Stowe
20th May Sian Ellison
27th May Wendy Baker



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

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week is taking place between Sunday the 13th to 19th May.



It is hoped that as many people as possible will take a Christian Aid envelope which can be filled and returned to Church by Sunday 20th May.

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

Creton News

Fellowship

Creton URC hosted a group social evening on Friday 16th March. Elaine and her team provided an excellent supper with a good selection of healthy food. This was followed with three games one of which was Scottish words which we had to guess the correct meaning of from three descriptions, two of which were false. I rather think these were sent down by Alex Salmond to help the English understand some of the finer parts of the Scottish language!!! An Olympic quiz followed which everyone appeared to do quite well in. Finally a Build a Church game which gathered pace as it went on, which exhausted us all so it was fitting at this point, that the evening closed with the grace and we all retired to our beds.

Thanks to those who prepared the meal and to those who organised the games to give such a pleasant evening.

Mothering Sunday

As is our tradition Creton URC joined with friends from the Parish Church for the Mothering Sunday service. This year it was held in St Michaels, it was well attended by both churches and concluded with communion.

Your Prayers Please

Please continue to pray for Alan & Carolyn Wilson for Spiritual and Physical strength, together with encouragement for each day.

We ask for your prayers for Paula, Geoffrey and Vera's daughter in law. Paula has been in hospital for almost 10 weeks. She is still very weak and has recently lost her sight; please pray that this sight loss is only temporary.

Reg Thomas

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

Creton News

Past Present and (Hopefully Future) at Pilots Service

The Pilots group led the service on Sunday 11th March; they introduced a number of themes into the service, including God's call to Samuel, that came to him in the middle of the night, which Samuel mistakenly thought to be the voice of Eli the Priest.

The Pilots gave us all a walnut to hold in our hands, and asked us to think of the walnut as the world, to remind us that God has the whole world in His hands; they then led us in prayers for the world.

During the service we remembered a past church member by the name of Mrs Winifred Weekley. Winifred was the organist at Creton URC from 1936 for many years, until she had to give up because of failing health.

Winifred passed away several years ago so very few people in the Church today would have known her. Recently the family, through a gentleman by the name of Axel Lansman, asked if a small plaque in memory of Mrs Winifred Weekley could be placed on the organ, the church agreed, and were delighted to receive a gift of £1,000. (See the details of the Weekley's gift on page 3) The church felt it would be good to invite Axel Lansman to come to one of our services and give a snapshot view of Creton URC during her time in the church.

Axel's story in itself is very interesting, Axel is Jewish he was brought to England by the Kinder Transport just prior to the Second World War to escape the horrors of Nazi Germany. These Jewish children were brought to England and billeted with families in the UK. Axel was about 11 years old when he came to England and went to live with Winifred and the family in Creton which included her son Edward and daughter Esther, and so a close relationship was formed with Winifred and the family which continued through to end of her life.

Axel told us that his job on Sunday's was to pump the organ for Winifred, if you pumped too fast the organ made strange squeaking noises and if you pumped too slow it just made a groaning sound and sometimes came to a halt. He also spoke of how on Sunday a taxi from Northampton would deliver the lay preachers to Creton and Churches in the surrounding villages, most of which had morning and evening services. After depositing the lay preachers, the taxi would return to Northampton and then go back to collect them after the evening service to take them home. This situation put a lot of pressure on the local congregations because they had to give the preachers hospitality between the services during the day.

Everyone including the children was very interested in Axel's talk, hopefully some of the children present will become part of Creton URC's future by building on what God has done in the past and present.

The Glory of the Garden

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing 'Oh, how beautiful' and sitting in the shade,
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner knives.
There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.
Then seek your job with thankfulness, and work till further orders
If it's only netting strawberries, or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.
Oh, Adam was a gardener, and the God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden, that it may not pass away!
And the Glory of the Garden, it shall never pass away!



Rudyard Kipling



MISSION STATEMENT

- ♦ We welcome people into our church from any background to share in our spiritual journey
- ♦ We want to share the love of God in the wider community

TUESDAY GUILD at 2.15pm except where stated otherwise

April 10 th	Bobbie Wakeleigh-Jones & Brenda Griffiths
April 24 th	Leamington Spa Centre bus leaves at 12.30 pm
May 8 th	Something Old
May 22 nd	Favourite Recipes

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY - Wednesday June 20th

As we celebrate 350 years, our Anniversary Service will be at 7.00 pm on June 20th when our speaker will be Rev Roberta Rominger, General Secretary of the URC.

We would like to invite any of you who previously attended the church or Sunday school to come along to a re-union at 4.30 pm on that day.

If you could let us know if you are coming it would help us with catering. Please ring Beryl on 01788 823752 or Val on 01788 822751.

JUMBLE SALE - Thank you to all who helped at our recent Jumble Sale which raised £273.

Coffee Mornings

We continue to hold our coffee mornings at 10.30 am til 12.00 noon on the first Saturday of the month.



We will be open as usual on Easter Saturday April 7th.

Thank you Creaton

For organising a delicious supper and a very enjoyable pastorate evening on March 16th. I think that 'church beetle' should become a regular feature!

We look forward to joining you again in April for our joint pastorate service.



April/May Birthdays

26 th April	Beth Stanley
27 th April	Joy Cawker

Please Remember.

Monica Bevin in your prayers. Monica is in hospital after a stroke. We miss her cheerful company and wish her well.

Jenny Goodger

PREACHING DIARY - APRIL & MAY 2012

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)	Creton (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)
Psalm Sunday 1st April	Rev. Conrad Husk	The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Bob Parker	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion
Easter Sunday 8th April	9.00 am The Minister	Alan Fox	The Minister with Holy Communion	Mary Barrett with Holy Communion
Sunday 15th April	Rev. Michael Bond with Holy Communion	9.00 am The Minister	John Horrocks	The Minister
Sunday, 22nd April	Vaughan Griffith	Jenny Goodger	11.00 am Rev. Pat Nimmo with Holy Communion	Gospel Messengers from Coventry
Sunday 29th April	Group Service at Creton with The Minister			
Sunday 6th May	Margaret Hooper	The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Geoff Townsend	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion
Sunday 13th May	9.00 am The Minister	John Horrocks	The Minister	Jon Heard
Sunday 20th May	Alan Fox	9.00 am The Minister	Jon Heard	The Minister
Sunday 27th May	The Minister with Holy Communion	Tony Cervantes	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion	Keith Bishop

The Book of Common Prayer

In 1549 the Book of Common Prayer was first issued throughout the Church of England. It was called "Common" because it was in English, the language people used in their everyday lives instead of in Latin, which only the priests understood. Imagine how strange it would be nowadays to say prayers in a language you didn't understand

Items for the Newsletter

As usual, if you have an item or thoughts you would like included in the next issue of Good News, please let Gretta Davis have it by 20th May for inclusion in the June and July edition. Articles can be sent via post (12 East Street, Long Buckby NN6 7RA) or via e-mail gretta@longbuckby.com

