

Dates for Your Diary

April

- 1.4.11 Long Buckby 10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 2.4.11 Long Buckby 10.30-11.30 am Charity Coffee Morning
 2.4.11 Crick 10.30-12.00 noon Coffee Morning
 4.4.11 Kilsby 12.45 pm Tuesday Guild - Rally at Leamington
 from Devon Ox Road (note, this is on a Monday!)
 6.4.11 Long Buckby 2.15 pm Ladies' Circle
 7.4.11 Creaton 12.00 Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
 8.4.11 Group 7.00 pm Pies & Poetry Pastorate Social
 14.4.11 Long Buckby 6.30 pm Church meeting
 15.4.11 Long Buckby 10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 16.4.11 Long Buckby 4.30 for 5.00 pm Annual Church Party
 19.4.11 Kilsby 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild - Memories of Grace Hall
 21.4.11 Creaton 12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch

May

- 3.5.11 Kilsby 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild - Who is it?
 4.5.11 Long Buckby 2.15 pm Ladies' Circle
 5.5.11 Creaton 12.00 Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
 7.5.11 Crick 10.30-12.00 noon Coffee Morning
 7.5.11 Long Buckby 10.30-11.30 am Charity Coffee Morning
 17.5.11 Kilsby 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild - Souvenirs
 18.5.11 Long Buckby 7.00 pm 304th Church Anniversary Service
 19.5.11 Creaton 12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
 27.5.11 Long Buckby 10.00 am Bible Study, 25 Wright Road
 28.5.11 Long Buckby 10.00-12.00 noon Spring Fayre
 31.5.11 Kilsby 2.15 pm Tuesday Guild - Just a word

Contributions for the Newsletter

If you have an article, events or thoughts you would like in the June/July 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 May.

The Good News

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

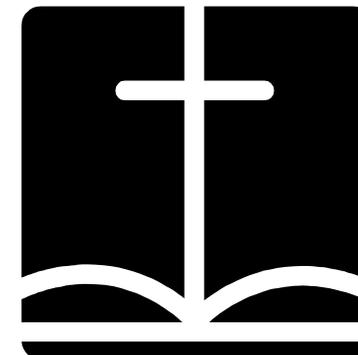


The
 United
 Reformed
 Church

April & May 2011

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Long Buckby

Acting Secretary Wendy Baker 01604 759758
 Treasurer Alan Wastnage 01327 842009
 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

Newsletter Editor Gretta Davis 01327 842164

e-mail: gretta@longbuckby.com

Minister - Rev. Rosemary Pullen

Tel: 01327 844985

e-mail: rev_ro@hotmail.com

With the lighter evenings and the odd hint of warm spring sunshine, our thoughts inevitably start to turn towards the promise of summer and in particular summer holidays.

Warm, sunny days and sandy beaches spring to mind as we look forward to a time of relaxation and an opportunity to re-charge flagging batteries. And, whether we regard a holiday as a time to be particularly active and enjoy more energetic pastimes such as rock climbing or white water rafting, or whether we would rather relax in a chair in the sun with a cool drink, there is always the opportunity to marvel at nature and God's creation.

Nature is stunning and amazing all in one go. It's not just nature's beauty that touches me, it is also the way nature lives in harmony and the way nature uses itself to good advantage.



In the bible Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to, amongst other things, a precious pearl. A pearl is without doubt a thing of great beauty but we need to learn from nature just how a pearl is formed. It starts with a tiny speck of grit that finds its way inside an oyster. Basically, that speck of grit is a nuisance, an irritant - think how you feel when you get a piece of dust or grit in your eye, or between your toes. Yet the oyster takes that which is troublesome and turns it into something, which is special beyond price.

Likewise God will take that which is troublesome about us and work with us, if only we will let him, to turn that nuisance, that irritant, into something good.

Rosemary Pullen

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. (Their bacon sandwiches are legendary.)

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). Everyone is very welcome

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.

Long Buckby News

Website

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

Gunjar School

This school provides education to 1,723 children in Gambia, but it lost the roof to one of the classroom blocks in a storm. Long Buckby URC is raising funds to help replace the roof. Fundraising is taking place for the project at our monthly coffee mornings on the 1st Saturday of the month.

Ann Hagger - 1923-2011

The funeral service for Ann was held in our Church and was conducted by our Minister. It was well attended by Ann's family and her many friends.

Ann moved to Long Buckby seven years ago and soon became an active and loyal member of our Church, regularly attending worship. Ann also enjoyed the Church's social activities and was involved with the Ladies' Circle.

Ann was widowed at 37 and had two children, Carol and Leslie. At her funeral her grandchildren all spoke lovingly and eloquently about the Gran they all loved.

We wish Leslie, Carol and Charlie and all Ann's grandchildren God's love as they get used to life without her.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week is taking place between 15th to the 21st May 2011



It is hope that as many people as possible in the church will take a Christian Aid envelope which can be filled and returned to church by Sunday 22nd May.

Creaton News

All are welcome to join us on **Good Friday 22nd April**, meeting at the Church at 10.00 am for a walk returning to the Church for coffee and hot cross buns and concluding with a short time of meditation.

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.* (Please note Poppies will be closed from 12.00 pm on Wednesday, 20th April until 9.00 am on Tuesday 3rd May.)

Fellowship News

Our prayers and thoughts are with Bob and Janet Miller whose son Roger died suddenly at work. We remember also Roger's wife Audrey and their young family Alex, Charlie, Celina, Paul and Katie and all members of the Miller family at this very sad and difficult time.

Vera is currently undergoing tests at the hospital. We pray for Vera and Geoff at this time and for satisfactory test results.

The Elders and Members of Creaton URC wish you all a happy Easter.

Reg Thomas

Oberammergau Passion Play 2010

In September last year two of our members, David and Sylvia Watt, made the journey to the village of Oberammergau in Bavaria Germany.

The background to the play is that in 1632 the town was suffering from the bubonic plague. The residents vowed that if God spared them from the effects of the bubonic plague ravaging the region they would produce a play every 10 years thereafter depicting the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The death rate slowly subsided to just one in July 1633. The townspeople believed they had been spared so they kept their vow and performed the first passion play in 1634.

Everyone taking part in the passion play has to have lived in the village for a minimum of 20 years. All the performers are laymen and pursue their normal careers which include a flight attendant, a psychologist, wood carvers, housewives and so forth. The performers are not allowed to wear wigs or false beards, so all the men have to let their hair and beards grow. For the year of the performances they largely put their lives on hold and live the Passion play.

.....Cont. overleaf

Creaton News

Cont'd By taking their roles in the passion play, the performers are fulfilling the promise made to God made by their ancestors, celebrating their faith and sharing it with the world.

The five hour performance of the life of Jesus begins with his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem through to his resurrection on Easter morning. Many of the gospel stories come alive, including Jesus clearing the temple of the traders and the last supper. Jesus' betrayal and arrest in Gethsemane were particularly moving.

So realistic is the performance that you sense the audience is feeling the crown of thorns as it is thrust on Jesus' head. The emotion felt as Judas hanged himself on the tree, the shouting of the crowd as Jesus stands silent in the judgement hall produced an air of amazement in the audience.

Of course, the crucifixion scene is the most emotional and thought provoking, when the beaten and bruised Jesus is hung on the cross between two criminals. It was evident from many in the audience who were in tears that their hearts were greatly touched by the fact that God loved us so much that he allowed Jesus to suffer this cruel death so that we can have the gift of eternal life.

The final scene is the joy of the resurrection helping to renew our faith and confidence in the fact that Christ has conquered death once and for all.

This was David and Sylvia's second visit to Oberammergau. They found it an amazing experience which was very difficult to describe to anyone who has not been. It was both deeply moving and sincere. It was spectacular, professionally and sensitively performed; it drew the audience into each situation in a truly remarkable way unlike any other performance or play that they had ever seen. They feel blessed to have had the opportunity to be part of this amazing experience.

MISSION STATEMENT

- Worship God joyfully
- Offer Christ faithfully
- Promote growth hopefully
- Serve others lovingly



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

Long Buckby News

Flower Rota

3 rd April	Grace Mawby
10 th April	Eva Brownlie
17 th April	Moina Hodgkinson
24 th April	Kath Packer
1 st May	Alastair Bruce
8 th May	Rita Stowe
15 th May	Mary Davies
22 nd May	Sian Ellison
29 th May	Group Service at Kilsby

Please contact Wendy Baker (01604 759758) for any enquiries regarding your Flower Sunday

Birthdays

April	
4 th April	Ruth Robson
8 th April	Janet Wastnage
17 th April	Alan Wastnage
18 th April	Moina Hodgkinson
25 th April	Don Bird
May	
13 th May	Richard Bignall
23 rd May	Mark Ellison



Charitable Giving from Coffee Mornings

The following donations have been made from fund raising at our monthly Coffee Mornings and the Sale of Harvest Produce during 2010:-

Friends of Cynthia Spencer Hospice & Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance £406 each. Pakistan Flood Appeal £76.35.

In addition our Haiti Earthquake Appeal Grand Coffee Morning raised a magnificent £666.78.

Our Pastorate Supper and Beetle Drive raised a further £100 and it is proposed that this will also be sent to the Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

This brings our total donated to charitable organisations for 2010 to £1,655.13

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped, donated and spent so generously. Your support is invaluable and your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Hope Centre

During April and May we will be collecting soup and baked beans for the Hope Centre. Many thanks for all your gifts.

Long Buckby News

Dear Friends

I have long praised the people of Wootton Bassett for the wonderful caring support they have shown to all the grieving families of the men killed in Afghanistan. They have stood in silence and with dignity as the hearses bearing the coffins of repatriated service men and women have passed through their streets on so many occasions during the past two or more years. Their respect and understanding brings tears to your eyes. Now the town is being recognised by being given the title of "Royal" Wootton Bassett - and I must say that no place is more deserving.

There are good deeds and good things happening in this world of ours, but we don't hear about them as they don't often make the news in the papers and on TV. Instead we need to reflect on how lucky we are in



this country of ours where we have the changing seasons and springtime, which is particularly beautiful when the spring flowers wake up after their winter rest and we see the lambs in the fields - and I did spot some lambs this week at Buckby Wharf.

We haven't long to wait for the blossom on the trees as already the blackthorn is in full flower and if, like myself, you have a garden, however big or small, there is always a good crop of weeds.

We have had a cold spell during this winter and lots of people have suffered with colds and flu, etc. I sincerely hope everyone will feel better for seeing some spring sunshine.

We wish all young people that we know, who will be sitting exams at school, all the best and hope they do well.

Keep smiling folks (it does help). Best wishes to you all; and happy healthy days. God bless you and keep you safe.

Gwennie Wilkes

Taking a Back Seat

Most churches and chapels fill up from back to front. Often those who occupy the back seat complain that they have difficulty hearing the Minister and that they did not hear a word of the lesson when it was read. Various solutions have been proposed as to how to get people to move forward:

- ◆ A heating system that does not reach the back rows
- ◆ Prizes randomly distributed in the front pews
- ◆ Installing a moving aisle to whisk down to the front those who arrive early
- ◆ Roping off the last four rows with a sign that reads "For mothers with noisy children"
- ◆ Announcing that the back pews are "Reserved for lost souls".

What do you think?

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. "What are you doing?" the young man asked.

"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."

Celtic parable

Our **Women's World Day of Prayer** service saw our familiar ecumenical mix of URC, Anglican and Catholic ladies from Crick and neighbouring villages.

Our thanks as always go to our organiser Jean Buxton, and our pianist Felicity White.

Several visitors returned to Church the next morning to give us an almost record attendance for our **coffee morning**. At our coffee morning on May 7th we will have a bring and buy stall: 10.30 am til 12.00 noon as usual.

At last! We have managed to fill the **Ragbag recycling** box. The contents were collected this week, and we wait to see how much money we have raised from our unwanted items.



Birthdays

April	16	Penny Parsons
	18	Henry Kay
	26	Beth Stanley
	27	Joy Cawker
May	26	Simon Bodsworth

Dates for your Diary

- ◆ Wednesday June 22nd 7:0 pm Crick URC Anniversary
- ◆ Saturday July 2nd 3-5.0 pm Strawberry Teas
- ◆ Saturday/Sunday July 9/10th Crick Scarecrow weekend
Lots of fun & attractions, including tea, cakes & books at the URC

Jenny Goodger



The egg is seen by followers of Christianity as a symbol of resurrection: while being dormant it contains a new life sealed within it.

In the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ, shed on the Cross, and the hard shell of the egg symbolized the sealed Tomb of Christ - the cracking of which symbolized his resurrection from the dead. Easter eggs are blessed by the priest at the end of the Paschal Vigil, and distributed to the faithful. Each household also brings an Easter basket to church, filled not only with Easter eggs but also with other Paschal foods such as paska, kulich or Easter breads, and these are blessed by the priest as well.

Egg hunt is a game during which decorated eggs, real hard-boiled ones or artificial ones filled with, or made of chocolate of various sizes, are hidden for children to find, both indoors and outdoors. When the hunt is over, prizes may be given for the largest number of eggs collected, or for the largest or the smallest egg.

In the North of England, at Easter-time, a traditional game is played where hard boiled *pace eggs* are distributed and each player hits the other player's egg with their own. This is known as "egg tapping" or "egg dumping". The winner is the holder of the last intact egg. The losers get to eat their eggs.

Egg rolling is also a traditional Easter egg game played with eggs at Easter. In England, Germany, and other countries children traditionally rolled eggs down hillsides at Easter. This tradition was taken to the New World by European settlers, and continues to this day each Easter on the White House lawn.



Childhood - by Patricia Samuels

How sweet the memories of our childhood cling
Like perfume on a hazy summer's day.
From honeysuckle, lupin and the rose
Soft fragrances upon my senses play.

Long have I waited by the trickling stream
For signs of life to dart between the stones,
And paddled in that same clear sparkling flow
To cool myself and ease by burning toes.

Then did I race when time was never known
And lent my kite the freedom of the skies,
The friendly wind would join the game and toss
With clever art, a series of designs.



I've climbed trees with ease (and some with less)
Shot arrows with others in our play,
And trundled home exhausted, yet alive
Within us the excitement of the game.

I've roller-skated up and down the lanes
And knocked on doors then fled into the night,
Made pictures on the ground with earth and flowers
And begged for pennies for this pretty sight.

Sometimes we'd sit and ponder future years,
Ambitious minds would scan a million things.
No futile hopes - "I will", "I'm going to be"
Filled those discussions rich with endless dreams.

When did I ever feel another kiss
As warm and light as spring's first gentle touch?
From somewhere out of sight and out of reach
Sweet feathered throats for new notes ever searched.

Now when I need to steal a little magic
In nature's garden upward faced I lie,
I let my mind drift with the tides of heaven
Living pictures in an ever changing sky.

Kilsby News

Pies and Poetry - Pastorate Social Evening on Friday
8th April at 7.00 pm - Tickets £3.50
Contact Beryl on 01788 823752



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 7th June **Concert with Rugby Salvation Army Band and Songsters** at 7.00pm Tickets £4.00 (Refreshments included) - contact Beryl on 01788 823752.

Watch out for our **Annual Quiz**. Question sheets will be available in May at £1. Please do join in the fun and support our fund raising effort.

Wednesday 15th June **Church Anniversary Service** at 7.00 pm
Preacher - Rev Derek Redfern

Tuesday Guild at 2.15 pm except where stated otherwise

*Monday 4 April	Rally at Leamington. Dact Bus from Devon Ox Road at 12.45 pm
Tuesday 19 April	Miss Gillian Mason - Memories of Grace Hall
Tuesday 3 May	Who is it?
Tuesday 17 May	Souvenirs
Tuesday 31 May	Just a Word

Drop-in-Centre

Monday & Thursdays 9.00 am until 12 noon
Breakfasts are still available between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon

Beryl Lees

PREACHING DIARY - APRIL & MAY 2011

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>
Mothers' Sunday 3 rd April	Vaughan Griffiths	The Minister with Holy Communion	Joint service with St. Michael's & All Angels at Creaton URC	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th April	9.00am The Minister Family Service	John Horrocks	The Minister	Clive Leakey
Sunday 17 th April	Alan Fox	9.00 am The Minister	Jon Heard	The Minister
Good Fri. 22 nd April		7.00 pm The Minister	10.00 am Walk & Meditation	
Easter Sunday 24 th April	The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Conrad Husk with Holy Communion	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Norman Barr with Holy Communion
Sunday 1 st May	Jill Coe	To be announced	John Horrocks	9.00 am Sharing together
Sunday 8 th May	9.00 am The Minister Family Service	Tony Hodgkinson	The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Geoffrey Townsend
Sunday 15 th May	Sian Ellison Sharing Service	9.00 am The Minister	Café Style and Parade Service led by our own Members	The Minister
Sunday 22 nd May	The Minister with Holy Communion	Alan Fox	9.00 am The Minister with Holy Communion	Rev. Conrad Husk
Sunday 29 th May	Joint Pastorate Service with the Minister at Kilsby			

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

God is never at a loss to know what he's going to do in any given situation. He knows perfectly well what is best for us - our challenge is simply to trust him.

Proverbs 3:5-6

SEVEN STEPS TO STAGNATION

1. We've never done it that way...
2. We're not ready for that....
3. We're doing all right without it....
4. We tried it once before....
5. It costs too much....
6. That's not our responsibility....
7. It just won't work....