

Dates for Your Diary

December 2015

1.12.15	Kilsby	7.15 pm Salvation army Concert
3.12.15	Creton	12.00 noon Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
5.12.15	Crick	10.30-12.00 noon Christmas Coffee Morning
5.12.15	Creton	4.00 pm Concert by Mamalaine
8.12.15	Kilsby	2.15pm Mrs. Elaine Savage—Marzipan Fruits
11.12.15	Long Buckby	12.00 noon for 1.00 pm Lunch Club
13.12.15	Long Buckby	6.00 pm Carol Service with Daventry Brass Band
17.12.15	Long Buckby	12.30 pm Ladies Circle Lunch
17.12.15	Creton	12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
17.12.15	Crick	7.00 pm Carols by Candlelight
22.12.15	Kilsby	2.15 pm Guild Carols & Poems

January 2016

5.1.16	Kilsby	2.15 pm Guild Look to the Future
7.1.16	Creton	12.00 noon Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
7.1.16	Long Buckby	2.15 pm Ladies Circle
8.1.16	Long Buckby	12.00 noon for 1.00 pm Lunch Club
19.1.16	Kilsby	2.15 pm Guild - Major Julie House
21.1.16	Creton	12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch
26.1.16	Long Buckby	6.30 pm Elders Meeting
31.1.16	Long Buckby	11.00 am Joint Service

February 2016

2.2.16	Kilsby	2.15 pm Guild—TBA
3.2.16	Long Buckby	2.15 pm Ladies Circle
6.2.16	Long Buckby	10.30-11.30 am Charity Coffee Morning
6.2.16	Crick	10.30-12 noon Charity Coffee Morning
16.2.16	Kilsby	2.15 pm Guild—TBA
14.2.16	Creton	12.00 noon Nosh and Natter (men's lunch)
18.2.16	Creton	12.30 pm Over 70's Lunch.
20.12.16	Long Buckby	3.00 pm Birthday Party for Gwennie & Len
26.12.16	Long Buckby	7.30 pm Buskers Evening



The Good News

From Long Buckby, Creton, Crick
and Kilsby

(North West Northants. Pastorate)



The
United
Reformed
Church

December—February 2016

Long Buckby

Acting Secretary

Wendy Baker 01604 759758

Treasurer

Mary Bignell 01327 844979

Junior Church

Norman Chandler 01327 843813

Creton

Secretary

Marion Heard 01604 843864

Treasurer

Ian Heard 07810 361403



Crick

Secretary

Brenda Morgan 01788 822564

Treasurer

Brenda Tomalin 01788 823428

Kilsby

Secretary

Beryl Lees 01788 823752

Treasurer

Val Janes 01788 822751

Newsletter Editor

Chris Berry 01327 843307

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Minister—Post Vacant
Please contact the Church Secretaries.

A Christmas Message

Dear Friends,

December 2015

There is a controversy "brewing" in the US: Starbucks' Christmas cups are plain red—there is no Christmas scene of any description on them. People are up in arms!

The controversy continues: in October while in Sainsbury's I discovered an aisle of Christmas decorations! On Facebook and in conversations people are already complaining that Christmas items are again in the stores too soon.

As I reflect on both of these scenarios, I am wondering whether there is another way to look at them? Rather than being so frustrated at Christmas items being in the store so early and no Christmas decoration on coffee cups, perhaps we can use both these situations to talk about what Christmas really is; we can share the good news of Jesus' birth.

After all, is it Starbucks or Sainsbury's responsibility to tell people the story of Jesus' birth and God's presence with us? Of course not, it is our responsibility. Each and every day we share our lives with others and in our life they read the story of what God is doing for us. At Christmas we, as the church, have a special opportunity to talk about Jesus birth and life and God's ongoing work in the world. With all the items in the store, with music on the radio, with programmes on the tellie, we can talk with those around us about the living God who comes to the world anew in the birth of Jesus.

Okay, you may think, but people don't know why we have Christmas. This is true. They confuse Jesus and Father Christmas, the little donkey with the wise men. But with all the items in the stores, we can begin conversations about what Christmas really is.

For many Christmas is . . . a time full of memories, a day of hope and joy, a time of celebration and sharing, a day with potential sadness. For Christians Christmas is a day to mark the birth of Jesus, to pause and celebrate what it means that God loves us so much that God becomes one with us in Jesus.



Whats 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 am til midday.

Long Buckby runs a charity Coffee Morning the 1st Saturday morning in every month 10.30 am—11.30 am (**not in January**).

Crick also runs a charity Coffee Morning, the 1st Saturday morning in every month from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

Creton has Poppies Coffee Shop—open from 9.00 am to 12.00 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (closed Thursday).

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 (**No meeting in January**)

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,

Autumn is really with us— isn't it? Cloudy skies and a little bit of sunshine if we are lucky! Suddenly most of the trees are losing their leaves and all the beautiful autumn colours are now lying wet and muddy on the ground. One has to be careful when walking out as it can be very slippery underfoot and we don't want to hear of anyone falling.

Did you watch the tv programme entitled 'Autumn Watch', where we travelled to various farms in the country? On one farm the owner keeps goats rather than cows which are milked twice a day; they also make cheese which was very interesting. They work very long hours to keep the animals happy and clean and milked twice a day. The same applies to the cows and I am happy to pay the full price to the milkman who delivers to the door very early in the morning no matter what the weather.

I have a hedgehog who comes out at night and I have a feeling that he/she is getting ready to hibernate, which usually happens when it starts to get colder. Last weekend when my daughter brought me home from Harlestone we saw a fox standing at the side of the road looking straight at us. He was probably mesmerised by the car headlights. The following day coming home from Kingsthorpe, driving by the Holdenby estate, an owl flew alongside the car. These creatures are lovely to see and we must protect their habitats and not allow the housing developers to take all our lovely green spaces for building.

Today as I write, it is Armistice Day and we have just observed 2 minutes silence and remembered all the people who died in the 2 great wars, such a distressing time for lots of families. I reluctant to finish my letter on such a sad note, although I could go on as memories keep flooding back.. To those who have been poorly, I send my best wishes for a full recovery; and to all of you, we are happy to see when we all join together. Keep well and Happy, God Bless you all.

Gwennie Wilkes



A Christmas Message contd.

How has that story changed our lives? Where has God's presence given us hope, strength, or courage? Where has God's love transformed our pain or helped us cope? Where has God's goodness helped us find our way through the storms of life? We can talk about the reality of God's love more easily because the reason for the season is Jesus. With the trappings of Christmas all around us, we have opportunities to tell people why Christmas exists. We can talk about the Light which brings hope in the midst of a broken and darkened world.

Christmas means many things to many people. Yes, many in our culture have lost the meaning. When people complain about commercialization, we have an opportunity to talk about what Christmas means to us—from the joy of seeing our family to the love of God that comes close in Jesus Christ.

May you be blessed with God's love and peace this Christmas season and in the dawning New Year.

Peace, Revd Martha McInnes



Creton News

Poppies Coffee Shop is open daily from 9.00 am to 12 noon Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Poppies is closed on Thursdays.



Everyone is very welcome

Creton's Over 70's lunch Club meets at 12.30 pm on 3^d Thursday of each month.

For the Men - Creton host "Nosh and Natter" (Men's lunch) on the 1st Thursday of every month at 12.00 noon.

Saturday 5th December at 4pm

Come and join us to hear **MAMALAINÉ**

6 local voices who tour around making music to raise funds for **SOUL ACTION**, which seeks to combat poverty and protect young people from abuse.

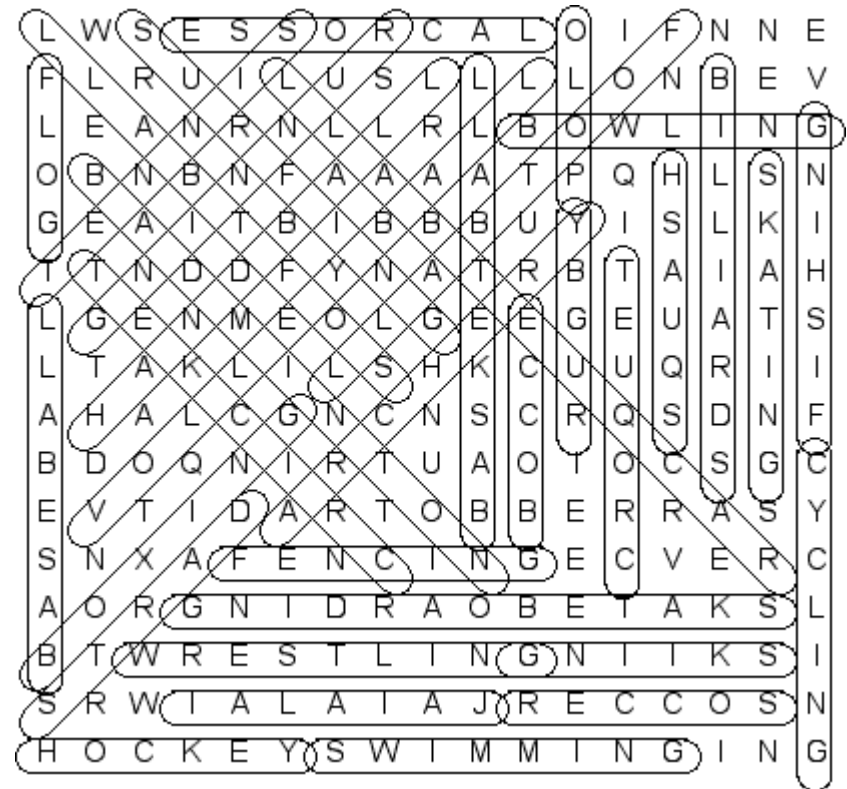
In partnership with **TEARFUND** and **SOUL SURVIVOR**.

Refreshments, Tombola and donations gratefully received.



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

Last Editions Puzzle Time solution



Thank you to everyone for their help and support during the year, I hope you have enjoyed the puzzles, I will try to think of something different next year!

I hope you all have a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Chris Berry



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

Puzzle Time

T S T N E S E R P D N L L A M S G
 T O P P E R P I N E W I H R E D R
 O T E V I T S E F C O G R E R N E
 F R E S H C U T E O D H A T A A E
 D D N A T S I G T R G T T A I L N
 O S N A O F R H A A N S S W V R I
 E S N N M A G A R T I F I C I A L
 S E A O L E G N A E K C H R Y G S
 A T M S I I N O I T A R B E L E C
 H T S R E T T T R D T M A A N S S
 C I S T A L A A S R E R G A R E E
 R N E P O F D R E T L C C I H R L
 U G K I R I E E O Y R Y E C F E G
 P U I N T U L E E C D I N M S T L
 N P A I U O C T R N E A K N B A S
 E D O I T R N E A T R D I S E E G
 E N S C E N T C R B M T A R N Y R

ANGEL ARTIFICIAL BRANCHES CANDY CANES
 CELEBRATION DECEMBER DECORATE
 DECORATIONS FESTIVE FRESH CUT GARLAND
 GIFTS GREEN LARGE LIGHTS NEEDLES
 ORNAMENTS PINE PRESENTS PURCHASE REAL
 SCENT SETTING UP SKIRT SMALL SPRUCE
 STAND STAR TAKING DOWN TINSEL TOPPER
 TRADITION TREE FARM TREE LOT TRUNK
 WATER YEARLY

Kilsby News

Guild Meetings at 2.15pm (unless shown otherwise**)

8th December	Mrs. Elaine Savage—Marzipan fruits
22nd December	Carols & Poems
5th January	Look to the Future
19th January	Major Julie House
2nd February	To Be Arranged
16th February	To Be Arranged



Community café open Mondays and Thursdays from 9.00am until 12noon

Scrabble Club on Wednesdays at 1.15pm

Dates for your diary

1st December at 7.15pm—Salvation Army
Concert



31st January Joint Service at Long Buckby

Preacher Rev. Geoff Townsend

Crick News

Mission Statement

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.

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings will continue on the first Saturday of the month from 10.30 am til 12 o'clock. Come and join us, you are sure to meet someone you know.



Birthdays

5th December	Louise Wilkin
16th January	Brenda Tomalin
27th January	Jenny Goodger
5th February	Steve Wilkin



Dates for Your Diary

Saturday December 5th 10.30am til 12noon

Grand Coffee Morning for church funds

Thursday December 17th 7:00 pm

Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day Service at 9.30am

Preacher Rev. M Heighton

Advance Notice! Friday 4th World Day of Prayer



Long Buckby News

Birthdays

9th December	Len Babb
18th December	Harry Ellison
7th January	Dawn Chandler
28th January	Edna Curtis
17th February	Clive Cooper
21st February	Kath Packer
25th February	Chris Berry



Hope Centre

We are still collecting tinned & dried goods and the box is in the Foyer of the Church on the left hand side. Thank you for your contributions
Gwennie

Special Events

20th February at 3pm - We are having a Church Party for Gwennie and Len who will have celebrated their 90th birthdays. Congratulations to them both.

26th February at 7.30pm Alan Ketley is arranging another Buskers evening. If anyone would like to contribute to the evening by playing an instrument, singing or reciting, please come along. Everyone is welcome to come and listen and enjoy the evening. Refreshments will be on sale.



Long Buckby News

Flower Rota

6th December	Mrs. Gill Best
13th December	Candlelight Service
20th December	Mrs. Wendy Baker
27th December	No service
3rd January	Sian Ellison
10th January	Mrs. Diana Babb
17th January	*Mrs Sian Ellison
24th January	*Mrs. Val Cole
31st January	Mrs. Eva Brownlie
7th February	Mrs. Eva Brownlie
14th February	Mrs. Rita Stowe
21st February	Mr. & Mrs. N Chandler
28th February	*Mrs. Gretta Davis



Bible Study

Bible Study will be held at 25 Wright Road Long Buckby at 10.00am on the following dates:-

11th December
18th December at 10.30am
8th January
22nd January
12th February
26th February

The bible Study Group is now meeting on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. This will mean that a number of our group will then join the lunch club in the hall on the 2nd Friday each month as well. Maybe you would like to join the bible study before going to the lunch club.

Dates for your diary

- ♦ Charity Coffee Morning on the first Saturday each month, 10.30am—11.30am.
- ♦ Ladies Circle first Wednesday each month at 2.15pm.
Christmas meal 17th December
No meeting in January
- ♦ Elders Meeting
26th January at 6.30pm
- ♦ Lunch Club—2nd Friday each month 12.30pm for 1.00pm

Crick News

On behalf of the elders and congregation of Crick URC, I wish you all a peaceful, happy Christmas and a healthy and successful year in 2016.

*Jenny
Goodger*

Resolutions

It's time again, I'm thinking hard
Of problems and solutions
I scan the list and read aloud
My New Year Resolutions.
I'll try to eat more healthily
I'll eat more fruit and veggies
Cut out the tea and chocolate,
Stop nibbling on cheese wedges.
I'll eat a carrot or some nuts
Instead of cakes and biscuits.
Drink lots of water, clear and bright,
In place of wine and whiskies.
I'll exercise. I'll walk. I'll jog.
I'll take up meditation.
I'll not get cross and I won't swear
(Except in sheer frustration).
I promise I won't lose my rag
When John says "Speak more clearly"
I won't yell "Where's your hearing aid?"
I Mean that most sincerely.
I'll finish all those stories
I was writing long ago.
And all the bits of knitting
And the things I've tried to sew.
I'll try to be more organised.
Send birthday cards on time.
I'll read more books. Trace my roots
And learn to go online.
Well, that's my list.
I've read it through.
I've done all this before.
And every year I fail myself -
It ends up in the drawer.

Margaret Weaver.

NW NORTHANTS. PASTORATE'S PREACHING DIARY - December 2015, January, February 2016

Date	Long Buckby (All services at 11.00 am. Unless stated otherwise)	Crick (All services at 11.00 am. Unless stated otherwise)	Creton (All services at 11.00 am. Unless stated otherwise)	Kilsby (All services at 11.00 am. Unless stated otherwise)
Sunday 6th December	Rev. Conrad Husk	Mr. Tony Cervantes	Rev. Geoff Townsend with Holy Communion	Mr. Tony Brown
Sunday 13th December	Mr. Jon Heard 6.00pm Carol Service with Daventry Brass Band	Mr. Alan Fox	Elders – Gift Service	Rev. Geoff Townsend with Holy Communion
Thursday 17th December		7.00pm Carols by Candlelight Rev. M Heighton		
Sunday 20th December	Mr. Andrew Howes	9.00am Mr. Andrew Howes	Mr. Alan Thompson	Carols & Readings
Monday 21st December			6.00pm Candlelight Service With The Elders	
Christmas Eve	2.30pm Mr. Andrew Howes			
Christmas Day	No Service	9.30am Rev. M Heighton	10.30am Rev. Geoff Townsend	No Service
Sunday 27th December	No Service	Mr. Tom Wederell	No Service	No Service
Sunday 3rd January	Rev. Michael Bond with Holy Communion	Mrs. Barbara Heighton	Mr. Jon Heard with Holy Communion	Rev. Tony Newnham with HC
Sunday 10th January	Mr. Vaughan Griffiths	Mr. David Biddle	Mr. Magnus Ramage	Rev. Michael Bond
Sunday 17th January	Mrs. Jill Coe	9.00am Wally Mular	Rev. Geoff Townsend	Mrs. Dorn Margetts
Sunday 24th January	Rev. Stanley Crane with Holy Communion	Francis Thomas	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. Michaels	Mr. Jon Heard
Sunday 31st January	Rev. Geoff Townsend Joint Service	Joint Service at Long Buckby	Joint Service at Long Buckby	Joint Service at Long Buckby
Sunday 7th February	Rev. Michael Bond	Mrs. Wendy Pitman	Mr. Jon Heard	Rev. Geoff Townsend with Holy Communion
Sunday 14th February	Mr. Jon Heard	Rev. T. Newnham with Holy Communion	Rev. Geoff Townsend with HC 1st Sunday in Lent	Mrs. Barbara Heighton
Sunday 21st February	Mr. Ian Harrison	9.00am Jenny Goodger	Mr. Martin Buckby	Mr. Trevor Boys
Sunday 28th February	Mr. Andrew Howes with Holy Communion	Mr. Tony Cervantes	Rev. Peter Meek	Mr. Jon Heard