



## THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER MAY 2015

Dear Friends,

To see or not to see!

Since we have moved into the new manse Geoff and I have been juggling workmen and unpacking boxes. Clearing away the dead leaves and a little weeding to the front garden has made a difference, but that is all that has been done so far. Gardens and plants need constant care and attention; it is so easy to leave the plants to their own devices and hope that they will out flower the weeds, or that any bindweed will not strangle them, a problem that we had in Brighton.

The manse back garden is laid to lawn and although I am not thoroughly green-fingered I do like to dig, to prune and weed. So I am really looking forward to digging up some of the grass and creating a vegetable garden. In the meantime I am garden watching! The other day I saw in an overgrown garden where the plants seemed to be blocking light from each, a Peony being blocked by a rapidly growing Hebe. The Peony really needs to be replanted somewhere else in the garden, where it will grow and flourish. Alas, that's not for me to do.

For those disciples and people to whom Jesus appeared, the risen Christ being back among them must have been wonderful. They surely believed that this would be the time when the Lord would restore the kingdom to Israel. They asked him about this in Acts 1:6 and before they could get an answer Jesus was taken from them again, he ascended into heaven.

Their picture of Jesus was far too small; their understanding of him was too narrow. He did not just come to restore Israel but to redeem the world, not just to rule on earth but to be enthroned in heaven. As the disciples believed that they could see the whole picture they actually only saw a small glimpse, one piece of a jigsaw. They had to think again, Jesus was greater than they had ever begun to imagine.

I hadn't seen the Peony properly at first; I was only looking at the Hebe. In having a second look and thinking about the possibilities of the garden's owner replanting the Peony I believe more of their garden might be seen. Maybe we too are like the disciples and need to think again about Jesus and his whole purpose. Do we only glimpse the man or do we see the face of God beneath?

With every blessing this Ascensiontide & Pentecost.

*Lin*



Sadly.....

I have to let you know that Ann Wynn, from Wroxton Chapel died on 7 April 2015. There will have been a service of Thanksgiving for her life at Marlborough Road on Thursday 23 April 2015 at 2.00pm. I know that you will be reading this after that date, but please do remember Sarah and Andrew and their families in your prayers.

## **MARLBOROUGH ROAD**

### 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

We will be starting our celebrations on 10 May, when both the 10.30 am and 6.00 pm services will be led by Rev Victoria Bravette. The morning service will be a Circuit service and will include a celebration of Rev Barbara Halstead's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Barbara will be hosting a birthday lunch after the service.

In the week beginning 25 May, a Pentecost labyrinth will be featured in the Church. Visiting preachers for the month of May include Rev Ken Collins (17 May) and Rev Andy Longshaw (24 May).

The full programme of events for the celebration period (May – October 2015) was published in our 2015 calendar. One additional event is a piano and organ recital to be given by Tony Swift on Saturday 30 May, starting at 11.30 am. The piano section will focus on theme music from some of the classic films of the past (eg *The Glass Mountain*). It is planned to have a soup and roll lunch afterwards.

Another additional event to which we would warmly welcome members of the Circuit is a free-of-charge Celebration of Talents event (with the working title of *Come Creative Spirit*), to be held on Saturday 13 June.

### CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This project now has the blessing of the Church Council and a recent General Church Meeting. The Church Council has agreed the shortlisting of two architectural practices for the project - Acanthus Clews (Banbury) and Stanhope Wilkinson Associates (Eynsham). These two, along with two other companies previously involved, have generously given their time and efforts up to this point. This includes some indicative drawings intended to give us some sense of how aspects of our own 'wish list' for the redesigned Church might be achieved. These drawings have been on display in the Church and members of the congregation have been invited to view them and discuss the ideas behind them.

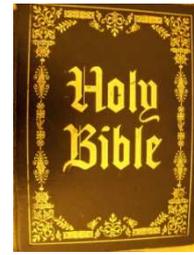
Our next steps will be to consult with local government representatives and then commission a feasibility survey, testing out whether the broad plan is realistic and achievable.

**Marlborough Road Thursday Club**

Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

Wendy Martin – Hearing Dogs

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY 2015



### 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Acts 8:26 – 40  
Psalm 22:25 – 31  
1 John 4:7 – 21  
John 15:1 – 8

### 17<sup>th</sup> May

Acts 1:15 – 17, 21 – 26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9 – 13  
John 17:6 – 19

### 10<sup>th</sup> May

Acts 10:44 – 48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1 – 6  
John 15:9 – 17

### 24<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost

Acts 2:1 – 21 or  
Ezekiel 37:1 – 14  
Psalm 104:24 – 34, 35b  
Romans 8:22 – 27 or  
Acts 2:1 – 21  
John 15:26 – 27; 16:4b – 15

### 31<sup>st</sup> May Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1 – 8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12 – 17  
John 3:1 – 17

## CAMEO

### **(Come And Meet Each Other)**

Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Afternoons in the Wesley Room at Marlborough Road  
at 2.30pm

Men and Women of any age are welcome to share in a varied programme.  
Money raised goes to the Methodist Church Fund for  
World Mission

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Members Afternoon.

Readings, poems, photos and memories on the theme of summer

27<sup>th</sup> May – The Rev. Mary Pheasey

These meetings are held at Marlborough Road but it is a circuit meeting with members from  
the other churches.

Why not come and join us????

## **West Court Open Day and Coffee Morning** 10am – 12noon Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May



Come and find out more about our housing and live at home services  
whilst enjoying a coffee and slice of homemade cake!

Volunteer Opportunities Available If you or someone you know has a  
few hours to spare and are interested in Volunteering come and have a chat about the  
opportunities we have available.

Alternatively please call Jane or Lorraine on 01295 258859 for more information.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE ECLIPSE

On seeing the eclipse of the sun last month, my mind was taken back to 1999, when I lived in west Devon and where we experienced a total eclipse. We experienced “totality” which was something quite special and different from the near darkness of last month. Under dense cloud we were unable to watch, but noticed increasing darkness to the extent that the street lights came on. Then there was a sudden darkness as we experienced “totality”. We could see a band of light in the distance moving as the intense shadow moved on. As we saw the news reports from around the world I reflected on the experience and penned the following poem. As we are now in the Easter season I thought I would share it here.

### Beyond totality - reflections on experiencing the total Solar Eclipse 1999

The darkness swept across us like a veil

And many a cold heart marvelled at the spectacle.

Humanity united by its awe -

European, Indian, Muslim, Jew.

“The greatest show off earth”

The paper headlines said.

But to the God of whom the ancient prophet wrote

He “sits enthroned above the circle of the earth”,

And “stretches out the heavens like a curtain”,

To this creator God

Our great eclipse was just a tiny blink

Within the ordinary way

Of stars and planets with their moons.

To this creator God

The furthest reaches of the Universe

Are known as home,

Familiar as to us our fireside hearth.

Darkness descended once before

Two thousand years ago in Palestine.

For three long hours it lasted then

As our creator God in human form

Died our cruel death.

Goodness eclipsed by wrong,

The goodness of the stars’ creator God.

Totality of evil over love?

But no! The darkness never kills that light, that love,

For Easter Day eclipsed totality!

With life restored, He is eternal light.

The stars’ creator God

Could not be bound by darkness, human death.

His death, his love, his rising back to life

Has made for us a pathway into total light -

Creator God, humanity, united!

This, the essential wonder of eclipse.

Val Trinder, 13th August 1999

**UPPER BODDINGTON**  
**1865 – 2015**

Churches together in Boddington will run a cake stall and a bring and buy stall at the Village Hall coffee morning on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 12noon. All money raised will be sent to Christian Aid.

Our annual sale of plants will take place on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10am- 12noon at Heritage House, 1 London End. We are grateful to Daphne and David Adkins for allowing us to use their premises for the sale which means there will be plenty of parking spaces and the sale will be under cover. Pelargonium's, fuchsias, perennials, and annuals will be available at reasonable prices. Please come along and stock up with plants for your gardens and containers. All money raised will be for our Church funds.

**GRIMSBURY**

A Prayer Meeting for Grimsbury held in partnership with St Leonards Church will meet the first Friday of each Month commencing Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm.

**CROPREDY**

Bible study meet weekly on Wednesdays at 2.15pm Contact Maggie on 01295 750423

Coffee & Bring & Buy every second Friday 10.30 – 12noon

May Praise Evening 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm Rev. Bill Rolfe

May 25<sup>th</sup> Open Gardens with lunches. Car Boot Sale with dance show.

We are in need of some more Methodist Communion Books 1999ISBN if anyone has any spare please contact Jan on 750423

**Second Hand collection**

Are you planning a pre spring clear out?

Do you have any unwanted

**CLOTHES      HANDBAGS      SHOES**

We collect all of the above and have been successfully recycling them to raise funds for

**Easington Chapel**

If you have anything you would like to donate  
or would like to organize your own collection for your own chapel  
contact Archie Buzzard on 01295 258817

## MIDDLETON CHENEY

Our alterations are very nearly completed, as the circuit meeting approved a grant and with help from the district, and others too, plus a top up from our own funds, we have been able to convert our vestry into a disabled toilet and small kitchenette.

However, our pipe organ has been looked at, and some advice sought, which results in the opinion that it is not worth keeping (many thanks to Pastor Lawless). We need the space to create a replacement Vestry and office and storage etc and so we are seeking further advice from anyone in the circuit, and help in disposing of the organ in due course. There is also the issue of having rather a lot of chairs to house too. We were given a quantity of chairs some years ago, and now find we have to use them in different ways to what was intended, and they are stacked in the vestibule area. And are in the way. The obvious solution is to take out some of our fine pews, so that the chairs can be used in the worship area.

So to summarise: - Help is needed please to further assess the worth/ disposal/ sale of some pews. Disposal/ Sale of a large table.

Anyone able to give advice or if you wish to speak to either Nigel or I please telephone in the evening 01295 275334 or email [carary14@aol.com](mailto:carary14@aol.com)

We are very fortunate to be offered a beautiful Clavinova by the family of one of our late members, although we do not have anyone able to play it! This gives us the flexibility to host the circuit meeting for example, and Nigel does not have to be relied upon to play the Hymnal Plus. Therefore, we look forward to hosting the Circuit meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Refreshments will have to be served from the very small kitchenette!

### Strawberry Fayre

In covenant with All Saints Parish Church we are holding a Strawberry Fayre on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm. Stall etc at All Saints and Strawberry teas at the Methodist Church. All are welcome. Proceeds will be split between All Saints and the Methodist Church. Any offers of goods – cakes, produce, raffle prizes, will be gratefully received.

### Contacting us ...& note for local preachers

As my brother, Nigel, and I have lived in Banbury for almost 5 years, we only usually visit our Chapel at the weekend. Would everyone please note that all correspondence should be sent to our home address- 264 Broughton Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9QW, or email [carary14@aol.com](mailto:carary14@aol.com). (The Chapel does not have a letter box, and frequently, items get picked up by Middleton Cheney Pre-School, or are left in the porch and therefore get delayed).

Also, could we please remind preachers that we need hymn numbers by Friday evening at the latest, and if possible an order of service, as Nigel has to programme our Hymnal Plus machine ready for Sunday worship. Our telephone number is 01295 275334 and I am at home almost all of the time. If readers are required, requests to Mrs. Iris Bean on 710681 as early as convenient, if at all possible please.

Many thanks,  
Carol Souch, Steward.

## METHODIST HOMES SUNDAY

The theme of the 2015 Methodist Homes Sunday Appeal is 'who is my Older Neighbour?' and we focus on the often 'invisible' presence of older people in all of our various communities. We owe immense gratitude to our supporters and by holding a Methodist homes Sunday Service your Church helps us to do practical things that help older people not just survive, but to thrive. Your support helps to provide more than 70 of our community networks through the country. Led by voluntary committees, they provide company, friendship and neighbourhood support to older people living independently. We hope you will join us on our special Sunday and make use of the Order of Service contained within our Spring Heart and Soul Magazine. You can download a copy at [www.mha.org.uk](http://www.mha.org.uk) or contact Lesley France on 01332 296200 or email [Lesley.france@mha.org.uk](mailto:Lesley.france@mha.org.uk)

The suggested date for Methodist Homes Sunday this year is 14<sup>th</sup> June however if it is not possible please remember the work of MHA at any time during 2015.

Your Methodist Homes Circuit Representative is Katie Lee

### DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EDITION SUNDAY MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

Please forward contributions to  
Lorraine Squire, 19 South Street Banbury OX16 3LB  
[lorraineasquire@gmail.com](mailto:lorraineasquire@gmail.com)

**(PLEASE NOTE THE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS).**

Tel: 07971000665

CIRCUIT WEBSITE <http://www.banburycircuit.org.uk/>

