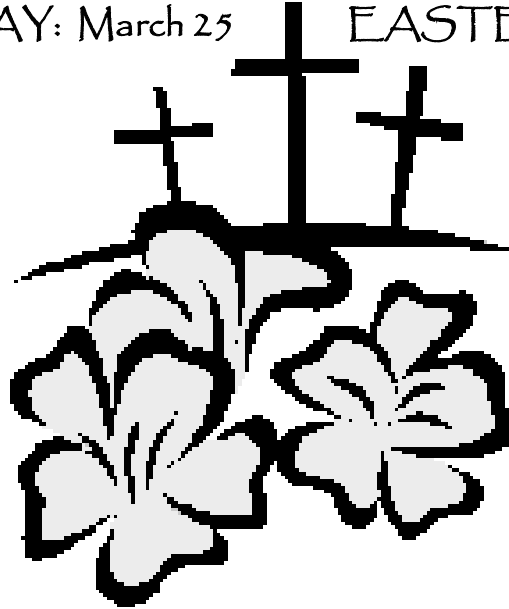


The Methodist Church
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2016

Circuit Website <http://www.banburycircuit.org.uk>

GOOD FRIDAY: March 25

EASTER DAY: March 27



CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Rev Lin Francis ☎ 01295 262602 - bancir@outlook.com

Rev Victoria Bravette ☎ 01295 709717 - shalomvob@btinternet.com

Rev Chris Gaynor ☎ 01295 271403

Rev Lynda Spokes ☎ 01295 253508



As the new editor I'm sure you would like me to pass on our thanks to Lorraine Squire for all the work she has done over the past eighteen months.

The format of this newsletter has remained almost unchanged for more years than most of us can remember. It has been suggested that we change to a 'handier' A5, folded-booklet format.

Chapel Stewards: How many copies do you need for your congregation? Also, as the new format will mean the print will be a little smaller, if you have any member(s) who would appreciate a larger print version, **please let me know.** *Margaret Smith*

DEADLINE for APRIL EDITION is TUESDAY 15th MARCH

Please send contributions, up to and including 15th May, to

Margaret Smith: 49 Queensway, Banbury OX16 9NF

circuitnews@emjay.org.uk or ☎ 01295 278841

Lin's Letter

Dear Friends,

In the last couple of months I have spent a lot of time with someone who has tried to commit suicide twice in as many months. This has, naturally, been difficult with the person's family as well as for the person concerned. The family are relieved that this person is still alive, though they are trying to encourage their loved one to feel the same. There is a positive hope there, but I am reminded of families where the suicide was successful. I knew a family whose teenage son committed suicide in a most horrific way. The father was lost, he looked distracted, was quieter than normal and seemed to be operating on remote control. These are the after effects of a sudden tragic death which this family had no way of foreseeing.

It took me a long time to get the face of this man out of my mind's eye. In my mind and in my thinking Jesus comes to the fore. Through Lent we explore our relationship with God. The Bible readings point us towards Jerusalem and to the final days of Jesus' life. Jesus knew of his death, he was constantly preparing his disciples for it. This preparation was painstakingly carried out; three times Jesus predicted his death. The three Synoptic Gospels tell in graphic details of what would happen to him. Note though, that only Luke explains that the disciples didn't understand.

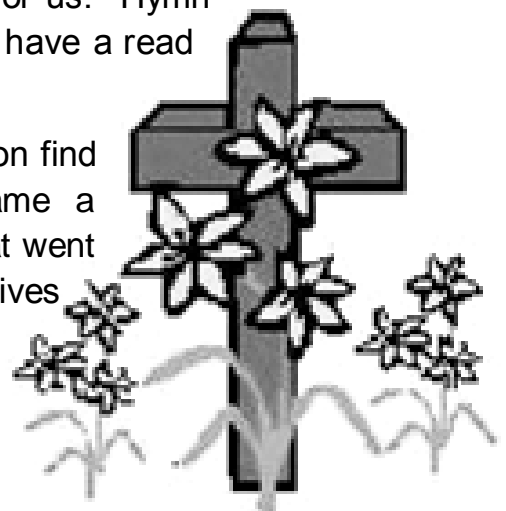
For Jesus life carried on as normal (well, as normal as it could), Matthew and Mark find Jesus dealing with two of the disciples jockeying for position and Luke finds him healing the blind beggar. When I think of the man whose son has died, it makes me wonder what Jesus looked like, how did he cope with the strain, was he haggard and pale. His friends didn't understand and so often we do not understand people who are bereaved.

The only way we, as Christians get through these types of difficulties is by turning to God in a very special way, wanting and needing his sustaining love and care. Jesus too prayed to his Father.

The whole Easter message is about Christ being arisen, that love is eternal, that faith and hope thrive and that there are no barriers to God's love for us. Hymn 304 in 'Singing the Faith' voices this far better than I can; have a read and see what I mean.

With some of Jean Murdoch's words: let this Easter season find us recognising that on the dawn of Easter morn came a resurrection, a new hope that grew with the rising sun, that went out to a waiting world... to you and me. Let us live our lives with a resurrection faith and continually shout "Alleluia, Christ is arisen".

With love and peace, *Lin*



March Lectionary Readings 2016

March 6th

Joshua 5: 9–12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5: 16–21
Luke 15: 1–3, 11b–32

March 13th

Isaiah 43:16 – 21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b - 14
John 12:1 – 8

March 20th

Entry into Jerusalem

Luke 19: 28–40
Psalm 118: 1–2, 19–29

The Passion

Isaiah 50: 4–9a
Psalm 31: 9–16
Philippians 2: 5–11
Luke 22: 14 – 23: 56
or Luke 23: 1–49

March 27th

Easter Day

Acts 10:34 – 43
or Isaiah 65:17 – 25
Psalm 118:1 – 2, 14 – 24
1 Corinthians 15:19 – 26
or Acts 10:34 - 43
John 18:1 – 18
or Luke 24:1 - 12

Darkness and Light

What is happening in the
Muslim world?

Friday, 18th March
7.15 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.

St. Francis' Church, Highlands, Banbury OX16 1FA

An evening of exploration and
discovery for ordinary Christians
led by Canon Richard Cook

Many Christians are confused and fearful about what is happening in the Muslim world, particularly as it has an impact on our lives in Britain and elsewhere in Europe.

This evening will seek to address many of the issues that confront us, and seek to show how we can respond wisely and positively, as followers of Jesus.

My wife and I moved to Banbury in 2014, when I retired from being a Vicar in Woking, after, 21 years there. One aspect of my ministry in Guildford Diocese was to be the Bishop's Advisor on Interfaith Relations.

Canon Richard Cook

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

CAMEO

(Come And Meet Each Other)

Meeting at 2.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday Afternoons each month
in the Wesley Room at Marlborough Road.

Men and Women of any age are welcome to share in a varied programme.

Money raised goes to the 'Methodist Church World Mission Fund'.

9th March - The Reverend Lin Francis

23rd March - Holy Week Meeting

Although held at Marlborough Road, this meeting has members from other
churches. Why not come and join with us???

Thursday Club

7.30pm at Marlborough Road

Thursday 3rd March - Mobile Cinema

Thursday 7th April - Andrea Harding-Smith (Bring-and-Buy)

Enquiries to Shirley Davies ☎ 01295 258193

Circuit Supper Club

7.00pm for 7.30pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church.

The next and last Supper Club date before it starts again in September is on

Thursday 24th March (not on 17th as previously advertised).

Video Presentation given by Capt. Chris Knight

Subject: The 'Battle Back Centre' in Staffordshire

A centre where wounded forces personnel are helped to adjust to life.

£10 per head to cover a two-course meal and speaker's expenses.

Please book with David Hughes ☎ 01295 253891 for yourself and any friends by

Monday 21st March at the latest, mentioning any specific dietary needs.

Come along for an entertaining and informative evening.

Vernon and David

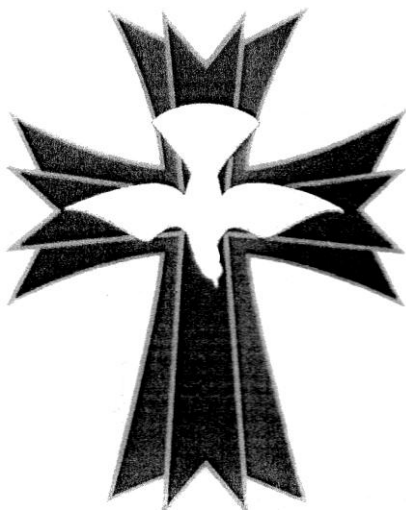


WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER
FRIDAY 4th MARCH

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of Cuba and the theme is 'Receive Children. Receive Me'

The **Banbury** service will be held in **St Mary's Church**, Horsefair. The service will begin at 2.00pm and be followed by refreshments.
All are welcome.

The **Adderbury** service will be held in the **Methodist Church**. It will begin at 2.00pm, following the Ecumenical Lunchtime Talk - one of a series being held from 12.45pm - 1.45pm every Friday between 26th February and 18th March. The theme of the talks is 'Fresh Expressions of Church' and all are held in the Methodist Church Hall.
Everyone Welcome.



Lenten Quiet Day
Saturday 19th March
10.00am – 4.00pm

led by
Donna Drouin and Glenda Gibson
of 'Christian Artists Together'

Explore a variety of art materials and learn how they can aid prayer.
No experience necessary.

Art materials and refreshments provided – bring own lunch.

Venue: St Leonard's Church, Banbury - Cost: £10

To book your place contact
sueayliffchurchas@yahoo.co.uk
or ☎ 01295 262077



Please note that, although the church is wheelchair accessible, we currently have no disabled toilet facilities.

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS – 7.30pm

Enquiries to Valerie Gainsley vjgainsley@uwclub.net or ☎ 01295 369244

23rd March 'Maundy Thursday' (Wednesday) – Victoria Bravette or Chris Eddy
30th March 'AGE UK' - Libby Griffin
13th April 'The Nightingales' - Singing Group
27th April 'Quiz' – Archie Buzzard
11th May Margaret Clarke

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HINTON METHODIST CHURCH at WOODFORD HALSE

Come and join with us for a free coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits every first Saturday in the month, from 10.00am – 12 noon.

You may also buy gifts for a chosen charity.

(The Stagecoach bus number 200 stops right outside Hinton Methodist Church.)

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CROPREDY

Coffee with Bring-and-Buy, 10.30am - 12 noon the 3rd Friday of every month.

Praise Evenings start again on Wednesday 23rd March at 7.00pm
and will be led by Hazel Stagg

WANTED!

We require some 'The Covenant Service' books, 1974 edition. Can anyone help?

We also have some bench seats with backs, surplus to our requirements.

For further details please contact Ray ☎ 01295 750647

Finally: Something to Amuse!

the mouths of babes

by Roy Mitchell

