

The Methodist Church
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

December 2016/January 2017

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

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Wishing all readers



*Christmas
Blessings*



Happy New Year

DEADLINE for the **FEBRUARY 2017 EDITION** is
MONDAY 16 JANUARY

Please include contributions for events occurring up to and including at least **Sunday 17 March 2017**

Send contributions to
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Lin's Letter

In all church communities there is often talk about faith journeys and sometimes talk of life journeys. Conversation revolves around the things that have happened to us during our lifetime, not just our joys and sorrows but our experiences. We are also well aware of migrants and their journeys to safety and a better life. Even with our Methodist Church we talk of a 'movement', nothing in life stands still.

I'd like to write a little about the difficult journeys people in the Bible took, focusing on Mary and Joseph, the Magi and Jesus. They all endured journeys and at times got thrown off course.

Mary and Joseph went from Nazareth to Bethlehem on dusty roads. Mary, heavily pregnant must surely have just wanted to get to Nazareth quickly and have a rest. They arrived tired and weary and found nowhere nice to stay. Any possible plans they had for their end destination, went out of the window. A manger for her new born son, was all that she could have. Later on, in a dream, Joseph was warned to escape to Egypt to avoid Herod. Egypt wasn't their chosen destination.

The Magi, when they went in search of the one who had been born king of the Jews, came up against Herod. They went to Bethlehem, found the baby and presented him with their gifts. It was on realising how precious this child was that they decided they would have to go home by different route.

Jesus, of course, had an itinerate ministry and was constantly travelling. His sole aim was to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom to prisoners, recover sight to the blind, release the oppressed and proclaim the Lord's favour. (Luke 4: 18-19)

His journey wasn't easy. He took his friends with him and they journeyed through the good and bad. Jesus' journey took him to the cross, and for a moment in the scriptures we get a glimpse of his anguish about this, but he put himself in his Father's hands.

All of these people stayed together, through thick and thin and journeyed under God's guidance. So must we, sharing in love and working together for God's purpose.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Christmas and New Year celebrations are often a fraught time for some families, if this is the case in your family – take heart and hang on in there. Journey together through this season with love and remember what Christmas is really about: God’s love for you, each and every one of you, shown through the gift of his precious Son. The Magi recognised how special Jesus was and we can be challenged to recognise him for ourselves too.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful and happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

With every blessing, *Lin*



Lectionary Readings



2nd Advent: 4 December

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

3rd Advent: 11 December

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

4th Advent: 18 December

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Day: 25 December

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

2017

1 January

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9) 10-18

8 January

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

15 January

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

22 January

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

29 January

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

CAMEO

Come And Meet Each Other
on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month
a 2.30pm in the Wesley Room.

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

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

14 Dec Christmas Lunch & Carols
NB: Time 12.30pm
11 Jan Hazel Stagg
Methodist Conference
25 Jan Katie Lee
8 Feb Rev Victoria Bravette
22 Feb Margaret & Ian Cook: Kenya

HINTON at WOODFORD HALSE

Come and join with us for
Free Coffee, Tea, Cakes & Biscuits
First Saturday every month
10.00am - 11.30am

You may also buy gifts
from a chosen charity.

*The Stagecoach bus number 200 stops
outside Hinton Methodist Church.*



We are holding a
Carol Service
at 10.30am on

Sunday 4 December 2016
at Hinton Methodist Church
It will be followed by tea/coffee and biscuits

Easington Prayer Group

There will be no meetings during
December

UPPER BODDINGTON

We are looking forward to our Christ-
mas celebrations and invite friends
from the Circuit to join with us for any
of our planned events.

Tuesday 20 December at 7.30pm **Carol Singing Evening**

We will sing favourite carols for about
an hour, followed by tea/coffee with
mincepies. There will be a collection
for **Action for Children**.

Saturday 24 December at 2.00pm **Crib Service**

Rev Lin Francis will lead the Service
and children from around the village
will enact the crib scene.

This event is usually well supported by
families in the village, with parents and
grandparents coming to join in the
celebration. Anyone of any age will be
welcome to join with us!

Sunday 25 December at 10.30am **Christmas Day**

Our usual half-hour celebration of the
birth of Jesus will once again be led by
Eileen Burgess. If you don't have a
Service in your own Church we invite
you to come and join with us.

We have no special events in January
but invite friends to join in our regular
Coffee and Chat

First and third Wednesday each month
(January 4th and 18th)
10.00am - 11.30am

We hope all friends around the Circuit
will enjoy a Christmas season filled
with joy and peace

CHACOMBE

We warmly invite you to
Christmas Afternoon Teas

plus

Trimmings

Friday 9 December at 2.30pm

Friday Coffee & Chat

2nd and 16th December

10.30am - 12 noon

Tea, coffee and delicious, homemade, cakes are served accompanied, of course, by lots of chatter!

Bible Study

Tuesday 6 December at 2.00pm

In the home of Joan Boyles, led by Hazel Stagg

EASINGTON

Ladies' Fellowship

Tuesdays at 2.30pm

13 December is our last meeting of 2016.

We do not meet during January.

The first meeting of 2017 will be Tuesday 7 February, when we will restart our varied programme of speakers, quizzes and slide presentations. After a chat over light refreshments we usually finish by 4.00pm.

Whether you are able to come every week or just occasionally you will be made most welcome.

Second-hand Collection

Are you planning a pre-Christmas clear out? Do you have any unwanted clothes, handbags, shoes etc?

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

If you have anything you would like to donate or would like to organize your own collection for your chapel, contact Archie

Buzzard ☎ 01295 258817

CROPREDY

Coffee with Bring-and-Buy

Second Friday every month

10.30am - 12 noon

Includes Combined Church/Chapel

Fairtrade Stall

MIDDLETON CHENEY

Operation Christmas Child

Shoebboxes 2016

News from Middleton Cheney and surrounding area.

Our **Wrap & Fill** days went very well, with over thirty people coming to help each time or to bring gifts and enjoy cups of tea/coffee and cakes. At the first session we made up/collected 81 boxes and at the second session 116, making a total (so far) of 197. They were taken to the People's Church for forward shipping to meet the deadline of 18 November. £342 was also donated to help with distribution costs in sending the boxes to needy children around the world.

Our local community and some members from the Methodist Circuit came and joined in - massive thanks to our many contributors and helpers for their support.

Now, let's get ready for next year!

Please keep collecting empty shoe boxes, fun toys, toiletries (not liquids), sweets (not chocolate), school supplies and wrapping paper.

Then, come along and join in - dates will be October & November next year.

Any enquiries to Carol Souch

☎ 275334 or carary14@aol.com

Many thanks, **Carol**

Gwyn Churchill

19 April 1931 - 8 October 2016

Born a triplet in Wales, Gwyn was married to Jean (who pre-deceased him) for sixty years. They had two sons, Ian and Robert.

Gwyn was a member of Middleton Cheney Methodist Church where he served as a Steward and was also a Circuit Steward for many years.

He was a County, District and Parish Councillor and also a Cub Scout Leader. In latter years he succumbed to dementia and was looked after in Wardington House.

Gwyn's funeral took place on Thursday 27 October in Middleton Cheney Methodist Church.

R.I.P.

From John Webb

Recently I distributed to all 14 chapels in the circuit 6 packs of cards free of charge. These cards had been written in co-operation with Ruth English who was Stephen English's daughter. She had found the longhand notes when she had been going through her father's boxes of writings, which she had in her possession since his death, and felt that if we could produce something acceptable Stephen would have liked his words shared by the larger world rather than just his family. She gave these cards to the chapels for them to sell and absorbed all the substantial printing costs herself.

I have only heard from one chapel what they thought of the cards, whether they sold well or not at all. Also whether any chapels required any more packs to sell, and what the chapels intend to do with the money generated. I would have anticipated a "thank you" in some form to Ruth for the generous gesture she made to you all, but nothing substantial has come my way!

More cards are available from me at, as stated, £1-00 a pack and I think they would make a very acceptable small Christmas gift.

I look forward to hearing what you all thought of the cards and where the generated money has been sent.

REMINDER: A Visit to WESLEY'S CHAPEL in City Road London

probably in February or March 2017

We would like to know how many might be interested in this trip and so far have only heard from eight people. If you are interested please telephone or email as soon as possible so that we can make a list of those who may be able to come to London.



Yours in love, Katie and John Lee

☎ 01295256711

e mail k.2severn@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Most people will only be able to afford the time to attend one or two of these events but it is hoped that a good number will attend each.

ignite

A FREE day conference for those being, or thinking about doing, pioneer church
10.30am - 3.30pm - 21 January 2017
Birstall Methodist Church Wanlip Lane, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4JS

We are Family

A FREE day conference exploring the changing face of family ministry.
10.30am to 3.30pm - Saturday 4 February 2017
West Bridgford Methodist Church
Musters Road, West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 7PQ
Refreshments and free lunch included

*To book a place, or for more information on the above email:
pimlottn@methodistchurch.org.uk*

reimagine forum

A day for all those interested in revitalising & starting churches
10.00am to 4.00pm - Saturday 4 February 2017
Hosted by **Northampton District** at
Daventry Methodist Church, Daventry NN11 4FB
Attendance is FREE but **booking is essential** at...
Northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/mission/reimagine-forum.php
or ☎ 01509 828020

Acts 29: We are the next chapter - District Youth Event - £5 per person
11 March 2017 - 2.30pm to 8.30pm
Towcester Road Methodist Church, Northampton NN4 8DY
More details to follow but get this in all diaries now please!

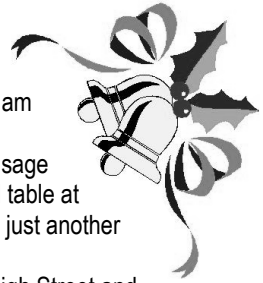
REMINDER: Glimpsing God in Sacred Spaces **Quiet Day Summer 2017**

I would like to offer a Quiet Day in 2017 on the theme of, **Glimpsing God in Sacred Spaces**. In addition to my usual format of Bible stories, discussion and quiet reflection, I would like loaned resources please of photographs, artwork or objects, on the theme of sacred spaces.

I'm advertising this Quiet Day so much in advance to give the artists among you creating time should you like to contribute to this Circuit Quiet Day. I would like to collect up resources in July 2017 so I might set up a display for spiritual reflection.

Hazel Staggs

CHRISTMAS...after 1 Corinthians 13



If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls but do not show love to my family, I am just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies and sausage rolls, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my friends and neighbours, I am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home and High Street and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to those I meet, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the child.

Love stops cooking to welcome the visitor.

Love is kind, though maybe harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has co-ordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return – but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Electronic games may break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust – but the gift of love endures for ever.

NOVEMBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION

(With thanks to Irene Critchley of Hinton Methodist Church)

Across:

- 2. MOUNT ARARAT
- 9. CHA
- 10. OUR
- 11. LASER
- 12. MOSES
- 13. CAVES
- 14. NEAREST
- 15. HIS
- 16. ELIADA
- 20. PYTHON
- 23. FIFTY
- 24. ADROIT
- 27. XOANON
- 31. AMP
- 33. NUANCES

- 34. ROMEO
- 35. ENNUI
- 36. GAUZE
- 37. EAR
- 38. RUE
- 39. SUE
- 40. TRELIS

Down:

- 1. ACOLYTE
- 2. MALACHI
- 3. UNSAVED
- 4. THRUSH
- 5. ROMANS
- 6. RES
- 7. TO SEETH

- 8. PRESTON
- 17. LID
- 18. ADO
- 19. AFT
- 20. PYX
- 21. TEA
- 22. OMO
- 24. ANNULET
- 25. READERS
- 26. INCENSE
- 28. OAR
- 29. NUMBERS
- 30. NOON
- 31. ASSIST
- 32. PLAGUE

ALPHAPUZZLE

Again, with thanks to Irene Critchley of Hinton Methodist Church.

Irene suggests this might be one for the children with a bit of help from mum and dad (or grandma and granddad). As this newsletter is a double edition (a long time to wait for the solution), it is given on page 11.

No peeking until you have completed the puzzle 😊 - or given up! 😞

Each numbered square represents a letter.
 Each letter of the alphabet is used **at least** once.
 One word has been filled in to get you started.
 The alphabet grid, below, is given as an aid;
 when you have identified a letter, cross it off the grid.

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

This grid will help you remember which letter is represented by each number.

1 L	2	3	4 A	5	6 B	7	8	9 E	10	11	12	13 T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 S	21	22	23	24	25	26

5	11	25	25	14			20	14	9	18	14	9	25	21							
						6				5	4	17	19	9	25						
17	4	12	4	25	9	13	14				22										
4					13						1										
13			6			26	14	9	25	9	21										
23				22					1			4									
8			25				16	9	20	3	20	20	S	10							
23	17	17					14				13	T	3								
13						9						4	A	9							
11					5	4	19	23				6	B	13							
			5												4			1	L		
2	25	4	17	24	23	17	15	9	17	20	9	E	7								
			25			23				19				5							
				11			17	16	22	20	9	18	14								
						19				1					20						

When you have completed the puzzle you will note something is missing from the Christmas Story, fill in the grid below to see what it is?

20	13	4	25
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St Wilfrid's Chapel

A former Anglican church at Church Norton; a rural location two miles from Selsey in West Sussex, which itself is pretty remote.

Thought to be on the site of an ancient monastery built by St Wilfrid, from the 13th century until the mid 1860s it was the Parish Church of

Selsey. Then half of it was dismantled and moved to the centre of the village where it was rebuilt, added to and became St Peter's Parish Church. Only the chancel of the old church survived in its remote, harbour side location where it was rededicated to St Wilfrid and served as a Chapel-of-Ease until it was declared redundant in 1990. Since 1990 it has been in the care of the 'Churches Conservation Trust'.



Eddie's Service by Rudyard Kipling

Eddie, priest of St Wilfrid, in his chapel at Manhood End,
ordered a midnight service for such as cared to attend.

But the Saxons were keeping Christmas and the night was stormy as well.

Nobody came to service, though Eddie rang the bell.

"Wicked weather for walking", said Eddie of Manhood End.

"But I must go on with the service for such as care to attend."

The altar-lamps were lighted, - an old marsh-donkey came,
bold as a guest invited, and stared at the guttering flame.

The storm beat on at the windows, the water splashed on the floor.

And a wet, yoke-weary bullock pushed in through the open door.

"How do I know what is greatest, how do I know what is least?"

That is My Father's business," said Eddie, Wilfrid's priest.

"But - three are gathered together - listen to me and attend.

I bring good news my brethren!" Said Eddie of Manhood End.

And he told the Ox of a Manger and a Stall in Bethlehem,

and he spoke to the Ass of a Rider that rode to Jerusalem.

They steamed and dripped in the chancel, they listened and never stirred.

While, just as though they were Bishops, Eddie preached them The Word.

'Till the gale blew off on the marshes and the windows showed the day,

and the Ox and the Ass together wheeled and clattered away.

And when the Saxons mocked him, said Eddie of Manhood End.

"I dare not shut His chapel on such as care to attend."

ALPHAPUZZLE SOLUTION

1	L	2	F	3	U	4	A	5	M	6	B	7	X	8	V	9	E	10	Q	11	Y	12	Z	13	T
14	H	15	C	16	J	17	N	18	P	19	G	20	S	21	D	22	O	23	I	24	K	25	R	26	W

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

What was missing from the Christmas story?

20	S	13	T	4	A	25	R
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CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKES

- What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve
- What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claustrophobia
- What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow
- Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can 'ho ho ho'
- What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 25 days
- What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum, you just can't beat it
- What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet
- Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles
- How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas? Deep pan, crisp and even
- Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A mince spy
- How many letters are in the Christmas alphabet? 25. There's "no EL"
- What carol is heard in the desert? O camel ye faithful
- What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas? Cross Mouse Cards
- What athlete is warmest in winter? A long jumper
- What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsilitis
- What did the stamp say to the Christmas card? Stick with me and we'll go places
- Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay? Because they were two deer



DATES for your DIARY

Further details elsewhere in this newsletter

Tip: To keep the dates readily available, pin this page to your home notice board.

See the Circuit Preaching Plan for information on Sunday Services

Dec 2	..... 10.30am-12noon.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Chacombe MC
Dec 3	..... 10am-11.30am.....	Coffee Morning.....	Hinton MC at Woodford Halse
Dec 6	..... 2.00pm.....	Bible Study.....	Chacombe: Home of Joan Boyles
Dec 7	..... 10am-11.30am.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Upper Boddington MC
Dec 9	..... 10.30am-12noon.....	Coffee, Bring-&Buy & Fairtrade	Cropreddy MC
Dec 9	..... 2.30pm.....	Christmas Afternoon Teas & Trimmings	Chacombe MC
Dec 14	... 12.30pm	CAMEO Christmas Lunch	Marlborough Road MC
Dec 16	... 10.30am-12noon.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Chacombe MC
Dec 20	... 7.30pm.....	Carol Evening.....	Upper Boddington MC
Dec 24	... 2.00pm.....	Crib Service.....	Upper Boddington MC
Jan 4	..... 10am-11.30am.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Upper Boddington MC
Jan 7	..... 10am-11.30am.....	Coffee Morning.....	Hinton MC at Woodford Halse
Jan 11	..... 2.30pm.....	CAMEO	Marlborough Road MC
Jan 13	... 10.30am-12noon.....	Coffee, Bring-&Buy & Fairtrade	Cropreddy MC
Jan 18	... 10am-11.30am.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Upper Boddington MC
Jan 21	... 10.30am-3.30pm.....	Ignite	Birstall MC
Jan 25	... 2.30pm.....	CAMEO	Marlborough Road MC
Feb 4	..... 10am-11.30am.....	Coffee Morning.....	Hinton MC at Woodford Halse
Feb 4	..... 10.30am-3.30pm.....	We are Family	West Bridgford MC
Feb 4	..... 10.00am-4.00pm.....	reImagine forum	Daventry MC
Feb 8	..... 2.30pm.....	CAMEO	Marlborough Road MC
Feb 22	... 2.30pm.....	CAMEO	Marlborough Road MC
Mar 11	... 2.30pm-8.30pm.....	Acts 29: We are the next chapter.....	Towcester MC

