



The Methodist Church  
**BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER**

2016

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

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**DEADLINE for the JULY/AUGUST EDITION is**  
**TUESDAY 21 JUNE**

It will be a double edition, so please include contributions for events occurring up to and including at least Sunday 12 SEPTEMBER



Send contributions to  
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## Lin's Letter

### **Life in all its fullness....**

Quite often when we read the words in John 10:10 where Jesus says he has come 'in order that we might have life in all its fullness' we will reflect on our own lives; our ups and downs and the balance and the breadth of life.

Today I have experienced the two extremes, the breadth of life and work in the ordained ministry. A real joy, a highlight for me today came by way of a telephone call. Some weeks ago I wrote, on behalf of a few people at Easington, to Sainsbury's asking for space in the front part of the shop on Advent Sunday 2016 to have a Messy Church/Messy Sainsbury's event. We were turned down last year, but wrote earlier this year and after eager prayers and tense waiting, the charity worker phoned me to say that yes we can have that date for our work. Alleluia! We have the opportunity to be where the people are on a Sunday and to share the Christmas story with them. A real mountain top moment.

Then to the other extreme. I am being asked why the preaching plan cannot be made to please all the people all of the time. To do this we would need to have a lot more Local Preacher's to cover the 38 LA's there are on the June to August plan and the many united services which are a considerable help. The priorities in plan making change with the seasons, the needs of local chapels and the availability of all preachers. I for one would love to please all of the people and the chapels all of the time, but I can't. The Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Supernumerary Ministers and Staff are only covering 61% of the preaching appointments our churches want. I am very grateful to them for what they do and for the visiting preachers who come here and of course to those chapels who unite with the Parish Church and who are willing to unite with other chapels in the circuit.

When Jesus says he has come 'in order that you might have life, life in all its fullness', it's a reminder that Christianity is not supposed to be about a grim, humourless, miserable existence, the low points in life. Rather, Christ makes it possible for us to know a full life, in which we know the security of being in the hands of our good shepherd. He, Jesus, is the good shepherd of his flock. People of faith will listen to him, because he is like the shepherd whose sheep know his voice.

In our world today materialism isn't satisfying. Folk are looking for something more, something different, people are searching for something beyond worldliness. Please pray that the Advent Messy Sainsbury event will offer an opportunity for shoppers to hear Christ's voice. My prayer for you is that together we might all continue to listen to his voice and have life in all its fullness.

With every blessing,

*Lin*



## June Lectionary Readings 2016

### June 5

1 Kings 17: 17-24  
Psalm 30  
Galatians 1: 11-24  
Luke 7: 11-17

### June 19

Isaiah 65: 1-9  
Psalm 22: 19-28  
Galatians 3: 23-29  
Luke 8: 26-39



### June 12

2 Samuel 11: 26 - 12:10  
Psalm 32  
Galatians 2: 15-21  
Luke 7: 36 - 8: 3

### June 26

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21  
Psalm 16  
Galatians 5: 1, 13-25  
Luke 9: 51-62

## More Laughing Methodists

Does anyone have a spare used copy of Val Trinder's book "*More laughing Methodists*" please? The title is now out of print but we still receive the occasional request to buy one. Rather than disappoint our prospective buyers, it would be good to be able to offer them second hand copies if there are any unwanted ones around. If you can help please speak to Val ☎ 01295 811139, or by email at [val.trinder@btinternet.com](mailto:val.trinder@btinternet.com) Thanks.



When I was asked by Rev Dorothy Hewitson to lead the Bible study class, my insides turned upside down. The reality was that I did not meet her eyes or mumble a response but she kept quietly asking. Eventually I gave way with huge trepidation. Often others assume teachers have great confidence and can take on these jobs easily but if it is not in your comfort zone then anxieties naturally step in. The easiest answer was to say "NO" but Dorothy's persistence and my prayers were telling me that I should 'take the bull by the horns' and do it. At the time I did not feel my knowledge of the Bible was sufficient BUT I have learnt so much in my research and preparation for each session that I feel much more relaxed.

The group, seven in all, is lively in discussions and the interaction of experience and knowledge is a wonderfully shared session. We meet in the afternoon because we are all retired. It was supposed to be an hour only but it almost always ends up being two and with the tea or coffee afterwards plus the chit chat, is even longer.

I thank the Lord for giving me the courage to do this because I have enjoyed the opening of my eyes to God's words.

In writing this short note I would encourage others of our congregations to take this on. The time spent on the preparation and the meeting is well worth it and it is fun to investigate. At present we are studying Nehemiah - "Who?" - some of us, including me, would say but his message is as pertinent now as it was in his time. It is exciting to pull out those messages that we need to hear again and we are enjoying the challenges that they bring back to our lives.

**Liz Rees, Easington Chapel**

**CIRCUIT**  
**NOTICE BOARD**

**MARLBOROUGH ROAD**

**CAMEO**

(Come And Meet Each Other)

Meeting at 2.30pm

on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month  
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'.

8 Jun .....Katie Lee

22 Jun .....Garden Meeting at  
2 Hightown Leyes

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

2<sup>nd</sup> June ..... Evening in Shirley's Garden

7<sup>th</sup> July..... Lunch Out

We are meeting at 12.15pm at 'Robbin's  
Nest'. If you wish to come, please let me  
know so I can book a table. We have  
decided this will be our last meeting and  
anyone who wishes to go to the Neithrop  
Fellowship will be made most welcome.  
Some of us have already been several  
times. Shirley Davies ☎ 01295 258193

**HINTON METHODIST CHURCH**

**Anniversary Service**

**Sunday 12 June**

**10.30am**

The service will be led by Rev Rob Anning  
followed by a Buffet Lunch.

We extend a warm welcome to all.

**NEITHROP**

**Chapel Fellowship**

Wednesdays - 7.30pm

Enquires to Valerie Gainsley

vjgainsley@uwclub.net ☎ 01295 369244

8 Jun ..... Speaker from Leprosy Mission

22 Jun .....Bring and Share

6 Jul .....Favourite Hymns

20 Jul .....Christine Lester - Craft

Christine will help us make something  
(nothing too difficult)

3 Aug .....Samaritans

17 Aug ..... Jeff & Margaret Smith

Scottish Borders with Slides

31 Aug ..... Tabletop Games

**HINTON at WOODFORD HALSE**

Come and join with us for a

**Free coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits**

First Saturday every month,

10.00 am - 12 noon.

You may also buy gifts for a chosen charity.

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

**EASINGTON**

**Summer Chapel Fund-Raiser**

**Cream Teas & Stalls**

Saturday 2 July

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Cakes, Crafts & Gifts

Handmade Greetings Cards



We extend a warm invitation to our friends  
around the circuit - bring your family, friends  
and neighbours

**Ladies' Fellowship**

Tuesdays at 2.30pm

A varied programme of speakers, quizzes  
and slide-presentations is followed by  
a chat over light refreshments.

All are welcome

## CIRCUIT NOTICE BOARD Contd.

### GREATWORTH

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June - 7.30pm**  
**Concert by 'Serendipity'**

Friends from around the circuit are invited to come and enjoy this trio of quality professional musicians - Rey Lear, Keith Fairburn and Chris Britton. They perform a wide variety of music, including Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Music from the Musicals, Folk and Popular Hit Songs.

Please put this date in your diaries as this promises to be an enjoyable and memorable evening.

Tickets £10 including refreshments. For further details, or to purchase tickets, contact

Richard Eeles ☎ 01295 714091  
email: richardeeles@gmail.com  
or Walter Stageman ☎ 01295 711082

### MIDDLETON CHENEY

All Saints and Methodist Churches



**Strawberry Fayre**  
**Saturday 16 July**  
**2.00pm to 4.30pm**

Strawberry cream teas, competitions, Raffle, Stalls, Games, Exhibitions - to include 'A Queen for All Ages', displays by the village on aspects of Her Majesty over 90 years.

(Find out what's in the Queen's handbag, Music from the decades, The best books, Royal Residences, The Queen's animals) and MUCH, MUCH MORE. . . .

Admission free, all proceeds to All Saints and the Methodist Church

### CHACOMBE

**Coffee n' Chat in the Schoolroom**

10.30am - 12 noon

Fridays: June 10, June 24 & July 8

**Bible Study at Joan Boyle's**

2.00pm on Tuesdays: June 14 & June 28

For further details, contact Hazel

### CROPREDY

**Coffee with Bring-and-Buy**

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday every month 10.30am - 12 noon  
Home-made cakes and Fair Trade Stalls

Praise Evening: 22 June at 7.00pm  
Margaret Clarke

### **St LEONARD'S CHURCH - FLOWER FESTIVAL**

Celebrating 125 years of service to the community

**Saturday 25 June to Saturday 2 July - 10.30am to 4.00pm daily**  
(except Sunday)



Flower Displays by All Ages each incorporating a chair into their design

Prizes, Refreshments, Raffle

Information on church history and the history of church chairs

All money raised to go towards purchase of new chairs

For more information on how to enter a display, as an individual or a group, please contact:  
sueayliffchurchac@yahoo.co.uk



The theme of the 2016  
**Methodist Homes Sunday Appeal**  
is  
**'Creating Communities that Care'**

It echoes what we see as one of the core purposes of everything MHA is involved in, whether in residential work, the activities of the Live at Home Schemes or in a growing desire to join with others in campaigning for a fairer society for older people.

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 us to develop and increase our facilities and provide life enhancing services such as chaplaincy, music therapy for people with dementia and support services in our Live at Home schemes.

**The suggested date for your service is 12 June but, if this is not possible, please remember the work of MHA at any time during 2016.**

**Banbury Circuit Representative: Katie Lee**



The Arthur Rank Centre  
*Supporting Rural Communities and Churches*



Last year at the Arthur Rank Centre we began 'Rural Mission Sunday', a real opportunity for rural churches to celebrate who they are and give thanks for their community. This year the date for 'Rural Mission Sunday' is 17 July, but you can mark this at any time over the summer to suit you and those you work with. The 2016 theme is 'Sow and Grow', so why not celebrate the seeds you sow as a church?

Material may be found at:

<http://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/about-arc/support-arc/item/9407-rural-mission-sunday>



Joint Public Issues Team

Baptist - Church of Scotland - Methodist - URC

Our new resource for the EU Referendum is available to download from [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk).

With non-partisan information, reflections and questions on a range of related issues, it aims to encourage individuals and churches to think through Britain's membership of the European Union in the light of the gospel command to love your neighbour.

We hope you will find it useful.

## Chipping Norton Training Day

Led by Rev Ian Bell of Pioneer Ministries, Cliff College, Saturday 9 April

This meeting was about ***Fresh Expressions of Church*** and was for all who believe, “The Church is the only organisation that exists for the sake of its non-members”. If you don’t agree with this, stop reading now.

***Fresh Expressions of Church*** is not about refilling our churches but reaching out to non-churchgoers and walking alongside them to help them find God on their terms.

Church as we know it and enjoy it just doesn’t work for some other people. A ***Fresh Expression of Church*** begins as a loving and generous outreach, with the intention of creating a ***new church*** not bolstering the one we’re from. Careful listening to community and prayer must follow on before a project begins in earnest.

In the afternoon we heard about ministers and lay people who are pioneers serving non-churchgoers often from difficult backgrounds. ***Pioneers*** is a term which evokes thoughts about travellers into the Wild West, which is not inappropriate as a ***Fresh Expression*** may mean being as brave as Jesus in starting an adventure for God and with God.

Examples were: Dave who had made a garden shed into the “***Breathe Chapel***” for people who needed tea and a quiet space; the ***Immerse*** group who run a Funday for young people with learning difficulties, offering space for exploring spirituality; ***The Rest at Tearooms*** coffee shop run by Winnie to help young single-parent families with practical problems and faith difficulties.

Other examples are soup lunches, book-swap coffee mornings, craft groups and ***Samaritan’s Purse*** box-filling groups; music, art or poetry forums; all of which may meet in or out of church premises but are intentionally led by Christians with a genuine longing to serve the material and the faith needs of people. Many individuals, including very difficult cases, have been helped on different levels by the process of this work.

Some of the ***Fresh Expressions of Church*** projects lead to a group of people wanting to worship and be the sort of worshipping community they are inspired to be. Groups can take ten years to mature to this point. A church is born, but maybe not church as we would think of it.

Rev Ian Bell, speaking at the Chipping Norton Training Day, challenged us to be outward looking and creative in service beyond the churches we belong to. The meeting was attended by about two dozen people from four Circuits who contributed from their experience of ***Fresh Expressions of Church***.

Hazel Stagg

“Accept the challenge so you may feel the exhilaration of victory.”

## Conducted Tour of Ross Adkins' Farm at Greatworth Two Impressions

### **From Vernon Hurst:**

Responding to Ross Adkins invitation to come to Greatworth Hall and Farm, ten of us from Neithrop had a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon visit on Saturday 16 April. Despite a covering of snow in the morning, and talk of rain later, the clouds rolled away after lunch and we had a sunny afternoon.

After being welcomed by Ross he gave us history of the family back to Norman times right through to the present - and a history of the farm, which had been in the family since the 1600's. The farm, largely arable and sheep, covers some 700 to 800 acres.

As the sun was then shining, we trooped out to look at both static and mobile farm machinery housed in large versatile barns and where ewes are brought in close to lambing and can lamb under cover, observed by the shepherd for a day or two. There we saw some orphan lambs suckling on artificial milk providers.

Despite the muddy track to the field, half of the party slipped and slid to see the rest of the flock grazing peacefully nearby - including ewes and lambs born up to a month earlier and ewes due to lamb within a month.

On our return to the farm we sat down to a very welcome cup of tea with sandwiches and cake, allowing Ross time to answer some questions and remind us of the hard times farming was going through. To make up for this to some extent diversification was going on by converting old buildings into offices to rent out to other businesses.

Ross welcomes visits by groups from within the Circuit by mutual agreement on dates, times, and numbers at certain times of the year. A visit by ten or so people is manageable and not too demanding on his daughter-in-law who kindly caters, but if those who come can 'row-in' and help that spreads the load.

Ross's full address and phone number are in the list of accredited local preachers in the Circuit Plan.

### **From Ann Russell:**

On Saturday 16 April, nine of us from Neithrop accepted the kind invitation from Mr Ross Adkins to see the lambs on his farm.

He told us about the history of the farm and of his ancestors and present family. The farm at Greatworth is 400 acres and he and his family also have 100 acres at Sulgrave plus 350 acres for contracted cereals.

We were shown several orphan lambs in temporary indoor accommodation. They took milk from large containers, which had teats around the sides.

In a huge building we were told about the enormous machinery e.g. a combine harvester with a sweep of 70 feet, huge tractors etc.

Outside in the fields we saw the flock of 100 ewes with about 170-180 lambs.

To finish a very enjoyable time we were given a delicious tea provided by Ross's daughter-in-law.

## **BEATITUDES?**

### **Beatitudes with a difference:**

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves; they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill; they will be saved a lot of bother.

Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses; they are on the way to becoming wise.

Blessed are those who know when to be quiet and listen; they will learn a lot of new things.

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously; they will be valued by those around them.

Happy are you if you can take small things seriously and face serious things calmly; you will go far in life.

Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown; you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

Happy are you if you can be kind in understanding the attitudes of others; you may be taken for a fool, but this is the price of charity.

Happy are you if you know when to hold your tongue and smile; the Gospel has begun to seep into your heart.

Blessed are they who think before acting and pray before thinking; they avoid many blunders.

Above all, Blessed are those who recognise the Lord is in all whom they meet; the light of truth shines in their lives; they have found true wisdom.

### **Beatitudes for the Friends of the Old:**

Blessed are they who understand my faltering step and shaking hand;

Blessed are they who know my ears today must strain to catch the things they say;

Blessed are they who seem to know my eyes are dim and my mind is slow;

Blessed are they who looked away when tea spilled on the cloth that day;

Blessed are they who, with a cheery smile, stopped to chat for a little while;

Blessed are they who never say "You've told that story twice today";

Blessed are they who want to hear the stories of my yesteryear;

Blessed are they who make it known that I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are they who ease the days of my journey home in loving ways.

### **Beatitudes of Laughter:**

Blessed are the laughter makers for they bring heaven on earth.

Blessed are those who greet us with a smile.

Blessed are those whose laughter lives in our memories.

Blessed are those whose chuckles and laughing eyes tug the corners of our mouths.

Blessed are those who see the funny side of things for they redeem mistakes and failures.

Blessed are those who make us smile for they reveal the face of love.

Blessed are those who make us laugh for they reveal the joy of heaven.

### WHAT IS THE TOWN? - Answers

1. Wide steps.....BROADSTAIRS
2. Share out the cards.....DEAL
3. Disallow interment.....BANBURY
4. Wisdom falls from its branches.....BRAINTREE
5. The religious lady has dined.....NUNEATON
6. Padded sofa.....CHESTERFIELD
7. They contain water.....WELLS
8. Speedily ride a horse and cover with earth.....CANTERBURY
9. What Scouts keep doing with ropes.....NOTTINGHAM
10. Son has wind in him.....SWINDON
11. More than five hundred.....DOVER
12. Fifty on the college professor.....LONDON
13. Tree is fired at.....ALDRSHOT
14. The foot of a famous cat.....FELIXTOWE
15. Belonging to me above the neck.....MINEHEAD
16. Correct fish eggs.....TRURO
17. Try to convert a famous school.....RUGBY
18. Dark water.....BLACKPOOL
19. Often taken on picnics.....SANDWICH
20. Entry for a male sheep.....RAMSGATE

### WHICH BOOKS?

Put your thinking caps on again and see if you can work out which books of the Bible are suggested by the following clues. . . .

1. Officials who hear and decide
2. Records of events in order of time
3. To take particular notice
4. Short, familiar sentences
5. A piece of work
6. An outgoing
7. Divisions of a play
8. Jews
9. Monarchs
10. Disclosures
11. Figures
12. Expressions of grief



"Wireless communication is nothing new.  
I've been praying for 75 years!"



## 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.

(MC = Methodist Church)

Jun 2 ..... 7.30pm ..... Thursday Club ..... Marlborough Road MC

Jun 4 ..... 10.00-12noon .... Coffee Morning ..... Hinton MC at Woodford Halse

Jun 8 ..... 2.30pm ..... CAMEO ..... Wesley Room, Marlborough Road MC

Jun 8 ..... 7.30pm ..... Chapel Fellowship ..... Neithrop MC

Jun 10 ..... 10.00-12noon .... Coffee with Bring-&-Buy ..... Cropredy MC

Jun 10 ..... 10.30-12noon .... Coffee n'Chat ..... Chacombe MC

### **Jun 12..... MHA Sunday**

Jun 12 ..... 10.30am ..... Anniversary Service & Buffet Lunch ..... Hinton MC

Jun 18 ..... 7.30pm ..... 'Serendipity' Concert ..... Greatworth MC

### **Jun 21..... Deadline for July/August Newsletter**

Jun 22 ..... 2.30pm ..... CAMEO ..... Garden Meeting at 2 Hightown Leyes

Jun 22 ..... 7.00pm ..... Praise Evening ..... Cropredy MC

Jun 22 ..... 7.30pm ..... Chapel Fellowship ..... Neithrop MC

Jun 24 ..... 10.30-12noon .... Coffee n'Chat ..... Chacombe MC

Jun 25 ..... 10.30am-4pm .... Flower Festival first day ..... St Leonard's Church

Jul 2 ..... 10am-12noon .... Coffee Morning ..... Hinton MC at Woodford Halse

Jul 2 ..... 2pm-4pm ..... Cream Teas & Stalls ..... Easington MC

Jul 2 ..... 10.30am-4pm .... Flower Festival final day ..... St Leonard's Church

Jul 6 ..... 7.30pm ..... Chapel Fellowship ..... Neithrop MC

Jul 7 ..... 12.15pm ..... Thursday Club ..... 'Robbin's Nest'

Jul 8 ..... 10.30-12noon .... Coffee n'Chat ..... Chacombe MC

Jul 8 ..... 10am-12noon .... Coffee with Bring-&-Buy ..... Cropredy MC

July 16 ..... 2pm-4pm ..... Strawberry Fayre ..... Middleton Cheney

### **Jul 17..... Rural Mission Sunday**

Jul 20 ..... 7.30pm ..... Chapel Fellowship ..... Neithrop MC

### Regular Weekly Meetings

Tues ..... 2.30pm ..... Ladies Fellowship ..... Easington MC



