

The Methodist Church
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

February 2017

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

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

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St Valentine's Day
14 February



Shrove Tuesday
28 February

DEADLINE: For 2017 will be the Second Monday each Month

For the **March** edition it is **Monday 13 February**

Please include contributions for events occurring up to and including at least **Sunday 9 April 2017**

Send contributions to
Margaret Smith: 49 Queensway, Banbury OX16 9NF
circuitnews@emjay.org.uk or ☎ 01295 278841



*As this is the first Circuit Newsletter of 2017
may I take the opportunity of wishing everyone*

*“A Happy, Healthy and Peaceful
New Year”*

Margaret Smith: Editor



Lin's Letter

Dear Friends,

‘God is working His purpose out’

God IS working his purpose out even though the hymn is not in the Singing the Faith hymnbook, look at where he is working in this Circuit:

Circuit – a new family has moved here and the gentleman is an accredited Local Preacher.

Cropredy – grants that have been given will allow the opening up of the chapel.

Greatworth – a new person has been led to worship in the chapel.

Hinton – the work that is being done for a social event for the folk moving into the new housing development.

Marlborough Road – the fellowship group is engaging in widening conversations about the future work and purpose of the church.

And of course he is at work in all other places too. Our churches and chapels are realising that different ways of being church and serving God are necessary in order to spread the Good News, but actually this isn't anything new. Jesus was radical in all he did and so are many people.

Jesus was radical... Think about the time when Jesus was on earth. Having women followers/disciples, talking with people from other countries, spending time with children and prostitutes, he told stories about sons disobeying their father, Jewish boys working with pigs and leaving their religion behind. To the people at that time, he was doing ridiculous things.

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Donald Trump is radical... He is nothing like the usual politicians who work the political game within the American structures. He is different. Whether we like him or not, whether we think what he is doing is right or wrong, he is the President of the USA and will work in a different way to change that nation and indeed the world in radical ways.

Are we radical ... Do you want to keep the church and circuit the same as it has always been, well at least until we die? If we allow God into our churches, if we talk about his words for us in services, the church will change. We do need to think in different ways, like Jesus did.

Look again at some of the other words from the hymn HP 769 and MP 189:

“God is working his purpose out, what can we do to work God’s work? What can we do to hasten the time when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God. All we can do is nothing worth, unless God blesses the deed”.

When something is of God His purpose works through it all. Let us all pray that each one of us allows God’s purposes to be borne out.

With every blessing,
Lin



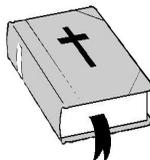
Lectionary Readings

5 February

Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12)
Psalm 112: 1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5: 13-20

12 February

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20
Psalm 119: 1-8
1 Corinthians 3: 1-9
Matthew 5: 21-37



19 February

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119: 33-40
1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5: 38-48

26 February

Exodus 24: 12-18
Psalm 2 or 99
2 Peter 1: 16-21
Matthew 17: 1-9

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

CAMEO

Come And Meet Each Other

2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 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'.

8 February	Rev Victoria Bravette
22 February	Margaret & Ian Cook: Kenya
8 March at 1.00pm	Lent Lunch for Leprosy Mission
22 March	Brian Gaudern: Royal Mail Stamps Familiar & Unfamiliar

House Group

Our next meeting will be held at 'Larkrise Care Home', where the Rev Barbara Halstead is a resident. Barbara has been a long standing member of the house group so the staff at Larkrise have kindly agreed that we should hold meetings there occasionally and have promised tea/coffee and biscuits.

14 February at 7.15/7.30pm Rev Chris Eddy: 'My Missionary Experiences - Part Two'.
All friends wishing to attend may be sure of a warm welcome.

14 March at 7.15/7.30pm..... Back at our usual venue: 5 Wesley Drive, Banbury
Topic and Leader: To be decided

EASINGTON

Ladies' Fellowship

Tuesdays at 2.30pm

The first meeting of 2017 will be on

Tuesday 7 February.

We have a varied programme of speakers, quizzes and slide presentations and, after a chat over light refreshments, usually finish by 4.00pm.

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

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.*

UPPER BODDINGTON

Coffee and Chat

First and third Wednesday each month
10.00am - 11.30am

CROPREDY

Coffee with Bring-and-Buy

Second Friday every month
10.30am - 12 noon

Includes Combined Church/Chapel
Fairtrade Stall



World Mission Fund

Monies received from Banbury Circuit
September 2015 - August 2016
Total received was £2,132.98

Of this, only £1,133.43 was passed via the Circuit World Fund Treasurer! So many churches and individuals are sending donations direct to the World Church Office.

This is a very heartening total and I give my thanks to all who have supported the World Mission Fund over the year.

Note: This does not include the Easter Offering, which was a further £996.70.

Report by **Chris Eddy**
Circuit World Mission Fund Treasurer

Treasurer Needed



Julie Moore, has been employed as our part-time Circuit Financial Assistant for many years. She has now told us she would like to step down from this task in May. We thank Julie for all her hard work and wish her and her family well.

This means that the Banbury Circuit is looking for someone to be its Treasurer. If you have the gifts to be able to take on this role, to work with the Circuit Leadership Team and want to enable God's money to be wisely used, please let Lin or Victoria know.

Visit to WESLEY'S CHAPEL in City Road London

This trip will be on February 21st, leaving Marlborough Road Church at 9.00am.

We are booked on the 11.30am tour, which will last about 90 minutes. There will be the opportunity to enjoy a music recital for 30 minutes and then we will be able to have a meal at an inn five minutes walk away. There will be a little time to visit the shop before we leave at about 3.30pm.

At present we have sixteen people who are booked in. The coach seats nineteen so, if anyone else is interested please get in touch as soon as possible.



Yours in love, Katie and John Lee

☎ 01295256711

e mail k.2severn@gmail.com

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 well 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 Stagg

CHACOMBE

Our Friday Coffee and Chat re-commences on **3 February at 10.30am** under new management! Janet Jones will be heading up the team and hopes that you will come and join her for refreshment and conversation.

The following one will be on **Friday 17 February**.

Bible Study

The first meeting of 2017 will be on Tuesday 7 February at 2.00pm in the home of Joan Boyles and will be led by Hazel Stagg. All are welcome.

POSITIVE ACTION IS NEEDED SOMEBODY WILL DO IT!

I came across an article in the newsletter of a church I happened to attend whilst visiting a friend in another area of England in 2016. This church was active but had the same problem I think we have in the Banbury Methodist Circuit - they would like more people to get involved and respond to their various pleas for help. The article went on to say that there is the idea that "somebody will do it" but in practice there is nobody to do it... or very few.

A little story about four people named EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY and NOBODY.

There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was sure that SOMEBODY would do it, but NOBODY did it. SOMEBODY got angry that it was EVERYBODY's job. EVERYBODY thought that ANYBODY could do it; but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it. It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done.

I thought what a good story.

In the Banbury Methodist Circuit, we are grateful to all those who take initiative and get things started or just get on with it, but some of you will think you are not able to do things. There are some who would like things to stay just as they are. There is, however, something that everyone can do.

Fundraising is very important. How about asking for money in lieu of birthday presents as that does not require exceptional physical action? In 2016 I had a big birthday party and asked for money towards the Banbury Methodist Circuit and Katharine House Hospice in Adderbury. The guests were very generous and both organisations benefited.

Why not let your neighbour or a friend know when there is a concert on at the church? Most of you are able to write a note explaining what it is about.

We need to advertise more to say we are here and allow people who wish to do this to do so, such as, handing out leaflets in Banbury and surrounding area, having posters up in more prominent areas, going to the press.

These are my views but are there others with similar ones?

Liz Pym: Member of Marlborough Road Methodist Church who enjoys attending the contemporary service at 9.15am where all ages are welcomed.



For the Circuit Away Day - 25 March 2017

The Circuit Leadership Team is hosting an 'Away Day' to discuss future ways of looking at 'circuit'. We have recognised that, in this circuit we have a number of small chapels, all doing invaluable work in their local communities but finding it difficult to recruit personnel into essential roles. As a result a very few folk do everything within their chapels. We want to see if we could alleviate this burden thereby releasing them to do other 'work'. We also want to look at that work within the circuit and see how we can enable it further. We need to do some 'blue sky' thinking and be excited by what we discover.

We are inviting two people from each church/chapel to join with the circuit Leadership Team at Silverstone Methodist Church to discuss all these things. Please pray for this event, that God will reveal where and how He wants us to work.

The **Methodist Church**

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.

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!



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

Feb 1 10am-11.30am Coffee & Chat Upper Boddington 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 relmagine forum Daventry MC
 Feb 8 2.30pm CAMEO Marlborough Road MC
 Feb 10 10.30am-Noon Coffee Morning Cropredy MC
 Feb 14 7.15/7.30pm Marlborough Road House Group Larkrise Care Home
 Feb 15 10am-11.30am Coffee & Chat Upper Boddington MC
 Feb 21 9.00am Wesley Chapel Trip (For those who have pre-booked.)
 Feb 22 2.30pm CAMEO Marlborough Road MC
 Mar 4 10am-11.30am Coffee Morning Hinton MC at Woodford Halse
 Mar 8 1.00pm CAMEO Leprosy Mission Lent Lunch .Marlborough Rd MC
 Mar 14 7.15/7.30pm Marlborough Road House Group 5 Wesley Drive
 Mar 10 10.30am-Noon Coffee Morning Cropredy MC
 Mar 11 2.30pm-8.30pm Acts 29: We are the next chapter Towcester MC
 Mar 22 2.30pm CAMEO Marlborough Road MC
 Mar 27 Circuit Away Day Silverstone MC

Regular Weekly Meetings

Tues ... 2.30pm Ladies' Fellowship Easington MC



The WISDOM of CHILDREN

You can't fool the children in Sunday school; they are way too smart. . . .

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?" I asked the children in my Sunday school class. "NO!" all the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the grass and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?" Again the answer was, "NO!"

"Well," I continued, "then how can I get to heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted, "You gotta be dead!"