

The Methodist Church
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
Circuit Website <http://www.banburycircuit.org.uk>

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

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1st April: All Fool's Day

14th April: Good Friday

17th April: Easter Day



Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.
Deuteronomy 32:2

DEADLINE: Second Monday each Month

For the **May** edition it is **Monday 10 April**

Please include contributions for events occurring up to and including at least **Sunday 11 June**

Send contributions to
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Lin's Letter

Dear Friends,

At Presbyterial Synod this week the President of Conference, the Rev Dr. Roger Walton, talked of his relying on a Sat-Nav system. He believes it is really a help to him in this, his Presidential, year with his journeys around our Methodist Connexion. He told the story of how that morning he was driving in his car, following the Chair of our District, Rev Peter Hancock, in the hope that they would arrive at Fairford Leys Church in Aylesbury together. Unfortunately, the traffic lights changed and the two of them got split up. After frustration and craning of the neck mile after mile they did eventually arrive. He certainly made me think about journeys in a different way; who plans the route, are we following the right path?

On our Lenten journey, we pray that God will take us from who and where we are now, to who and where He wants us to be. These words come to my mind: "Let us go gladly on the journey towards Easter – the journey towards death and resurrection. Let us journey in the peace and power of the Spirit." So often, when we talk of a Lent journey, we make it sound as if it is a journey that once travelled, we reach the end and it is over. The real point of Easter is that this isn't the end; and a Sat-Nav system isn't of any help at all.

The disciples journeyed with a Master who had set his face to go to Jerusalem. They had heard him say he would be handed over, mocked, flogged and crucified, but that on the third day he would be raised. On Easter Sunday morning they were awestruck. They had failed to understand him – but now it was true. The consequence of Easter morning, for both the disciples and us, is that the journey is by no means over, there is more travelling to do.

In one sense, the journey to Jerusalem has no end, because at Jerusalem it led not to completion, but to commission, as we read in Matthew 28. Having been called by Jesus three years earlier; the disciples were now sent out into the vast, antagonistic, sceptical, suspicious world of the first century.

Armed with faith in the risen Jesus, and shortly to be empowered by the special gift of the Holy Spirit, they turned that world upside down. Within four centuries, belief in the resurrection of Jesus was the received religion of the Roman Empire. There were believers in Jesus all over its vast confines and

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far beyond. Now, two millennia later, the disciples of Jesus are still on the long journey of faith and witness, and the risen Lord, as he promised, is still with them wherever they travel.

As your Lenten journey will have found you exploring the side roads, the 'B' roads of your life with Jesus, may Easter morning find you at a significant point of recognising him as your risen Lord and Saviour. Travel onwards with him alone. He will guide you, direct you and strengthen you – there will be no need for any satellite navigation systems.

May the joys of the Easter Season be with you all.

God Bless, *Lin*



Lectionary Readings

2 April

Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8: 6-11
John 11: 1-45

9 April: Palm Sunday **Entry into Jerusalem**

Matthew 21: 1-11
Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

The Passion

Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Philippians 2: 5-11
Matthew 26:14 - 27:66
or Matthew 27: 11-54

13 April: Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12: 1-4 (5-10) 11-14
Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11: 23-25
John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

14 April: Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10: 16-25
or Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9
John 18:1 - 19:42

16 April: Easter Day

Acts 10: 34-43
or Jeremiah 31: 1-6
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3: 1-4 or Acts 10: 34-43/4
John 20: 1-18 or Matthew 28: 1-10

23 April

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1: 3-9
John 20: 19-31

30 April

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1: 17-23
Luke 24: 13-35



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'.

12 Apr	(Holy Week) Rev Lin Francis
26 Apr	Street Pastors: Linda Clarke
10 May	Danube Cruise
24 May	Members' Afternoon: Favourite Music
14 June	My Grandfather: Gladys Harris

EASINGTON

Ladies' Fellowship

Tuesdays at 2.30pm

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.

Fellowship Anniversary

Tuesday 18 April at 2.30pm

Led by Rev Lin Francis

The Service will be followed by light refreshments.

We extend a warm invitation to friends around the Circuit to come and share with us as we celebrate 64 years of the Ladies' Fellowship at Easington Methodist Church.

UPPER BODDINGTON

Coffee and Chat

First and third Wednesday each month

April 5th and 19th

10.00am - 11.30am

Chapel Anniversary

Sunday 23 April at 6.00pm

Led by Rev Chris Eddy

~

Tuesday 25 April at 7.30pm

Sankey Songs of Praise

After singing favourite Sankey hymns for about an hour we will move into the schoolroom for refreshments.

A collection will be taken for the 'Hosannah Children's Home' in India. We invite friends from the Circuit to come and share in our celebrations.

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.

CHACOMBE

We warmly invite you to

Friday Coffee & Conversation

First and Third Friday Each Month

10.30am - 12 noon

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

ADDERBURY

Tenebrae Service

Wednesday 12 April at 7.00pm
Led by Rev Lin Francis

Knitting for Refugees Group

This ecumenical group meets in our hall on Mondays from 2.30pm - 4.00pm.

We produce new knitted clothes and blankets, especially for children. They are then sent to areas like Syria, Ukraine and Iraq, via Kinton-based charity, Compassion Direct UK.

(See further information on page 6)

Anyone is welcome to join the group but if you like knitting and are not able to come, you may send us items provided they are new. We can supply wool, patterns and needles.

For more information contact Val Trinder

☎ 01926 642436 or
v.m.trinder@btinternet.com

CROPREDY

Coffee with Bring-and-Buy

Second Friday every month
10.30am - 12 noon
Includes Combined Church/Chapel
Fairtrade Stall

~

Open Gardens

Bank Holiday Monday
1 May, 11.00am - 4.00pm

Ploughman's Lunches and Teas
In the Chapel Schoolroom

~

Praise Evening

Wednesday 24 May at 7.00pm

Dates for future Praise Evenings are:
Wednesdays 26 July and 27 September

"We seek to share God's love with all His People"

FAIRWAY

Fellowship

Wednesdays at 7.30pm

12 AprMaundy: Rev Victoria Bravette
26 AprMrs Marilyn Nutt
10 MayT.B.A.
24 May.... Burma Holiday: Mrs Judith Hurst



"Yes, the disciples followed Jesus...
but not on Twitter."

REMINDER: Glimpsing God in Sacred Spaces Quiet Day Summer 2017

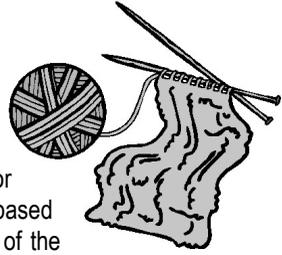
I would like to offer a Quiet Day in 2017 on the theme of, **Glimpsing God in Sacred Spaces**. In addition to my usual format of Bible stories, discussion and quiet reflection, I would like loaned resources please of photographs, artwork or objects, on the theme of sacred spaces.

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

Knitting for Refugees and CDUK

The Knitting for Refugees Group set up jointly by the churches in Adderbury is always looking for more members or donations of new knitted items. But you may wonder how the knitted goods then get to the people who need them. When our group lost its contact with 'Hand in Hand for Syria', we switched to sending everything via a Kineton based national charity, CDUK*. I have recently become a Trustee of the Charity and we are now asking for a different kind of help.



*CDUK – 'Compassion Direct UK' (registered charity No. 1113505) works with children and communities in shanty towns, refugee camps and rural mountain schools. In the past it has provided wells, fruit trees, water harvesting tanks, a woman and child development centre, wind turbines, educational materials, industrial sewing machines, hand knitting and libraries. Through the 'Knit for Kids' project we have sent to refugee camps in Ukraine, Greece, Syria and Palestine. The charity is run entirely by volunteers and its work depends entirely upon voluntary contributions. We are now looking for more volunteers to help and for people to donate.

In particular, at the moment, we are looking for places (shops, cafes, halls etc.) in which to put information leaflets and collecting tins. Can you, your church or anyone else you know help with this? If so please contact me, Val Trinder, ☎ 01926 642436 or v.m.trinder@btinternet.com. Also please get in touch with me if you would like to join, or to help knit for the Adderbury Group.

To volunteer, donate or find out more about CDUK ☎ 01926 691260 or visit our website at www.compassiondirectuk.org Thank you! **Val Trinder**



Supporting people at risk of severe allergies

The word 'anaphylaxis' isn't snappy, but it is accurate and helps differentiate this organisation from the work of other allergy groups. For most people, the word 'allergy' conjures up images of an irritating rash or perhaps red-eyed hay fever sufferers coughing and spluttering their way through spring and early summer. Anaphylaxis, however, is the **potentially fatal** state of sudden shock or collapse after an acute allergic reaction. The whole body is affected, usually within minutes of exposure to the allergen.

THE ANAPHYLAXIS CAMPAIGN provides information and support of the highest quality, relating to foods and other triggers such as latex, drugs and insect stings. Its ultimate aim is to create a safe environment for all people with allergies by educating the food industry, health professionals, schools, colleges and other key audiences. Its focus is on medical facts, food labelling, risk reduction and allergen management.

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THE ANAPHYLAXIS CAMPAIGN

- Provides a **helpline and information services** – giving advice by fact sheets, telephone, e-mail, film and online channels.
- Raises **awareness** and provides **support** through a programme of workshops for young people aged 11-18 and parents of allergic children.
- Runs local **support group** meetings and regional medical meetings.
- Works with caterers, manufacturers and retailers to raise awareness and protect people from harmful allergens – **developing food safety**.
- In addition to work with individuals, the Campaign **works to educate** schools, nurseries, colleges, universities and youth groups in allergy management. Following the success of its 'AllergyWise' training for school nurses it has developed an online training programme for families, individuals, carers and healthcare professionals.
- It is **campaigning** to improve allergy services within the NHS.

A personal note from Margaret and Jeff Smith

The work of THE ANAPHYLAXIS CAMPAIGN is very dear to our hearts because Ian, our elder son, has a potentially fatal allergy to nuts. When he was in his late teens, we came very close to losing him when he went into Anaphylactic shock after inadvertently ingesting an extremely small quantity of nut.

In order to continue its life-saving work money is, of course, always needed and to raise some of that much needed cash, we are again holding a fund-raising day.

Advanced Notice
COFFEE / SOUP / TEA DAY
with
HANDMADE GREETINGS CARD STALL
Saturday 3rd June 2017
10.00am to 3.00pm
49 Queensway, Banbury

Please come: Bring your friends and neighbours to enjoy the coffee/tea with homemade cookies/biscuits and homemade soup* (*Including gluten-free).*

*The Greetings Card Stall will include Fathers Day cards (June 18).
There will be no charge for admission or refreshments
but donations will be invited for **THE ANAPHYLAXIS CAMPAIGN**.*

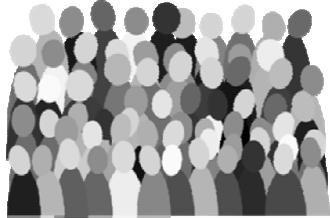
*Naughty, nice or
potentially life threatening?*



Being God's People in an Age of Injustice

29th April 2017

A free day conference at the
Centre for Faith & Spirituality, Loughborough University;
taking a look at the Christian response to injustice,
including issues around Climate Change, "Brexit", the
Refugee Crises & Poverty in the UK.



Speakers include:

- Rev Dr Keith Hebden - Director of the Urban Theology Union
Speaking on Justice and Compassion.
- Prof. Anthony Reddie - Learning and Development officer for the Methodist Church
and liberation theologian.
Speaking on "Brexit".
- Rt Hon Nicky Morgan - MP for Loughborough
Speaking on Refugees.
- Paul Morrison - ~JPIT Policy Advisor
Speaking on UK Poverty.
- James Buchanan - Operation Noah.
Speaking on Climate Change.



To book your ticket:

Visit <https://beinggodspople.eventbrite.co.uk>

The **Methodist Church** 

WISE WORDS

"Accept the challenge so you may feel the exhilaration of victory".

Having somewhere to go is a HOME
Having someone to love is a FAMILY
Having both is a BLESSING

(With thanks to Lin Francis)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Extract from Les Miserables by Victor Hugo

You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving. The great acts of love are done by those who are habitually performing small acts of kindness. We pardon to the extent that we love. Love is knowing that even when you are alone, you will never be lonely again.

And great happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved. Loved for ourselves. And even loved in spite of ourselves.

TWO STORIES to ENCOURAGE

A FARMER'S DONKEY

One day a farmer's donkey fell into an old, dry, well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth the trouble of retrieving the donkey.

He invited all his neighbours to come over and help him. They all grabbed a spade and began to shovel soil into the well. At first the donkey cried horribly then, to everyone's amazement, he quietened down.

A few shovel loads later, when the farmer looked down the well, he was astonished at what he saw . . .

With each shovel of dirt that hit his back the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake off the soil and take a step up. After more shovelling, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off.

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping-stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

NOW.....

Later the donkey bit the farmer who had tried to bury him. The gash from the bite got infected and the farmer eventually died in agony from septic shock.



MORAL from this STORY:

When you do something wrong and try to cover it up, it always comes back to bite you.

IT COULDN'T BE DONE

Somebody said that it couldn't be done, but he, with a chuckle, replied that maybe it couldn't but he would be one who wouldn't say so 'till he'd tried. So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin on his face. If he worried a bit he hid it. He started to sing as he tackled the thing that couldn't be done – and he did it.

Somebody scoffed "Oh you'll never do that: At least no-one ever has done it": But he took off his coat and he took off his hat, and the first thing we knew he'd begun it. With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin, without any doubting or quiddit,* He started to sing as he tackled the thing that couldn't be done – and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done, there are thousands to prophesy failure, there are thousands to point out to you one by one the dangers that wait to assail you. But just buckle in with a bit of a grin, just take off your coat and go to it, just start in to sing as you tackle the thing that cannot be done and you'll do it!

From Pitmans Office Training January 1951!

(**Quiddit* = quibble.)



April Fools Day

Also known as 'All Fool's Day' and celebrated annually on the first day of April - a time for the traditional playing of pranks upon unsuspecting people... the victim of such a prank being called an April Fool.

The origins of this custom are uncertain, but may be related to the arrival of Spring in late March, when Mother Nature is said to "fool" the human race with sudden and fickle changes in the weather... showers one minute and sunshine the next. The playing of practical jokes, however, dates back to Ancient Rome when such activities were part of the Hilaria celebrations on March 25; again associated with the coming of Spring and the Vernal Equinox, held to honour Attis, Roman God of Vegetation who was linked to the seasonal cycle. In England, an old legend states that April Fool's Day commemorates the fruitless mission of the Rook that was sent out in search of land from Noah's Ark.

It is generally accepted that the 'All Fool's Day' tradition began in France during the Sixteenth Century, when the beginning of the New Year was observed on April 1 and celebrated in much the same way as New Year is today, with parties and dancing late into the night. At that time, the festivities ran for a week, beginning on March 25, and included the exchanging of gifts. Then, in 1582 Pope Gregory introduced a revised calendar for the Christian world wherein the New Year fell on January 1. Since it took some time, possibly even years, for many people to even hear word of the change (communications being what they were in the Sixteenth Century) and since others obstinately refused to accept such reform or simply forgot, New Year's Day continued to be celebrated on the first day of April in many areas. Individuals who had accepted the dates of the new calendar played tricks on those who had not and referred to the unfortunate victims of such pranks as "April Fools," sending them on a "fool's errand" (an invitation to a non-existent party, for example) or attempting to make them believe something that was actually false. Over time, this practice evolved into an annual tradition of April 1 prank-playing, eventually migrating to England and Scotland during the Eighteenth Century.

In many cultures, tradition dictates that the pranking must end at noon on April 1 and any jokes attempted after that hour will bring bad luck to the perpetrator. In addition, any who fail to respond with good humour to tricks played upon them are said to attract bad luck to themselves. Such victims are, however, entitled to "turn the tables" after the hour of noon with the retort: "*April Fool's gone past... and you're the biggest fool at last!*" It should be noted that not all April Fool superstitions are negative. Males who are fooled by a pretty female, for example, are said to be fated to marry the girl... or at least enjoy a healthy friendship with her.

The style of April Fool's pranks has changed over the years. Sending unsuspecting folk on pointless errands was a particularly prized practical joke in the early history of the celebrations. Today, however, modern pranks tend to centre more around bogus telephone calls and media-driven foolery and it is children who appear to truly celebrate the day complete with its original sense of abandon. Today, All Fool's Day is a "for fun only" observance... a time when nobody is expected to buy gifts, receive cards or spend money and there are no holidays from work or school. The primary force behind the day's jokes and pranks is that they should **not** be harmful but able to be enjoyed by everyone... especially the person upon whom the joke is played.



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

Apr 1	..... 10am-11.30am.....	Coffee Morning.....	Hinton MC at Woodford Halse
Apr 5	..... 10am-11.30am.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Upper Boddington MC
Apr 7	..... 10.30am-Noon.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Chacombe MC
Apr 12	.... 2.30pm.....	CAMEO.....	Marlborough Road MC
Apr 12	.... 7.00pm.....	Tenebrae Service.....	Adderbury MC
Apr 12	.... 7.30pm.....	Fellowship.....	Fairway MC
Apr 14	.... 10.30am-Noon.....	Coffee Morning.....	Cropredy MC
Apr 19	.... 10am-11.30am.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Upper Boddington MC
Apr 21	.... 10.30am-Noon.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Chacombe MC
Apr 25	.... 7.30pm.....	Sankey Songs of Praise.....	Upper Boddington MC
Apr 26	.... 2.30pm.....	CAMEO.....	Marlborough Road MC
Apr 26	.... 7.30pm.....	Fellowship.....	Fairway MC
Apr 29	....	Being God's People in an Age of Injustice.....	Loughborough University
May 1	..... 11.00am-4.00pm.....	Cropredy Open Gardens.....	Lunches in Cropredy MC
May 5	..... 10.30am-Noon.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Chacombe MC
May 6	..... 10am-11.30am.....	Coffee Morning.....	Hinton MC at Woodford Halse
May 10	.... 2.30pm.....	CAMEO.....	Marlborough Road MC
May 10	.... 7.30pm.....	Fellowship.....	Fairway MC
May 12	.... 10.30am-Noon.....	Coffee Morning.....	Cropredy MC
May 19	.... 10.30am-Noon.....	Coffee & Chat.....	Chacombe MC
May 24	.... 2.30pm.....	CAMEO.....	Marlborough Road MC
May 24	.... 7.00pm.....	Praise Evening.....	Cropredy MC
May 24	.... 7.30pm.....	Fellowship.....	Fairway MC

Regular Weekly Meetings

Mons	...2.30pm	..... Knitting for Refugees.....	Adderbury MC
Tues	...2.30pm	..... Ladies' Fellowship.....	Easington MC

