

THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2011

The Message of Easter: Love (In)deed

Rev'd Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

Throughout the ministry of Jesus, whether it be teaching, preaching or healing, the underlying theme is reconciliation, wholeness brought about by loving.

The reconciliation is between God and ourselves, and between ourselves as human beings, one to another.

For example, in Luke 15, Jesus recounts three stories when challenged about the type of company he keeps. The accusation goes: "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" The three stories, all about loss, are the shepherd who lost one of his flock of a hundred sheep and the lengths he goes to to keep the flock complete. The second is about the woman, who on losing one of her ten coins, searches diligently until the ten are complete. The third is about the Prodigal Son, who journeys away from his father and returns to find the father waiting for him and unity is restored.

At the end of each of the parables, there is celebration; and in heaven there is joy over one sinner who repents.

But Jesus was not just about teaching and preaching. If anyone subscribed to the saying "action speaks louder than words" it was Jesus. He set us all an example of reconciliation brought about by loving actions when he responds to people who have broken bodies, broken minds or broken relationships.

Take two passages from the end of Luke 18 and the beginning of Luke 19. In the first, a blind man sitting by the road which leads into Jericho declares: "I want to see again". Jesus' healing action, love in action, restores the man's sight. On the other side of Jericho, as Jesus leaves on the road for Jerusalem, he comes across Zacchaeus, up the tree; he had been unable to see Jesus because of the way he is despised by his community. Jesus shows love in action by eating and drinking with him and turning his life around so that once again he is united with his community.

As we journey through the weeks of Lent and begin to focus ourselves on Holy Week, we can see the ultimate "love in deed" as Jesus goes through the Last Supper, the arrest, trial and beating, and finally, nailing to the cross, just for you and for me, in order to keep the channels open between ourselves and God through his reconciling work.

All this culminates in the glorious Easter morning events as death is conquered and no longer need hold any fear for us. Surely this "love in deed" is love indeed!

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS OF BUSINESS FROM THE MARCH CIRCUIT MEETING

The meeting was held at Adderbury on 8th March 2011 and chaired by Rev. Rob Anning. Special points to note included:

Safeguarding – Maurice Humphris reported that the new Protection of Freedoms bill has been published which incorporates changes in safety procedures. As this is not likely to become law until late in 2012 we continue at present using current legislation. It is still not clear who needs CRB checks so if churches are in any doubt at all please contact Maurice for advice. Training for church safeguarding leads has still to be arranged and is likely to be shared with nearby circuits. Maurice reminded us that “constant vigilance” are the watchwords.

Finance – A summary of the half yearly accounts was received and a new circuit reserves policy was approved. This outlines plans for our reserves (which we are required to set out under charity law,) which allocate funds to those areas which we identified as needing development in the circuit review last year.

Property – Manses: Some upgrading work has been done at Kingsway and an alarm system will shortly be installed. **Closed chapels:** The plans for selling both Warmington and Brailes have been delayed by the discovery of bats. A planning application for conversion to a house has now been submitted for Warmington and remedial work on wood boring insects is due to be done shortly at Brailes prior to obtaining permission to sell. **St Francis:** Planning is going ahead for the new extension and several grants have been secured. The meeting agreed to make a grant from the Circuit and also to apply to the District for one. **Middleton Cheney:** The Council has funded an upgrade of the facilities because the local playgroup will be continuing to use the building for the time being. **Hornton:** Grant applications towards the cost of the rebuilding scheme for the kitchen/toilet area are being actively pursued. **Grants from the Circuit were agreed:** £2,000 to Hinton, towards the cost of a new wheelchair ramp, and £2,500 to Marlborough Road, towards the cost of moving the Mustard Seed bookshop to the front of the building to provide easier access from the street.

Rural Church and Community Co-ordinator – As reported last time, a new Rural Church and Community Co-ordinator will be employed by the Circuit to help some of the village chapels engage with their local communities. Rev. Rob Anning explained how the Circuit Leadership Team has reached a decision on which chapels to recommend for this. After discussion it was agreed that these will be: Adderbury, Chacombe, Greatworth and Upper Boddington. After a year this will be reviewed and changes made if thought necessary. The meeting recognised that some will be disappointed but there may well be further opportunities in the future.

Local Preachers – Ian Hearle is hoping to finish his training soon and subject to successful completion he will be recognised as a Local Preacher in a service at Easington on 22nd September, 7.30 pm. We are pleased that Janice Smith from Easington is being given a “Note to Preach”, the first step in training to become a local preacher.

Archivists – Les and Robina Kelland from Marlborough Road were appointed Circuit Archivists. Churches were asked not to hoard old record books but to contact Les and Robina.

Circuit event – In conjunction with the announcement of the results of the Circuit Photographic Competition, there will be a “Table Top” event at Marlborough Road on Saturday 8th October. Each chapel is invited to “host” a table where they can do something of their own choice e.g. sell crafts etc.

Working with neighbouring circuits – Rev. Rob Anning reported on a recent meeting about mutual support and working together with the Chipping Norton Circuit, Bicester, Buckingham and Brackley Circuit and the Rugby and Daventry Circuit. The next step will be a District report to Synod in May about the way forward.

Ministerial Sabbaticals – Rev. Dorothy Hewitson will be on Sabbatical from June to August 2011. Her churches were asked not only to be aware of this, but also that they will need to “do things differently” when she goes part time on her return.

New hymnbook – “Singing the Faith” will be published in September and a “sampler” is available now from www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

Methodist Homes Sunday will be observed in our Circuit this year on Sunday 3rd July.

The **next Circuit Meeting** will be on 16th June, 7.30pm at Greatworth.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL 2011

April 3rd

1 Samuel 16:1 – 13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8 – 14
John 9:1 – 41

April 10th

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

April 17th

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

April 24th 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
John 20:1 – 18
Or Matthew 28:1 – 10

NEWS FROM THE MUSTARD SEED

New look website – The Mustard Seed website has undergone a makeover! Still at the old address www.banburyseed.co.uk the site now has an entirely new look. The new site will include news items, events and much more ... so do take a look.

The Christian Marketplace – The March/April issue of **The Christian Marketplace** *at your fingertips* magazine is now out. You can call in and collect your copy from the Mustard Seed or you can read an on-line version via the Mustard Seed website. The magazine includes articles about Derek Wilson's soon to be published 'People's Bible' ... the remarkable story of how the King James Bible came into being; a look at a new DVD study series exploring the characteristics of Jesus; plus a host of book and music reviews, so do take a look.

Church Supplies – A reminder that as we head towards Easter, the Mustard Seed can supply you with Palm Crosses and non-alcoholic communion wine. Also in stock are copies of the Methodist Publishing booklet, "A Gift of Easter" which is filled with encouraging words from the Bible, as well as prayers and reflections.

The Mustard Seed is at the rear of Marlborough Road Methodist Church and is open every Thursday and Friday between 10am and 5pm and on Saturdays between 10am and 4pm.

CIRCUIT QUIET DAY

Theme: '**ALL AT SEA!**'

Venue: Wroxton Methodist Church

Date: Saturday, 16th April 2011

Time: 10.00 am to 4.30 pm

The cost of the day will be £4. Please bring your own packed lunch. We will 'picnic' together at lunchtime, as we share fellowship. Tea and coffee are available throughout the day. If you would like to book a place please contact me (if you haven't already done so!). I need to have firm bookings and your contribution towards the cost of the day by Thursday, 7th April.

Dorothy Hewitson

A HOLIDAY IN THE BISHOP'S HOUSE IONA JULY 7TH – 14TH 2012

In 2009 a number of people from the six Edge Hill parishes spent a week on Iona. Everyone enjoyed it so much we have reserved the Bishop's House for another week in 2012, and want to invite people to sign up. Our accommodation will be in the Bishop's House, which is about 100 years old, and which is available for visitors throughout the year. In the Bishop's House there is a small chapel which serves as the parish church for the small township of the island, and during the week, short morning and evening acts of worship take place. Guests are welcome to attend these, but there is no obligation to do so. We can be sure of good food and a hearty welcome from the staff of the house, ensuring a memorable stay.

As on previous trips, there will be no set programme of activities and members of the group will be free to organize their time as they choose. All guests at the Bishop's House are able to have concessionary/free access to Iona Abbey and its services and other events.

Although the island is small, there are plenty of places to explore and many pleasant walks. There are numerous bays round the island, many of which are little frequented and all of which are picturesque. It is easy, too, to return by ferry to Mull and explore this island, including the well-known town of Tobermory. One can also choose to take a half day's boat trip to the island of Staffa where 'Fingal's Cave' is to be found.

There is so much to see and to do – why not join us?! All the relevant details are included in a brochure, printed copies of which are readily available. Please contact me (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). Deposit requested on booking - £75. Total cost explained in brochure. Andrea Harding-Smith – St Francis Church.

ITEMS FOR SALE

The following items are looking for new homes from Brailes Chapel

17 Good News Bibles	2 Brass Flower Vases	Electric Fires
42 Mission Praise	2 Fire Extinguishers	3 Wall Mounted
Books & Music Book.	1 Fire Blanket	Electric Fires
H & P Organ Music	22 Red Plastic Stacking	Pews
Books	Chairs	12 – 57" long Oak
2 6ft GoPac Tables	24 Wooden Stacking	Pews
Oak three shelved	Chairs	9 – 10ft long Oak Pews
bookcase with glass top	3 Free Standing	

If anyone is interested, please give me ring (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

FAITH & WORSHIP

This is the title of the Local Preachers' training course. It consists of eighteen units of study, most of which can be studied as "one offs" on their own. You don't have to be a preacher in training to study the units as the course was also designed as a useful means for Christians to explore faith more deeply. It would be especially helpful to Worship Leaders or as a refresher course for preachers.

As Janice Smith sets out on her studies to become a preacher we are wondering if there is anyone who might like to join her to work through one or two of the units. It helps students to have at least three people in a study group rather than one student going it alone with the tutor. It would involve working through the study material on your own and coming to a couple of discussion group meetings for each unit. The topics which will be coming up over the late summer and early autumn will be:

Jesus through the eyes of Mark

The teaching of Jesus

Exploring the Bible

Picturing God

If anyone is interested in joining Janice for one of these, please get in touch with me. Val Trinder Circuit Local Preachers Tutor, (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

3ED CIRCUIT PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The categories are the same as last year:

NATURE
LANDS AFAR
GREAT BRITAIN
EVERY DAY LIFE

And a general Junior section for those 12 years old and under.

Please mount your photographs on A4 paper or card, so they can be displayed at a coffee morning at Marlborough Road on Saturday 8th October. Winners will be announced and prizes given on this Saturday.

Entry fee £1.00 per picture for Adults and 50p for Juniors.

Closing date: 11th September 2011.

Pauline Giles: (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

BANBURY CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

There will be no supper club until September.

ADDERBURY

We invite friends from the Circuit to our regular “first Saturday Coffee Morning” 10.30 – 12 noon. All welcome.

Each year the village holds a “Day of Dance” when it celebrates its strong Morris Dancing tradition by having troupes of dancers dancing at various locations in the village throughout the day. This year it is on Saturday 16th April and the chapel will be open throughout the day for light refreshments. If you drop in around tea-time you may even be treated to a dance outside the chapel by the Ladies Morris who hold their regular practices in the chapel schoolroom. This is in addition to the regular monthly coffee mornings on the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome as always!

TENEBRAE SERVICE

The word 'tenebrae' means 'darkness' or 'shadows'. During the service we commemorate the Last Supper, share bread and wine, and then twelve candles, representing the twelve disciples, will be extinguished one by one.

The service opens with readings from some of the Hallel (Praise) Psalms, which were recited or sung at the Passover Meal to celebrate the liberation of God's people from slavery in Egypt. Jesus and his disciples would almost certainly have sung or recited some of these as they met for their final meal.

After sharing bread and wine together, the readings we hear remind us of what happened over the next few hours. The removal of the central Christ candle signifies what seemed like the final triumph of evil over good.

A final reading from Isaiah offers us hope in God's purposes and the Christ candle is returned.

You will be most welcome at our Tenebrae Service at Adderbury Methodist Chapel on Wednesday, 20th April at 7.00 pm, to share with us as we reflect on the hours spent by Jesus and his disciples in the shadow of the impending cross.

Rev'd Dorothy Hewitson

BODICOTE PRAISE EVENINGS

Spend an hour of hymn singing, prayers and readings, followed by a welcome cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. We gather at Bodicote Chapel at 7.30 pm, on Thursday evenings once a month. The next meetings are 14th April and 19th May. All are welcome. Contact Dorothy Hewitson

CHACOMBE

Bible Study – These Tuesday afternoon sessions will recommence after Easter. Further details contact Joan (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

Eggstravaganza – This popular event will take place on Saturday 9th April starting at 11.00 am. There will be an Easter Bonnet competition and various stalls. Our new kitchen will be serving homemade soup, bacon buttes and other tasty snacks. This will be an ideal opportunity to purchase your Easter cards and gifts and enjoy a delicious lunch. Do come along and join in the fun.

CROPREDY

We hold a Bible study meetings every Wednesday, for details of time and venues please contact Hazel Stagg.

Come and join us at our Praise Evenings, singing hymns and listening to selected readings followed by a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. They are led by Rev Dorothy Hewitson. The next meetings are Tuesday 26th April and Wednesday 18th May. All are welcome.

Rocky Plaice Scripture Union Children's Holiday Club in the Chapel Monday 11th April to 13th April 10.00 am to 11.55 am. Free of charge with refreshments. Contacts Rev Pat Freeth or Hazel Stagg (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

EASINGTON

Quiz supper – We are holding another of our by now legendary quiz suppers on Friday April 15th at 7-00 pm! For tickets (£6 per head including supper) and/or further information please contact Janice and Steve Smith or Ian and Jo Hearle (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

FAIRWAY

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE – The Ladies Fellowship will be holding their Christian Aid Lunch on Tuesday 12th April at 12:30 NOT the 19th as given out at the Circuit Meeting. There will be soup and roll, sweet and tea/coffee for £3:50. Proceeds for Christian Aid. Please contact Connie Moses (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) if you are interested.

HINTON METHODIST & ST MARY'S CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS WOODFORD HALSE

Gods love is free so is our coffee and tea (And cakes and biscuits!)
You'll be very welcome to come and relax and chat between 10 and 12 o'clock in
Hinton Methodist Church on the first Saturday of every month

HORNTON

3rd April – Mothering Sunday in Chapel 11 am

Every first Sunday in month there is a Jiffy service for young families – 3.30 pm in Chapel (Jesus Is Fun for You). Please come and support us if you can.

May Bank Holiday – On Sunday 1st May there will be a Flower Festival with a wedding theme. Cream teas will be served from 3.30 pm – 5.00 pm. There will also be a 'Made in Hornton' stall for Chapel Funds. On Monday 2nd May the Chapel will be open to show the flowers and we will have Chapel stalls on the green as part of the village May Day celebrations. Look forward to seeing you.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

7th April – Claire Lester – The travels of a teacher to deaf children – Bring and buy

5th May – Indoor foam croquet

Enquiries: – Shirley Davies, (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

NEITHROP - MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING AND CAKE STALL

Come and join us, between 10.00 and 11.00 on the first Saturday of the month, for a chat over coffee/tea and biscuits. Stall also includes fruit pies/crumbles, preserves and books. Also some Fairtrade food items for sale.

NEITHROP CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY

Neithrop Chapel celebrates its Chapel Anniversary on Sunday, 8th May at 3 pm. Rev Rob Anning will be leading our worship. The Anniversary Celebrations continue on Wednesday, 11th May, when the Anniversary Rally takes place at the chapel at 7.30 pm. The speaker will be Rev'd Dr Martin Wellings, who is Synod Secretary and Superintendent Minister of the Oxford Circuit. This should be a good evening and everyone is welcome to join us.

UPPER BODDINGTON

Our annual plant sale will be held (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) on Saturday 21st May, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. David and Daphne Adkins have offered us the use of their premises again so there will be plenty of space for plants to be sold under cover and plenty of parking spaces too. Thank you David and Daphne! We hope to have a good selection of pelargoniums, fuchsias, bedding and perennial plants on offer and the prices will be reasonable, so come along and stock up with plants for your tubs, baskets and borders. This sale will be our only big fund raising event this year so we hope to raise enough money to pay our Church running costs.

NETWORK

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, except for Holy Week. All meetings are at 2.30 pm at Marlborough Road.

13th April – These are a Few of my Favourite Things – The Revd John Warren

27th April – Favourite Bible Characters – Members' afternoon

RATLEY RAMBLES

Reserve the May Day Bank Holiday Monday afternoon for fundraising, fitness, food, friendship and fun!!

What's it all about? A chance to discover/enjoy this area at your level of fitness and interest

What will it involve? A choice of a short level stroll, a walk of about an hour or a couple of hours in the country – followed by a cream tea (Weather permitting, of course!)

If the weather is awful, or if you don't 'do' walking, just come for the food!!

How will it work? I will produce direction sheets, illustrated with photos to help stop people getting lost! (They worked last time!!) These will include probable duration/timing, so walkers and non-walkers can co-ordinate arriving for the food when it is ready.

Who can come? Anyone!! Walks will be possible for those with pushchairs or limited mobility, as well as those who want to use up energy or really explore. Children and dogs will be welcomed, although dogs will need watching if there are animals in any fields.

Teas will be available from 3.30 to 5.00 pm. Please let me know if you are interested by Thursday April 28th – as food will need to be bought and prepared.

Andrea Harding-Smith: (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). Raising funds for St Francis' Church Highlands new-hall-to-be

CHURCH BLOOPERS

1. Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.
2. Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
3. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.
4. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
5. The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH EDITION

THURSDAY 14TH APRIL

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,

(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)