

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
April 2012**

Easter: Sadness and Celebration

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

A few of years ago, I spent a day in a Crown Court. I felt like a fish out of water. I had been to a Crown Court a few times in the past but somehow the environment and the surroundings I feel are alien to me. Much of my time was spent sitting in the waiting area outside the court rooms.

The conversations I overheard were interesting! They tended to centre on two subjects: Those involved with people who had committed crimes talked about what they thought the punishment would be; those who were involved with victims of crime talked around the punishment fitting the crime.

It struck me later that there was something about the Easter message in all of this. During Lent we should have been carrying out a period of self-examination. When we consider our own lives, our failings and our sins, it is simply impossible for any of us to pay the price for our mistakes.

But when Jesus went to the Cross, he was doing just that; paying a price with his own suffering and death on our behalf, paying a price that we as individual human beings could never manage to pay.

Cecil Frances Alexander put it this way when she wrote “There is a green hill far away”:

*We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.*

*There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.*

The sadness of Jesus’ suffering on Good Friday is always followed by the joy of Easter Day. The price is paid, the opportunity of new life begins, and we as children of God have something to celebrate once again.

So this Easter, let’s recognise both the sadness that our failings can engender but also the celebration that we as followers of Jesus can experience as we are assured of a fresh start -- again.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL 2012

April 1st

Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1 – 11 or
John 12:12 – 16
Psalm 118:1-2, 19 – 29

The Passion

Isaiah 50:4 – 9a
Psalm 31:9 – 16
Philippians 2:5 – 11
Mark 14:1- 15:47 or
Mark 15:1 – 39(40 –
47)

April 8th

Easter Day

Acts 10:34 – 43 or
Isaiah 25:6 – 9
Psalm 118:1 -2, 14 –
24
1 Corinthians 15:1 – 11
or
Acts 10:34 – 43
John 20:1 – 18 or
Mark 16:1 – 8

April 15th

Acts 4:32 – 35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1 – 2:2
John 20:19 – 31

April 22nd

Acts 3:12 – 19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1 – 7
Luke 24:36b – 48

April 29th

Acts 4:5 – 12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16 – 24
John 10:11 - 18

PREACHERS' LIBRARY

The Preachers' Library is a growing collection of donated and purchased books selected by Hazel, with the preparation of worship in mind. The Library is situated in the vestry at Marlborough Road and so can be accessed whenever the church is open and services are not actually taking place. There is a blue spotty book for logging out borrowed books and a box for any donated literature. Anyone calling into The Mustard Seed will find the church open; that's Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and times around worship.

GET READY FOR PENTECOST!

Rev Tom Stuckey, a former President of Conference, will lead a Study Day on the theme:

ON THE EDGE OF PENTECOST

Exploring the Acts of the Apostles

Saturday, 12th May

10am to 1pm

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

(Tom will also preach at the following Sunday Circuit Service)

Everyone is welcome!

CIRCUIT SERVICES

Rev. Tom Stuckey, former President of the Conference will preach at the Circuit Service on 13th May (10.30am at Marlborough Road).

The Easter Offering dedication service this year will also be at 10.30am at Marlborough Road on 24th June.

Other Circuit services are at Greatworth, at 6pm on 22nd July and the Covenant Service at Marlborough Road at 10.30am on 2nd September.

CIRCUIT QUIET DAY

Theme: 'A DAY TO LET GOD LOVE YOU'

Venue: Wroxton Methodist Church

Date: Saturday, 14th April 2012

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

The cost for the day will be £5. Please bring your own packed lunch. We will 'picnic' together at lunchtime, as we share fellowship. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available throughout the day. There will also be ample opportunity to enjoy a stroll around the village and visit the ducks on the pond! If you would like to book a place, please let me know. I should like to have firm bookings and your contribution towards the cost of the day by, Tuesday, 3rd April.

Dorothy Hewitson

CHACOMBE

Coffee Morning

We now have a weekly Coffee Morning held in our Schoolroom. It takes place every Thursday from 10.30am - 12.00 noon and is proving to be very popular. Any monies raised will go to charity. If you happen to be in the area, pop in for a cuppa, piece of homemade cake and lots of chat.

Bible Study

These sessions take place at 2.15pm in the home of Joan Boyles and are led by Hazel Stagg. Bible Study will recommence after Easter. Any queries contact Joan (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

CROPREDY

Mission Rescue Holiday Club at Cropredy Methodist Church 10 – 11:55, Monday 2nd April – Thursday 5th April. Bible teaching from the story of Moses, secret agent training, songs, games, codes, puzzles and crafts. To book places please contact: Hazel Stagg or Rev Pat Freeth of Cropredy. (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

EASINGTON

All the fun of the fair! All are welcome to join us on Saturday 16th June 2 – 4 pm for our annual Summer Fete. A good range of stalls and amusements will be available, together with delicious cream teas!

FAIRWAY

The Ladies of Fairway Methodist Church are holding their Annual Christian Aid Lunch on Tuesday 17th April at 12:30 price will be £4. Please give names to Connie Moses (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

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

Another month gone by and Easter will soon be upon us. April 1st Palm Sunday United service to be held in Parish Church. Good Friday 6th April service in Chapel at 7 pm led by Deacon Margaret Hale.

Fund raising is continuing to bring in our much needed funds and during February £143.00 was raised from our table top sale. We are looking forward to Soup Lunch (17th March) 12 – 2 pm. For our next project, we hope it will be as successful as the last one when over £600.00 was raised. The stewards are having special meetings to raise money for our project. They have compiled a brochure 'Bringing Hornton Methodist Church into 21st Century' and these will be circulated around the circuit and is well worth a read.

Coffee mornings are continuing on Friday mornings 10:30 – 12 noon and are proving to be very popular. 'Jiffy Services' are held in Chapel 1st Sunday in month at 3:30 pm and Thursday 'After School Club' is from 3:30 – 5 pm.

'Happy Easter wishes to you all'

Don't forget May Day, Village celebrations will be held on Monday 7th May and we shall be having stalls for our building fund. Do come and support us if you can.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

5th April – Wendy Martin – Talk on training hearing dogs

3rd May – Kurling – Come along and have a go!

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

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7.30 pm

28th March – Shelter Box – Andrew Fairbairn

4th April – Easter Service with Communion – Rev Rob Anning

UPPER BODDINGTON

The second of our coffee mornings to raise funds for the Hosannah Children's Home will take place in the Chapel schoolroom on Saturday, April 14th, 10a.m – 11.30 a.m. As usual there will be a cake stall and a 'Bring & Buy' stall. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served so please come along and help the work of the Children's Home. They need all the support we can give them!

The following day, April 15th, we will be celebrating our Chapel Anniversary. The Rev. Janet Jackson will lead Family Service at 10.30 am. That will be followed with a Songs of Praise service at 6 pm which will be led by Mrs Margaret Clarke. On Tuesday April 17th at 7.30 pm the celebrations will continue with a Sankey Evening when friends from other local Churches will join us for an hour of singing favourite hymns from the Sankey book. Refreshments will be served as usual after the singing and we will take up a collection, which will be donated to the Hosannah Children's home in South India. We invite friends from the Circuit to come and join in any or all of our celebrations. A warm welcome awaits you!

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month except July and August at Marlborough Road at 2.30 pm and welcome Men and Women of any age to share a varied programme. The money we raise goes to the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission.

25th April – Members afternoon – England my England

9th May – Rev Rob Anning

KITCHEN PRAYER

Lord of pots and pans and things
Since I've not time to be
A saint by doing lovely things
Or watching late with Thee
Or dreaming in the dawn light
Or storming Heaven's gates
Make me a saint by getting meals
And washing up the plates
Although I must have Martha's hands,

I have a Mary mind
And when I black the boots and shoes
Thy sandals, Lord, I find
I think of how they trod the earth,
What time I scrub the floor,
Accept this meditation Lord,
I haven't time for more.
It could also be called a worker's
lament!

More than Easter bunnies
And chocolate eggs galore
Is the cross of Calvary
The sacrifice of our Lord
For Jesus is the reason
We all can celebrate
And come to Him to freely receive
His love and saving grace

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He found it in His heart
To forgive us just the same
Even when He died
And was suffering so much pain
Even from the cross
As His life was nearly through
He cried, "Father forgive them
For they know not what they do"
Oh what love so great
That His thoughts were filled with us
That we should come to know
Just how much that He loved

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DEADLINE FOR THE MAY EDITION
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CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,
(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)
CIRCUIT WEBSITE <http://www.banburycircuit.org.uk/>