

# THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER April 2013

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it”

*Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:*

British Summer Time began in the early hours of Easter Sunday. Hopefully, we all remembered to put our clocks forward by an hour and consequently, lost an hour's sleep. I received this little hymn verse from a colleague, which he wrote for his choir. It goes to the tune *Cym Rhondda*:

*God of sleep, and God of slumber, help us not be late we ask:  
Changing clocks one forward number, may we not forget this task.  
Choir directors, preachers, teachers, all will bless your holy name,  
If to Sunday church on time we came. © Dean McIntyre*

We do notice the change for a few days but we quickly adapt. Light is an important element of our lives and the whole of creation depends on light for its sustenance.

When I first visited Australia in February of 2007, on my return, a frequent question was: “What was the most outstanding memory of your visit?” There were so many interesting places to visit, we met so many interesting people as we travelled. And the journey half way round the world and back was an experience in itself.

If you press me hard, I'd have to say my abiding memory was the quality of the light. Strange, you might think. But for me as someone interested in photography, the higher levels of sunlight certainly helped me to get some really good photographs and they carry our memories of our visit.

The light certainly brought everything alive, making colours more vivid, creating a world that is bright and cheerful. Even the indigenous animals, birds and insects seemed to respond to all of this, and displayed an amazing array of shapes and colours, again adding something special to creation.

On Good Friday, we read from Luke's gospel about the death of Jesus: “About noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed”. It reminded me that on that dreadful day, as Jesus, the light of the world, died, so something was missing from our world that was essential for life.

That situation was corrected on Easter Sunday, when the resurrection of Jesus brought light, life and hope back into the world and the world began to be a brighter, lighter place for all who follow.

In Matthew 5 v 14 Jesus says: “You are the light of the world . . . so let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”. Does the way we live our lives shed the light of Christ into the world, so that like the sun shining in Australia, bring everything alive for ourselves and others and so reflect well on our Father God in heaven?

## CIRCUIT “GOODBYE” AND “HELLO”

Later this Summer, Rev’d Janet Jackson will be leaving us to join a new Circuit in the Derby area. We are planning a “goodbye” for Janet, which will take place at a Circuit Service on Sunday, 21 July, 6pm at Middleton Cheney Church, followed by refreshments.

Janet will be followed by Rev’d Victoria Bravette, who is coming to join us from 1 September from the Birmingham area. Victoria will be living in the Grimsbury manse, and will have pastoral charge of Grimsbury, Marlborough Road, Neithrop and The Fairway. There will be more about Victoria in a forthcoming Circuit Newsletter.

We are planning to say “hello” to Victoria and make her feel welcome at a special Welcome Service on Wednesday, 4 September, 7.30pm at Marlborough Road Church, when the preacher will be the Chair of District, Rev’d Peter Hancock.

Please make a note of these two dates so that we can ensure we say “goodbye” and “hello” really well.

*Rev’d Rob Anning.*

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL 2013

### April 7<sup>th</sup>

Acts 5:27 – 32  
Psalm 118:14 – 29  
Or Psalm 150  
Revelation 1:4 – 8  
John 20:19 – 31

### April 21<sup>st</sup>

Acts 9:36 – 43  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9 – 17  
John 10:22 – 30

### April 14<sup>th</sup>

Acts 9:1 – 6 (7 – 20)  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11 – 14  
John 21:1 – 19

### April 28<sup>th</sup>

Acts 11:1 -18  
Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1 - 6  
John 13:31 - 35

## CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

The Circuit Supper Club meets on 4<sup>th</sup> April at Marlborough Road Methodist Church at 7 for 7.30 pm. Our speaker is Mr Barry Oxhey who will talk about the RSPB entitled “Sumatra Rain Forest”. Do come and bring any friends.

Please book your places by Monday evening, 1<sup>st</sup> April at the latest with David Hughes (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

## SYNOD VOLUNTEERS

Thank you very much to all who have volunteered for Synod duties for 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013. I have a surplus of numbers so some of you may be disappointed! I will be contacting you about your duties in the first couple of weeks in April.

Cheryl Messer (on behalf of the Circuit Stewards)

## MUSTARD SEED

### **Bridging the gap, connecting people**

*It's Your Move* is a fun and friendly guide to help children making the transition from primary school to senior school. Published by Scripture Union, this 64-page booklet is packed with advice, together with real-life stories from children who have already made the move! Bible content comes from retold Bible stories and there is place to reflect on Psalm 139 ... which ironically begins with the words 'Lord, you have **examined** me'! There are puzzles, quizzes and places to personalise the book through doodles, signatures, photos etc. Over the years, *It's Your Move* has served as a valuable tool to help churches build links with their local schools. Relationships that started with a church (or group of churches) buying and giving out the books at the local primary have developed into on-going friendships which have impacted on assemblies, input for RE lessons, after-school clubs, visits to church buildings and much more! So why not find out what exciting new ministries can open up in your community by ordering copies of *It's Your Move* for your local school? Single copies cost £3.50 each but we can offer packs of 10 copies (including a teacher's guide) for just £14. **What's more ... if you place your order with us before the end of March we can reduce the price still further to just £12.** Many of our customers have already placed their orders for *It's Your Move* but if you haven't ... and wish to do so or want to find out more ... do get in touch.

Malcolm Duncan, guest speaker at last year's Banbury Christian Convention, has a challenging new book on the shelves. *Risk Takers* draws on the experiences of the early church who, never knowing what was coming next, learned to depend on the Spirit. Malcolm, minister of Gold Hill Baptist Church, calls on Christians today to be risk takers too, not shackled to legacy, but willing to do the right thing rather than opting for the easy thing. *Risk Takers* is in stock now at the Mustard Seed, priced £8.99

Songs of Praise presenter Pam Rhodes has published her sixth novel. *Fisher of Men* follows the ups and downs of bachelor curate Neil Fisher in the small town of Dunbridge where it quickly becomes clear that life is going to be anything but tranquil! The book looks set to be the first in a series of novels under the generic title *The Dunbridge Chronicles*. It's available now, priced £7.99.

Oxfordshire author Nick Page shares both his wisdom and his wit in the latest addition to the 'Instant Expert' series published by Lion. Nick, who has more than 60 books to his credit, tackles the Bible, promising to tell you 'All you need to know in an hour'! It's a tongue in cheek claim, of course, but this is a handy mini reference book covering who wrote the different books, why they were written, where, when and what they were hoping to achieve. Ideal for anyone thinking of getting to grips with the world's Number One best seller for the first time. Also new to the instant Expert series is *World Religions* by Joanne O'Brien and Sandra Palmer. Both titles are priced at just £5.99 each.

## **CIRCUIT QUIET DAY**

This will be held on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May at Wroxton Methodist Chapel, beginning at 10.00 am and finishing at 4.00pm. The theme for the day will be '**What's in a name?**' reflecting on our name for God and his for us. Copious amounts of tea and coffee are available through the day, and even cake at the end, but you will need to bring a packed lunch with you! The cost for this Quiet Day will be £5 and I shall be pleased to have names of those who wish to book a place by Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May at the latest.

*Dorothy Hewitson*

## **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND**

Rev. Victoria Bravette who will be joining the Circuit in September is leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

The outline itinerary is as follows:

Day 1 Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct. UK - Israel	Day 6 Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct. Dead Sea – Masada
Day 2 Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct. Mediterranean Sea – Sea of Galilee	Day 7 Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct. Jerusalem – Bethlehem
Day 3 Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct. Lakeside	Day 8 Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct. Old Jerusalem
Day 4 Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct. Galilee – Jerusalem	Day 9 Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct. Old Jerusalem
Day 5 Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct. Jerusalem	Day 10 Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct. Jerusalem – London

For further detail on the itinerary please contact Val Trinder or for more information contact Victoria herself at *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*

## **THANK YOU (ROLAND)**

Vera and family would like to express their thanks to all friends for their prayer, messages, support and attendance at the funeral of Roland. Also the kindness shown by many in the aftercare of my well-being. Sincere thanks to Reverend Dorothy Hewitson for her caring way the funeral service was conducted and her continuous care, also to Chris at J.M. Humphris for his help and attention. Roland did enjoy coming around the circuit with me, and meeting so many friends, this is our joy of being part of the family of our Lord.

## **CHACOMBE**

**BIBLE STUDY** – At present we are holding this group in the local pub on Tuesday afternoons starting at 2.15. The group is led by Hazel and if you are interested and would like to come along do contact her (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

**COFFEE & CHAT** – We are now holding these sessions on a Thursday morning instead of Friday from 10.30 am – 12 noon in the schoolroom. Do come along for a chat, a cuppa and a piece of delicious, homemade cake.

## **CROPREDY**

Bible Study every Wednesday pm Speak to Hazel Stag for details.

Praise evening 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7 pm Sarah Underdown will lead this meeting. Come and join us for an hour with hymns, readings and a chat with a cuppa and biscuits.

Cropredy Open Gardens Bank holiday Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2013 11.00am – 5.00pm. Entrance £2.50 to all gardens, children free. Ploughmans Lunches & Teas served in the chapel schoolroom where there will be bring and buy stall and crafts. Old Vehicles, memorabilia, dance show, bouncy castle.

## **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

## **MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm**

4<sup>th</sup> April – Stage make up by Jennie Tustain

2<sup>nd</sup> May – Buddhism – Talk by Virginia Yip and/or Melanie Green

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

## **NEITHROP**

Anniversary service Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 3pm speaker Rev Rob Anning

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Fellowship Anniversary speaker Rev Janet Jackson

## UPPER BODDINGTON

Starting on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be holding weekly 'Coffee and Chat' sessions in the Chapel schoolroom each Wednesday 10 - 1 1.30am. These will not be fund raising events but an attempt to get village residents to come together and get to know each other better.

The final of our three coffee mornings for Katharine House Hospice will take place on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 - 1 1.30 am. Support for the coffee mornings has been encouraging to those of our members who put in so much work to make the events successful.

Chapel Anniversary this year will be celebrated on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, with a Family Service at 10.30am which the Rev. Robert Anning will lead for us, and a Songs of Praise service at 6pm which will be led by our minister, the Rev. Janet Jackson. The celebrations will continue on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the usual Songs of Praise at 7.30pm. This year we will be singing Sankey hymns again (favourites with our members) and friends from local churches will be joining us. Singing will last for about 75 minutes and then refreshments will be served in the schoolroom. During the evening a collection will be taken for the Hosannah Childrens' Home.

We invite friends from the Circuit to join us for any of our activities. A warm welcome awaits you!

### CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

10<sup>th</sup> April – Methodist Homes Association – Katie Lee

24<sup>th</sup> April – Musical afternoon – Tony Swift and friends

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY EDITION  
THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
MARY TANNER**

**(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)**