

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER August/September 2014

This is a “now and then” time

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

Rev'd Canon David Adams, former Vicar of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, writing in his 2009 book about his time on Holy Island, describes the island as a “Now and Then Place”.

He means this in at least two ways: First, twice a day what is clearly an island becomes connected to the mainland as the tide recedes. This provides the opportunity for visitors to make their way to this lovely, special place across the causeway. But secondly, and more importantly, his description of the island as a “now and then place” describes precisely what you find when you visit. You are there in the present, you are part of the present, and yet you can't avoid the past, the “then place” which has made the island just what it is.

When you arrive on Holy Island you are joining with hundreds of people throughout history who have lived on Holy Island; perhaps the most notable are St Aidan and St Cuthbert. And you become both part of the present, and almost immediately, a part of the past.

As Rev Dorothy Hewitson and myself prepare to leave Banbury Circuit, we are both acutely aware that we have been a part of the “now”, but our “now time” is quickly running out. From September 1, we are both history here, and will have to come to terms with being in the “then time”.

For us, life continues in different places where we feel that God will have something new for us to do. Then, at least for a time, we will again step into “now time”. Meanwhile, you all here in Banbury Circuit will welcome Rev Lin Francis, coming from Brighton to be your new Superintendent Minister. I hope you will give her the same support and encouragement you have given to both Dorothy and myself as Lin steps into your “now time”.

But regardless of which “time” we all stand in, whether it is “now time” or “then time” we have to remember that the God we worship and serve is outside of time, and therefore remains our God of all time, always present, always supporting, always providing, always caring.

That has been my experience of God over the five years here in Banbury, and indeed, during the twenty-five years of ministry from which I am about to retire. The thought of a God who lives outside of time and yet can step into our time through Jesus, is an amazing thought, an intriguing thought, and also a thought which stretches our mere imaginations. But I am certain it is true.

That is why the Apostle Paul, writing in his letter to the Romans, chapter 8, says: *“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”.*

CORRECTION TO THE CURRENT PLAN

Please note that the next Circuit Meeting is actually on Tuesday, 23 September, at 7.30pm at Greatworth. The following Circuit Meeting, will be on Tuesday, 9 December, 7.30pm at West Court, Grimsbury.

WELCOME SERVICE FOR REV LIN FRANCIS

The Welcome Service for Rev Lin Francis will be on Saturday, 30 August, 7pm, at Marlborough Road, when the Chair of District, Rev Peter Hancock, will preside.

WELCOME SERVICE REFRESHMENTS

We have been asked to co-ordinate the refreshments following the Welcome Service for the Rev. Lin Francis on 30th August. If anyone would like to donate a cake/biscuits, could they please let us know by 24th August, Pauline & Tony Giles Tel: 01295 252430 or e-mail tonyjgiles@gmail.com

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Farewell Service for Rev Dorothy Hewitson and Rev Rob Anning, Sunday, 17 August, 6pm at Hornton Chapel.

Circuit Covenant Service, Sunday, 14 September, 10.30am at Marlborough Road.

Circuit Meeting, Tuesday, 23 September, 7.30pm: Greatworth.

Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Meeting, Tuesday, 30 September, 7.30pm at Adderbury.

Methodist Art Collection Exhibition: 29 September to 24 October, St Mary's Church, Banbury: Theme: War, Peace and Reconciliation.

Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Meeting, Thursday, 4 December, 7.30pm at West Court, Grimsbury.

CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

The monthly supper club resumes on Thursday, 25th September at 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church with a Musical Evening by the Impromptu Group singing songs from the Shows. Bookings to David Hughes on 01295 253891 by Monday, 22nd September at the latest. The cost for a two course meal and speakers expenses is still £10 per head. If you haven't been for a long time or even never been, we would love to see you.

Future Supper Club Dates – Thursday, 23rd October – Memoirs of William French, one time Butler to the Queen. Thursday, 27th November – Rev Wendy Biddington, Director of Green Pastures Care Home, telling us all about the work of the home and their planned new build in Banbury itself.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

3rd August

Isaiah 55:1 – 5
Psalm 145:8 – 9, 14 – 21
Romans 9:1 – 5
Matthew 14:13 – 21

10th August

1 Kings 19:9 – 18
Psalm 85:8 – 13
Romans 10:5 – 15
Matthew 14:22 – 33

17th August

Isaiah 56:1, 6 – 8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1 – 2a, 29 – 32
Matthew 15: (10 – 20)21 – 28

24th August

Isaiah 51:1 – 6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1 – 8
Matthew 16:13 – 20

31st August

Jeremiah 15:15 – 21
Psalm 26:1 – 8
Romans 12:9 – 21
Matthew 16:21 – 28

7th September

Ezekiel 33:7 – 11
Psalm 119:33 – 40
Romans 13:8 – 14
Matthew 18:15 – 20

14th September

Genesis 50:15 – 21
Psalm 103: (1 – 7)8 – 13
Romans 14: 1– 12
Matthew 18:21 – 35

21st September

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11
Psalm 145:1 – 8
Philippians 1:21 – 30
Matthew 20:1 – 16

28th September

Ezekiel 18:1 – 4, 25 – 32
Psalm 25:1 – 9
Philippians 2:1 – 13
Matthew 21:23 – 32

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUBS

This year the Circuit offers two ecumenical holiday clubs on the theme, *Megamakers*. They will be held at Middleton Cheney Methodist, 2 – 4 pm, Monday 4th – Friday 8th August; and at Hinton Methodist, 10 – 12 am, Monday 18th – Friday 22nd August. Megamakers is a Scripture Union holiday club which is based on stories of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew. The Megamakers theme is about inventors and we will be building using craft materials as well as telling stories dramatically and with music. Children are welcome free of charge, though donations are helpful. Small or shy children should be accompanied by an adult.

Hazel Stagg (01295) 660 294

Hello there!

In Banbury Circuit we are considering running a new Worship Leaders' training course to begin in the New Year. If anyone is interested or would like to join in, I attach a summary of the seven sessions that are planned. We will be using the updated training version I developed from the original published Methodist material which suits our present needs better.

The meetings are likely to be held roughly fortnightly. I would be grateful if anyone who might be interested in coming along would get in touch with me. The course will principally be led by myself, Andrea Harding-Smith, although there may be others involved too. Generally we arrange meetings to be held in the churches and chapels of the people who are attending the course.

As we have done before, we are very happy to include people who might like to take the course just to explore what worship is all about, but are not necessarily anticipating going on to lead worship as official Worship Leaders. For instance, we find some church stewards enjoy the course as it helps them to handle Local Arrangements more successfully, and others simply find the sessions lead them to a deeper and richer worship life of their own.

Anyone who might be interested is welcome to get in touch to discuss the details.

Andrea Harding-Smith. 'The Stable House', Chapel Lane, Ratley. (01295 670540)

Exploring Worship 2015 Banbury Circuit

1. **What is worship?**
What should worship be? Styles of worship. Styles of presentation.
Who is involved in presentation and preparation? Preparation for presentation.
2. **Structure in worship**
The broad outline. Ingredients of worship. Worship to follow a theme.
3. **Using the senses in worship**
How are the senses employed in worship? Holistic worship.
4. **Using Music in worship**
Why does music make a difference? What music can there be?
What music do we know, both in and out of worship?
Changes in style – and why.
5. **Prayer**
What is prayer for/about? What kinds of prayer are there?
What styles of prayer are there? Participation and corporate worship.
6. **Leading worship when children are present**
7. **Everything else!!**
The role of a worship leader. Practical matters. Technology. Spiritual gifts.
Copyright matters.

**ART EXHIBITION – “WAR, PEACE AND RECONCILIATION” – ST MARY’S CHURCH,
BANBURY, OCT 1ST – 24TH 2014**

This is a year of anniversaries concerned with the two world wars of the Twentieth Century. The 70th anniversary of D-Day has recently passed. The 100th anniversary of WW1 will be especially remembered in November. For many people, building lasting peace and reconciliation is the proper memorial for past wars. Sincerely practised religion has much to offer on this subject, but words alone are inadequate. The exhibition at St Mary’s Church in Banbury will show paintings from the Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art, which hopefully allows visitors to explore aspects of peace and reconciliation through the eyes of great artists – e.g. Graham Sutherland and William Roberts amongst many others – within a Christian context. Apart from the Methodist Collection, there are only two other major collections of contemporary Christian art in the world. They are housed in the Vatican and Geneva. This Methodist Collection is constantly on tour, will be on exhibition in the United States for a large part of 2015, and it is a privilege to be able to see such paintings in Banbury. For more details on line, go to www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection. Material will be available in St Mary’s Church to help people of all ages to access the paintings and themes. Various topics in KS 3 and 4 could be explored for school children; Religious Studies and Art departments will be especially interested. The very different styles of paintings will be of interest to college students. Art groups and societies have the opportunity to see paintings from a national collection here in Banbury. The general public will view these paintings as works of art in their own right; but perhaps through them also explore the important themes of war, peace and reconciliation. It is hoped that as many as possible will want to see these paintings. If groups (no more than 30 at a time, please) wish to view the exhibition, please contact: Michael King phone 01295 678958 or email mpk_mcb@hotmail.co.uk who can also give you any further details. The works can be viewed at any time that St Mary’s Church is open – 10am until 4pm on Monday to Saturday.

Circuit help needed

1. **Stewards.** St Mary’s own stewards will be on duty from 10 until 2, for their normal duties. We will need at least one more steward each day from 10-2, and two stewards from 2 until 4 each day. I am hoping that people from the Circuit will volunteer for as many two hour slots as possible.
2. **Conversationalists.** Hazel Stagg and Michael King will try and cover as many days as possible, but we hope that others (notably Local Preachers) will want to talk to those attending the Exhibition, if required. There are mission/evangelism opportunities when people look at such works of art.
3. **People with physical strength.** The paintings will arrive in crates on Monday Sept 29th. They will be brought to us by professional removers. Thereafter, it will be ‘our’ responsibility to put the paintings in place and hang them appropriately. This will require a work force of 3 or 4 strong people, both on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th.

So if you feel you could give the Circuit a couple of hours for any of the above, please let me know. I have already started to compile rotas. Finally, I would hope that every church in the Circuit will want to see this Exhibition. Perhaps fellowship and other groups meeting between Oct 1st and 24th might use take it as an opportunity to see these paintings – and invite others along too! Thank you in advance for all your help. Michael King

CHACOMBE

Bible Study – We will be taking a break through August and will start again in September. These sessions are held in the home of Joan Boyles. If anyone is interested in joining us, further details can be obtained from Hazel.

Coffee & Chat – The next meeting will be on Friday 5th September 10:30 am – 12:00 noon in the Schoolroom. All welcome.

Harvest Festival – We will be holding our service this year on 21st September at 3:00 pm. Pastor Barrie Lawless will be leading us and after the service there will be refreshments and a display in the Schoolroom of local villagers' hobbies and handicrafts. This has attracted a lot of interest and should prove to be quite an impressive display. Do come along if you can. We'd love to see you.

CROPREDY

Praise Evening – No praise evening in August but come and join us for readings and a good sing led by Margaret Clark at 7 pm on 17th September



The Soup Kitchen at Cropredy Chapel, will again be open from 9am – 3pm, Thursday to Saturday, during Fairport week, 7th – 9th August. Homemade Soup and crusty bread – Homemade cakes – Hot sausage rolls – warmed croissants – cereals – fresh fruit – tea & coffee, including fruit tea. Thursday is a quieter day. So get together, bring along family and friends or, make new ones, and have an “easy on you” lunch or morning coffee and a slice of homemade cake. Early start? – see you for continental breakfast from 9am. What better way to start the morning, or, have an early afternoon break. You can even drop off your donations for The Food Bank. Look forward to seeing you there. All Proceeds to Chapel funds.

GREATWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Afternoon Tea Saturday 16th August 2013 from 3 pm

We are hosting a tea party and you are invited. Treat yourself, your family and friends to traditional afternoon tea at the Methodist church. Come and have homemade cakes, scones and sandwiches and more. Hopefully we will be able to sit in the garden, if not we will serve tea inside.

HORNTON METHODIST CHAPEL

Thursday 25th September 7:30 pm

Kate Tiller will give an illustrated talk on

"Chapel and Community: Methodism in 19th Century Oxfordshire" with opportunity for questions

All are welcome.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

7th August – Room 101 (What 3 things would you put into room 101?)

Enquiries: – Shirley Davies, 11 Denchfield Road, Banbury, OX16 9EB. Tel. 01295 258193

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

10th September – Rev Victoria Bravette – Communion Service

24th September – Mrs Irene Buscott

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month except July and August in the Wesley Room 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.

**Judith Baxter presents
A Family Show**

**SALUTE TO
HOLLYWOOD
AND BEYOND...**

The Judith Baxter Singers
Ron Bentley - Piano
Graham Hayden - Viola

**Saturday 13th September
7.30pm**

**The Methodist Church
Marlborough Road, Banbury OX16 5BZ
for Church Funds**

Tickets £7.50 to include programme

Refreshments available

www.judithbaxter.com design by www.qanvas.co

UPPER BODDINGTON

All the members and friends at Boddington would like to say a big 'Thank you' to Dorothy and Rob as they leave this Circuit. We really appreciate all the support, encouragement and kindness you have given so freely during the years you have been with us. You will be missed! As you move on to pastures new, we wish you, Dorothy, Rob and Pat many years of active and happy retirement.

We look forward to working with Lin as she takes over as our minister. Lin will have a difficult job with so many Churches to look after, but we hope she and Geoff will be happy in the Circuit as we move forward in God's work together.

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday, 21st September, with a Family Service at 10:30 am which Michael King will lead for us, and evening service at 6 pm when the Rev Lin will lead our worship. All the harvest gifts will be sold, by auction, in the Chapel schoolroom on Monday, 22nd September, at 7 pm and all money raised will be donated to MRDF. We invite friends from the Circuit to come and join us as we thank God for the harvest.

DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER EDITION

THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER

23 PINE CLOSE, BICESTER, OX26 3YJ

TEL. 01869 321203

E-Mail: mary.tanner1@ntlworld.com

CIRCUIT WEBSITE <http://www.banburycircuit.org.uk/>