



## THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER April 2015

Dear Friends,

### **Jesus is looking for you! Are you looking for Him?**

As is the norm at Presbyteral Synod, second year Probationer's are, if appropriate, given permission to be Ordained at the forthcoming Conference. This permission was given to three Probationers in this District. The meeting was also told that their Testimony Services have been arranged and all are invited to go. All of this evoked memories of my special services back in 2003. At the pre-Ordination retreat we were all told that when the President of Conference and our assistant placed their hands on your head you may feel the power of the Spirit, but you might not. It may be felt later on. In my case it was the latter on an occasion when I wasn't expecting to feel this, an amazing experience. What an amazing experience it is when we come to know Jesus. To know of his love for us, to realise that he is forever with us, guiding us and enabling us in our lives. To see Jesus at work in this world is quite special.

In the gospels there are eleven appearance stories. Stories whereby Jesus appears to various people after the resurrection. Nobody was at the resurrection, people learnt of it afterwards. They were still shocked by Jesus death, the disciples would have been fearful of what could happen to them, they probably didn't know what to do with themselves; did they go back to their old work, did they continue with what Jesus had taught them and shown them, what was to happen next!

On one day at daybreak (we don't know which day) seven disciples went back to their old occupation, fishing. Simon Peter who had seen the empty tomb had now decided to go back to work, to get on with life. He said he was going fishing and the others said that they would go with him. It wasn't as easy as this though, they didn't catch anything, what was going on? When the call from the shore said "Throw your nets on the other side of the boat" surely he was reminded of Jesus. He wasn't looking for Jesus and he certainly didn't expect to see him. When the disciple Jesus loved said 'It's the Lord' Simon Peter swam to the shore to see his friend, the Lord. Wow! Nothing was ever going to be the same for him. This experience meant that he could never go backwards. Yes, he could fish at any time, but he had to continue with the work Jesus set before him.

When you greet Easter Sunday morning this year, you may feel that the joy of the resurrection is with you which is wonderful, but you may not. Your journey through Lent may have been refreshing and it has stimulated your faith, but equally it may have stirred up questions, doubts and struggles. It may be that life is difficult for you at the moment, but do not fear if the Easter joy is not felt by you. The disciples were very much in this mind frame but through the various appearance events they had new experiences of Jesus.

This Easter, may we all be open to a new experience of Jesus, whether on Easter Day or in the coming days and weeks. Feel close to him in a new way. Do not bury him in the past but look for a new experience of your risen Lord.

With every blessing,

*Lin*



## MARLBOROUGH ROAD

### 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

We will be starting our celebrations on 10 May, when both the 10.30 am and 6.00 pm services will be led by Rev Victoria Bravette. The morning service will be a Circuit service and will include a celebration of Rev Barbara Halstead's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Barbara will be hosting a birthday lunch after the service.

In the week beginning 25 May, a Pentecost labyrinth will be featured in the Church. Visiting preachers for the month of May include Rev Ken Collins (17 May) and Rev Andy Longshaw (24 May).

The full programme of events for the celebration period (May – October 2015) was published in our 2015 calendar. One additional event is a piano and organ recital to be given by Tony Swift on Saturday 30 May, starting at 11.30 am. The piano section will focus on theme music from some of the classic films of the past (eg *The Glass Mountain*). It is planned to have a soup and roll lunch afterwards.

Another additional event to which we would warmly welcome members of the Circuit is a free-of-charge Celebration of Talents event (with the working title of *Come Creative Spirit*), to be held on Saturday 13 June.

### CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

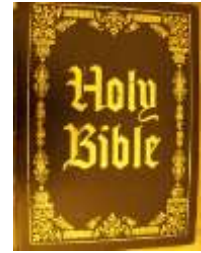
This project now has the blessing of the Church Council and a recent General Church Meeting. The Church Council has agreed the shortlisting of two architectural practices for the project - Acanthus Clews (Banbury) and Stanhope Wilkinson Associates (Eynsham). These two, along with two other companies previously involved, have generously given their time and efforts up to this point. This includes some indicative drawings intended to give us some sense of how aspects of our own 'wish list' for the redesigned Church might be achieved. These drawings have been on display in the Church and members of the congregation have been invited to view them and discuss the ideas behind them.

Our next steps will be to consult with local government representatives and then commission a feasibility survey, testing out whether the broad plan is realistic and achievable.

**Marlborough Road Thursday Club – No Meeting in April**

### **Thank You, Thank You.**

Thank you to everyone who ensured that the Presbyteral Synod which was held at Marlborough Road on Wednesday 11 March a successful event. Thank you for preparing the rooms, baking the cakes, serving tea and coffee, time after time; for preparing the Lord's table and inviting people to receive bread and wine, for washing up, for ensuring that everyone could find the church and hear what was being said but most of all for being welcoming hosts. So many words of appreciation have been given to me to pass on to you. Thank you. Lin.



## **LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL 2015**

### **5<sup>th</sup> April 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

### **12<sup>th</sup> April**

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 132  
1 John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

### **19<sup>th</sup> April**

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

### **26<sup>th</sup> April**

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

### **UPPER BODDINGTON 1865 – 2015**

We invite friends from the circuit to come and join us in the events we have planned to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the building of the Chapel in Upper Boddington.

On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Church will be open 1pm – 5pm, with flowers in the Chapel and a display in the adjoining schoolroom. The display will show memorabilia including 150 years in Boddington, the history of the Chapel and the children's art work.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, the Church will be open 1pm – 4pm with the same display as on Saturday. Then we move to the Village hall (more room, more parking) where teas will be served 4pm – 5.15pm, followed by a celebration service at 6pm. Our Superintendent Minister, the Rev. Lin Francis will lead that service and the Rev. Alan Haine will be the speaker. The celebrations will continue 10 days later, Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>, with a Sankey Songs of Praise evening in the Chapel at 7.30pm. Friends from local Chapels will be joining as we spend about an hour singing favourite hymns from the Sankey hymn Book, then we will move into the adjoining schoolroom for refreshments and a time to chat. During that evening a collection will be taken and all the money raised will be donated to the Hosannah Children's Home in South India.

Please come and join in the celebrations. We look forward to seeing you!

### **GRIMSBURY**

A Prayer Meeting for Grimsbury held in partnership with St Leonards Church will meet the first Friday of each Month commencing Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm.

Spring Sale Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12pm.



Keep Calm  
It's only  
a  
**QUIZ**  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
Quiz night and supper

At Easington Chapel  
£8.00 per person  
An evening of fun and fellowship  
For tickets contact Jo Hearle on  
01295 270397

**Second Hand collection**

Are you planning a pre spring clear out?  
Do you have any unwanted

CLOTHES      HANDBAGS      SHOES

We collect all of the above and have been  
successfully recycling them to raise funds for  
Easington Chapel

If you have anything you would like to donate  
or would like to organize your own collection for  
your own chapel

contact Archie Buzzard on 01295 258817



**CROPREDY**

Bible fellowship meet weekly on Wednesdays at 2.15pm Contact Maggie on 01295 750423

Coffee & Bring & Buy every second Friday 10.30 – 12noon

April 18<sup>th</sup> Jumble Sale 2pm – 4pm

May 25<sup>th</sup> Open Gardens, Car Boot Sale with dance show, all are welcome to help Chapel  
Funds.

**West Court Open Day and Coffee Morning 10 – 12noon Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

Come and find out more about our housing and live at home services whilst enjoying a coffee  
and slice of homemade cake!



Volunteer Opportunities Available If you or someone you know has a few  
hours to spare and are interested in Volunteering come and have a chat  
about the opportunities we have available.

Alternatively please call Jane or Lorraine on 01295 258859 for more information

## MIDDLETON CHENEY

Our alterations are very nearly completed, as the circuit meeting approved a grant and with help from the district, and others too, plus a top up from our own funds, we have been able to convert our vestry into a disabled toilet and small kitchenette.

However, our pipe organ has been looked at, and some advice sought, which results in the opinion that it is not worth keeping (many thanks to Pastor Lawless). We need the space to create a replacement Vestry and office and storage etc and so we are seeking further advice from anyone in the circuit, and help in disposing of the organ in due course. There is also the issue of having rather a lot of chairs to house too. We were given a quantity of chairs some years ago, and now find we have to use them in different ways to what was intended, and they are stacked in the vestibule area. And are in the way. The obvious solution is to take out some of our fine pews, so that the chairs can be used in the worship area.

So to summarise: - Help is needed please to further assess the worth/ disposal/ sale of some pews. Disposal/ Sale of a large table.

Anyone able to give advice or if you wish to speak to either Nigel or I please telephone in the evening 01295 275334 or email [carary14@aol.com](mailto:carary14@aol.com)

We are very fortunate to be offered a beautiful Clavinova by the family of one of our late members, although we do not have anyone able to play it! This gives us the flexibility to host the circuit meeting for example, and Nigel does not have to be relied upon to play the Hymnal Plus. Therefore, we look forward to hosting the Circuit meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Refreshments will have to be served from the very small kitchenette!

Strawberry Fayre

In covenant with All Saints Parish Church we are holding a Strawberry Fayre on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm. Stall etc at All Saints and Strawberry teas at the Methodist Church. All are welcome. Proceeds will be split between All Saints and the Methodist Church. Any offers of goods – cakes, produce, raffle prizes, will be gratefully received.

Many Thanks

Carole Souch  
Steward, Middleton Cheney.

**A Message from Rev Barbara Halstead to all in the Circuit.**



May is a special time for me, particularly this year. Many of you already know that the 7<sup>th</sup> is my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday (Who'd have thought it! 80!!) So I thought we'd have a little treat to celebrate and there will be a chocolate biscuit or a piece of cake with your tea or coffee at the end of the service. I am expecting a few members of my family from various places to join in for the service and a little later some of my family and close friends will adjourn to the lounge for a light meal. Oh I nearly forgot.... No Presents... I am downsizing! But there will be a collection bowl if any of you want to give a token to celebrate with me and it will be divided between Smile Train (Charity for children with Cleft Palates ) and Sight Savers.

The next anniversary is 1<sup>st</sup> July – 40 years since I was ordained at the Lineage Mission, Liverpool. Many Happy Memories!

***'Ill praise him for all that is past and trust him for all that is to come'***

Barbara.

**CAMEO**

**(Come And Meet Each Other)**

Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Afternoons in the Wesley Room at Marlborough Road  
at 2.30pm

Men and Women of any age are welcome to share in a varied programme.

Money raised goes to the Methodist Church Fund for  
World Mission

8<sup>th</sup> April – A week at Bishops House Iona – Katie Lee

22<sup>nd</sup> April – The Rev. Martin Wellings

These meetings are held at Marlborough Road but it is a circuit meeting with members from  
the other churches.

Why not come and join us????

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY EDITION**

**SUNDAY MAY 17th**

Please forward contributions to  
Lorraine Squire, 19 South Street Banbury  
OX16 3LB

[grimsburymethodist@gmail.com](mailto:grimsburymethodist@gmail.com)

Tel: 07971000665

CIRCUIT WEBSITE

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

