

**THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER**  
**DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011**

**Meeting God Face to Face**

*Rev'd Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:*

It is four years now since I had one eye on preparing for Christmas services and the other eye on my sabbatical which was to begin on January 1, 2007.

As I begin to prepare for Christmas this year, I can still easily recall the five happy weeks spent in Australia during my sabbatical. The aim of the visit was to spend some time working in the Wesley Mission in the inner-city of Sydney, to find out what the church there was doing in serving others; and to catch up with one of my closest friends.

Most of those five weeks were spent living with my long-time friend Brian and his wife Lin, and their family, as I commuted from their home in the suburb of Davidson into the city centre of Sydney to do my work.

The friendship between Brian and I began in 1964 when we were both apprentices on the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo. Some 20 years later, Brian and his family emigrated, and so until my visit to Australia in 2007, although our friendship continued, our communications have always been by telephone, letter and e-mail.

As hard as Brian tried, I never fully grasped what life in Australia was like. I heard the stories, saw the pictures of houses and places where they lived, noticed from photographs the growth of his children to adulthood, and even saw something of myself in the images of Brian himself as he and I grew greyer with time!

But none of it was to fully prepare me for getting on a plane, travelling across half the world, and experiencing the climate, the culture, the place and the people. And there, through the personal contact of human being with human being, my friendship with Brian grew and deepened once again.

All this reminded me of an incarnational God, a God who chose to come and live among us, to build a relationship through personal contact, face to face, rather than from a distance. We can still share in that sort of personal relationship with Jesus. So this Christmas, give time to join with shepherds and wise men, and seek him out. Immanuel (God with us), still wants to meet you, face to face. Worship that God who came to meet each one of us, and remains among us today.

## BANBURY CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Our own Tom Wright will be talking to us on "**Trees and their uses to mankind**". He has always been interested in timber and is quite a craftsman. There is just an outside chance that Tom's son, Ian Wright, may be able to join us that night as well if he can get away. He is a National Trust Gardens Adviser for Devon and Cornwall, and they would share the evening.

Usual booking arrangements – please telephone David Hughes by Monday night , January 24<sup>th</sup> (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) and don't forget if you have any special dietary needs let David know and he will pass it on to our Caterer , Iliia.

If you haven't been to our Supper Club, do give us a try!

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2010/2011

#### December 5<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 11:1 – 10  
Psalm 72:1 – 7, 18 – 19  
Romans 15:4 – 13  
Matthew 3:1 – 12

#### December 12<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 35:1 – 10  
Psalm 146:5 – 10  
Or Canticle: Magnificat  
(Luke 1:46b – 55)  
James 5:7 – 10  
Matthew 11:2 – 11

#### December 19<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 7:10 – 16  
Psalm 80:1 – 7, 17 – 19  
Romans 1:1 – 7  
Matthew 1:18 – 25

#### December 26<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 63:7 – 9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10 – 18  
Matthew 2:13 – 23

#### January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Isaiah 60:1 – 6  
Psalm 72:1 – 7, 10 – 14  
Ephesians 3:1 – 12  
Matthew 2:1 – 12

#### January 9<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 42:1 – 9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34 – 43  
Matthew 3:13 – 17

#### January 16<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 49:1 – 7  
Psalm 40:1 – 11  
1 Corinthians 1:1 – 9  
John 1:29 – 42

#### January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Isaiah 9:1 – 4  
Psalm 27:1, 4 – 9  
1 Corinthians 1:10 – 18  
Matthew 4:12 – 23

#### January 30<sup>th</sup>

Micah 6:1 – 8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18 – 31  
Matthew 5:1 – 12

## **BANBURYSHIRE CALENDAR 2011 AND LAUGHING METHODISTS!**

Val Trinder has produced a 2011 calendar featuring some of her local photographs as seen at the Adderbury Slide Shows. The Banburyshire 2011 calendar is price £4 and will be available for sale in aid of the Manses Fund at the regular Thursday Circuit Coffee Mornings. We also have a few copies left for sale of Val's book, "More Laughing Methodists", price £6.99 for the Manses Fund. If you missed the opportunity to give one to a friend as a Christmas present last year, then this may be your last chance to buy one! Copies available from Val or Gwen Franklin (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

## **GETTING TO KNOW MATTHEW**

From Advent Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> November, we start a new year in the lectionary. For the next 12 months we will be mainly using Matthew's Gospel. Rev'd Rob Anning will be running three afternoon studies on Matthew's Gospel, to help us familiarise ourselves with the first gospel in the New Testament. Tuesdays, 30<sup>th</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2.30 pm to 4 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church. All are welcome.

## **COFFEE MORNING**

On **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November** Tony and Jean Swift are holding their annual **Mince Pie Coffee Morning** at their home (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) from 10.00 until 11.30. There will be a Bring and Buy, Cakes, Raffle, Christmas Items and competitions. Admission £1 to include Coffee and Mince Pie. Proceeds for the Manses Fund. Any donations or contributions will be gratefully received.

## **ADDERBURY**

Please note that our regular coffee morning will be taking a break over the Christmas and New Year period so the next one will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30am to 12 noon.

We would like to thank all the people who supported the events of our bicentenary celebrations. The slide show was well supported and enjoyed by all. The service of celebration when we were joined by friends from St Mary's Adderbury was a very happy occasion, as was the open day. Old friendships were renewed and new ones made and the event raised over £300.

## 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 two are 16<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Praise and 20<sup>th</sup> January. All are welcome. Contact Dorothy Hewitson (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

## CHACOMBE

Our Bible Study, led by Hazel Stagg, has recommenced and we meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2 o'clock in Joan's house. Anyone wishing to join us will be most welcome and there's a cup of tea and piece of cake thrown in! Further details contact Joan (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

Our annual Candlelit Service is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.00 pm to be led by Rev. Janet Jackson. Hopefully, the Brownies will be joining us and we extend a warm welcome to you all.

## 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 and the next two are on the 8<sup>th</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 pm. All are welcome.

## EASINGTON

All friends from the Circuit will be most welcome to join us for any of our Christmas services: -

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 7-00 pm –  
Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons and  
Carols followed by mince pies and  
mulled wine (non-alcoholic!)

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 10-30 am –  
Morning Worship led by Mrs Katie  
Lee (including Junior Church). 3-00  
pm – Crib Service (suitable for all  
ages, but especially children)

Christmas Day – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>  
December 9-15 am – Family Service  
led by Rev Dorothy Hewitson

Boxing Day – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December  
10-30 am – Morning Worship led by  
Rev Janet Jackson

Also, on Monday evening 20<sup>th</sup>  
December we will be **carol singing**  
around the local streets to raise money  
for BYHP (Banbury Young Homeless  
Project). We would most gratefully  
welcome any Circuit friends to help  
swell our number and our volume! We  
meet at the church in Grange Road at  
6-30 pm. An ample supply of seasonal  
refreshment and festive cheer will be  
available in the church afterwards!"

## **FAIRWAY**

Candlelight Supper Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December, please phone Connie Moses or Marilyn (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) to put your name down.

## **GREATWORTH**

Please come and join us in our Sunday School Room for 'Coffee, Cakes and Cards' on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November from 10 am to 12 noon. As well as the coffee and cakes there will be a Fairtrade stall with cards and there will also be hand-made Christmas cards on sale. There will be games etc. as well. Do join us, you will be warmly welcomed.

Also, make a note in your diary of our popular 'Carols for Christmas' service which is on Christmas Eve at 6 pm. The Rev. Janet Jackson will be leading our worship. Coffee and mincepies will be served afterwards.

## **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**

Our December schedule is as follow: -

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> December –<br>Christingle in Parish<br>Church 6 pm     | 24 <sup>th</sup> December – Crib<br>Service – Parish<br>Church 5 pm      | 26 <sup>th</sup> December –<br>Boxing Day –<br>Methodist Church<br>11 am |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> December – Carol<br>Service – Methodist<br>Chapel 6 pm | 25 <sup>th</sup> December –<br>Christmas Day – Parish<br>Church 10.30 am |  |

There is a coffee morning every Friday in Methodist Church from 10.30 until 12 noon. All are welcome.

We also hold a 'Thursday Club' for children after school and have been looking at Gods Creation and will soon be starting on the Christmas Story.

We hope to continue with the Jiffy Services to be held on the first Sunday in the month, in the afternoon, at the Chapel (Jesus is Fun for you)

## MIDDLETON CHENEY

We have no organist at Middleton Cheney, and use a Hymnal Plus computerised music making device. Our usual operator is Nigel, and he is of course keen to get the very best results. Therefore, he needs to programme the services in. As Nigel works full-time, he usually does this on Saturday morning preceding the Sunday service. We would be very grateful if an order of service, or at very least the hymn numbers are given either to Mrs. Iris Bean or e-mail Nigel (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) as early in the week as possible please. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

## MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> December – Carols by our Church  
choir followed by mince pies

No meeting for January, but we may  
arrange a meal out – if it doesn't snow!

3<sup>rd</sup> February – Dr Ruth Champion –  
slides on Southern Peru and the  
Galapagos (in aid of 'Linking Arms for  
Rescued Kids')

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 FELLOWSHIP NEWCOMERS VERY WELCOME ALL MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAYS STARTING AT 7.30PM AND ARE FOLLOWED BY TEA/COFFEE AND BISCUITS

8<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas carols and  
mince pies. Choose your favourite  
carols, letting Barbara know in  
advance so she can sort out the music.

5<sup>th</sup> January – Rob Anning – Visit to  
Iona

19<sup>th</sup> January – Lorraine Squire will talk  
about her work at the Methodist Home,  
West Court, Grimsbury

4<sup>th</sup> February – Bible Texts – e.g. Find a  
text like 'I am the salt of the earth' and  
bring a bag of salt

## **UPPER BODDINGTON**

Christmas seems a long way ahead as this news item is being prepared for the Newsletter, but it is time, once again, for the members of our Church to wish all readers a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and to invite you to join in any of our celebrations if they don't clash with your own events.

Our 'carol singing' evening will take place on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30p.m. This will be an informal event when we will sing favourite carols for about an hour, take up a collection for Action for Children, and then move into the schoolroom for mincepies and tea or coffee.

At 2 pm on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Janet Jackson will lead our Crib Service in the Chapel. Anglican friends will be joining us for this event and we hope that, as in previous years, families who don't usually attend services will feel they can bring their children along to hear the Christmas story.

On Christmas morning we will have a short Family service starting at 10.30 am. The service will be led by Eileen Burgess and we hope the Chapel will once again be filled with people wanting to thank God for the gift of His son. May He be the centre of all our celebrations over the Christmas period!

## **NETWORK**

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

12<sup>th</sup> January – Speaker – Captain Pauline Milner, the Salvation Army

26<sup>th</sup> January – Stained Glass – The Revd Rob Anning

9<sup>th</sup> February – Speaker – The Revd Dorothy Hewitson

## I CAN'T

I can't do the sermon in chapel this week,  
I can't play the organ , I'll just make it squeak,  
I can't read the music, I can't sing a note,  
I can't read the bible, I've got a bad throat!

I can't welcome people and stand by the door,  
If somebody new comes I'll look at the floor!  
I can't give the books out, I can't move the chairs,  
I can't take the collection, I just wouldn't dare!

I might sit beside the old man from the street,  
I might tell him times in the week that we meet,  
I might find the hymns when he loses his way,  
I might see the coffee and ask him to stay.

I could listen more carefully when people pray,  
I could try to live more like Jesus each day,  
I could ask for his help when the going gets tough,  
When the cares of this world, weigh more than enough.

I can be more cheerful, and show that I care,  
I can show that Gods' love has plenty to share,  
I can help in so many ways to fulfil....

I CAN'T, BUT I MIGHT, THEN I COULD..... NOW I WILL

By Jean Burden Hornton Methodist Church

**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY EDITION  
THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,**