

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER December 2012/January 2013

“Mary pondered these things in her heart”

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

Forty-five years ago, on the 3rd December 1967, Christian Barnard performed the first heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, a 54-year-old grocer, suffering from diabetes and incurable heart disease. The heart donor was a young woman, Denise Darvall, who had been rendered brain damaged in an accident the day before, while crossing a street in Cape Town. Louis Washkansky lived for 18 days before he succumbed to pneumonia.

Since then, heart surgery has come on in leaps and bounds, and whilst we cannot say that a heart transplant is an “every day occurrence”, what happened in South Africa in December 1967 has led to an enormous improvement in the quality of life and life expectancy for those with heart conditions.

The prophet Jeremiah lived in the latter part of the seventh century and the first part of the sixth century BC. Not only did he predict the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnessar, but he also delivered God’s words of hope to the people living in exile in Babylon. Those words included: “*This is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel after those days. I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people*”.

In other words, God was promising his people a heart transplant. The operation was completed over 2,000 years ago, when Jesus came as a tiny child and was born into our world in Bethlehem. As with all babies, they have a habit of claiming our hearts by their beauty and their vulnerability. But this child continued to claim our hearts into his adult life. His regular challenge was to “follow me” if you want a heart-changing experience. And he continues to claim our hearts in every age.

Whichever way you want to understand Christmas, whether it be the literal stories of the beginning of Jesus life on earth, God coming among us; or a series of stories which through their truth, have much to teach us about a God who loves his world, and especially his people, as much as it is possible to love, there is no escaping that the stories contain so many people whose hearts were moved by the experience of meeting this child.

And if Christmas is to have a “real” meaning, it is to show that Jesus is still offering to do a “heart transplant” on anyone who is willing to invite him into their lives, and that transplant will give them not just a few days of life, but life in all its fullness for ever.

So as you sing the words of that well-known carol again this Christmas, take the words to heart:

*“What shall I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him – give my heart”.*

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

Sunday, December 2 at 10am: Toy Service.

Sunday, December 9 at 4.30pm: Outreach Tea followed by a Service with Carols at 6pm.

Sunday, December 16 at 4pm: Christingle Service.

Sunday, December 16 at 6.30pm: Service Organisations Carol Service.

Sunday, December 23 at 10.30am: Nativity Service.

Sunday, December 23 at 6pm: Church Carol Service.

Monday, December 24 at 11.30pm: Christmas Eve Holy Communion.

Tuesday, December 25 at 9.30am: Christmas Day Family Service.

GRIMSBURY

Sunday, December 16 at 11.15am: Carol Service.

Tuesday, December 25 at 10.30am Morning Service.

NEITHROP

Sunday, December 23 at 3pm: Carol Service.

CROPREDY

Friday, 14 December at 7pm: Carols on the Green.

Sunday, 23 December at 10.30am: Carol Service.

Tuesday, 25 December at 10.45am: Christmas Day Family Service.

CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

The Circuit Supper Club in January 2013 has had to alter its date to Thursday 31st January at 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church. The speaker is Alan Brewer, an ex BOAC Steward, who is calling his talk "Up in the clouds with some fluffy bits". He promises to be very entertaining!

The Menu that night will be: - Pork Stroganoff served with rice and syrup sponge pudding with custard.

Please book with David Hughes (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) by Monday evening 28th January at the latest with any special dietary needs. All are very welcome.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2012 - 2013

December 2nd

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25 1 – 10
1 Thessalonians 3:9 – 13
Luke 21:25 - 36

December 9th

Baruch 5:1-9 or
Malachi 3:1-4
Canticle: Benedictus
(Luke 1:68-79)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 16th

Zephania 3:14-20
Canticle: Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 23rd

Micah 5:2 -5a
Canticle: Magnificat
(Luke 1:46b-55)
or Psalm 80:1 - 7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

December 30th

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12 – 17
Luke 2:41-52

January 6th

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

January 13th

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20th

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 27th

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthian 12:12–31a
Luke 4:14-21

NEED TO SAY SOMETHING?

The quickest of glances at our Preaching Plan reveals our need for more preachers and worship leaders. Could you help? Do you have something to say about God?

When I started thinking about this I was 25, had no message to say, was petrified of talking to people and couldn't drive a car to get myself to any chapel except my own. However, I saw gaps on the Plan.

The first three parts of Local Preachers studies are non-assessed and a real eye-opener to what our worship is made of and what preachers are trying to do for us. Would you like to share in a study group sharing the introduction to LP training, just to learn more?

Perhaps you would consider looking at what it takes to become a Worship Leader- look at the back of the Plan and see how many forward-looking churches have them now.

As to looking forward, our Circuit needs more workers of every kind. Actions speak louder than words; there are many gifts, some are invisible! Do you pray, plan, add up, telephone, make tea, write letters, colour in, listen, socialise, try new things?

Hazel Staggs

ADDERBURY

2013 CALENDAR – Val Trinder has produced a calendar again this year featuring her photographs entitled Landscapes of Britain. Pictures include Scottish mountains, a dramatic coastal sunset and winter reflections on Wroxton pond! Price £5 – profits will go to projects at Adderbury and Circuit funds. To buy a copy please contact Val (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

CHACOMBE

BIBLE STUDY – The meetings are going well with much lively and interesting conversation. They are being held in the home of Joan Boyles on Tuesday afternoons at 2 pm led by Hazel Stagg. Interested? – Further information contact Hazel (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

COFFEE & CHAT – The ever popular sessions take place on Friday mornings from 10.30 am – 12 noon in the school room where a warm welcome will always be ensured

CHRISTMAS SERVICES – Sunday 23rd December at 6 pm candlelit service led by Joan Boyles and Lin Turnock. Christmas Day at 10 am short service led by Rev Janet Jackson

CROPREDY

We have Carol singing on The Village Green on 14th December at 7.30 pm

Praise evening come and join us for an hour together singing your favourite hymns and listening to the speaker. No meeting in December but speaker on 22nd January at 7 pm is Partrica Haley

Bible Study every Wednesday pm Speak to Hazel Stagg for details

EASINGTON

On Saturday 1st December from 10-30 am to 12-00 noon we are holding a **Christmas Coffee Morning** at the church in Grange Road. Do join us for some good fellowship over tea/coffee and a browse around our Christmas stalls selling cards, craft and gift items. All proceeds to church funds.

Christmas Services and Activities

Monday 17th December 6-30 pm – Carol singing around the local area (in aid of Banbury Young Homeless Project)

Friday 21st December 7-00 pm – Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, followed by seasonal refreshments

Sunday 23rd December 10-30 am – Morning Worship led by Margaret Clarke
3-00 pm – Crib Service (specially suitable for children)

Tuesday 25th December 9-15 am – Christmas Day Service led by Rev Dorothy Hewitson

All friends from around the circuit would be most welcome to join us for any of the above.

FAIRWAY METHODIST CHURCH

Annual Candlelight Supper

Saturday 15th December 6pm - £7.50

Names to Connie Moses (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

HINTON METHODIST CHURCH (Woodford Halse)

Please put this in your diaries now

Saturday 1st December from 10.00am to 12.00pm – Woodford Churches Together Tea & Coffee Morning at Hinton Methodist Church.

Saturday 8th December from 10.00am to 12.00pm Hinton Methodist Church invites you all to come and join us for tea, coffee and biscuits/cake as we will be raising funds for our Church; we will be making a small charge for the drinks and eats. There will be a stall for you to purchase items and you might find that Christmas present you were looking for. If you do not have a car the 200 bus from Banbury Bus Station stops outside the church.

Sunday 9th December at 10.30am Carol Service. Hinton Methodist invites you all to come and join us to sing carols. The service is followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

Saturday 5th January 2013 from 10.00am to 12.00pm – Woodford Churches Together Tea & Coffee Morning at Hinton Methodist Church.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

6th December – Carols followed by mince pies

January – No meeting as it is too close to New Year

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

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP

MEETINGS START AT 7.30 pm

12th December – Carols & Mince Pies

9th January – Christmas Gifts, please bring a favourite gift along

23rd January – Nigel Deakin – Beacon Centre

UPPER BODDINGTON

Christmas Celebrations – We will be holding our usual carol singing evening on Tuesday, 18th December, at 7.30pm. This event consists of singing favourite carols in the Chapel for about an hour, after which mince pies and cups of tea will be served in the adjoining schoolroom. We will take up a collection and the money given will be donated to Action for Children.

On Christmas Eve a Crib Service will take place at 2pm. This will be a United Service and we hope people from all denominations (or none) will come. The Rev. Janet Jackson will lead the service and there will be a warm welcome for everyone who joins us.

On Christmas Morning the usual Family Celebration Service is planned for 10.30am. The service will last about half an hour and will be led by Eileen Burgess.

The Chapel will be decorated and warm (we hope) and anyone who feels able to attend any of our celebrations will be made very welcome. We wish all our friends in the Circuit a very joyful and peaceful Christmas.

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.

12th December – Dinner, followed by carols

26th December – No meeting

9th January – St John ambulance – Margaret Hughes

23rd January – Market Town or Shoppers' Paradise? – Brian Little

**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY EDITION
THURSDAY 10TH JANUARY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO
MARY TANNER,
(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)**