

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2012**

Thinking About Lent

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February. To many, the start of Lent is associated with pancakes, and the time of Lent is associated with “giving something up”. You can be sure that in the next few weeks, you will hear someone say something like: “I haven’t decided what to give up for Lent this year”. Can I ask you what you will be doing during the period of Lent?

By the fourth century, the period of Lent was firmly established in the calendar of the Christian church. Originally, the forty days, which equate to the time Jesus spent being tempted in the desert following his baptism, were used for the final preparations of those new Christians who were traditionally baptised on Easter Day.

Later, the period of Lent became used by all Christians as a time to prepare themselves spiritually for the season of Easter. This preparation was in three areas:

First, there was self-denial, often in the form of fasting. Today, we mirror the fasting by “giving something up”. Second, there was a commitment to additional prayer time. Spending time in communication with God has to be one of the best ways to prepare for Easter. That’s why we still have regular Lent Bible Studies which include time for prayer. This year, our studies follow the theme “Handing on the Torch”, and we will consider sacred words for a secular world. (See elsewhere in the Circuit Newsletter for dates and venues). Third, there were special acts of Christian kindness. Of the three areas of preparation, this one has mostly fallen into disuse. We continue our service to others which carries on all throughout the year, but do we do any special serving during the time of Lent?

On the third area, I think there is room to make a big difference. How much more positive “doing” something for Lent would be rather than “giving something up”. Why not commit yourself to writing a letter to someone each week of Lent, or make a special telephone call of encouragement each week in Lent, or do a specific act of kindness to a number of people during Lent?

Whilst the period of Lent is intended to put us in the right frame of mind to celebrate the Easter season to the full, there is also the possibility that our preparations could also make a difference to other people too.

CIRCUIT SERVICES

The following Circuit Services are planned for the near future:

Sunday, 19th February, 10.30am at Marlborough Road.

This will be a special Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (formerly LPMA) Sunday. There will be a collection to support the work of LWPT. Our preacher will be Joyce Pipet, who is the National Advocate for LWPT.

Sunday, 13th May, 10.30am at Marlborough Road.

We welcome the Rev'd Tom Stuckey, former President of Conference, Chair of District and Tutor at Hartley Victoria College, who will lead worship and preach for us. Tom will also be leading a study session on The Acts of the Apostles on Saturday, 12th May. Look out for further details.

HANDING ON THE TORCH

This year's Lent Study

Christianity is the largest movement our world has ever seen. It continues to grow at an immense pace – especially in Asia (including China), Africa and Latin America. At the same time, Christianity in the West struggles to grow and – perhaps – even to survive. In this course we consider some of the reasons for this and what it might mean for individual Christians, for churches and for Western culture, in a world where alternative beliefs are increasingly on offer.

5 sessions on tuesday afternoons, 2.30pm to 4pm at Marlborough Road, to be led by Rev Rob Anning:

Tuesday, 28th February: Session 1 – A Christian Country?

Tuesday, 6th March: Session 2 – A Secular Society?

Tuesday, 13th March: Session 3 – A Beleaguered Church?

Tuesday, 20th March: Session 4 – Competing Creeds?

Tuesday, 27th March: Session 5 – Handing on the Torch

If you are planning to attend, and haven't signed up at Marlborough Road, if possible please let Rob Anning know (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) but don't worry if you make a last-minute decision to attend. The course booklets this year cost £3.25. An ecumenical course for enquiring minds.

WORSHIP LEADER' TRAINING COURSE

In Banbury Circuit we are planning a new Worship Leaders' training course to begin in February. If anyone is interested or would like to join in, below is a summary of the seven sessions. We have developed the course from the published Methodist material, more to suit our needs and to update the original course.

We are planning to run the seven weeks in two blocks. The meetings will be roughly fortnightly, and the proposed dates for the first block are: 8th and 29th February, 14th and 28th March. There will then be a break and we will restart around mid-April, after Easter, with dates agreed by the participants. I would be grateful if you would publicise this opportunity and let me know of anyone who might be interested in coming along. The course will again principally be led by Andrea Harding-Smith (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) although there may be others involved too.

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.

Please could anyone who might be interested get in touch for confirmation of the precise details, e.g. venues for each session etc.

EXPLORING WORSHIP 2012 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.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS OF BUSINESS FROM THE DECEMBER CIRCUIT MEETING

The meeting was held at Neithrop on 14th December 2011, chaired by Rev. Rob Anning. The main points of official business included:

Safeguarding – Maurice Humphris spoke about the Connexional policy on safeguarding training and distributed a list of all office holders for whom basic training is mandatory. If these have not attended a training session by the end of June they will no longer be able to hold office. The sessions will be laid on in the Circuit and Les Kelland and Hazel Stagg have been trained as our trainers.

Will all local church safeguarding representatives notify Maurice of the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses (where they have them), of all those from their church who need to attend.

Finance – The meeting accepted the final audited accounts for 2010-11 and agreed a reserves policy for 2011-12. If anyone would like to see a copy of either please contact the Circuit Stewards.

Circuit Services and Events – On 19th February at 10.30am at Marlborough Road the Circuit Service will be led by the national LWPT (formerly LPMA) Advocate, Mrs. Joyce Pipet. Rev. Tom Stuckey, former President of the Conference will lead a Saturday seminar on the Holy Spirit on 12th May and preach at the Circuit Service on 13th May (10.30am at Marlborough Road). The Easter Offering dedication service this year will also be at 10.30am at Marlborough Road on 24th June. Other Circuit services are at Greatworth, at 6pm on 22nd July and the Covenant Service at Marlborough Road at 10.30am on 2nd September.

Property – Various repairs etc. to the manses were reported and the meeting noted that the sale of Brailes chapel was imminent. Planning permission for Warmington has now been granted and it will be re-marketed in the New Year. Hornton are submitting grant applications for their building scheme and St Francis are preparing to go out to tender for theirs. Detailed plans for the proposed new building at Fairway are being discussed with the Council in the New Year. The meeting agreed to offer financial help to Fairway to kit out their new building should they need it. Information about insurance, green & disability issues and reducing fuel bills was also given to the meeting – treasurers and property secretaries will find further details in a separate item in this newsletter.

Lay workers – Michael King and Hazel Stagg both reported that they are still at the “listening and learning” stage in their new roles. Michael will soon be meeting with each of the 4 churches he is working with to explore ways forward. Hazel is attending a mission related course.

Other business – We were reminded that Rev. Janet Jackson will be on Sabbatical between 23rd April and 23rd July. “How to lead an LA” and “How to use Powerpoint” courses will be held in the spring (further details elsewhere in this newsletter). Katie Lee thanked everyone for generous support of Methodist Homes - £844 has been sent.

The **next Circuit Meeting** will be at Cropredy on 15th March at 7.30pm.

IMPORTANT POINTS FROM DISTRICT PROPERTY MEETING

All Churches are a registered Charity and should only pay 5% Vat on Gas and Electric bills please check?

We have a District Carbon Reduction Advisor Philip Burns.

Rev John Bradley is our District Disability Advisor he is wheelchair bound and will come to any Church in our Circuit to give advise on Disabilities Discrimination Act.

If you have any questions for Philip or John please contact Cicely Lewis (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

If you have a building project at your church, I can give you a copy of Construction Design and Management Regulations 2007 (CDM Regs)

COULD YOU MAKE VOLUNTEERING YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

MHA are about to launch Banbury Live at Home scheme, which will provide services and support to help older people lead independent, active and fulfilled lives. We aim to enable older people to be less isolated and remain independent in their own homes, through the provision of volunteer befriending, and assistance with practical tasks. We also aim to introduce a lunch club in the near future at West Court.

Do you live near or in Banbury? Could you give an hour each week or fortnight to support an isolated person living near you? We have many Volunteering opportunities. Roles on offer include providing essential telephone contact, accompanying one of our members out for a walk or shopping, or visiting an older person for a cup of tea and a chat – having a trusted friendship can help reduce the feeling of being isolated, and feel more a part of the community. We offer all volunteers out of pocket expenses, and support and training to help you get the most out of your role.

Live at Home was established in 1989 by MHA, a charity providing care homes, housing and support services for older people throughout Britain. Live at Home schemes now operate in over 50 areas, supporting over 8,000 people. Can you help make our new scheme in Banbury a success?

To find out more about volunteer opportunities or membership of the scheme please contact Lorraine Squire (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

HOW TO USE POWERPOINT

The first of the workshops on the “How to do it” theme mentioned in an earlier newsletter will be on How to use Powerpoint. This will be at Marlborough Road on Tuesday 27th March at 7.30pm and Ian Philipson has kindly agreed to lead this for us. The workshop will not only include the use of Powerpoint software to prepare presentations and worship material, but will also include setting up a digital projector. Places are limited so you will need to book a place. If you want to attend please contact Val Trinder, *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)* How to lead a Local Arrangement service will be the next topic covered, probably in April.

CIRCUIT QUIET DAY

Theme: 'A DAY TO LET GOD LOVE YOU'

Venue: Wroxton Methodist Church

Date: Saturday, 14th April 2012

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

The cost for the day will be £5. Please bring your own packed lunch. We will 'picnic' together at lunchtime, as we share fellowship. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available throughout the day. There will also be ample opportunity to enjoy a stroll around the village and visit the ducks on the pond! If you would like to book a place, please let me know. I should like to have firm bookings and your contribution towards the cost of the day by, Tuesday, 3rd April.

Dorothy Hewitson

CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

The Supper Club meets in February on Thursday, 23rd February at 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church as usual.

The speaker is Mathew Ambrose who runs Tooleys Boatyard and he will be telling us about the building of the Oxford Canal through Banbury in the 1800s and the services of his present Boatyard.

The cost for the meal and the evening is £8.50 per head. If our caterer is happy to provide for any special dietary needs if you mention this to David Hughes when you book. All bookings please to David by Monday evening, 20th February at the latest - *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2012

February 5th

Isaiah 40: 21 – 31
Psalm 147: 1 – 11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9: 16 – 23
Mark 1: 29 – 39

February 19th

2 Kings 2:1 – 12
Psalm 50: 1 – 6
2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 6
Mark 9: 2 – 9

February 12th

2 Kings 5: 1 – 14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9: 24 – 27
Mark 1: 40 – 45

February 26th

1st Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8 – 17
Psalm 25: 1 – 10
1 Peter 3: 18 – 22
Mark 1: 9 – 15

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Coffee morning at Marlborough Road Church 10 – 11.30 am on Thursday 2nd February in aid of Women's World day of prayer.

Women's world day of prayer service will be held on Friday 2nd March 2 pm at Salvation Army Citadel George Street. The service arranged by the women of Malaysia and the theme is Let Justice Prevail. Speaker Hazel Stagg. A warm welcome extended to all.

ADDERBURY

COFFEE MORNINGS – Please note there will be no more coffee mornings. We will be undertaking a new venture, more news to follow.

BODICOTE

Coffee Mornings: - Bodicote will be opening the chapel for a coffee morning on the 3rd Saturday in the month 10.30 -12.00. We hope any friends near by will join us in fellowship. We hope to make this a regular get together so please come and join us.

Praise Evenings: - These will now take place on Fridays (not Thursdays!), beginning at 7.30 pm. If you would like to join us for a time of informal praise and worship, then please contact the Church Steward for details of the next meeting.

Ladies Fellowship: - As part of our continuing outreach in the village, we have a monthly ladies meeting on Fridays at 2.00 pm. We would be delighted to see you there (whether you live in the village or not), and encourage you to bring along a friend. Contact the Church Steward for details of the next meeting.

CROPREDY

Praise evenings – Margaret Clarke led a Sankey & Moody evening which we enjoyed in November. The January meeting was led by Hazel Stagg. Wednesday February 15th the evening will be led by Rev Bill Rolfe (weather permitting) come and join us and have a good sing, listen to good words, have a cup of tea or coffee, biscuits and cake if we are lucky.

Bible Study continues every Wednesday afternoon details from Hazel Stagg.

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 fund raising continued during November and December. Our soup lunch together with Christmas stalls was a huge success and a grand total of £640.00 was raised. What a great effort! On 18th November we held our usual coffee morning and combined this with a stall for Children in Need and £230.00 was raised again another great effort. Wow.

December was also a good month. At the school Christmas sale we were invited to have a 'table top' and made a further £100.00. Our carol service was held on 19th December and was very well attended and £80.00 was sent to 'Action for Children'. The children from class 2 of Hornton school came to our Friday coffee morning and performed their Nativity for us, which they had written themselves and at the end of their performance they presented us with a bag of money for Chapel funds which they had collected earlier in the week from their concert.

We have no further dates arranged at the moment, but watch this space.

Our grateful thanks go to all our helpers and supporters during the past year and we look forward to continuing in 2012.

Coffee mornings continue every Friday. Thursday Club after school time. Jiffy service first Sunday in month. All are welcome.

MUSTARD SEED

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT & EASTER

You've taken down the Christmas decorations, so it must be time to start thinking about Lent and Easter! We'll be adding to our seasonal resources in the weeks ahead. For a limited period the Mustard Seed is offering 10% discount on all pre-orders for the following two new Lent books.

The Way of the Desert by Andrew Watson (published by BRF)

Bishop of Aston, Andrew Watson, takes you on a Lenten journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day, from the parting of the Red Sea to Israel's entry into the Promised Land. Combining these Old Testament scriptures with insight from the Gospels, he reveals the continuing relevance of the exodus story to all who would seek to follow Christ.

RRP £7.99 ~ order now at 10% discount

Family Fun for Easter by Jane Butcher (published by Barnabas for Children)

Family Fun for Easter will help you to share the meaning of Lent and Easter with your children in 30 'family moments'. The activities are structured to take you through the season of Lent from Shrove Tuesday to Easter Day, including Mothering Sunday.

RRP £4.99 ~ order now at 10% discount.

To order your copy email us at shop@banburyseed.co.uk or call in at the shop

SALE!!

The Mustard Seed Sale continues ... Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars and Candles all at greatly reduced prices.

Plus ... have you got your Daily Bible Reading notes for 2012? If not, we have a wide selection from a range of publishers including Scripture Union, BRF and CWR, so do call in and have a look.

Better late than never!

A number of you enquired about the *2012 Best Loved Hymns Calendar with accompanying CD*... well, these finally arrived from the warehouse on Christmas Eve! Hymns featured include *Make Me A Channel of your Peace (March)*, *The Old Rugged Cross (April)* and *Jesu, Lover of My Soul (September)* Cost is **£7.99 ... just a couple left!**

The Mustard Seed is a non-denominational Christian Bookshop located at the FRONT of Marlborough Road Methodist Church and is open Thursdays and Fridays between 10am and 5pm, and Saturdays between 10am and 4pm.

We look forward to seeing you.

Ali, Malc, Jo and Ian (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

Easington Toys and Games Quiz – Answers

Thank you to everyone who took part in the quiz ; the standard of answers was high! The winners were:-

1st Prize – Cheryl Messer

2nd Prize – Andrew Haine

For anyone still puzzled, the answers are as follows:-

1	Train Set	Find Line Of Sight For Group	31	Pass The Pig	Hand Over The Bacon
2	Meccano	Bingo Hall? That's Not Right.	32	Buccaneer	Deer And The Old Shell Like
3	Swing	Style Of Music	33	Dungeons & Dragons	Vault And Wyvern
4	Slide	Part Of A Trombone	34	Mousetrap	Rodent Snare
5	Airfix	Ozone Mended	35	Scrabble	To Get Into Position Clumsily
6	Twister	1960s Dance – Think About It!	36	Trivial Pursuit	Negligible Activity
7	Hands down	Appendages Are Lowered	37	Hungry Hippos	Lunchtime For A Large Animal?
8	Play-Doh	Not Work Not Rest For Homer	38	Tiddly Winks	Little Eye Movements
9	Etch A Sketch	Cut A Drawing	39	Balderdash	Poppycock
10	Game Of Life	Diversion Of Vigour	40	Pick Up Sticks	Clear The Garden After Pruning
11	Go	Leave	41	Buckaroo	Daddy Rabbit Meets A Baby Kangaroo
12	Sorry	Apologise	42	Monopoly	Exclusive Ownership
13	Careers	The Path After Leaving School for many	43	Lose Your Shirt	Undress Because Of Hayburner
14	Risk	Venture	44	Frustration	Chagrin
15	Chess	Chest Without Tea In It.	45	Jigsaw	Small Electric Cutting Tool
16	Mahjong	Mother's Not Old	46	Family Fortunes	Relative Luck
17	Chinese Checkers	Eastern Supermarket Workers	47	Don't Panic	Stay Calm
18	Solitaire	Alone	48	Slinky	Serpentine Coil
19	Backgammon	nocaB	49	Obsession	A Fixation
20	Battleships	Yamato Repulse Bismark	50	Round the Bend	Daft
21	Connect Four	Join Together Fewer Than 5	51	Matchbox Cars	Vehicles Likely To Set The World Alight?
22	Downfall	Feather comes after pride?	52	Yo-yo	Greeting From A Couple Of Gangsters?
23	Guess Who	Identity Parade	53	Teddy Bear	Undressed President Of The USA?
24	Mastermind	The Black Leather Chair	54	Rocking Horse	Bill Hayley's Steed?
25	Othello	The Moor Of Venice	55	Space Hopper	Buzz Aldrin Uses This Maybe?
26	Snakes And Ladders	Reptiles Or Steps?	56	Barbie	Ban Insect
27	Coppit	American Policeman In A Mine	57	9 Mens Morris (Baseball Teams Have 9 Men!)	Country Dance For The Sheffield Bladerunners
28	Spy Ring	Mi5 Girdle	58	Oxo or Noughts & Crosses	Gravy
29	Articulate	Coherent And Expressive	59	Draughts	Chilly Breeze
30	Dominoes (Do-minnows!)	Undertake Small Fish	60	Old Maid	Elderly Spinster

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

2nd February – Meal out (venue to be advised)

1st March – Rev Rob Anning

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

MIDDLETON CHENEY

Lent course commencing Thursday 23rd February 2.15 pm at the home of Mrs Jean Charles. Please contact Hazel Stagg for details.

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7.30

The meetings will be held alternately between Neithrop Chapel and the lounge of Yule Court, Boxhedge Square.

1st February – Table Games **Yule Court**

15th February – From fire officer to St. John ambulance man – David Wright **Chapel**

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.

8th February – Members afternoon – 60 years as Queen

22nd February – Rev John Warren

The money we raise goes to the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission.

COME AND MEET US!!!

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH EDITION
THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,
(*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)**