



**THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
February 2016**

Have you read and prayed with....The District Prayer Diary

Dr Isabel King emailed me on 5th January and said “we prayed for you and the Banbury Circuit today on this the fifth day of the month”. Michael and Isabel are still praying with the Northampton District Prayer Handbook as they don’t have a copy of their Southampton District Prayer book yet. Are you still praying with the District Prayer Book?

When I wrote the piece for our Circuit’s entry it was a little presumptuous. I hadn’t anticipated another difficulty with Cherwell Council and The Fairway Scheme. As you are now aware, the scheme is moving on. The demolition of the old church is taking place this January 2016, and indeed will have happened by the time you read this. So we need to be mindful that all of our prayers have been answered, with God’s help it is happening. Continue to pray for the congregation who will worship in this new building and pray for a vision for the work of God in this area of town.

Prayers were also asked for Marlborough Road as the folk there were starting to explore their vision for the future. Well amazing things are happening here too. Drawings of development work to the building are being shared with the congregation and so visions of future mission in the centre of Banbury are coming to light. Please pray for all involved in this work and for God’s guidance for His Kingdom’s work here.

As you are well aware the Banbury Circuit is focussing on a Circuit Review, again using the 4 P’s (Planting, Progressing, Parked and Pruned) that Rev Rob Anning used here previously. All of you are meant to be talking about how you see your church and chapel, looking at what possibilities and potential there is for furthering God’s Kingdom work where you are. Keep praying about this too. Pray for vision, pray for direction and pray for the sight of new opportunities. The District Prayer Handbook explains that the Circuit Leadership Team here in Banbury is exploring creative ways to enable the circuit to move forward in mission. All of us are part of this, not just the leadership team.

All in all, I am saying there is a need for prayer. At one of the recent Advent Studies this was actually voiced and we will be starting a Prayer Group at Marlborough Road on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at 1.30pm. Come and pray.

Let us remind ourselves of what it says in the bible: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 (NRSV).

With love and prayers,

Lin



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Banbury Circuit Lent Course 2016

A series in John's Gospel with parallel passages from other gospels:

John 12 v 1-11 Jesus anointed at Bethany - "Extravagant Love"

John 12 v 12-19 Triumphant entry - "The King comes in Peace"

John 12 v 20-36 Meaning of Jesus' death - "The time for Jesus to be glorified"

John 13 v 1-17 Jesus washes the disciples' feet - "I have set you an example"

John 13 v 18-30 Last Supper - "One of you will betray me"

Marlborough Road Church, 2pm - Tuesdays

16th, 23rd, February; 1st, 8th, 15th March

Second Venue

Venue & time still tba, 2 ish/ 7pm Thursdays

18th, 25th February; 3rd, 10th, 17th March

Bring your Bible!

Lectionary Readings

February 2016

Feb 7th

Exodus 34:29 – 35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

Luke 9:28 – 36 (37 - 43)

Feb 21st

Genesis 15:1 – 12, 17 – 18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Luke 13:31 – 35

Feb 14th

Deuteronomy 26:1 – 11

Psalm 91:1– 2, 9 – 16

Romans 10:8b – 13

Luke 4:1 – 13

Feb 28th

Isaiah 55:1 – 9

Psalm 63: 1 – 8

1 Corinthians 10:1 – 13

Luke 13:1 - 9

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

CAMEO

(Come And Meet Each Other)

Meeting on the 2nd and 4th 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 World Mission Fund

10th February - The Reverend Mary Pheasey

24th February - Lent lunch for talking newspaper

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???

Marlborough Road Thursday Club

Thursday 4th February - Lunch out

Enquiries to Shirley Davies 01295 258193

Banbury Methodist Circuit Supper Club

The circuit supper club meets again on Thursday February 25th at Marlborough Road Methodist Church at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Our speaker is Sylvia Brown who will be drawing on her experiences during thirty five years on a retail milk round.

Please make your bookings and for any friends with David Hughes on 01295 253891 by Monday February 22nd at the latest along with any special dietary requirements.

The cost is still £10 per head which includes a two course meal and speaker expenses.

Come along for an entertaining evening.

Vernon and David

POSTCARDS FOR THE SUDAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION

(Registered Charity No, 290607)

Sincere thanks to all the many people who have contributed postcards for this charity. They are collected from St Leonard's Church, Priors Marston as part of a wider collection throughout the Midlands, and stored at the home of Rev Elizabeth Mordecai in Leamington Spa. It is estimated that since volunteering for this job in 2002 Elizabeth has seen over 100,000 postcards pass through her garage.

I have recently received an updated report from Len Whittaker of Essex who receives sorts and sells the whole nationwide collection. The funds raised for the charity during the period July 2014 to December 2015 amounted to £8,173.00. The good news is that almost twice as many cards were received in the second half of 2015 as were received in similar period of 2014.

However, the bad news is that the number of volunteers who collect the cards is diminishing – but this is, to a degree, compensated by many local collectors send their cards to Len by post.

The situation in both Sudan and South Sudan (the division took place in recent years) is still dire and is described by those with firsthand experience as “among the most dangerous and unstable in the world”. The churches are continuing to work for peace and a better way of life locally for residents, and some progress is being made. I have further information if anyone is interested.

We are reminded that virtually all postcards have some value to collectors, be they old or new, used or unused, coloured, sepia or black and white, large or small, British or Foreign. But please, do not attempt to remove the stamp as this makes a postcard worthless.

Sadly, Christmas or birthday cards cannot be accepted.

Margaret Clarke.

EASINGTON

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 25881

GRIMSBURY

It is with sadness we inform you that Mr Peter Hunt, our senior steward at Grimsbury, passed away on January 14th 2016.

A service of thanksgiving for Peters life will be held on Monday 1st February at 12 noon at our Chapel followed by a short committal service at Banbury Crematorium at 1pm. Refreshments will be served at West Court, Peters home after the service.

All friends from the circuit are welcome.

ADDERBURY

The Women's World Day of Prayer service in Adderbury this year will be held in the Methodist Church at 2 pm on Friday 4th March. This will follow on from the ecumenical Lent lunchtime talk – one of a series being held from 12.45 – 1.45 every Friday between 26th February and 18th March on the theme "Fresh Expressions of Church" – all in the Methodist Church hall. Everyone welcome.

We have recently started a "Knitting for Refugees" group in Adderbury supported by the ecumenical Outreach Group. The group set a date and time for an exploratory first meeting after advertising in Adderbury Contact. We collected wool, needles and patterns but had no idea if anyone would turn up or how often they might want to meet. So on a cold January afternoon we sat down with our needles in hand and were delighted to be joined by others from the village, not all of them with church affiliations. 16 people came in all and eagerly agreed to meet every week. Anyone from outside the village is welcome to join us, Monday afternoons, 2.30 – 4 pm. Materials and tea & coffee are provided and the blankets, hats, scarves etc. we make will be sent to displaced people in Syria via the group "Hand in Hand for Syria".

Do you feel called to edit this newsletter on a monthly basis?

Due to family commitments i am going to have to resign from editing the newsletter and will make the April Easter edition my last..... I have enjoyed serving you in this way for the past 18 months but feel that it is time to hand the reins on to someone else..... please speak to Rev Lin Francis if you feel called to take on such a task and if you would like an informal chat about what is involved please do not hesitate to telephone or email me.....

we must have some IT people out there!!!

Lorraine

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS - 7.30pm

Enquiries to Valerie Gainsley vjgainsley@uwclub.net or 01295 369244.

HINTON METHODIST CHURCH AT WOODFORD HALSE

Come and join us for a free coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits every first Saturday in the month from 10am – 12pm

You can also buy gifts to support a chosen charity.

The stage coach bus number 200 stops right outside Hinton Methodist Church.

CROPREDY

Coffee and Bring and Buy on Friday 12th February, 10.30am – noon and every 3rd Friday of each month. Please join us, a warm welcome is assured.

Praise evenings start again on Wednesday March 23rd at 7pm and will be led by Hazel Stagg.

WANTED! We require some 'The Covenant Service' books 1974 edition if anyone can help?

We also have some bench seats with backs surplus to our requirements for further details

please contact

Ray 01295 750647

GREATWORTH HALL

In the October and November newsletters we extended an invitation to an open day here on our farm.

Owing to the lack of response we are unable to proceed.

However you can read a little about what we do on our website: greatworthhall.com

Yours,

Ross Adkins



Lenten Quiet Day

Saturday 19th March

10 am – 4 pm

led by

Donna Drouin and Glenda Gibson

of Christian Artists Together

**explore a variety of art materials and learn
how they can aid prayer**

no experience necessary

art materials & refreshments provided - bring own lunch

**Venue: St Leonard's Church, Banbury - Cost: £10 (early bird
booking £8 if booked by 1st March)**

To book your place contact sueayliffchurchac@yahoo.co.uk

or ring 01295 262 077

**Please note that although the church is
wheelchair accessible we currently have no
disabled toilet facilities**



**THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY EDITION IS
THURSDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2016**

Please forward contributions to

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