

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER July 2014

We are never beyond the reach of Jesus

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

The holiday season is upon us and for many, their thoughts turn to travelling. Some of the travelling will be quite local, perhaps a few days out for “a change is as good as a rest”. For others, their journeys may take them further, even to foreign shores.

Reflecting recently on holidays gone by, my mind turned to a journey that took Pat and I on a canter throughout the British Isles. Our holiday took us to Wales, Ireland, north and south, and Scotland. We visited a number of places of ancient Christian worship, which helped us to understand the spread of Christianity throughout the British Isles, and how we stand in a long tradition of Christians who considered the sharing of their faith as integral to their way of living.

There’s always something that stands out in a holiday that serves as a reminder in the years that follow. We crossed from Belfast to Stranraer on the high-speed ferry on a very windy and wet afternoon. Although it took only 100 minutes or so, it was just about long enough to begin to feel queezy. To take my mind off my stomach, I thought about Christians of up to 1500 years ago who had made this crossing from Ireland to Scotland in tiny open boats, and whose lives were at the mercy of these same waves and wind.

People like St Columba (521 to 597) did it because they believed their faith was worth sharing and that faith-sharing sometimes demands taking risks. The spread of Christianity throughout Scotland and down the north-eastern side of England depended on such risk-taking.

Whilst I comforted myself by thoughts of their journeys, I wondered where their comfort came from when they sailed through similar storms. Did they read such passages as Mark 6 verses 45 to 53, where Jesus walks on water to reach the disciples in their boat “when they were in adverse conditions”? From Mark’s story, did they grasp the wonderful knowledge that wherever they went, whatever their journey took them through, they were never out of Jesus’ reach? Something strengthened and fortified them to carry out the most precarious of journeys.

Unlike them, we are not often called to make such journeys today, but we are still called to share our faith; simply sharing faith by conversation with friend and stranger in the calmer waters of our everyday lives.

Many of us find that quite a difficult thing to do, but Jesus commands us, at the end of Matthew’s gospel to “go and make disciples”. We should have no fear, for even there we are not beyond the comforting and strengthening reach of Jesus.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Recognition Service for Janice Smith as she moved from on Trial to Full Plan, Thursday, 10 July, 7.30pm at Easington.

Circuit Service, Sunday, 13 July, 10.30am at Marlborough Road.

Farewell Service for Rev Dorothy Hewitson and Rev Rob Anning, Sunday, 17 August, 6pm at Hornton Chapel.

Welcome Service for the new Superintendent Minister, Rev Lin Francis (and husband Geoff), Saturday, 30 August, 7pm at Marlborough Road.

Circuit Covenant Service, Sunday, 14 September, 10.30am at Marlborough Road.

Circuit Meeting, Tuesday, 23 September, 7.30pm: Venue to be confirmed.

Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Meeting, Tuesday, 30 September, 7.30pm at Adderbury.

Methodist Art Collection Exhibition: 29 September to 24 October, St Mary's Church, Banbury: Theme: War, Peace and Reconciliation.

Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Meeting, Thursday, 4 December, 7.30pm at West Court, Grimsbury.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY 2014

6th July

Zechariah 9:9 – 12

Psalms 145:8 – 14

Romans 7:15 – 25a

Matthew 11:16 – 19, 25 – 30

13th July

Isaiah 55:10 – 13

Psalms 65: (1 – 8), 9 – 13

Romans 8:1 – 11

Matthew 13:1 – 9, 18 – 23

20th July

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16 – 19

Or Isaiah 44:6 – 8

Psalms 86:11 – 17

Romans 8:12 – 25

Matthew 13:24 – 30, 36 – 43

27th July

1 Kings 3:5 – 12

Psalms 119:129 – 136

Romans 8:26 – 39

Matthew 13:31 – 33, 44 – 52

THANK YOU

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who supported our 'Coffee/Soup/Tea Day' in support of The Anaphylaxis Campaign on Saturday 31 May. With your help we raised £478. The Anaphylaxis Campaign provides information and support to sufferers of severe allergies and encourages manufacturers, caterers, food retailers and the medical profession to improve their services to those affected. With your help we are ensuring that the Anaphylaxis Campaign will be able to continue its work helping people, both adults and children.

Thank you again for your support. With best wishes, Margaret and Jeff Smith.

Hello there!

In Banbury Circuit we are considering running a new Worship Leaders' training course to begin in the New Year. If anyone is interested or would like to join in, I attach a summary of the seven sessions that are planned. We will be using the updated training version I developed from the original published Methodist material which suits our present needs better.

The meetings are likely to be held roughly fortnightly. I would be grateful if anyone who might be interested in coming along would get in touch with me. The course will principally be led by myself, Andrea Harding-Smith, although there may be others involved too. Generally we arrange meetings to be held in the churches and chapels of the people who are attending the course.

As we have done before, 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.

Anyone who might be interested is welcome to get in touch to discuss the details.

Andrea Harding-Smith. 'The Stable House', Chapel Lane, Ratley. (01295 670540)

Exploring Worship 2015 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.

May I say a very sincere word of thanks to all the members of the circuit and other friends who came to Marlborough Road yesterday (June 1st) to celebrate with me the sixty year anniversary of my coming on to the plan as a fully accredited Local Preacher.

I would like to say a big thankyou to Rob for not only arranging the service but also for the many kindnesses he has shown to me over the last few years. Also a very special thankyou to the choir for their beautiful rendering of the introit. It brought back many memories and I found it quite emotional.

As I thanked you all for the prayerful support you have given me over so many years I reminded those present that I did so on behalf of all the preachers and that we need to do so for all those who are yet to come.

Praise the Lord for all His blessings that He showers upon us!

With much love in the Lord Jesus,

Ross

HOLIDAY CLUBS

Hazel Stagg would like to draw your attention to two ecumenical holiday clubs planned for the summer holidays:

At Middleton Cheney Methodist Church, 2.05 – 4pm August 4th – 8th

At Hinton Methodist Church, 10 – 11.55 August 18th – 22nd 2014

Contact Hazel: 01295 660294

CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

The monthly supper club resumes on Thursday, 25th September at 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church with a Musical Evening by the Impromptu Group singing songs from the Shows. Bookings to David Hughes on 01295 253891 by Monday, 22nd September at the latest. The cost for a two course meal and speakers expenses is still £10 per head. If you haven't been for a long time or even never been, we would love to see you.

Future Supper Club Dates – Thursday, 23rd October – Memoirs of William French, one time Butler to the Queen. Thursday, 27th November – Rev Wendy Biddington, Director of Green Pastures Care Home, telling us all about the work of the home and their planned new build in Banbury itself.

CHACOMBE

Bible Study – There will be two more sessions on 8th and 22nd July at 2.00 pm in the home of Joan Boyles. We will take a break in August and resume studies in September. Further details contact Hazel.

Coffee & Chat – Don't forget our Friday morning gatherings for refreshment and a good deal of chatter. Next meetings July 4th and July 18th 10.30 – 12 noon.

CROPREDY

Praise Evening – July 23rd 7 pm Rev Bill Rolph

Chapel Anniversary – July 8th 7.30 pm – Speaker Rev Martin Welling – Chair Val Trinder – Entertainment from Oxford. Refreshments. All are very welcome



The Soup Kitchen at Cropredy Chapel, will again be open from 9am – 3pm, Thursday to Saturday, during Fairport week, 7th – 9th August. Homemade Soup and crusty bread – Homemade cakes – Hot sausage rolls – warmed croissants – cereals – fresh fruit – tea & coffee, including fruit tea. Thursday is a quieter day. So get together, bring along family and friends or, make new ones, and have an “easy on you” lunch or morning coffee and a slice of homemade cake. Early start? – see you for continental breakfast from 9am. What better way to start the morning, or, have an early afternoon break. You can even drop off your donations for The Food Bank. Look forward to seeing you there. All Proceeds to Chapel funds.

HINTON METHODIST CHURCH (Woodford Halse)

Saturday 5th July from 10.00am to 12.00pm – Woodford Churches Together Tea and Coffee Morning at Hinton Methodist Church. There are cakes and biscuits plus a stall to purchase items for the chosen charity. If you do not have a car the 200 bus from Banbury stops outside the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

3rd July – Meal out – venue to be decided

7th August – Room 101 (What 3 things would you put into room 101?)

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

MIDDLETON CHENEY CHURCHES IN COVENANT

All Saints Church & the Methodist Church are holding a Strawberry Fayre on Saturday 19th July 2 – 4.30 pm. Strawberry Cream Teas at the Methodist Church.

Various stalls, games, exhibitions, displays, home baking/produce, children's' used clothes at All Saints. A limited number of outdoor pitches for your own fundraising available at £5 each. Bring your own table or groundsheet, gazebo etc. Details from Violet Timms (Churchwarden) 01295 710431.

All proceeds from the day to be split between All Saints & Methodist Church.

DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER EDITION
THURSDAY 10TH JULY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER
(see paper copy or ask a Steward for contact details)