

**THE METHODIST CHURCH  
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER  
JULY/AUGUST 2011**

## Retreating to Advance

*Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:*

For the second year in succession, we have caught a glimpse of Summer in April and May. But as I write this article, it is wet and windy, and I am hoping we have more than a glimpse of Summer in the months of July and August.

Yet, as we look around us, it is impossible to avoid the effects of Spring and early Summer on our world. The whole of creation seems to be calling to us. Perhaps we can grasp what the writer of Isaiah meant in Isaiah 55 verse 12: “And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands”. In her own way, Nature is drawing our attention to her renewal.

If you will excuse the pun, we also should be taking a leaf out of her book. Now is the time we should be planning to put some time aside in the months ahead for our own personal renewal. That time might be a holiday or short break, or a change in pace or routine (as good as a rest?), or simply taking days out. Whatever method you choose, personal renewal is important, for it refreshes us and gives us the energy and motivation to be able to praise and serve God in a revitalised way.

Jesus was someone who was keen on short breaks. The gospels are full of Jesus retreating to advance. He regularly goes up a hillside, strolls by the lakeside, gets away from the crowd, and away from the usual routine. There he prays, relaxes and rests. There he reflects on the past and considers the future, and returns to his ministry refreshed with a different outlook which could not be found in the rush of his days.

Retreating to advance is a good philosophy. Making space to look at our lives, to look at the world, to re-consider our situation, is always a good thing to do. Sometimes we get so involved in our lives and activities that we can't see the wood for the trees. By taking a step back, we can see the bigger picture and more easily find where our place should be within it.

So over the next few months, I urge you all to find a way to retreat to advance. Give yourself some time. Take a little trip to somewhere you have been promising yourself for a while, even if it is only a bus ride or train journey for a day out. Go for a picnic in the park. Do something different. I'm certain you will discover the benefits of retreating to advance.

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2011

### July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Zechariah 9:9 – 12  
Psalm 145:8 – 14  
Romans 7:15 – 25a  
Matthew 11:16 – 19,  
25 – 30

### July 10<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 55:10 – 13  
Psalm 65 : ( 1 – 8), 9 –  
13  
Romans 8:1 – 11  
Matthew 13:1 – 9, 18 –  
23

### July 17<sup>th</sup>

Wisdom of Solomon  
12:13, 16 – 19  
Or Isaiah 44:6 – 8  
Psalm 86:11 – 17  
Romans 8:12 – 25  
Matthew 13:24 – 30,  
36 – 43

### July 24<sup>th</sup>

1 Kings 3:5 – 12  
Psalm 119:129 – 136  
Romans 8:26 – 39  
Matthew 13:31 – 33,  
44 – 52

### July 31<sup>st</sup>

Genesis 32:22 – 31  
Psalm 17:1 – 7, 15  
Romans 9:1 – 5  
Matthew 14:13 – 21

### August 14<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 56:1, 6 – 8  
Psalm 67  
Romans 11:1 – 2a, 29 –  
32  
Matthew 15: (10 – 20)  
21 – 28

### August 21<sup>st</sup>

Isaiah 51:1 – 6  
Psalm 138  
Romans 12:1 – 8  
Matthew 16:13 – 20

### August 28<sup>th</sup>

Jeremiah 15:15 – 21  
Psalm 26:1 – 8  
Romans 12:9 – 21  
Matthew 16:21 – 28

### August 7<sup>th</sup>

1 Kings 19:9 – 18  
Psalm 85:8 – 13  
Romans 10:5 – 15  
Matthew 14:22 – 33

## CIRCUIT QUIET DAY

Theme: 'MOSAICS OF MERCY'

Venue: Wroxton Methodist Church

Date: Saturday, 17th September

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 and coffee are available throughout the day. If you would like to book a place please either drop me a line, or telephone Katie Lee (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). I need to have firm bookings and your contribution towards the cost of the day by Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September. Dorothy Hewitson.

## **CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB**

Banbury Circuit Supper Club starts again at the end of September. The dates and speakers booked so far are: -

September 29<sup>th</sup> (a week later than usual) – Our own Rev Janet and Rev Colin Jackson giving us a musical and entertainment evening

October 27<sup>th</sup> – Mr Bob Foster on “The Story of the Mary Rose”

November 24<sup>th</sup> – Prof. Ronald Speirs on “A full frontal” – an autobiography

January 26<sup>th</sup> – Our own Rev Rob Anning – “Pilgrimage to Iona”

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Speaker to book

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Speaker to book

All meetings are at 7.30 pm

We look forward to our regulars and hopefully those who haven't been as yet as we do need sufficient numbers to make it worthwhile for our caterers, Iliia and Martin Harvey and family.

Vernon Hurst and David Hughes (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

## **3<sup>RD</sup> CIRCUIT PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

The categories are the same as last year: **NATURE, LANDS AFAR, GREAT BRITAIN, EVERYDAY LIFE** and a general Junior section for those 12 years old and under. Please mount your photographs on A4 paper or card, so they can be displayed at a coffee morning at Marlborough Road on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Winners will be announced and prizes given on this Saturday. Entry fee £1.00 per picture for Adults and 50p for Juniors. Closing date: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Pauline Giles: (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

## **ADDERBURY**

We invite friends from the Circuit to our regular “first Saturday Coffee Morning” 10.30 – 12 noon. All welcome.

## **BODICOTE**

**Coffee Mornings:** - Bodicote will be opening the chapel for a coffee morning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the month 10.30 -12.00. We hope any friends near by will join us in fellowship on the following dates July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope to make this a regular get together so please come and join us.

**Praise Evenings:** - Recommencing in September, 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 make a note of the following dates in your diary: - 16<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 18<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December

**Ladies Fellowship:** - As part of our continuing outreach in the village, a monthly ladies meeting will commence in September, 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. The dates are as follows: - 9<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December

## **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. The next meeting is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July led by Margaret Clarke. All are welcome.

## **CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 10.30 am - Rev Michael Langley

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm

Speaker - Revd Canon John Knight

Soloist - Lisa Rogers

Chair - Rev Rob Anning

All are Welcome

## **FAIRWAY**

On 9<sup>th</sup> July we will be holding a coffee morning 10am - 12pm

## **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**

The 'Jiffy Service' is held on the first Sunday in month at 3.30pm in Chapel (Jesus Is Fun for You).

## **MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm**

7<sup>th</sup> July – Meal out

4<sup>th</sup> August – Evening in someone's garden (to be arranged)

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.

## **NETWORK BECOMES CAMEO**

At the Network AGM it was agreed that as Network nationally is becoming Methodist Women in Britain, and the fact that our membership includes men and women, we will from August 31<sup>st</sup> cease any connection with the organisation and become an independent group.

From September we will be called CAMEO---Come and Meet Each Other. We will still meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Our first meeting of the new session is on September 14<sup>th</sup> when Rev Rob Anning is taking a communion service.

The money we raise will still go to the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission.

**COME AND MEET US!!!**

## **CHURCH BLOOPERS**

1. The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday, "I upped my pledge - up yours."
2. Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones,
3. The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
4. The Rev, Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
5. The concert held in the Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

**DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER EDITION**

**THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,**

*(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*

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