

THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
July/August 2013

The Changing Face of the Church

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

At a recent conference which I attended, one of the speakers was talking about how the Methodist Churches in the London District are changing. One of their measures of change was the recognition that in many of the churches, more than 60 per cent of those attending worship had been born outside this country and had come to live and work here from abroad.

Many came from Methodist Churches in other countries where their traditions and “ways of doing things” were different from those here in the UK. As you might expect, this was a challenge for the churches here: How do we welcome strangers? How do we help them to feel they belong? How do we adapt our worship to make them feel more at home? Or should we change our ways? What traditions are important for us to keep?

All of this made me think of our churches here in the Banbury Circuit. Take for instance Marlborough Road Church. Now in our church family we have friends from Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, The Philippines, Hong Kong/China, the West Indies, to say nothing of folk from all four of our “home” nations. And Marlborough Road are not alone: to a lesser degree, dotted around our rural chapels are people from all around the world.

None of this should surprise us, for the nature of the communities in which we live, right across Britain, are changing, and we should expect that our congregations will reflect those changes beyond the church walls.

And, of course, our diversity does not end there. There are people in our congregations who have come from other Christian traditions than Methodism but found our Methodist churches to be where they want to be at present. There may even be people of different faiths who are searching for “something” in their lives.

All of this should be welcomed, for our congregations should mirror and reflect the communities in which we try to serve. Diversity brings with it “fresh blood”, new ideas, challenges to the ways “we have always done it”. Diversity keeps us on our toes, makes us re-think our beliefs, forces us to consider change.

None of this is new. Read through many of Paul’s letters to the early churches, scattered around Asia Minor, and you will see that those early churches were challenged by Jewish and Gentile believers trying to work out the way forward, each group having their preconceptions challenged.

And underpinning all of this, the recognition that everyone is part of God’s creation, and in the Kingdom of God, everyone should be welcomed and granted equal status.

Having read Rob's article in last month's Newsletter about the Connexional Church, it prompted me to write. I went to Marlborough Road to buy a book from The Mustard Seed and see a few people I knew would be there. It was as you know, Coffee Morning, but I was surprised to find the Cubs from Marlborough Road doing it. Perhaps next time it can get in the Newsletter so that anyone happening upon Banbury on that day, from the outer environs of the Circuit could go and support them. These children are our future and should be encouraged.

Talking to Malcolm in The Mustard Seed, he told me that in his circuit he runs a Holiday Club – for Adults – now there's a thought!! He supports Birmingham City and I support Aston Villa. Aston Villa started life as a Methodist Sunday School team and the rest is history as you might say. I have a piece of Aston Villa carpet – made in Kidderminster – that was given to my mother by one of the directors of the factory who went to her Methodist Church in Shropshire and thought she would like it.

Methodism has a lot to offer if only we embrace it and step outside our own church.

Jenny Rogers – lives at Greatworth and worships at Middleton Cheney!

CAN YOU HELP?

As you know, Revd Janet Jackson will be moving on this summer.

Before Revd Victoria Bravette moves in sometime during the week commencing 12th August, we need to clean and decorate the manse in Stroud Close. We are having the manse professionally cleaned, also the downstairs rooms along with the stairs, hall and landing are to be decorated.

We are looking for help with the following jobs. The exact dates are still not confirmed, but this is what we are currently working towards.

Beginning of August, remove all carpets, upstairs and down.

Have the entire house floors initially cleaned so as to remove all dog hairs (not by us)

We paint at least two of the bedrooms, plus bathrooms.

After carpet fitting, lamp shades to replace and curtains to be hung.

Victoria is hoping to move her furniture in during the week commencing Monday 12th August, but we will still have access the following week to do anything not completed.

If you think that you could help with any of this, or would like more information, please ring or email me as it would be useful to know how much help is being offered.

Thank you in anticipation!

Jean Swift Circuit Steward
(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY 2013

July 7th

Isaiah 66:10 – 14
Psalm 66:1 – 9
Galatians 6:(1 – 6) 7 – 16
Luke 10:1 – 11, 16 – 20

July 14th

Deuteronomy 30:9 – 14
Psalm 25:1 – 10
Colossians 1:1 – 14
Luke 10:25 – 37

July 21st

Genesis 18:1 – 10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15 – 28
Luke 10:38 – 42

July 28th

Genesis 18:20 – 32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6 – 15 (16 – 19)
Luke 11:1 - 13

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR AUGUST 2013

August 4th

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3: 1-11
Luke 12:13 – 21

August 11th

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 18th

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 25th

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10 - 17

SPACE ACADEMY HOLIDAY CLUB 2013

Middleton Cheney Methodist Church

Monday 29th July - Fri 23rd August,
2.05 - 4.00pm.

Bible stories, indoor games, songs, puzzles,
crafts

Contact: Jenny – or Hazel

(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)

Also at Upper Boddington

Methodist Church,
Monday 19th - Fri 23rd August,
10.00 - 11.55am.

Contact: Helen or Hazel

Space Academy is a Scripture Union Holiday Club based on the story of Daniel

MUSTARD SEED

John Sentamu's **Faith Stories, 20 True Stories of Faith Changing Lives Today** was published on 20th February 2013 and sold out almost immediately.

The re-print is now available and is in stock at The Mustard Seed price £8.99.

With God the impossible becomes possible. The ordinary can achieve the extraordinary. Insurmountable barriers can be overcome, and those without hope become the inspirers. Each of us has an incredible story to tell and in this book the Archbishop of York has collected examples of how 20 ordinary individuals are putting God's vision of love and care into action.

A book to inspire you as you travel on your own journey with God.

OPEN GARDEN – SUPPORTING AFRICA'S POOR

Val Trinder will be hosting an Open Garden evening on Thursday 11th July from 6pm to 9pm at her home at 8 Cartwright Road Charlton. This is another chance to see the small but colourful country garden as featured in the Charlton Open Gardens on the National Garden Scheme. There will be a "running buffet" supper available throughout the evening and we are hoping that there will be African craft products for sale from the Phakamisa project – the project in South Africa which helps lift people out of poverty which is currently being supported by Adderbury churches. Admission is free, but donations for Phakamisa will be welcome. Please reserve the drive for disabled parking – there is plenty of on street parking in the adjacent Farthinghoe Road.

CHACOMBE

Our **Bible Study** sessions will be every other Tuesday at 2 pm in the home of Joan Boyles. Further enquiries contact Hazel Stagg.

Don't forget our **Coffee & Chat** mornings which are now held every Thursday from 10.30 am – 12 noon in the schoolroom.

CROPREDY

Bible Study every Wednesday pm Speak to Hazel Stagg for details.

Praise Evenings at 7pm – July 26th – Leader Hazel Stagg – August 21st – Leader Margaret Clarke

Chapel Anniversary Tuesday July 2nd at 7.30 Speaker Rev John Harris
Chair Rev Rob Anning
Soloists Mr G Jeremy and Mrs Jennie Tustian

Continued on Sunday July 7th at 10.30 Preacher Rev Bill Rolfe

Fairport Weekend Aug 8-10th there will be refreshments at the Chapel each day 9am - 3pm

We have an evening service every 3rd Sunday at 6 pm led by a minister

Everybody very welcome at all our events

EASINGTON

In addition to our normal regular activities, we will be holding 2 social/fundraising events this summer, which promise to be good fun!

Local Treasure Hunt - Friday 19th July – Starting at **6-30pm**, this will be a treasure hunt on foot in the area around the church, lasting about 1 hour, followed by a light supper back in the church. There will be a prize for the winner(s). Cost - **£5 per person**.

Beetle Drive - Friday 16th August – This will start at **7-00pm** and supper will be provided during the evening. Cost - **£5 per person**.

All friends from around the Circuit will be most welcome to join us. For further information/tickets please contact Jean Lawrence (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

HINTON METHODIST CHURCH (Woodford Halse)

Please note that on Saturday 6th July 2013 there will be no Woodford Churches Together Tea & Coffee Morning at Hinton Methodist Church and a possibility no church service on Sunday 7th July 2013 due to the church being painted.

Saturday 3rd August 2013 from 10.00am to 12.00pm – Woodford Churches Together Tea & 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 Bus Station stops outside the church. Look forward to seeing you there.

On Saturday 20th July from 10.00am to 12.00pm, Hinton Methodists are having a **TEA and COFFEE morning** with cake and biscuits plus **bric and brac stalls** where you might find the item you were looking for your home or a present for someone. This event is in aid of raising funds for our church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please put in your diary **Saturday 14th September 2013** when we are having a Jumble Sale to help raise funds for our church. There will be more details in the September Newsletter.

Please do not forget that the Salvation Army is urgently needing food (dried, cans etc.) for the large numbers of poor and homeless that pop into their centre in Banbury. Hinton Methodist Church has been collecting for sometime by leaving a large box in their church and when it is almost full the contents are taken to the Salvation Army.

Hinton Methodist Church would like to say a big thank you for all the support from Rev Janet Jackson who leaves at the end of July for pastures new and we wish her and her family good wishes for the future.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

Cheryl and Ray Messer invite you to our Garden Party at 107 Broughton Road, Banbury from 2pm-5pm on Saturday 20th July 2013, (weather permitting, otherwise at Marlborough Road Church.) Cream teas, cakes, ice creams and cold drinks will be available. There will be bric-a-brac, plant stall as well as a treasure hunt. All monies will go to the cooker fund.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

4th July – Meal out

1st August – Evening in someone's garden with refreshments

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

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.

The new session starts on 11th September with communion lead by Rev Rob Anning

DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER EDITION

THURSDAY 8TH AUGUST

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER

(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)