

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2011**

**The “hard sayings” of Jesus:
“Love your enemies”**

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

Trying to be a Christian is a difficult task. We are called to try to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, whether those steps are easy and fit with our personal inclinations, or whether they are tough and contrary to our personal inclinations.

This came home to me most recently with the killing of Osama Bin Laden and I was reminded of Jesus’ words in Matthew 5: “*You have heard that it was said ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth’. But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. . . . You have heard that it was said ‘Love your friends, hate your enemies’. But I now tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . .*”

There is a part of me which sympathises with those who have lost loved-ones at the hands of al-Qaeda and I can understand their need to find a way of discovering “closure” in their grief. I can understand the need for justice and bringing someone who has committed criminal acts to the court of law. But I am uncertain of the value of taking a life in order to gain revenge for the lives of others that have been lost.

The principle of Jesus’ “hard saying” in Matthew 5 is that our attitude towards our enemies will either encourage them to continue in their wicked ways or will convince them that there is another way to resolve our differences than simply by violence.

And the first step for us towards “loving” our enemies into changing their ways is to pray for them. I wonder just how many prayers over the last ten years have been said for Osama Bin Laden? I suspect very few.

Our attitudes towards our enemies has a huge influence on them. Our attitudes will either encourage them to believe their perception of us is correct, or our attitude will encourage them to re-think their view of us.

While there was much rejoicing at the death of one man, I wonder what that rejoicing was saying to the rest of the world. The writer of Proverbs 24 verses 17 and 18 puts it this way: “Don’t be glad when your enemies meet disaster, and don’t rejoice when they stumble. The Lord will know if you are gloating . . .”

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE 2011

June 5th (Ascensiontide)

Acts 1:6 – 14

Psalm 68:1 – 10, 32 – 35

1 Peter 4:12 – 14, 5:6 – 11

John 17:1 – 11

June 19th Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11 – 13

Matthew 10:16 -20

June 12th Pentecost

Acts 2:1 – 21 or

Numbers 11:24 – 30

Psalm 104:24 – 34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b – 13 or

Acts 2:1 – 21

John 20:19 – 23 or

John 7:37 – 39

June 26th

Jeremiah 28:5 – 9

Psalm 89: 1- 4, 15 - 18

Romans 6:12 – 23

Matthew 10:40 - 42

METHODIST HOMES SUNDAY

Attention all Stewards, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders and members and friends.

We have chosen July 3rd as our Methodist Homes Sunday for this year and we hope that in each service there will be either prayers or the theme chosen by MHA used as part of the worship.

MHA have chosen the title for that worship 'Count Me In' and provide very good materials for the use of those who plan the service. Please contact Hazel Stagg or me if you need those materials. As it is the first Sunday of the new plan we will have materials ready to send out as soon as we know who needs them.

3RD 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 8th 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: 11th September 2011. Pauline Giles: *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*

NEWS FROM THE MUSTARD SEED

Welcome again to news about the Mustard Seed Book Club. The idea is simple ...every month we offer a book available to order at a discounted rate. We notify you as soon as your copy is available for collection and then all we ask is that you share some thoughts with others using the Book Club Forum or by adding a comment to the Mustard Seed Facebook page

The book we've chosen for May is ***Pilgrim at Tinker Creek***, a book that has been changing people's lives for over 30 years. A passionate and poetic reflection on the mystery of creation - with its beauty on the one hand and cruelty on the other – ***Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*** has become a modern literary classic. Now this book, written by Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Dillard, has been republished by Canterbury Press to provide the opportunity for a whole new generation of readers to enjoy .

Living in solitude in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Roanoke, Virginia, and observing the changing seasons, the flora and fauna, Annie Dillard, reflects on the nature of creation and of the God who set it in motion. Whether the images are cruel or lovely, the language is memorably beautiful and poetic, and insistently celebratory.

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek costs £9.99 but is available to book club members for £7.99. To order your copy visit the Mustard Seed website at www.banburyseed.co.uk and follow the link.

It's Your Move! Moving to secondary school is one of the most challenging events in life. It's Your Move! helps year 6 pupils prepare for their transition to secondary school. This 64 page, magazine-style book is full of wise advice, real life stories, fun and the assurance that God is with us at all times of change.

To find out more visit: www.banburyseed.co.uk and click on 'news' where you'll find a video about the help this publication can offer.

Copies cost £2.99 each or £12 for a pack of 10. To order your copies email us now at shop@banburyseed.co.uk

A reminder that the Mustard Seed is located at the rear of Marlborough Road Methodist Church and is open Thursdays and Fridays between 10am and 5pm and Saturdays between 10am and 4pm.

Look forward to seeing you.

Ali, Malcolm, Jo and Ian

07879 057 401 or email shop@banburyseed.co.uk

Visit us via Twitter or Facebook and on our website at www.banburyseed.co.uk

ADDERBURY

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

BODICOTE

Spend an hour of hymn singing, prayers and readings, followed by a welcome cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. We gather at Bodicote Chapel at 7.30 pm, on Thursday evenings once a month. Contact steward for details of next meeting. All are welcome.

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 on the following dates June 18th and July 16th. We hope to make this a regular get together so please come and join us.

Bodicote Anniversary Sunday June 5th 10.30am: - This year Rev Langley will be our guest preacher. Afterwards you are invited to lunch at (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). We hope friends will join us to celebrate another year of Methodism in Bodicote.

We have a couple of organists that play for us during the quarter, but feel we need more to help out at services. If you can help in any way this would be much appreciated. Contact Mike Timms on (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

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 29th June led by Hazel Stagg. All are welcome.

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

We had a very good 'MayDay' with the wedding theme display and May Day celebrations. Continuing with our fundraising there will be the Friday mornings coffee/cake/and a chat venue in Chapel from 10.30 - 12.00. Do call in if you can on Saturday 18th June from 11.00am - 2.00pm there will be a yard sale. This will take place on the driveway of Julie and Harrys', (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). Refreshments will be available including 'Hot Dogs' for sale. Please come and support us and snap up a bargain or two. (If wet in Chapel).

On Sunday 26th June 11.30am Churches together open air service will take place on the Pavilion Field with Hook Norton Brass Band. Following the service there will be a village picnic. (If possible could you bring some food for table).

The 'Jiffy Service' will be held as usual on first Sunday in month at 3.30pm in Chapel (Jesus Is Fun for You).

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

2nd June – Tony & Gladys Harris – Slides on Vancouver

7th July – Meal out

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

MIDDLETON CHENEY

Strawberry Fayre Saturday 18th June 2 pm - 4 pm

There will be exhibitions in both All Saints and the Methodist Churches. Handbell ringing, various stalls and sideshows at All Saints. Street organ playing all afternoon. Strawberry teas served in the Methodist Schoolroom. All proceeds to be shared between All Saints & Methodist Churches. Please come along and support us.

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

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, except for Holy Week. All meetings are at 2.30 pm at Marlborough Road.

8th June – Speaker – Canon John Whitwell

22nd June – Garden Party

CHURCH BLOOPERS

1. The service will close with "Little Drops of Water." One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.
2. Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.
3. The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement Saturday.
4. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
5. The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
6. The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to this tragedy.
7. Weight watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
8. The Lutheran Men's group will meet at 6pm. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST EDITION

THURSDAY 9TH JUNE

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,

(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)

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