

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2012**

**Creating Safer Space:
Caring for the Most Vulnerable**

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

In a recent survey of why people were no longer attending church, along with the usual comments such as “boring worship” or “strange language” or “out of touch” was a comment about a loss of confidence in the church as a safe place for children to be.

It is no use Methodists pointing the finger elsewhere for we have had our fair share of incidents which have involved children and young people being abused. That is why we must take seriously the present training programme called “Creating Safer Space”. To some it may seem like another unnecessary, burdensome task but the reality is that all of us have to remain alive to the possibility that young people and vulnerable adults may be in danger on our premises and elsewhere.

We may not like talking about this, or even thinking about it, but the reality is that most incidents of child abuse and abuse of the elderly involve relatives or people they know well. We have to ensure that our premises are places of safety for all who use them.

That is why the Methodist Church requires those people in our churches who are in positions of authority or have access to young or vulnerable people should undergo the Foundation Training that is laid down across the Connexion. We are one of the first denominations to require this training to take place because we are determined to make sure that those who come to our premises are coming into a safe environment.

Elsewhere in this Circuit Newsletter you will find details of those who are required to attend the Safeguarding Foundation Training before September 2012. Already almost forty people have attended the 2½ hour session run by Les Kelland and Hazel Stagg, our qualified trainers.

The next two courses have been set, one for an afternoon, and one for an evening. They are: Thursday, 7 June, 2pm at Adderbury Chapel. Thursday, 5 July, 7pm at Upper Boddington Chapel. Anyone who is required to be trained and cannot make either of these dates should contact Rob Anning or Les Kelland in order that a suitable date for our final training can be arranged.

If you are not on the list of those required to undergo the training but would still like to attend, you are very warmly invited. In addition, everyone in our churches is required to be alert to what is happening around them on our premises. If anyone has any doubt, the issue should be reported to either the church safeguarding representative or one of the Ministers. We all have a responsibility in this area.

Finally, I would want to say that all of this is not simply an exercise we are required to work through. Ensuring that the most vulnerable in our communities are safe is a gospel task. Jesus was very much a supporter of the weakest, the most vulnerable, the easy target. We too need to ensure we are on their side too.

CREATING SAFER SPACE

Below is a list of all those who are required to undergo the Foundation Training module for Creating Safer Space within our Methodist premises. All the training should be completed by September 2012:

Presbyters with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
Lay employees & Volunteer Workers with pastoral responsibility
Pastoral Visitors
Anyone working with 0 – 18 year olds in the name of the church
Anyone working in activities targeted at adults who are vulnerable (e.g. luncheon club for the housebound)
Church stewards
Circuit stewards
Local preachers
Worship leaders
Those training for local preaching or worship leading
Church and circuit safeguarding representatives
Choir/music group/drama leaders – where there are 0-18 year olds or vulnerable adults in the group.

Warmly invited but not mandatory

Leaders of other organisations, working with 0-18 year olds or vulnerable adults, who use church premises
Remaining Choir/music group/drama leaders
Any other group leaders within the church, who may have adults within their particular group who are vulnerable
Property stewards and other keyholders
Caretakers
Church/circuit meeting secretaries

Training sessions last for just 2½ hours including a coffee break, and will take place on Thursday, 7 June, 2pm at Adderbury Chapel, or Thursday, 5 July, 7pm at Upper Boddington Chapel. For further information, contact Rev Rob Anning, Les Kelland or Hazel Stagg. *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE 2012

June 3rd

Isaiah 6:1 – 8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12 – 17

John 3:1 – 17

June 17th

Ezekiel 17:22 – 24

Psalm 92:1 – 4, 12 – 15

2 Corinthians 5:6 – 10 (11 – 13)

Mark 4:26 – 34

June 10th

Genesis 3:8 – 15

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1

Mark 3:20 – 35

June 24th

Job 38:1 – 11

Psalm 107:1 – 3, 23 – 32

2 Corinthians 6:1 – 13

Mark 4:35 – 41

CIRCUIT QUIET DAY

Theme: 'STUMBLING BLOCKS
AND STEPPING STONES'
Venue: Wroxton Methodist Church
Date: Saturday, 22nd 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, coffee and biscuits are available throughout the day. There will also be ample opportunity to enjoy a stroll around the village and visit the ducks on the pond!

If you would like to book a place, please let me know. I should like to have firm bookings and your contribution towards the cost of the day by Tuesday, 11th September.

Dorothy Hewitson

CIRCUIT SERVICES

The Easter Offering dedication service this year will also be at 10.30am at Marlborough Road on 24th June.

Other Circuit services are at Greatworth, at 6pm on 22nd July and the Covenant Service at Marlborough Road at 10.30am on 2nd September.

Who Cares?.... MHA does

Why do we care?.... 'Because they are worth it!'

And this will be the theme for our 2012 Methodist Homes Sunday Appeal on June 10th. The slogan 'because you're worth it' is a well known advertising phrase which seeks to persuade people to buy a company's products, not primarily because they need such treatments but because they deserve them. At MHA we believe that older people both need and deserve good quality care.

Our services are founded on love, compassion and respect and we care passionately about empowering older people, by offering choice for a fulfilled later life with a range of quality services to meet different needs. The last ratings of the Care Quality Commission showed 97% of our care services were classed as 'good' or 'excellent', the highest of any care provider and we intend to continue to rise to the challenges of the current environment.

We could not do this without our..

- Dedicated staff who have both the necessary skills and the right values and attitudes to provide a very special service to older people;
- Committed volunteers who give their time and talents to enhance the lives of the older people in our Homes, Housing and Live at Homes Schemes or act as our Representatives to raise awareness and funds at Church, Circuit and District level;
- Generous supporters, who give personal donations, bestow grants or organise and take part in fund raising events.

Our charitable income makes a significant difference to the service we offer. It helps us to expand and improve our services and underpin the quality of our services through Chaplaincy and Spirituality and well being initiatives such as Music Therapy and Reflexology.

We began with one care home in 1945. Today we have 91 care homes, 54 retirement housing schemes, some of which have the option to buy, rent or part own, 52 Live at Home community schemes and Live at Home style services such as lunch clubs and activity groups from 18 of our existing projects. What a journey, and one which members of the Methodist Church have shared, so we thank you all for your continuing support.

We hope you will join us on our special Sunday and help us to celebrate ageing, value older people, learn from their wisdom and experiences, offer them the support they need and prove to us all that ***they are indeed worth it!***

For further information contact your Circuit representative Katie Lee

THE STREET PASTORS HAVE ARRIVED

Street Pastors is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and dialogue.

It was pioneered in London in January 2003 by Rev Les Isaac, Director of the Ascension Trust, and has seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime in areas where teams have been working. There are now over 100 teams around the United Kingdom.

Each project is set up by Ascension Trust and run by a local coordinator with support from Ascension Trust and local churches and community groups, in partnership with Police, Council and other statutory agencies.

A Street Pastor can be a Church leader/minister or member with a concern for society - in particular young people, and who is willing to engage people where they are, in terms of their thinking (i.e. their perspective of life) and location (i.e. where they hang out - be it on the streets, in the pubs and clubs or at parties etc).

In Banbury 5 churches have formed a group to act as the management team for a Street Pastors Project to begin in our town. The churches are Marlborough Road, The Salvation Army, Jubilee Church, the Community Church and St Leonard's.

At this stage the six people representing these churches have formed the management committee and will be responsible for the running of the project in Banbury, under the direction of the Ascension Trust, who provide uniforms, training, and all corporate and legal support. There is very positive support from Council officers, the Police and other local agencies.

It is hoped that the project will put teams of at least 3 people on the streets of the town, between 10 pm and 4 am (probably at a weekend). The "home base" is Marlborough Road Church (Wesley room). The teams are on the street to show a practical response to their faith in Christ, and to listen, care and help those we meet. It is not an evangelistic role but a "faith in action" role.

It will need more people to make it work than just the 6 of us involved in the management team and so far we have been blessed with volunteers from several other town churches, including Southam Rd Evangelical, St Mary's, Jubilee Church, St Francis, Banbury Community Church and Bodicote Church,

- *To be a Street Pastor you need to be over 18 (no upper age limit), a church member and able to commit to our training programme*

We also have people who are actively providing prayer support on the nights that teams are on patrol. Prayers for the work in the community, the safety of those

involved, God's guidance for the development of the work are very much part of the project.

Financial support and fund raising is also going to be required to help keep the project stocked with our flip flops, water tissues, lollies and other running costs involved.

More information can be found on the website www.streetpastors.co.uk. Banbury project now has it's own web page. Take a look.

We started our official patrols after the commissioning service on March 23rd and over Easter managed to put out a patrol on both the Friday and Saturday nights. On Easter Sunday the Chapel Nightclub held a fund raising Night and donated £1055 to the project. We are now aiming to be out at least one night a week and two on some weeks.

We have been extremely well received by those people out in the town on the nights we are there. The door staff and pub and club managers have been very supportive and the Banbury Pubwatch scheme together with the local police, donated 2 radios to us so we can be linked in to the CCTV network. This helps us to stay safe but also provides another way of calling for medical or police assistance.

So far we have helped several people to get home safely by sorting out taxis, getting them to hospital in an ambulance or just being there whilst they sorted themselves out. We have all learned that we can stay awake all night and there is too much going on to want to fall asleep! Our fears and questions that we have had before we started this have in the main been resolved. We appreciate it is early days and we still have a lot to learn about being a good Street Pastor. However we have been able to talk to people about our faith and encourage them to experience the Good News of the gospels for themselves.

We are still having some training sessions and we will be recruiting as more people keep asking about becoming a Street Pastor, if you think it is something you could do and want to know more please contact me.

A quote from the team leader of the last patrol “for me it seemed the one thing of any significance I have done in the last few months. It was a privilege to be out there.”

For me personally it was certainly a challenge to volunteer but the training days have been a really good time of fellowship. We have all shared our faith and experiences. We have shared prayers, laughs and learned about all sorts of things. It has been really good to be part of something with such a buzz about it and to make new friends from other churches and to work with them in a common purpose.

If you would like to know more take a look at the website or contact me.

(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)

ADDERBURY

A talk will be given on Thomas Chippendale the cabinet maker
By David Gibbard
On Wednesday, 11th July at 7.30pm
All funds raised will go to Adderbury Methodist Chapel
Everyone is welcome

BODICOTE ANNIVERSARY

June 18th at 10.30am
Preacher Mr A Harter
All invited to lunch at 46 Horton View after the service

BODICOTE PRAISE EVENINGS

Leaving behind us the cold and dark evenings (we hope!), Praise Evenings have started up again in the chapel. These are an informal time of hymn singing, prayers and readings, lasting an hour, followed by tea or coffee. All are welcome to share with us, so please come and (if you can) bring a friend.

Forthcoming dates are as follows: Friday 25th May, Friday 22nd June, Friday 20th July, and Friday 31st August commencing at 7.30pm.

Dorothy Hewitson

CHACOMBE

Coffee Morning

We now have a weekly Coffee Morning held in our Schoolroom. It takes place every Thursday from 10.30am - 12.00 noon and is proving to be very popular. Any monies raised will go to charity. If you happen to be in the area, pop in for a cuppa, piece of homemade cake and lots of chat.

Bible Study

These sessions take place at 2.15pm in the home of Joan Boyles and are led by Hazel Stagg. Contact Joan. *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*

CROPREDY

June Praise evening June 27th 7 pm leader Rev Dorothy Hewitson come along and join friends from the circuit for a good sing, listen to readings and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

EASINGTON

All the fun of the fair! All are welcome to join us on Saturday 16th June 2 – 4 pm for our annual Summer Fete. A good range of stalls and amusements will be available, together with delicious cream teas!

GREATWORTH

Since last November we have been having an "Open Doors" session every Monday morning from 10 o'clock until midday. A variety of activities are on offer including carpet bowls, jig-saws, board games etc. and there are refreshments: friends from the circuit are warmly invited to come along to any session.

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

Coffee mornings are continuing on Friday mornings 10:30 – 12 noon and are proving to be very popular. 'Jiffy Services' are held in Chapel 1st Sunday in month at 3:30 pm and Thursday 'After School Club' is from 3:30 – 5 pm.

May Day Village celebrations held on Monday 7th May raised £268 for our building fund.

Saturday 7th July there will be a yard sale at 11 am. *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*

GOD MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS HIS WONDERS TO PERFORM!

How true that is here in Hornton – the Christian message is passed on here in this Chapel not only by our Christian worship but also by the things we do throughout our week in the name of Jesus. For instance – Our Christian life in Hornton has changed in many ways including in 1995 when formally churches together was formed.

Sunday School has always been a very important part of Christian life in the Chapel. Children have been taught about the bible ever since the Chapel was opened in the

1800's. My grandfather Percy Stanley was Superintendent for many years and then my father Arthur Miles. The church also had Sunday School in those days and most village children attended either one or the other. About 35 years ago we formed a united Sunday School, which was held in the small room, here at chapel. A good number of children in the village attended. But over the past ten years family life has changed. Many children come from broken homes and visit their estranged parent or are encouraged to play sport on a Sunday and so it has become very hard to continue Sunday School. We now have Thursday Club instead. We meet the children after school and bring them here to learn about Jesus and the Bible. We always start with a drink and a biscuit and then use crafts and play to get the Christian message across, in hopefully an interesting way.

Hornton can be a lonely place during the day. Most people go out to work and the children are at school. If you walk down the street you rarely meet anyone. About 7 years ago, a new family moved into the village from Birmingham. The mother asked me if there was anything in the day where she could meet together with other people of the village, such as a coffee morning. I thought this would be a great idea and suggested that she started one, and offered the use of the newly refurbished Chapel on a Friday morning. However after a month or two she decided it was too much of a commitment and so rather than disappoint two elderly regulars, namely Jean Gibbins and Hilda Rump, I carried it on. So every Friday morning the Chapel is open for coffee, cake and a chat. In those early days, sometimes there was only the three of us, but they enjoyed coming along and eventually numbers increased. I remember with affection Jean and Hilda holding up the traffic as they made their way slowly up the middle of the road with their walking aids and stopping to rest between parked cars.

When the school house was being refurbished and Class one used the Chapel every day, we moved the coffee morning into the small room. It was quite cramped, but we coped. Each week three children would come into coffee morning and read their books to us.

Coffee Morning has now become a popular meeting place where everyone, whatever age can meet their neighbours and friends, share good news, talk about their worries and problems and reminisce about the old days. Young and old know that they are welcome. In the school holidays several children came along and toys and art materials are put out to amuse them. They also enjoy eating the cake. Several people who live on their own look forward to Friday when they can come for coffee and have a chat. On a quiet day we may get ten, but usually we see at least twenty people. We often hold special coffee mornings for charity appeals such as Macmillan nurses and MS cake break. Recently we held 'Bring a Pound' to coffee morning for Katherine House hospice and raised £110.25.

About two years ago Amanda from Little Bourton dropped in for Coffee with her two children - Benjy aged two and Jo Jo aged one month. We got chatting. She said that

she would like her children to go to Sunday School when they were old enough. I explained that we had substituted Sunday School for Thursday Club but they would be very welcome to come along to that. However she preferred them to follow the tradition of Sunday School and said that she might have to start her own. (This she has done, at Adderbury). The Vicar, John Reader happened to be there that day and said that he would be very interested in starting a group for young families. Together they arranged a meeting with other interested people and formed JIFFY (Jesus Is Fun For You) a monthly service for young families. The service originally was held at Horley Old School. However it was found that the atmosphere was not right, and wanted to hold it in a Church setting. They asked if it could be held at the Chapel. Of course we said yes.

That was about two years ago – every month at approximately 3.30 pm several young families which includes mums, dads and young children come along. Toys are put out for the children to play with. Amanda brings craft things for them to make a model, or paint or colour, to do with the subject of the day. Then they all sit on the mats on the floor at the front and John Reader tells them the bible story sometimes with props. Another mother usually has words written out for a simple song, hymn or chorus and leads the singing, very often accompanied by a variety of musical instruments played by the children from the musical instrument box. Usually this isn't very musical but very much enjoyed by the children. Then John leads the prayers. Afterwards they have a cup of tea or drink and there is cake too. It is always a very happy time.

God is here – using us and our talents whatever they may be, to pass on the wonderful message of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

7th June – June Smith – Family history

5th July – Meal out (venue to be advised)

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

A HISTORY OF NEITHROP MISSION HALL

Janet and Colin Jackson have very kindly compiled a small booklet about the beginnings of Neithrop Chapel based on Kath Mold's memories. The fourteen page booklet which includes several photographs is a most interesting read and priced at £1.50 for chapel funds, must be a bargain!

To order your copy please contact Kath Mold *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*

UPPER BODDINGTON

Thank you to friends from the Circuit who joined us for our Anniversary Songs of Praise. We felt it was a really enjoyable evening and the collection raised £282 for the Hosannah Children's Home.

Churches Together in Boddington are planning an open-air Jubilee Celebration Songs of Praise. This will take place in the Charles Cowper Playing Field, which is adjacent to the village hall, on Sunday, June 3rd at 5 pm (in the village hall if wet). We suggest anyone attending should bring a chair or a rug to sit on. Village organizations have been asked to choose their favourite hymns and the service will be led by the rector, Rev. Stevie Cross and Michael King. Light refreshments will be served after the service.

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.

13th June – Rev Mary Pheasey

27th June – Garden Meeting at 2.30pm (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST EDITION

THURSDAY 14TH JUNE

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,

(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)