

# THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER June 2013

## Everyone Playing Their Part

*Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:*

The experience of hosting the District Synod in Banbury recently showed us what we can do as a Circuit when we join together to act. Volunteers for catering, stewarding, car parking attendants, leading worship, hosting and generally supervising the activities of the day were found from many of the churches around the Circuit.

A letter which followed, from the Secretary of Synod, Rev Dr Martin Wellings, said: "We were made to feel so welcome at Banbury Academy, and the care, thoughtfulness and efficiency of the local arrangements team made for a really successful day for everyone. Thank you for all your hard work".

During the day, one of the speakers was Doug Swanney, who is Connexional Secretary in the Leadership Team at Marylebone Road, London. He reminded us, both by his words and by his presence, that we are part of a much greater church than just the local church to which we all belong.

We are a "Connexional Church". In other words, we all belong to each other: churches to circuits, circuits to districts, districts to the Methodist Church of Great Britain, and our partnerships with Methodist Churches around the world. We are indeed "connexional", and therein lies our strength.

I recall an Anglican colleague in one of my previous churches, where we shared premises for combined worship, saying how much he coveted the Methodist system. He could see, perhaps more clearly than we do from within, just how much benefit and strength can be had from being part of the Connexion.

But that strength is equally dependent on everyone at the local level playing their part, as we did in organizing Synod for the District. It serves to remind us that we all have a part to play in our local churches, sharing our resources of gifts, talents, time and money, in order that not just our local church but the wider Methodist Church is strengthened by our local input.

I am certain that the apostle Paul would have approved of the Methodist Church, for in 1 Corinthians 12 he writes: "*Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it*".

Our job is to make sure we all make our contribution in whatever way we can. That way we strengthen the whole church, and that is the way which will lead to us achieving far more than we thought possible.

## **SYNOD – A VERY VERY BIG “THANK-YOU”**

Rob Anning and the Circuit Stewards want to say a very big “thank you” to all the helpers who contributed to making the day when we hosted the District Synod so successful. It was a true Circuit effort, with people from many churches all helping and sharing fellowship together. It was so good that so many people willingly volunteered and we are most grateful to everyone for their contribution, whether large or small. As is becoming traditional on these occasions, Val Trinder offers the following verses as a tribute to all who helped, or offered help in any way.

### **WHEN SYNOD CAME TO BANBURY (MAY BE SUNG TO THE TUNE PEARSALL, HP 132)**

When Synod came to Banbury  
It frightened Val to death.  
But someone should have chided  
“Oh ye of little faith!”  
We hired a great big venue,  
Th’ Academy you know,  
And asked for lots of helpers,  
With several months to go.

So beav’ring in the background,  
Then Cheryl matched a list  
Of times and jobs and helpers,  
So nothing could be missed.  
With Jean providing backup  
Val linked with guests and Rob,  
Pauline would lead the cat’ring,  
And Ray the transport job.

So thank you, thank you, thank you  
To everyone who came,  
From right across the Circuit,  
Too numerous to name.  
A band of willing helpers,  
From chapels large and small,  
Emerged with varied talents.  
So thank you to you all.

Some transported equipment,  
Some put out chairs and signs,  
Some stewarded or welcomed,  
Some parked the cars in lines,  
Some served the tea and coffee,  
Some made the yummy cakes,  
Some cleared and washed up crock’ry,  
Proved teamwork’s what it takes.

Now Dorothy and Janet  
Led prayers and songs of praise,  
And Tony played his keyboard,  
Rob did th’ I.T. displays.  
Our thanks to fellow Christians  
Who worship there each week,  
Lent us their sound equipment  
And showed Rob what to tweak.

The Chairman thanked us warmly  
For such a splendid day.  
A caring, friendly Circuit  
The thought they’d take away.  
Our varied skills conjoining,  
We proved the words of Paul,  
When working as Christ’s body,  
Rich blessings come to all.

*Val Trinder, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013*

## NIGHTSTOP

For many years a number of ordinary people have been offering a very extraordinary service to young homeless people who have found themselves vulnerable because they have nowhere to live.

The service is simple - people offer a young person a bed for the night in their own house, they provide, food, and the opportunity for the young person to bathe and wash clothes. They also offer a sympathetic ear or just the space to relax.

These people are called Nightstop Hosts and they are volunteers who are trained and supported by a local Nightstop Project. Nightstop's are set up by groups such as churches, voluntary organisations, or groups of people who have a keen interest in the welfare of young people.

The first Nightstop was set up in Leeds in the mid-eighties by local churches. Leeds at that time had a terrible youth homelessness problem in the city and a number of church members were already taking in homeless youngsters into their homes off of their own bat. They decided it would be better and safer if they set up an organisation to offer supervision and support. There is now a national network of Nightstops providing support to young people all over the country.

Young people aged 16-25 are referred to Nightstop through BYHP (a Banbury-based charity supporting young people) or local agencies who work with young people. The young person is interviewed and a risk assessment is carried out, where necessary references are sought and sometimes a police check. Nightstop cannot take people with serious criminal records or those with alcohol or drug problems or chronic mental illness.

Once the young person has passed the referral process and a host has been found they are taken to the host's home by a worker or volunteer driver. The young person does not have to pay anything towards transport or the night stay or food. They do however have to sign up to a standard set of rules and any additional rules the host may have.

These rules contain agreements that the young person will not bring friends around, disclose the address of the host to anyone else, not use alcohol or drugs and not to return to the hosts home unless they have been placed there by a Nightstop worker.

The following day the young person is picked up and taken back to the referral office where the referrer helps the young person to return home through contacting the family and by offering mediation. If that is not possible the young person is referred to the council for emergency accommodation and if necessary offered further Nightstop placements.

Young people end up homeless for a variety of reasons. One of the main reasons is family conflict which often starts when the children are quite young and comes to a head when the child reaches 16. Often families have problems because of traumatic changes such as divorce and new step – parents or partners coming in to the family. Society has changed over the years and the pressures on young people to have changed. Where young people once were to be seen and not heard, now they have to be seen

wearing the right clothes and heard playing the right music. Pressure comes from their peers, parents, school and especially the media. Of course parents too are under greater pressure not least financially.

Hosts are mainly although not exclusively recruited through churches. The main criteria are that they want to help young people; they must like them and have an empathy with them, they must have a spare room. Hosts are volunteers so they do not get paid, although expenses can be claimed towards food costs and other agreed out of pocket expenses. Hosts agree to house the young people in their homes, without charge and to provide them with a bed in their own room, not to ask young people to do chores and not to ask questions of the young people.

Why would you do such a thing? Most hosts would say that they get a lot out of hosting, not only from helping a young person but also from learning about others experiences. Young people mostly are happy to talk and often hosts have meaningful conversations.

Before becoming a host application forms have to be filled in, references sought (including one from your doctor) and a Criminal Record Check has to be made. We have to be sure that young vulnerable people are safe just as we have to ensure our hosts safety. After interviews and a home visit, potential hosts are then given initial training which will include information on the homeless laws, child protection, health and safety, how to talk to young people and first aid. After training they will then be ready to be a host.

Whilst a host has a young person in their home a staff member is always on 24hr call. Training and support will be on- going. There will always be someone to talk to if the host has concerns or issues that they want to discuss.

Hosts are free to decide when they are available to host, they can always say no and they won't be asked to give a reason.

If you would like to be a host or would just like some more information please contact us at BYHP our number is 01295 259442.

### **LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE 2013**

#### June 2<sup>nd</sup>

1 Kings 8:22 – 23, 41 – 43  
Psalm 96:1 – 9  
Galations 1:1 – 12  
Luke 7:1 – 10

#### June 9<sup>th</sup>

1 Kings 17:17 – 24  
Psalm 30  
Galations 1:11 – 24  
Luke 7:11 – 17

#### June 16<sup>th</sup>

2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:10  
Psalm 32  
Galations 2:15 – 21  
Luke 7:36 – 8:3

#### June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Isaiah 65:1 - 9  
Psalm 22:19 - 28  
Galations 3:23 – 29  
Luke 8:26 – 39

#### June 30<sup>th</sup>

1 Kings 19:15 – 16, 19 – 21  
Psalm 16  
Galations 5:1, 13 – 25  
Luke 9:51 - 62

## **HELP END POVERTY AND HUNGER WITH YOUR UNWANTED BOOKS**

Did you know that some of your used and unwanted books could help end poverty? Christian Aid is now collecting second-hand books to sell on the internet for this purpose. And the Mustard Seed is adding its support and acting as a collection point. The books must be NON-FICTION, in good condition and have an ISBN number or a barcode. Examples of the type of books Christian Aid are looking for are: Christian and theological books

Academic books

Educational textbooks

Professional textbooks

They CANNOT use novels, storybooks, encyclopaedias or books in poor condition.

If you have any books that you can donate and that fit the criteria above please bring them along to The Mustard Seed. You find us in the foyer at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, Marlborough Road, Banbury OX16 5BZ. The shop is open on Thursdays and Fridays between 10am and 5pm and Saturdays between 10am and 4pm.

### **A VIEW FROM THE PEW**

#### **MEMORIES OF MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, ITS SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ITS YOUTH CLUB.**

Trevor Parry's memories of Marlborough Road Methodist Church in the 1950s is now available from The Mustard Seed price £3. Trevor recalls the Sunday School and the Youth Club ... and tells you what the site that the Mustard Seed now occupies used to be. The booklet also includes a number of long forgotten, and previously unpublished, photos ... well worth looking at.

### **ADDERBURY**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April the congregation of St Mary's parish church joined us for a united service. Rev. Dorothy Hewitson led the service, the Vicar, Rev. Stephen Fletcher, preached the sermon and there was the usual hearty Adderbury singing! The service included a presentation by Dave and Marilyn Pain about the Phakamisa project based at Pinetown Methodist Church near Durban, South Africa, the former home of two of our members. We and St Mary's have agreed to "adopt" and support the project as a joint initiative. "Phakamisa" (pronounced "Pagameesa") is a Zulu word meaning to lift up, and the project provides all kinds of educational programmes and practical support to people living in the townships of Durban. Marilyn gave us examples of goods made by the women, such as beadwork, and showed us children's toys made out of recycled objects. The project gives confidence and builds self worth in the people and gives them a better chance to work their way out of poverty. Look out for fundraising events at Adderbury over the forthcoming months.

### **CHACOMBE**

Our Bible Study sessions will be every other Tuesday commencing on 11<sup>th</sup> June 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 evening 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7 pm speaker Patricia Haley. Come and join us for an hour with hymns, readings and a chat with a cuppa and biscuits.

## EASINGTON

Easington Methodist Church's annual Summer Fete is being held this year on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> June, on Grange Road. The church is on Grange Road, Easington, between the Springfield Road and Timms Road junctions, and is on a large site with activities both inside the church building and out on the lawns. Attractions this year include childrens' amusements and games, whilst there's plenty for all the rest of the family with crafts stalls, book stalls, bric-a-brac stalls, garden stalls, homemade cakes and produce, a good-as-new stall and a stall run by the Easington Brownies who meet weekly at the church. And not forgetting the famous cream teas. All proceeds go to church funds, and the Fete starts at 2pm.

Other activities later in the summer will include: Treasure Hunt on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Beetle Drive on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August

And another of Easington's now famous and hugely popular Quizzes, date to be confirmed

Look out for more info.....

## HINTON METHODIST CHURCH (Woodford Halse)

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 from 10.00am to 12.00pm** – Woodford Churches Together Tea & Coffee Morning at Hinton Methodist Church. There are cakes and biscuits also 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.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT HINTON METHODIST CHURCH NOW HAS 20 COPIES OF THE COMPLETE MISSION PRAISE HYMN BOOK.** If anybody knows of any other spare copies that we could have please let us know.

Also does anyone in the circuit have some spare **cork floor tiles** that they do not need, please do not put them in the skip, but give Liz Pym a ring on (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) (The aim is to fix them to our large notice board in the Church porch so that it is easier to pin notices on.)

### **Recommended Bedtime Reading by Liz Pym (Hinton Methodist Church)**

If you visit the Mustard Seed Bookshop (found in the entrance of the Methodist Church at Marlborough Road), you will see copies of a book entitled "**Nuts and Bolts from certainty to faith**" by Mike Langstaff, a retired Methodist Minister who was once based in our circuit. It is an excellent read and easy to dip in now and again. He is widely read from The Bible to Richard Dawkins. There are Ideas for our Christian thinking, discussions and giving talks and sermons. To think that only C of E ministers can be chaplains of prisons at the time he wrote this book – it makes me think that the Anglican Church should not be considered as our official state religion.

Another read is “**The lies we tell ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty Truth and lies about poverty**”. This is a report written jointly by the Methodist Church, Baptist Union of Great Britain, United Reform Church, and the Church of Scotland and published by Methodist Publishing. It can be found at [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty). How about having a copy in each of the churches and chapels in the Banbury Circuit, for those who do not have a computer, to be able to browse through? It has also been spoken about on the BBC TV.

This report will challenge what we think we know about poverty. I hear even amongst our own church attendees prejudices being imparted as the result of getting information from reading certain newspapers – these are named and quoted in the report. As Christians we should accept everyone just as they are and not make preconceived judgments. In the Conclusion of this Report it is written:

*“In researching this report, we found many of the facts made us uncomfortable. Reading much of the press coverage around poverty and welfare reform was equally uncomfortable. We hope many readers of this report are a little less comfortable at the end of it than they were when they began, and that some prejudices and assumptions have been challenged. Most of all we hope readers are moved to seek to understand the reality of poverty as it is experienced in Britain today.”*

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.

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

6<sup>th</sup> June – ‘This is your life’

4<sup>th</sup> July – Meal out (venue to be arranged)

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

#### **CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)**

We 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. The money we raise goes to the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission.

12<sup>th</sup> June – Rev Rob Anning

26<sup>th</sup> June – Garden Meeting

#### **DEADLINE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST EDITION THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,**

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