

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER June 2014

Being “Great” or Being Human?

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

As retirement approaches, I suppose it is inevitable that some time is spent reflecting, looking back, and thinking about the last five years in Banbury. And of course, to the years before then too. What has it all been about? What has been achieved? What could have been done differently? Where has God been in all of this?

Some of you will recall a few years ago, the BBC TV series “Great Britons” which created much debate about those people in the past who have had the greatest influence on life in Britain. The series came to mind when I was thinking of the remarks of Jesus when his disciples had been arguing among themselves about who was the greatest.

Jesus said: “*Whoever wants to be first must place himself last of all and be the servant of all*”. (Mark 9 vs 33 to 37).

Then my mind began to turn to ask the question: “Who has had the greatest personal influence on my life?” No one famous, of course. And no one person. I guess I would begin with my parents, followed by my sister, family and Pat; a whole host of teachers and lecturers; people I have worked with in my present job and in the past in the world of print; Sunday School teachers and a long list of local preachers and ministers; fellow students when training for the ministry; neighbours living around the eight homes I have lived in; numerous congregations who have put up with me; and of course, some very special friends. And the list could go on.

If pressed, I couldn’t put my finger on any one particular “act” that has really influenced me and made me turn out the way I am. I could quote a series of tiny incidents that when accumulated, have moulded, guided and blessed me, and when all added up, have made the human being known as “Robert Anning”.

A few of these people saw it as their task to help “create” me but for the vast majority, they still don’t know what they have done: what the little conversations meant, or what the kind acts gave, or where their encouragements have led me. Very few of them got any recognition and they were certainly seen by no one as “great”.

We are all called to this task, not the task of being “great” but the task of simply “being” — human beings — with a concern for all those people whose paths we cross, whose paths cross our path, and remembering our task is to be “a servant to all”.

JOB VACANCY

The Banbury Circuit is looking for a PART-TIME ADMINISTRATOR

This is a paid post, initially four hours per week, to assist the Superintendent Minister in all administrative tasks, and to support other members of the Circuit Staff in their administrative work.

There is an expectation that the successful applicant will be able to work flexibly, be prepared to do additional paid hours from time to time to suit the workflow, be able to work from home and the home of the Superintendent Minister and be able to work in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Publisher.

If you are interested in applying for this post, contact Dr Isabel King at isabel.king@doctors.org.uk and ask for further information and a copy of the Job Description.

The closing date for applications is Sunday, June 22.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 1 June, 10.30am at Marlborough Road: Circuit Service, including presentation of a 60-year certificate to Mr Ross Adkins. There will also be a Fairtrade Stall following the service.

Tuesday, 17 June, 7.30pm: Circuit Meeting venue to be confirmed.

Thursday, 10 July, 7.30pm at Easington Chapel: Preachers Recognition Service for Janice Smith.

Sunday, 13 July, 10.30am: Circuit Service at Marlborough Road.

Sunday, 17 August, 6pm at Hornton Chapel: Circuit Service including a Farewell to Rev Dorothy Hewitson and Rev Rob Anning.

Saturday, 30 August, 7pm at Marlborough Road: Welcome Service for Rev Lin Francis, the new Superintendent Minister. Preacher: Chair of District, Rev Peter Hancock.

Sunday, 14 September, 10.30am at Marlborough Road: Circuit Covenant Service.

SPRING SYNOD FOR THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DISTRICT

This Meeting was held on Saturday 10th May at Hinckley. Banbury Circuit was represented by eight people.

At the Spring Synod, the District approves reports from its officers and prepares recommendations for decisions on national and international level at Conference in June. We were asked to discuss this time, our thoughts on the effectiveness of the present structure of Circuit, District and Connexion. There were updates on ongoing concerns, such as Safeguarding. Ministers will be required to undergo additional Leadership training. In our District many property schemes were approved such as the demolition of the Fairway Church, Banbury and refurbishment of Silverstone chapel.

There were exciting presentations from: *Venture FX* minister Rev. Rob Wynn in Milton Keynes who spoke of his chaplaincy work entering into faith conversations and gossiping the Gospel outside Church. We also heard from two young *One Programme* participants, Miriam and Jack, who separately have spent a year working alongside Christians in the Abingdon and Rugby Circuits. They have been supporting schools, retelling the Nativity and Easter stories with Drama or by creating reflective spaces. It is inspiring to be made aware of innovative work going on in our District.

“LOCAL ARRANGEMENT? DON’T PANIC!” - JUNE 14TH AT WROXTON

Following the successful ‘Preparing for Growth’ day in February, the Circuit staff felt that two things might be helpfully developed. Readers of the newsletter will already be aware that Rev Dorothy Hewitson is leading a follow-up ‘Pastoral Friends or Visitors’ workshop’ on Saturday June 14th at Wroxton.

Another ‘growth area’ in the Circuit is the increasing number of **Local Arrangements** that appear on the Plan each quarter. It is the almost inevitable result of trying to keep as many chapels open for Sunday worship; combined with fewer presbyters and Local Preachers available. As ‘Local Arrangements’ are likely to be an ongoing feature of Circuit life and worship after September, I have been asked to lead a short ‘hands-on’ **“Don’t panic!”** session to give Church Stewards and others some pointers about where to start, what are the main ‘building blocks’ of worship, and what help is available when faced with an LA on the Plan – or an emergency situation when a preacher cannot take the appointment at the last minute.

This **“Don’t panic!”** workshop will take place in a separate room, but at the same time and place as the ‘Pastoral Visitors’ workshop – **Saturday June 14th at Wroxton Chapel, 10am until 12 noon.** It would be helpful to know numbers so that I can bring appropriate and adequate resources, so please let me know if you would like to attend.

Michael King (01295 678958)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE 2014

1st June

Acts 1:6 - 14
Psalm 68:1 – 10, 32 – 35
1 Peter: 4:12 – 14; 5:6 - 11
John 17:1 - 11

8th June Pentecost

Acts 2:1 – 21or
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

15th June Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1- 2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11 – 13
Matthew 28:16 – 20

22nd June

Jeremiah 20:7 – 13
Psalm 69:7 – 10, 16 – 18
Romans 6:1b – 11
Matthew: 10:24 – 39

29th June

Jeremiah 28:5 - 9
Psalm 89:1 – 4, 15 - 18
Romans 6:12 - 23
Matthew 10; 40 - 42

HOLIDAY CLUBS

Hazel Stagg would like to draw your attention to two ecumenical holiday clubs planned for the summer holidays:

At Middleton Cheney Methodist Church, 2.05 – 4pm August 4th – 8th

At Hinton Methodist Church, 10 – 11.55 August 18th – 22nd 2014

Contact Hazel: 01295 660294

CHACOMBE

Bible Study and Soup Lunches – Contact Hazel for further details.

Coffee & Chat – These popular sessions are held on alternate Friday mornings from 10.30am – 12.00 noon in the Chapel schoolroom. Everyone welcome. Contact Joan for further information.

CROPREDY

Praise Evenings – June 18th 7 pm Rev Dorothy Hewitson

July 23rd 7 pm Rev Bill Rolph

Chapel Anniversary – July 8th 7.30 pm – Speaker Rev Martin Welling – Chair Val Trinder – Entertainment from Oxford. Refreshments. All are very welcome

EASINGTON

On **Saturday 7th June from 2pm - 4pm** we are holding a **Plant and Craft Sale**. Do join us to peruse the garden plants, crafts and homemade cakes for sale and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and cakes.

GRIMSBURY

To all Preachers – Please could all Ministers, Preachers and Worship Leaders please take note that at the last Church Council Meeting of Grimsbury Methodist Church, West Street, Banbury, the decision was taken to start Sunday Services at 10.30 am instead of the 11.15 am time.

So from the next Circuit Preaching Plan: i.e July, August September: Grimsbury will commence Worship on Sundays **at 10. 30 am**. Thank you for your attention. Shalom Rev. Victoria Bravette

Hinton Methodist Church

Please put this in your diaries

**We invite you all to come and join us on
Saturday 21st June
from 10.00am to 12.00pm.**

**Come and have a drink of tea, coffee or fruit
squash with a choice of biscuits and cake.**

**There will be stalls to purchase cakes, plants
and bric-a-brac.**



**All proceeds from this morning are
to help with the running of Hinton Methodist
Church**

HINTON METHODIST CHURCH (Woodford Halse)

Saturday 7th June from 10.00am to 12.00pm – Woodford Churches Together Tea and 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 stops outside the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

5th June – Evening in Barbara's garden 8 Willoughby Road

3rd July – Meal out – venue to be decided

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

ST FRANCIS CHURCH

St Francis Church, Meet & Make Craft Group would like to invite all ladies who have an interest in crafts, or just need some company. You may be experienced or would like to learn how to knit, crochet, cross stitch, make jewellery or cards or any other craft. We have speakers & go on visits to craft events. We meet every Wednesday 2-4 p.m. at St Francis Church, Highlands, Banbury. It is 50p per week. (Sorry, we have no facilities for children at this group). Please just come along but if you need more information please ring Carol Jermyn 07402447655

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

28th May – Joan Hancox – Growing up in Banbury

11th June – Rev Rob Anning

25th June – Garden Meeting will be held at 140 Bloxham Road the home of Maud Meeres

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month except July and August in the Wesley Room 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.

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY EDITION THURSDAY 12TH JUNE CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER

(see paper copy or ask a Steward for contact details)