

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

**Building Bridges**

*Rev'd Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:*

From the attic in the manse in Felixstowe, where Pat and I lived before we came to Banbury, you could see Harwich, just over a mile away across the entrance to the River Orwell. If I had a meeting in Harwich, it was a 40-mile drive. For most of the five years I lived in Felixstowe, I wished that there was a bridge from Suffolk to Essex! But that watery gap of just over a mile served to remind me that at the heart of our faith is the call to be bridge builders.

Throughout Jesus ministry he continually sets us an example of how to build bridges, how to make whole what is broken, how divisions can be healed. The outcast prostitute, the despised tax collector, the leper kept at arms length, and the list could go on and on; these are some of the examples of bridge-building, reconnecting, making whole.

As we look at the world today, we can see so many situations where bridges are needed: the tensions between Palestinians and Israelis, Korea, north and south, Tibet and China. Again, the list could go on and on. Faced by such a huge need to bridge-build, we can sometimes feel helpless. We can encourage our government to help, we can lobby the various parties involved, but in the end we can sometimes only return to prayer.

But closer to home, in our own country, town and villages, and amongst our neighbours and in our families, we can all see situations where the need to build a bridges would make a big difference to how things might be. There can be no excuse for avoiding those divisions under our noses. It simply takes courage, perhaps some swallowing of pride, a careful word of encouragement, and of course, plenty of prayer.

As we approach the beginning of Lent on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, we are given a six-week period to prepare ourselves for Holy Week as we re-live the journey that Jesus took for us to the Cross and beyond. Some of that time should be spent on recognising that Jesus' journey to the Cross was the ultimate in bridge-building as he closed the gap between ourselves and God, a gap created by our selfishness and pride. His Cross was the bridge.

## **A HOLIDAY IN THE BISHOP'S HOUSE IONA JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> 2012**

In 2009 a number of people from the six Edge Hill parishes spent a week on Iona. Everyone enjoyed it so much we have reserved the Bishop's House for another week in 2012, and want to invite people to sign up. Our accommodation will be in the Bishop's House, which is about 100 years old, and which is available for visitors throughout the year. In the Bishop's House there is a small chapel which serves as the parish church for the small township of the island, and during the week, short morning and evening acts of worship take place. Guests are welcome to attend these, but there is no obligation to do so. We can be sure of good food and a hearty welcome from the staff of the house, ensuring a memorable stay.

As on previous trips, there will be no set programme of activities and members of the group will be free to organize their time as they choose. All guests at the Bishop's House are able to have concessionary/free access to Iona Abbey and its services and other events.

Although the island is small, there are plenty of places to explore and many pleasant walks. There are numerous bays round the island, many of which are little frequented and all of which are picturesque. It is easy, too, to return by ferry to Mull and explore this island, including the well-known town of Tobermory. One can also choose to take a half day's boat trip to the island of Staffa where 'Fingal's Cave' is to be found.

There is so much to see and to do – why not join us?! All the relevant details are included in a brochure, printed copies of which are readily available. Please contact me (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). Deposit requested on booking - £75. Total cost explained in brochure. Andrea Harding-Smith – St Francis Church.

### **CIRCUIT QUIET DAY**

This will be held on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April at Wroxton Methodist Chapel, when we will be 'All at Sea?' Further details to follow, but please make a note in your diaries and contact me to book a place.

Dorothy Hewitson

### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

The service for the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March at St Mary's Church, Horsefair, at 2 pm, hosted by the United Reformed Church. The women of Chile have prepared the service for this year and the theme is 'How Many Loaves Have You?'. The speaker will be the Rev. Dorothy Hewitson. The local committee extends a warm invitation to all to attend this service. Margaret Hughes

## ITEMS FOR SALE

The following items are looking for new homes from Brailes Chapel

17 Good News Bibles	2 Brass Flower Vases	Electric Fires
42 Mission Praise	2 Fire Extinguishers	3 Wall Mounted
Books & Music Book.	1 Fire Blanket	Electric Fires
H & P Organ Music	22 Red Plastic Stacking	Pews
Books	Chairs	12 – 57" long Oak
2 6ft GoPac Tables	24 Wooden Stacking	Pews
Oak three shelved	Chairs	9 – 10ft long Oak Pews
bookcase with glass top	3 Free Standing	

If anyone is interested, please give me ring(*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

## BANBURY CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

Our speaker for Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March (note this is the third Thursday in March) at Marlborough Road Methodist Church at 7 for 7.30 is Mrs Moira Byast who has spoken before on another subject, but will give an illustrated talk on "The History of Cooking" and plans to bring a number of samples for us to taste! Our donation will go to the local air ambulance, another worthy cause. Usual booking arrangements – please telephone David Hughes by Monday evening, 14<sup>th</sup> March (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) with numbers and any special dietary requirements.

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH 2011

March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Exodus 24:12 – 18  
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99  
2 Peter 1:16 – 21  
Matthew 17:1 – 9

March 13<sup>th</sup>  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 2:15 – 17 3:1 – 7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12 – 19  
Matthew 4:1 – 11

March 20<sup>th</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 12:1 – 4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1 – 5, 13 – 17  
John 3:1 – 17

March 27<sup>th</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Exodus 17:1 – 7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1 – 11  
John 4:5 - 42



A361 closed from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 11<sup>th</sup> July - read on to find out more: -

Due to work on the Flood alleviation programme the A361 will be shut to traffic from 21<sup>st</sup> March to the 11<sup>th</sup> July from the turning to Williamscot to the turning to Chacombe (the one nearest to Banbury) in both the Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire sections. Diversions are being put in place but advice is that journeys will take longer. This means the Geoff Amos bus services will have to take an alternative route. There are alternative routes for car drivers via Eydon and on to the B4525 and follow to Banbury, or through the Boddingtons and on to the Southam Road but this will be packed with lorries as that is where heavy traffic has been diverted or go to Wardington and go through the village to the B4525. The following websites give more details and maps:

[http://www.rha.uk.net/about\\_the\\_rha/regions/midlandsandwestern/midlands\\_and\\_western\\_regional/content/12388/midlands\\_and\\_western\\_news](http://www.rha.uk.net/about_the_rha/regions/midlandsandwestern/midlands_and_western_regional/content/12388/midlands_and_western_news)

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/124750.aspx>

Below is a quote from the Environment Agency:-

"How will local residents be affected?

A vital part of the flood scheme includes raising the A361 Banbury to Daventry Road for a length of 700 metres, just north of the turning to Chacombe. The road will be closed for approximately twelve weeks whilst construction takes place and a diversion put in place. We are working with Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire county councils to plan the best time of year to carry out this work. Traffic will be diverted via the A423/A425 to Southam – the same diversion route used by the highway authorities when this road is closed for major roadworks. Signs will be put up by the council giving road users plenty of warning about the diversion. We will write to local residents to inform them when this work will take place."

Can all preachers who travel to and from Banbury to the Boddingtons, Woodford Halse, Cropredy, Chacombe, etc please note the above. Also Hinton Methodist Church has the circuit service on 27<sup>th</sup> March and we would like as many as possible from the other circuit churches and chapels to turn up that evening where they will have a marvellous welcome.

### **3rd CIRCUT PHOTGRAPHY COMPETITION**

The categories are the same as last year:

**NATURE  
LANDS AFAR  
GREAT BRITAIN  
EVERY DAY 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Pauline Giles: *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*

### **ADDERBURY**

We invite friends from the Circuit to our regular “first Saturday Coffee Morning” on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30 – 12 noon. This on will be a Fair Trade event as part of Banbury Fair Trade Fortnight. In addition to our usual Fair Trade coffee, there will be fair Trade goods for sale. All welcome.

### **BODICOTE PRAISE EVENINGS**

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. The next meetings are 17<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> May. All are welcome. Contact Dorothy Hewitson

### **CHACOMBE**

Our Bible Study, led by Hazel Stagg, has recommenced and we meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2 o'clock in Joan's house. Anyone wishing to join us will be most welcome and there's a cup of tea and piece of cake thrown in! Further details contact Joan *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*.

**Eggstravaganza** – Our annual event will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Please make a note of this date. This is an ideal opportunity to purchase your Easter cards, eggs and gifts. There will be lots happening! Easter Bonnet parade, various stalls and our ever popular soup kitchen serving up a variety of delicious snacks. For further details contact Joan *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*. Come along and join in the fun.

## 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. They are led by Rev Dorothy Hewitson. The next meetings are Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May. All are welcome.

## EASINGTON

**Gift Day service** – On Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10-30 am we are holding a Gift Day service. In addition to our regular congregation we shall be inviting those who have a past or present association with the church. All friends from the Circuit will of course be welcome.

**Quiz supper** – We are holding another of our by now legendary quiz suppers on Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7-00 pm! For tickets (£6 per head including supper) and/or further information please contact Janice and Steve Smith or Ian and Jo Hearle (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

### **LENT GROUP – York Course, Rich Inheritance - Jesus' legacy of love**

At Easington we meet as a Small Group on the last Wednesday evening of each month at 7 pm and, during Lent, move our pattern to a weekly meet. This year we shall be running a Lent Course parallel to that held at Marlborough Road and Wroxton, but ours is an evening meeting which, we hope, will appeal to and be more convenient for those who would like to attend a Lent Course but can't manage afternoons. York Courses describe this year's course as follows: ***Rich Inheritance - Jesus' legacy of love***. Jesus didn't write a will. He left no written instructions. He didn't seem to have a plan. At the end, as he hung dying on the cross, almost all of his followers had abandoned him. By most worldly estimates his ministry was a failure. Nevertheless, Jesus' message of reconciliation with God lived on. It is the central message of the Bible. With this good news his disciples changed the world. How did they do it? What else did Jesus leave behind – what is his 'legacy of love'? This course addresses these questions.

Dates are as follows:

**Wednesday 9th March – An empty tomb**

**Wednesday 16th March – A group of people**

**Wednesday 23rd March – A story**

**THURSDAY 30th March – A power**

**Wednesday 6th April – A meal**

For more informations, contact Ian and Jo Hearle (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

## **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**

During January we raised £193.00 from our table top event and we are continuing with our fund raising as much as possible during the coming year. On 12<sup>th</sup> March we have a Soup Lunch from 12 noon – 2 pm, with a Bring & Buy and raffle for Chapel funds. Every Friday morning 10.30 – 12 noon come and enjoy coffee and cake and Fair Trade goods are available. Also Thursday afternoons 3.30 pm (during term time) we hold the Thursday Club.

We also have some special services coming up: -

9<sup>th</sup> March – Ash Wednesday – 7 pm in Chapel

27<sup>th</sup> March – Covenant Renewal service will begin at Parish Church at 2.30 pm, processing to Methodist Chapel for second half of service, followed by tea.

3<sup>rd</sup> April – Mothering Sunday in Chapel 11 am

The Women's World Day of Prayer this year is to be held in Radway Parish Church 7.30 pm

Every first Sunday in month there is a Jiffy service for young families – 3.30 pm in Chapel (Jesus Is Fun for You). Please come and support us if you can.

## **LENT BIBLE STUDIES AT MARLBOROUGH ROAD**

There will be five Lent Studies held at Marlborough Road on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 pm to which everyone is invited. This year we shall be using the York Course material, running parallel with the Bible Study at Wroxton.

The dates are: Tuesday, 22 March: An Empty Tomb  
Tuesday, 29 March: A Group of People  
Tuesday, 5 April: A Story  
Tuesday, 12 April: A Power  
Tuesday, 19 April: A Meal.

For more information, contact Rev Rob Anning.

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

3<sup>rd</sup> March – Mobile cinema (film not yet decided)

7<sup>th</sup> April – Claire Lester – The travels of a teacher to deaf children – Bring and buy

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

**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.

**NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP  
NEWCOMERS VERY WELCOME  
ALL MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAYS STARTING AT 7.30PM  
AND ARE FOLLOWED BY TEA/COFFEE AND BISCUITS**

2<sup>nd</sup> March – Beetle Drive

16<sup>th</sup> March – Janet Jackson and family – A Musical Evening

30<sup>th</sup> March – Val Gainsley will describe her experiences of visiting Jordan

**WROXTON LENT GROUP 2011**

***'RICH INHERITANCE' Jesus' legacy of love***

The material in 5 parts produced by York Courses will be as follows:

Week 1 – Thursday, 17th March: An Empty Tomb

Week 2 – Thursday, 24th March: A Group of People

Week 3 – Tuesday, 29th March: A Story

Week 4 – Thursday, 7th April: A Power

Week 5 – Thursday, 14th April: A Meal

These meetings will take place in Wroxton Methodist School Room. This year, however, we have decided to meet during daylight hours – **at 2.00pm** – and hope this will make it easier for people to attend.

The invitation is open to anyone in the Circuit who is interested, or who doesn't have a Lent group nearby, to come and share in any, or all, of these sessions.

The Lent Group will draw to a conclusion with Holy Week Communion, on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 pm.

Dorothy Hewitson

## NETWORK

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

9<sup>th</sup> March – Dogs for the disabled

23<sup>rd</sup> March – Lent Lunch

13<sup>th</sup> April – These are a Few of my Favourite Things – The Revd John Warren

## RATLEY RAMBLES

**Reserve the May Day Bank Holiday Monday afternoon for fundraising, fitness, food, friendship and fun!!**

**What's it all about?** A chance to discover/enjoy this area at your level of fitness and interest

**What will it involve?** A choice of a short level stroll, a walk of about an hour or a couple of hours in the country – followed by a cream tea (Weather permitting, of course!)

**If the weather is awful, or if you don't 'do' walking, just come for the food!!**

**How will it work?** I will produce direction sheets, illustrated with photos to help stop people getting lost! (They worked last time!!) These will include probable duration/timing, so walkers and non-walkers can co-ordinate arriving for the food when it is ready.

**Who can come?** Anyone!! Walks will be possible for those with pushchairs or limited mobility, as well as those who want to use up energy or really explore. Children and dogs will be welcomed, although dogs will need watching if there are animals in any fields.

**Teas will be available from 3.30 to 5.00 pm. Please let me know if you are interested by Thursday April 28th – as food will need to be bought and prepared.**

**Andrea Harding-Smith:** *(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*. Raising funds for St Francis' Church Highlands new-hall-to-be

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH EDITION**

**THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,**

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

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