

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
MAY 2010**

A Postcard from Heaven

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister writes:

On Thursday, 13th May, we celebrate Ascension Day when Jesus returned to heaven after his earthly ministry. This is quickly followed by Pentecost, on Sunday, 23rd May, as we celebrate the fulfilled promise from Jesus that he would send a Helper, in the form of the Holy Spirit.

Every year these Christian Festivals fall in Spring-time or early Summer, and coincide with the start of our traditional holiday season. From now on we can expect a flow of postcards from far and near, each carrying a picture to show us something of the place visited by family and friends, and each carrying a message to tell us what they think of the place.

When God sent Jesus into the world to carry out his earthly ministry, it was something like God sending us a postcard from heaven. In the life of Jesus, we see pictured, both God and the Kingdom of Heaven, and in the words of Jesus, we learn something of the nature of God and the nature of heaven.

In John 14 verse 9, Jesus tells Philip: *“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!”*

So we study the life of Jesus, we see the way he lived his human life, the way God empowered him to perform miracles, we hear his parables about the Kingdom of Heaven, and so we learn more and more about God and about God’s Kingdom.

It is all summed up in 1 John 4 verse 14, when the writer says: *“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them”*.

The love of God was demonstrated to us in his postcard we call Jesus Christ. Whenever we receive love, whenever we give love, then we are receiving and giving something of God, sending and receiving our own “postcards”.

Some of the postcards we receive from family and friends include the line “wish you were here”. Jesus returns to heaven through his Ascension, to be at his Father’s right hand, to complete the journey he had begun some thirty-three years before. And when it is our time to “ascend”, then we can be assured of the same welcome!

LECTIONARY READINGS MAY 2010

<u>May 2nd</u> Acts 11:1 – 18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1 – 6 John 13:31 – 35	John 5:1 – 9 <u>May 16th</u> Acts 16:16 – 34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12 – 14, 16 – 17, 20 – 21 John 17:20 – 26	Psalm 104:24 -34,35b Romans 8:14 – 17 or Acts 2:1 -21 John 14:8 – 17 (25 – 27)
<u>May 9th</u> Acts 16:9 – 15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22- 22:5 John 14:23 – 29 or	<u>May 23rd Pentecost</u> Acts 2:1 – 21 or Genesis 11:1 – 9	<u>May 30th Trinity</u> Proverbs 8:1 – 4, 22 – 31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1 - 5 John 16:12 - 15

CIRCUIT QUIET DAY

Theme: *'SONGS OF LIFE'*
Venue: *Wroxton Methodist Church*
Date: *Saturday, 8th May 2010*
Time: *10.00 am - 4.30 pm*

The cost of the day will be £4. Please bring your own packed lunch (tea and coffee are provided). We will 'picnic' together at lunchtime, as we share fellowship.

(Dorothy Hewitson)

SPRING COFFEE MORNING

Val Trinder will be holding a coffee morning at (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*), in aid of the Manses Fund on Monday May 31st, (late May Bank Holiday) from 10 am to 12 noon. There will be a cake stall and plant sales. The event will also mark the launch of a mega Hymnbook Competition, the results of which will be announced at the same day as the Circuit Photographic Competition in the autumn. Come along and enjoy fellowship, and if its fine you'll be able to take a stroll around the garden – at its colourful best in late May. Gifts of cakes for the cake stall will be welcome.

CIRCUIT PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2010

This year we are dividing our competition into four categories.

1. Lands afar
2. Great Britain
3. Everyday life
4. Nature

There will also be a general category for those 12 years old and under. Closing date is Sunday 5th September. Please mount prints on a piece of A4 white paper or photographic paper. These will be displayed at a date to be announced later. Entries, with your name, address and telephone number, to be sent to Mrs. P. Giles, (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) after the 1st August (or they can be left in the office at Marlborough Road) entry fee again £1.00 per print and 50p for the junior entrants.

MHA SUNDAY JUNE 13TH

You will already have received the envelopes and instructions about what to do with them when they are full. Please give people a few Sundays to fill them and then send the envelopes or a cheque for the contents to me at home (see the address on the plan) or bring them to the circuit office on a Thursday morning. Please give out the magazines as soon as you wish as there may be another one in the summer. Many thanks, Katie Lee.

CIRCUIT DIARY FOR 2010

Sunday, 27th June: Circuit Service at Marlborough Road at 10.30 am.

Sunday, 8th August: Circuit Service at 6 pm at Brailes.

Sunday, 5th September: Circuit Covenant Service, at 10.30 am at Marlborough Road.

Sunday, 26th September: Back to Church Sunday.

Sunday, 14th November: Remembrance Sunday.

In addition to these dates, there is a Coffee Morning and Circuit Holy Communion every Thursday morning, to which everyone is welcome, and monthly Circuit Suppers on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm. All at Marlborough Road.

BODICOTE ANNIVERSARY

June 13th at 11.00 am

Preacher: Rev T Demore

Please come and join us for the service and light lunch afterwards

BODICOTE PRAISE EVENINGS

'Praise Evenings' continue to take place in Bodicote Chapel at 7.30 pm, on Thursday evenings once a month. They last for one hour, followed by tea/coffee and biscuits, always very welcome after all that singing! The recipe for that hour is made up of a number of ingredients: hymns (both traditional and modern), readings, reflections and prayers, enabling us to worship God in a relaxed and slightly different format. If you feel like giving it a try we next meet on the: **27th May**

Dorothy Hewitson

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

May Day celebrations begin on Sunday 2nd May with morning service at 11 am followed by cream teas at 3.30 pm. There will also be a craft fair. The celebrations will continue on Monday around the village. Please come and support us.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

At 9.15 am on most Sundays we hold a short service of contemporary worship. This is a relaxed friendly and informal time of worship, families are very welcome as is anyone who wishes to join us. For dates please see the plan as from the next plan more details will be provided. The joint services will be shown and those are usually the Sundays where the 9.15 am service will not run, however sometimes the joint service will be at 9.15 am. Tea, coffee and squash and usually biscuits provided after the service, which is a good time to catch up with people arriving for the 10.30 am

service. If anyone would like more details please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wendy Humphris (*see paper copy for contact details*)

MIDDLETON CHENEY

We have no organist at Middleton Cheney, and use a Hymnal Plus computerised music making device. Our usual operator is Nigel, and he is of course keen to get the very best results. Therefore, he needs to programme the services in. As Nigel works full-time, he usually does this on Saturday morning preceding the Sunday service. We would be very grateful if an order of service, or at very least the hymn numbers are given either to Mrs. Iris Bean (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) as early in the week as possible please. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

ST FRANCIS

'Putting the FUN into fundraising'

St Francis Church will be running a car treasure hunt on Saturday May 8th, which will begin at 2 pm from the Church. First prize will be a trophy and a £20 voucher. The entry fee will be £5 per car. If you want more details, please ring me (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) and I will try to find out what you need to know!

Andrea Harding-Smith

UPPER BODDINGTON

Our annual sale of plants will take place (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) on Saturday, May 15th, from 10 am to 12 noon. Once again we hope to have Pelargoniums, fuchsias, perennial and annual plants on offer. The plants will be of good quality and reasonably priced so please come and buy plants to stock your containers, baskets and borders. We still have to raise a lot of money to repay the loan used to pay for repairs to our Church roofs and gable ends last autumn so hope for a good sale. The hard winter weather has caused problems this year for members who grow the plants for sale as well as costing those members more for heating to keep the plants alive!

To help raise more money to pay off the cost of our roof repairs, we are planning to have 'Open Gardens' in the village on Saturday, July 10th and Sunday, July 11th. More details will be given nearer the event so please watch this space.

NETWORK

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday s of the month. All meetings are at 2.30 pm at Marlborough Road unless otherwise stated.

12th May – Speaker – Katie Lee

26th May – Memories are Mad of This – Members' Afternoon

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

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

6th May – Revd Janet Jackson

20th May – Ten pin bowling – Cherwell District will come along and demonstrate and allow us to take part

INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF LIVING LONGER

Avoid riding in cars because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.



Do not stay at home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

Avoid walking on streets and pavements because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

Avoid travelling by air, rail or water because 15% of all accidents involve these forms of transport.

Of the remaining 34%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, above all else avoid hospitals.

BUT you will be pleased to learn that only 0.001% of all deaths occur in worship services in Church and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.

Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point is in Church! ...and Bible Study is safe too.

So for safety's sake attend Church and read your Bible. It could save your life!

[From Crowfield Baptist Church magazine]

**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EDITION THURSDAY 13TH MAY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER
(*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)**