

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER MAY 2011

AN UNCHANGING GOD IN A CHANGEABLE WORLD

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

The recent summery weather has brought out all our thinner and lighter clothing to keep us cool in the sunshine. Some of the sights around the town centre of Banbury have been “sights for sore eyes”, and some have been “sights to make your eyes sore”!

Many have been wearing the latest fashions, dispensing with last year’s garments and replacing them with those that are in vogue. When summer is over, we will change our fashions again; some returning to clothing kept in the wardrobe ready for more chilly days, whilst others will buy the latest fashions for the winter. It is a choice of “old faithfuls” or the new, fashionable designs. Either way, we will change as the world changes.

We live in a fashion-conscious world. Much that surrounds us is transient. To a large extent, our economy depends on changing things before they are worn out. The charity shops of Banbury are awash with cast-offs with plenty of life still left in them. Others may benefit from this but the underlying message is one of change.

Our Banbury Methodist Circuit is not immune from change (*see a further article about Circuit changes*). We don’t change for fashions sake but out of a desire to be more able to worship God and share our faith in the present age. Few of us like change, but inevitably change is necessary.

In a world of change, it is good to have something that is permanent. The writers of the Psalms describe God as “a refuge and strength”, “a rock and fortress” and “though the earth should change and the mountains shake” there is nothing to fear.

Joseph Hart captures that nature of God in his hymn, when he writes:

*This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable friend,
Whose love is as great as his power,
And neither knows measure nor end.*

So we hold on to the fact that God is unchanging in a changing world and we can depend on him.

CHANGES WITHIN THE BANBURY METHODIST CIRCUIT

The next few months will bring significant changes to the way the Banbury Methodist Circuit works. Rev Dorothy Hewitson will be on sabbatical for the months of June, July and August. During that time, all of the churches in Dorothy's pastoral care (Cropredy, Easington, Bodicote, Adderbury, Wroxton and Hornton), should contact myself or Rev Janet Jackson if there is a pastoral situation to which you want us to respond. Any other questions, doubts or concerns should also be directed to either of us.

Dorothy's sabbatical is well deserved, the first in her ministry, and we should respect her privacy during those three months. In the end, Dorothy will return refreshed; she will also have had the chance to do some study. All this means that when she returns, we will all benefit from her three-month break without interruption.

Methodism has some quaint ways! At the recent Ministerial Synod, Dorothy asked for permission to "sit down". In layman's terms, that's a request to retire. Permission was granted. But we are glad that Dorothy has decided to remain in the Banbury Circuit for at least the next three years, working half time. This means she becomes an "active supernumerary". In order to reduce Dorothy's workload to a manageable size for the three days a week that she will be working, from September 1, her pastoral charge will be of the three churches Easington, Adderbury and Bodicote. Dorothy will be working most Sundays plus two other days. With time, Dorothy's new section will discover how those additional two days will be communicated to everyone. But in the meantime, please be patient with this new way of working. It will take us a while to get used to a half-time minister.

All of this means that the workload of Rev Janet Jackson and myself will be increasing from September. Janet will be taking on pastoral care of Wroxton and Hornton, to add to her present chapels of The Fairway, Middleton Cheney, Chacombe, Greatworth, Hinton and Upper Boddington. Eight chapels is a lot to care for, so again, can I ask for everyone to be patient as Janet comes to terms with working out her new section. I will be taking on Cropredy, to add to Marlborough Road, Grimsbury and Neithrop.

Over the next few months, you will begin to see adverts for our new Rural Church and Community Co-ordinator which we hope will begin work in September. The new worker will be working with the chapels at Greatworth, Chacombe, Upper Boddington and Adderbury, to help those chapels to make connections with their communities and begin to share faith more effectively.

If you have any questions about any of these changes, do not hesitate to telephone me for a chat.

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent

NEWS FROM THE MUSTARD SEED

Twitter and Facebook. Last month we told you about our newly made-over website at www.banburyseed.co.uk. It's constantly updating so do take a look. And if that were not enough, the Mustard Seed has also launched on **Facebook** and **Twitter**- see more on the website.

It's Your Move! Moving to secondary school is one of the most challenging events in life. *It's Your Move!* helps year 6 pupils prepare for their transition to secondary school. This 64 page, magazine-style book is full of wise advice, real life stories, fun and the assurance that God is with us at all times of change. To find out more visit: www.banburyseed.co.uk and click on 'news' where you'll find a video about the help this publication can offer. Copies cost £2.99 each or £12 for a pack of 10. To order your copies email us now at shop@banburyseed.co.uk

New CDs The long-awaited fourth studio album from Tim Hughes, *Love Shines Through*, is a stunner. Produced by former Delirious? frontman Martin Smith and mastered at Abbey Road *Love Shines Through* is the natural successor to Tim's 2007 release, *Holding Nothing Back*. Look out also for a new CD **Mission Worship: Our God**. Following on from the previous three releases in the Mission Worship series, **Our God** is a bumper album that is full of great worship songs. This double CD offers songs from both sides of the Atlantic, including Stuart Townend, Graham Kendrick, Matt Redman, and Delirious? from the UK and Aaron Keyes, Chris McClarney, Michelle Tumes, and Kelly Minter from the US. Price £14.99. Available now.

Mustard Seed Book Club The idea is simple ... every month we'll offer a book available to order **at a discounted rate**. We'll notify you as soon as your copy is available for collection and then all we ask is that you share some thoughts with others using the Book Club Forum or by adding a comment to the Mustard Seed Facebook page. Visit the website at www.banburyseed.co.uk and follow the link for more information on how to get involved. Thanks to those who've already joined the Club ... we look forward to receiving your comments when you've had chance to read Rob Bell's **Love Wins** from March and **What's it like to be Married to Me?** by Linda Dillow from April.

Christian Aid Week starts 15 May 2011 and preparations are well in hand. As always we're looking for volunteers to collect in the Banbury area, contact us now at the Mustard Seed if you can help

A reminder that the Mustard Seed is located at the rear of Marlborough Road Methodist Church and is open Thursdays and Fridays between 10am and 5pm, and Saturdays between 10am and 4pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Ali, Malcolm, Jo and Ian (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) or email shop@banburyseed.co.uk. Visit us via Twitter or Facebook and on our website at www.banburyseed.co.uk

BIBLE SOCIETY

'Making Good Sense of the Bible' The Trainers' Course 14th & 15th June 2011. The closing date is Tuesday 7th June. To book a free place and find out more about the course write to Making Good Sense of the Bible, Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DG.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY 2011

May 1st

Acts 2:14a, 22 - 32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3 - 9

John 20:19 - 31

May 8th

Acts 2:14a, 36 - 41

Psalm 116:1 - 4, 12 -

19

1 Peter 1:17 - 23

Luke 24:13 - 35

May 22nd

Acts 7:55 - 60

Psalm 31:1 - 5, 15 - 16

Peter 2:2 - 10

John 14:1 - 14

May 29th

Acts 17:22 - 31

Psalm 66:8 - 20

1 Peter 3:13 - 22

John 14:15 - 21

May 15th

Acts 2:42 - 47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19 - 25

John 10:1 - 10

3RD CIRCUIT PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The categories are the same as last year:

NATURE
LANDS AFAR
GREAT BRITAIN
EVERYDAY 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 8th 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: 11th 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” 10.30 – 12 noon. 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 meeting is 19th May. All are welcome. Contact Dorothy Hewitson

Coffee Mornings: - Bodicote will be opening the chapel for a coffee morning on the 3rd Saturday in the month 10.30 -12.00. We hope any friends near by will join us in fellowship on the following dates May 21st, June 18th and July 16th. We hope to make this a regular get together so please come and join us.

Bodicote Anniversary Sunday June 5th 10.30am: - This year Rev Langley will be our guest preacher. Afterwards you are invited to lunch at (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). We hope friends will join us to celebrate another year of Methodism in Bodicote.

CHACOMBE

Bible Study – These Tuesday afternoon sessions will recommence after Easter. Further details contact Joan (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

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 meeting is Wednesday 18th May. All are welcome.

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

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.

May Bank Holiday – On Sunday 1st May there will be a Flower Festival in the Chapel with a ‘wedding theme’. Cream teas will be served from 3.30 pm – 5.00 pm. There will also be a 'Made in Hornton' stall for Chapel Funds. The ‘Wedding Theme’ will also be on show on Monday 2nd May and there will be stalls on the Village Green for Chapel funds as part of the May Day celebrations. Look forward to seeing you.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

5th May – Indoor foam croquet

2nd June – Tony & Gladys Harris – Slides on Vancouver

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 ANNIVERSARY

Neithrop Chapel celebrates its Chapel Anniversary on Sunday, 8th May at 3 pm. Rev Rob Anning will be leading our worship. The Anniversary Celebrations continue on Wednesday, 11th May, when the Anniversary Rally takes place at the chapel at 7.30 pm. The speaker will be Rev'd Dr Martin Wellings, who is Synod Secretary and Superintendent Minister of the Oxford Circuit. This should be a good evening and everyone is welcome to join us.

ST FRANCIS

Ratley Rambles - 2nd May: - Come for a walk among the bluebells at Edge Hill on the Mayday Bank Holiday!

These walks have been planned;

- A short, basically level stroll of about 20 - 30 minutes.
- A walk on the slopes of the Edge Hill wood, lasting about 1 hour 15 minutes,
- A longer, wider ranging walk of about two hours.

To be followed by a cream tea at 'The Stable House' (Andrea Harding-Smith's home) Suggest a donation of £2.50 towards the hall building fund of St Francis' church. Direction sheets are available at the Mustard Seed or St Francis Church. Please let me know if you intend to come, so we do not run out of resources for the teas!! (Andrea Harding-Smith (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*))

UPPER BODDINGTON

Our annual plant sale will be held at (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*), on Saturday 21st May, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. David and Daphne Adkins have offered us the use of their premises again so there will be plenty of space for plants to be sold under cover and plenty of parking spaces too. Thank you David and Daphne! We hope to have a good selection of pelargoniums, fuchsias, bedding and perennial plants on offer and the prices will be reasonable, so come along and stock up with plants for your tubs, baskets and borders. This sale will be our only big fund raising event this year so we hope to raise enough money to pay our Church running costs.

NETWORK

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

11th May – Creative Writing – The Revd Philip Davies

25th May – Speaker – Deacon Margaret Hale

NETWORK FINANCIAL STATEMENT 01/09/09 TO 31/08/10

Collection	525.91
Bring & Buy	159.32
Christmas Lunch	185.00
Donations	90.00
Circuit Easter Offering	1,257.85
	2,218.08
Expenses (new account book)	12.99
Paid into Bank	2,205.09
Gift Aid	144.57
Total paid to Methodist Fund for World Mission	£2,349.66

CHURCH BLOOPERS

1. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
2. Tuesday at 4:00 pm there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.
3. Wednesday the ladies liturgy will meet. Mrs. Johnson will sing "Put me in my little bed accompanied by the pastor."
4. Thursday at 5:00 pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All ladies wishing to be "Little Mothers" will meet with the Pastor in his study.
5. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

EDITORS NOTE: - PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS A WEEK EARLIER THAN NORMAL AS I AM GOING ON HOLIDAY.

**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EDITION
THURSDAY 5TH MAY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,
*(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)***

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