

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER May 2012

Pentecost: Another glimpse of God in our world

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

On Sunday, 27 May, we celebrate Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples and filled them with power to act and speak for God. Luke gives a wonderfully descriptive account of the event in Acts 2.

The story reminds us that it is God who always takes the initiative when it comes to reaching out to the world. It is God who always takes the initiative when it comes to revealing something more of himself to us.

The greatest and clearest revelation of God comes through the life of Jesus – he lived among us, and through him we saw God, face to face. But Jesus promised that when he returned to heaven, we would not be left alone and that promise was kept at Pentecost. The promise continues today for us, for we are not left alone but continue to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives us an insight into God's power, truth, wisdom and strength. We see this in the way the Holy Spirit influenced the activities of the early Church and we continued to experience the Holy Spirit's promptings and guiding in our church and personal lives today.

On Saturday, 12 May, we have invited Rev Dr Tom Stuckey, a former President of Conference, to lead us in a Study Morning at Marlborough Road, 10am to 1pm on the theme: *On the Edge of Pentecost: Exploring the Acts of the Apostles*. Tom will lead us into a clearer understanding of what Pentecost is all about. Tom is also going to preach at our Circuit Service at Marlborough Road on Sunday, 13 May at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome at both events.

The process of God reaching out to the world we call "grace". No matter how hard we might try, no matter how long we search, we will never discover God by our own efforts. We can only discover what God wants to reveal – and the events of Pentecost underline that principle.

We all stand in God's grace as he showers our lives with goodness and shows something more, something new of himself, day by day. So this season of Pentecost, give thanks to God for a further revelation of himself.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETING, CROPREDY, 15TH MARCH 2012

The meeting was pleased to hear that our finances are on track and are "generally fairly healthy". We have claimed back the up-front expenses that we incurred from the sale of the empty chapels – about £10,000 in all. Changes were made to nine trust funds that had 'failed' and needed to be rationalized. After a bidding war, Warmington Chapel has been sold for £145,000.

The property schemes at St. Francis', the Fairway and Hornton were described. These are all exciting projects. Marlborough Road is upgrading their worship area – the communion rail has been split and the pulpit taken out for a trial period and new chairs are to be purchased. The meeting granted them £5,000 from the Circuit Advance Fund.

The Society at Wroxton asked the meeting to agree that they cease to worship from the end of August – they had taken the decision with a heavy heart. The meeting thanked the congregation at Wroxton for their faithfulness and the way they have looked after their building: their efforts have been valiant. The meeting acceded to their request and the matter will now be brought before the District Synod. Consideration will be given as to what happens to the premises.

As always, reports were received from all the chapels and also from the Local Preachers' Meeting.

We were told that now is the time to be thinking about what will happen in 2014 when we go down from two-and-a-half presbyters to only two. The only decision that has already been taken is that things cannot stay as they are.

The meeting agreed to host the District Synod on 27th April 2013.

The next Quarterly Meeting is on Thursday 21st June at Hornton.

CIRCUIT SERVICES

Rev. Tom Stuckey, former President of the Conference will preach at the Circuit Service on 13th May (10.30am at Marlborough Road).

The Easter Offering dedication service this year will also be at 10.30am at Marlborough Road on 24th June.

Other Circuit services are at Greatworth, at 6pm on 22nd July and the Covenant Service at Marlborough Road at 10.30am on 2nd September.

GET READY FOR PENTECOST!

Rev Tom Stuckey, a former President of Conference, will lead a Study Day on the theme:

ON THE EDGE OF PENTECOST

Exploring the Acts of the Apostles

Saturday, 12th May

10am to 1pm

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

(Tom will also preach at the following Sunday Circuit Service)

Everyone is welcome!

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY 2012

May 6th

Acts 8:26 – 40

Psalm 22:25 – 31

John 4:7 – 21

John 15:1 – 8

May 20th

Acts 1:15 – 17, 21 – 26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9 – 13

John 17:6 – 19

May 13th

Acts 10:44 – 48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1 – 6

John 15:9 – 17

May 27th Pentecost

Acts 2:1 – 21 or

Ezekiel 37:1 – 14

Psalm 104:24 – 34, 35b

Romans 8:22- 27 or

Acts 2:1 – 21

John 15:26 – 27; 16:4b - 15

ADDERBURY

There are many local organisations which use our premises during the week, many of them regularly. They range from regular coffee mornings on behalf of Katherine House Hospice, the Over 60s and the History Association, Neighbourhood Watch, Oxon Befriending Network and various committees to children's birthday parties, to name but a few. This year we are inviting all these groups to join us for our Chapel Anniversary. The Anniversary service will be held on 27th May at 10.30am, led by Michael King, followed by refreshments. Please remember this venture in your prayers as we seek to reach out to the community around us.

BODICOTE ANNIVERSARY

June 18th at 10.30am

Preacher Mr A Harter

All invited to lunch at 46 Horton View after the service

CHACOMBE

Coffee Morning

We now have a weekly Coffee Morning held in our Schoolroom. It takes place every Thursday from 10.30am - 12.00 noon and is proving to be very popular. Any monies raised will go to charity. If you happen to be in the area, pop in for a cuppa, piece of homemade cake and lots of chat.

Bible Study

These sessions take place at 2.15pm in the home of Joan Boyles and are led by Hazel Stagg. Contact Joan (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

CROPREDY

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Holy Week Holiday Club, Mission Rescue, with their practical help and prayers.

We were pleased to receive 17 trainee secret agents over four days, who have been learning about a Saviour God through story, singing and games with Robert and Thomas Haley and desert survival skills with Agent Y.

Next Holiday Club planned for 20-24 August, at Upper Boddington Methodist Church.

Hazel Stagg

The May Praise evening is May 23rd at 7 pm leader Sarah Underdown. Come and join us for a happy time singing Hymns, listen to readings and join new and old friends over a Cup of tea or Coffee.

EASINGTON

All the fun of the fair! All are welcome to join us on Saturday 16th June 2 – 4 pm for our annual Summer Fete. A good range of stalls and amusements will be available, together with delicious cream teas!

GREATWORTH

Since last November we have been having an "Open Doors" session every Monday morning from 10 o'clock until midday. A variety of activities are on offer including carpet bowls, jig-saws, board games etc. and there are refreshments: friends from the circuit are warmly invited to come along to any session.

How nice it was to have a wedding in Greatworth Methodist Church on Easter Saturday. Walter and Lilian Stageman's daughter Victoria was married to Peter Hill. The last wedding here was in the early eighties. The Church looked lovely with carpeting from Brailes, chairs from Warmington and Tony Swift playing the organ and a host of golden daffodils – who could ask for more. I was even more heartened when the lad I was sitting next to at the reception, wearing a fish badge, told me that in his gap year he wanted to volunteer in a different culture and build on his faith.

Jenny Rogers

HINTON

Hinton Methodist Church is celebrating the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**. We invite you all to come and join us on **Saturday 26th May 2012 from 10.00am to 12.00pm**.

There will be tea, coffee, cold soft drinks, biscuits/cake as well as a very friendly welcome. Also we will be raising funds for our Church. We will be making a small charge as follows:-

Only 50p for a slice of cake

Only 50p for a cup of tea and biscuit

Only 50p for a cup of coffee and biscuit

Only 20p for a cold soft drink and biscuit

These are bargain prices compared with what the commercial outlets would charge you. So come along and meet up with the friendly team and even meet new people and make new friends.

HORNTON

Coffee mornings are continuing on Friday mornings 10:30 – 12 noon and are proving to be very popular. 'Jiffy Services' are held in Chapel 1st Sunday in month at 3:30 pm and Thursday 'After School Club' is from 3:30 – 5 pm.

May Day, Village celebrations will be held on Monday 7th May and we shall be having stalls for our building fund. Do come and support us if you can.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

3rd May – Kurling – Come along and have a go!

7th June – June Smith – Family history

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

UPPER BODDINGTON

Our annual sale of plants will take place on Saturday, May 19th, 10am - 12am, (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). We must say a big 'Thank You' to David and Daphne Adkins for letting us use their premises for the sale. There will be plenty of parking spaces and the plants will be sold under cover. We hope to have the usual range of pelargoniums, fuchsias, perennials, annuals and container plants on offer at sensible prices. All money raised from the sale will be used to help pay for the exterior of our Church premises to be painted.

The first coffee morning we held for the Hosannah Children's Home raised £180.50. The second coffee morning is planned in April and the final one will be on Saturday, May 26th, 10am -11.30am in the Chapel schoolroom, when there will be a cake stall and a Bring and Buy stall.

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

We meet on the 2nd and 4th 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.

9th May – Rev Rob Anning

23rd May – History of the Red Cross

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EDITION

THURSDAY 10TH MAY

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,

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

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