

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER May 2013

Ascension and Pentecost: Dealing With Change

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

Thursday, 9 May is Ascension Day. As Methodists, we struggle to know exactly what to make of this day, or indeed, what, if anything, we should do on this day. I suspect we are in keeping with the first disciples of Jesus, who must have wondered what it was all about: Jesus died, Jesus rose from the dead, his presence was experienced from time to time, then he disappears.

Of course, Easter and Ascension can't be taken on their own, for we need to couple them with Pentecost, which we celebrate on Sunday, 19 May, when the promise of Jesus, to his disciples, that they would not be left alone, was fulfilled.

The challenges and changes that those first disciples faced seem pretty daunting to me. So how did they manage to cope? I think there are a few clues in the scriptures: First, we are told that they met together regularly for fellowship and support, they prayed together, they worshipped God. Second, they had the gradual realisation that they were not abandoned or alone; the Holy Spirit was with them, encouraging, equipping and inspiring them. Third, they did not turn inwards but turned outwards, beyond themselves. They tried to respond to the needs of the most deprived around them.

This coming September, we begin a series of changes in the Banbury Circuit, which will be for us a real challenge. Rev Janet Jackson completes her five-year ministry here in the Circuit and moves on to another appointment in Derby. Rev Victoria Bravette will be coming to join our Circuit team from Birmingham. Victoria will take pastoral charge of the section which will include The Fairway, Grimsbury, Neithrop and Marlborough Road churches. This will lead to a further significant change in September 2014, when we drop from two-and-a-half ministers to two ministers.

How will we respond and cope? Like those first disciples, we need to continue to pray about our Circuit life, to continue to recognise that we are part of a Circuit fellowship and not individual churches, and have the assurance, as those early disciples did, that we are not alone in these changes, but the Holy Spirit is with us.

And we also need to continue our preparations by finding ways in which lay leadership can be developed and promoted to take on some of the tasks which the ministers may no longer be able to carry out to ensure as a Circuit we are equipped for what God wants from us in the future. This means a group of churches which are not inward looking, fearful behind locked doors, but outward looking to the communities which surround our churches.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

“Go into the world and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey all I have commanded you and surely I am with you always to the end of the age.”

I wish you a very happy and peaceful Easter season.

I am very much looking forward to coming to The Banbury Circuit and sharing in the mission and witness of your Circuit.

I have been in my present appointment for the last eight years, prior to that I spent one year in the Morley Circuit, 5 years in the Manchester Circuit and 5 years in London Mission South Circuit. My ministry has been varied and exciting, with Black majority churches in London and Manchester to White majority in Morley, and Birmingham Churches. In both kinds of congregations one common denominator is the desire to love God and to do God's will in their lives and in their neighbourhood.

I was born and brought up in Nigeria, of parents who were Ordained, my maternal grandfather who was ordained and two other siblings who are ordained as well. You might begin to think it runs in the blood! Grandma was President of Mother's Union for life and as a child was an Altar Server. I went to a Roman Catholic school. With all this different Spirituality as influence in my life I am committed to Ecumenism.

I am married to Ruffo who until his illness worked as Racial Justice Training Officer with the Methodist Church. Ruffo was diagnosed with Lewy Body disease with Dementia in 2006 and now resides in full time residential care. I shall make weekly trips back to Birmingham to visit him. We have four sons. Ruffo has three and my son – Folu who works and lives in London. My siblings live in: Surrey, Shropshire, Birmingham, America and, of course, Nigeria, various Nieces and Nephews, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins who live all over the world.

The call of Jesus Christ to go to all the nations is one that we as Church need to take seriously. For me, I believe this begins with our neighbourhood: getting to know them and finding how we can be of help. For some of our churches it will be a very small village community, but for some of us it will be on an estate where we are situated yet for others it will be the town centre. The need and the help will have to be identified and be specific to meet the demands of the community. How we communicate the Gospel in this 21st Century is very different to how we have done before. Young people communicate on the internet, with face book, twitter, tagged and various chat rooms and I believe we must adapt and be relevant. Jesus walked the streets, touched people and gave them permission to touch Him. I pray we too may be Christ like in all we say and do.

Shalom Victoria O Bravette

CIRCUIT “GOODBYE” AND “HELLO”

Later this Summer, Rev'd Janet Jackson will be leaving us to join a new Circuit in the Derby area. We are planning a “goodbye” for Janet, which will take place at a Circuit Service on Sunday, 21 July, 6pm at Middleton Cheney Church, followed by refreshments.

Janet will be followed by Rev'd Victoria Bravette, who is coming to join us from 1 September from the Birmingham area. Victoria will be living in the Grimsbury manse, and will have pastoral charge of Grimsbury, Marlborough Road, Neithrop and The Fairway. There will be more about Victoria in a forthcoming Circuit Newsletter.

We are planning to say “hello” to Victoria and make her feel welcome at a special Welcome Service on Wednesday, 4 September, 7.30pm at Marlborough Road Church, when the preacher will be the Chair of District, Rev'd Peter Hancock.

Please make a note of these two dates so that we can ensure we say “goodbye” and “hello” really well.

Rev'd Rob Anning.

CIRCUIT QUIET DAY

This will be held on Saturday, 11th May at Wroxton Methodist Chapel, beginning at 10.00 am and finishing at 4.00pm. The theme for the day will be '**What's in a name?**' reflecting on our name for God and his for us. Copious amounts of tea and coffee are available through the day, and even cake at the end, but you will need to bring a packed lunch with you! The cost for this Quiet Day will be £5 and I shall be pleased to have names of those who wish to book a place by Friday, 3rd May at the latest.

Dorothy Hewitson

LECTIONARY READINGS MAY 2013

May 5th

Acts 16:9 – 15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22- 22:5

John 14:23 – 29 or

John 5:1 – 9

May 12th

Acts 16:16 – 34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12 – 14, 16 – 17, 20 – 21

John 17:20 – 26

May 19th

Pentecost

Acts 2:1 – 21 or

Genesis 11:1 – 9

Psalm 104:24 -34,35b

Romans 8:14 – 17 or

Acts 2:1 -21

John 14:8 – 17 (25 – 27)

May 26th

Trinity

Proverbs 8:1 – 4, 22 – 31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1 - 5

John 16:12 - 15

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Rev. Victoria Bravette who will be joining the Circuit in September is leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 6th – 15th October 2013.

The outline itinerary is as follows:

Day 1 Sunday 6 th Oct. UK - Israel	Day 6 Friday 11 th Oct. Dead Sea – Masada
Day 2 Monday 7 th Oct. Mediterranean Sea – Sea of Galilee	Day 7 Saturday 12 th Oct. Jerusalem – Bethlehem
Day 3 Tuesday 8 th Oct. Lakeside	Day 8 Sunday 13 th Oct. Old Jerusalem
Day 4 Wednesday 9 th Oct. Galilee – Jerusalem	Day 9 Monday 14 th Oct. Old Jerusalem
Day 5 Thursday 10 th Oct. Jerusalem	Day 10 Tuesday 15 th Oct. Jerusalem – London

For further detail on the itinerary please contact Val Trinder (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

CHACOMBE

Our next fund raiser will be an exhibition of memorabilia – Memories of Yesteryear. It will be held on Saturday 11th May at 2 pm. There will also be live music, traditional cream teas and a plat stall. Come and take a look back in time.

Our Bible Study sessions will recommence on Tuesday 16th April starting at 2 pm in the home of Joan Boyles. Further enquiries contact Hazel Stagg.

Don't forget our Coffee & Chat mornings which are now held every Thursday from 10.30 am – 12 noon in the schoolroom.

CROPREDY

Bible Study every Wednesday pm Speak to Hazel Stagg for details.

Praise evening 22nd May at 7 pm speaker Rev Bill Rolf. Come and join us for an hour with hymns, readings and a chat with a cuppa and biscuits.

Cropredy Open Gardens Bank holiday Monday May 6th 2013 11.00am – 5.00pm. Entrance £2.50 to all gardens, children free. Ploughmans Lunches & Teas served in the chapel schoolroom where there will be bring and buy stall and crafts. Old Vehicles, memorabilia, dance show.

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

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

2nd May – Buddhism – Talk by Virginia Yip and/or Melanie Green

6th June – 'This is your life'

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

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

MEMORIES OF MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, ITS SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ITS YOUTH CLUB.

Trevor Parry has recently written a booklet of his reminiscences as a young person growing up at Marlborough Road during the period 1948 to 1958. The booklet includes a number of long forgotten photos (and some previously unpublished photos) of the interior of the church and schoolroom dating from before its redevelopment which will be of interest to many people in the Circuit.

The booklet is priced at £3.00 and all profits will go towards Church funds.

Trevor can be contacted at: (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

ST FRANCIS CHURCH

Bluebell Walk/Ratley Ramble, Bank Holiday Monday May 6th-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 stroll, a walk of about an hour or a couple of hours. (Weather permitting, of course!) – followed by a cream tea /cakes. **If the weather is awful, or if you don't 'do' walking, just come for the food!!** **How will it work?** We will provide you with direction sheets, illustrated with photos to help stop people getting lost! These will include probable duration/timing, so walkers and non-walkers can co-ordinate arriving for tea at the correct time. **Who can come?** Anyone!! Walks will be possible for those with 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. Please contact Andrea, (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) for direction sheets and information. Tea will be served from 3.30 to 5.00 pm at 'The Stable House' (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). There will be a charge/donation for tea.

UPPER BODDINGTON

We will be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday, May 18th, to raise funds for Christian Aid. The event will run from 10am - 11.30am, and as usual there will be a Cake stall and a Bring & buy stall. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be on offer and we hope to get plenty of support to help the important work done by Christian Aid.

Our annual sale of plants is a week later than usual this year. It will take place on Saturday, May 25th, from 10am - 12noon (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). We are very grateful to David and Daphne Adkins for offering us the use of their premises for the sale again. The sale will be under cover and there will be plenty of parking available. We hope to have a good range of pelargoniums, fuchsias, perennials, container and bedding plants on offer (at the time of writing the weather is causing problems) and all the plants will be offered at reasonable prices. Please come along and help us raise funds to meet our Church expenses by buying up plants to bring colour to your garden through the summer.

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.

8th May – Rev Rob Anning

22nd May – Members Afternoon – Recipe Exchange

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EDITION

THURSDAY 9TH MAY

CONTRIBUTIONS TO

MARY TANNER,

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