

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER May 2014

Torn in Two

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

Mark 15 verses 37 and 38: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

The Temple in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' death, was the third temple to stand on the Temple Mount. The Temple for the Jews was the centre of their religious life.

Solomon had built the first temple, which was destroyed by the Babylonians some four hundred years later in 587BC. The people returning from Babylon some 50 years later, set about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and the Temple, but this second temple was never built to the same standards as Solomon's. Finally, the Temple of Jesus' time had been rebuilt under Herod and was grander and on a more magnificent scale. This Temple was destroyed by the Romans, when Titus was Emperor, in AD70.

At the core of Herod's Temple was the Holy of Holies. Here was a sacred place where only the High Priest could venture, and then only on one day a year, the Day of Atonement. The Holy of Holies was separated from the rest of the Temple by a veil or curtain, behind which it was believed that the Spirit of God lived. According to Matthew, Mark and Luke, at the moment of Jesus' death, this curtain was torn in two. This may have happened literally, for Matthew adds that the earth shook and rocks were split at the same time, but it doesn't take much imagination to understand the spiritual significance of the event.

Many of us experience the feeling of being "torn in two". How often are we invited to two events on the same day and time, and we feel our loyalties divided? Or are pulled in two directions when asked to support two people at the same time, and we love them equally? How often are we confronted with the choice between good and evil and again experience this "torn in two" feeling? And how often does this lead us to making mistakes?

As we look at the Passion of Christ, we see someone who was "torn in two". In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asks in prayer, that if at all possible, to be relieved of the cup of suffering. It wasn't that he didn't want to do the will of God but as a human being he was "torn in two". And the experience of crucifixion was to invade the very being of Jesus, he was broken by us, he was "torn in two".

But the symbol of the Temple curtain being "torn in two" sums up the paradox of the Easter story. Here lies our hope. By being "torn in two" Jesus offers to us the possibility of a new and whole relationship with God. All those moments in our lives when we have been "torn in two" and made mistakes, committed sins, are swept away. The message of Easter is that we and God are made whole in our relationship with him. Not in any way by our own actions, but by Jesus' willingness to be "torn in two".

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The next Circuit Service will take place at Marlborough Road Church on Sunday, 1st June, at 10.30am, and during the service, Mr Ross Adkins will receive his certificate for 60 years service as a Local Preacher, and our Easter Offerings will be Dedicated.

The Worship Leaders and Local Preachers will meet on Tuesday, 10th June, 7.30pm at Hornton Chapel.

The June Circuit Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 17th June. The venue has yet to be confirmed.

Circuit Service on Sunday, 13th July, 10.30am at Marlborough Road.

The Circuit Service at Hornton on the evening of 17th August (at 6pm) will be the occasion when as a Circuit we say goodbye and thank you to Dorothy and to Rob and Pat as they leave us to begin well earned retirement. Please make a note of the date in your diaries!

We look forward to welcoming Rev Lin Francis as Superintendent Minister in the Banbury Circuit, and her husband Geoff. Lin's Welcome Service will take place at Marlborough Road Methodist Church on Saturday, 30th August, at 7pm. The Service will be led by our Chair of District, Rev Peter Hancock, and will be followed by refreshments.

PREPARING FOR GROWTH

The turnout for the February morning's sessions was a great encouragement, especially to those of us who led workshops on the day. We realised, however, that not everyone who wanted to was able to attend, but also that given only two options in the morning meant that some missed out on other areas they were interested in.

So, on Saturday, 14th June, at Wroxton Chapel, there will be another opportunity to participate in the 'Pastoral Friends or Visitors' workshop. From the experience of the February sessions, we know that more time needs to be given to cover some areas in a little more depth, so we will begin at 10.00 am, with a break mid-morning for leg-stretching and a coffee or tea refill, and finishing at 12 noon.

I don't need to know you're definitely coming (you can just turn up on the day!), but it would be helpful to have some idea of those proposing to come.

Dorothy Hewitson (01295 262784)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Banbury Circuit will be running shortly an 8-week course to explore faith issues. The course is called **Compass** and has been recently published by the Methodist Church. You are invited to attend, and encouraged to invite friends who may be beginning or developing their faith journey. The evenings will begin with a fellowship meal and move into discussion and reflection in a safe space. We will begin at 6.30 and finish about 8.15 on Thursday evenings commencing 1st May, at Easington chapel. Hazel Stagg, Jo and Ian Hearle and Michael King will be meeting shortly to discuss practical arrangements. We would like to hear from anyone who is interested to attend or who would like to share their gifts of organising, leading or catering. We often think about how we would like to grow our churches but it is also important to nourish ourselves. Please pray for this outreach and exploration venture, for all those who will become involved in contributing or receiving from it

Hazel Stagg

THE ANAPHYLAXIS CAMPAIGN

The word 'anaphylaxis' isn't snappy, but it is accurate and helps differentiate this organisation from the work of other allergy groups. For most people, the word 'allergy' conjures up images of an irritating rash or perhaps red-eyed, hay fever sufferers coughing and spluttering their way through spring and early summer. Anaphylaxis, however, is the *potentially fatal* state of sudden shock or collapse after an acute allergic reaction. The whole body is affected, usually within minutes of exposure to the allergen.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign provides information and support of the highest quality, relating to foods and other triggers such as latex, drugs and insect stings.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign's ultimate aim is to create a safe environment for all people with allergies by educating the food industry, schools, nurses, colleges, health professionals and other key audiences.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign's focus is on medical facts, food labelling, risk reduction and allergen management.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign

- Provides a **helpline and information services** – giving advice by telephone, e-mail, fact-sheets, film and online channels.
- Raises **awareness** and provides **support** through a programme of workshops for parents of allergic children as well as for young people aged 11-18.
- Runs local **support group** meetings and regional medical meetings.
- Works with caterers, manufacturers and retailers to raise awareness and protect people from harmful allergens – **developing food safety**.
- In addition to work with individuals, the Campaign **works to educate** schools, nurseries, colleges, universities and youth groups in allergy management. Following the success of Its AllergyWise training for school nurses it has developed an online training programme for families, individuals, carers and healthcare professionals and will soon launch AllergyWise for GP's and Practice Nurses.
- It is **campaigning** to improve allergy services within the NHS.

A personal note from Margaret and Jeff Smith

*The work of **The Anaphylaxis Campaign** is very dear to our hearts because Ian, our elder son, has a potentially fatal allergy to nuts. When he was in his late teens, we came very close to losing him when he went into Anaphylactic shock after inadvertently ingesting an extremely small quantity of nut.*

In order to continue its life-saving work money is, of course, always needed. To raise some of that much needed cash, we are holding...

COFFEE / SOUP / TEA DAY
with
HANDMADE GREETINGS CARD STALL
Saturday 31st May 2014
10.00am to 3.00pm
49 Queensway, Banbury

Please come and bring your friends and neighbours to enjoy the coffee/tea with homemade cookies/biscuits and homemade* soup (*Including gluten-free).*

The Greetings Card Stall will include Fathers Day cards (June 15).

*There will be no admission charge but donations will be invited to **The Anaphylaxis Campaign**.*

THE GREAT CHRISTIAN AID CUP CAKE BAKE OFF

We'd like to invite churches, youth groups, uniformed organisations etc to join us for the **Great Christian Aid Cup Cake Bake Off!** The idea is simple. Each group hosts their own event in order to identify their champion cup cake maker. All the winners then come together for the Grand Final so that we can determine the champion of the **Great Christian Aid Cup Cake Bake Off.**

The rules are simple. Each contestant will be asked to submit six Cup Cakes. Cakes will be judged on how they taste *and* how they look ... but the judges will only taste one cake ... leaving the remaining five to be sold off at the Bake Off Cake Sale, with all proceeds going to Christian Aid. Anyone who wishes to make more cup cakes ... or victoria sandwiches, banana loaves, chocolate gateaux etc to boost the cake sale would, of course, be more than welcome!

So how do you take part?

First you need to register by emailing ali.bromhall@gmail.com

Secondly you need to pay a registration fee of £5 and, in return, we will give you posters, a suggestion sheet for running your own event *plus* some very special Christian Aid Cup Cake cases! (Details of how to pay your £5 and collect your goody pack will be forwarded once you've registered).



You might want to hold your own event during Christian Aid week (May 11 – 17) or you might prefer some other date. As long as all the individual events have taken place before 14 June that's fine.

The grand final will take place at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, Banbury on a Saturday morning in late June/early July. Why can't we tell you the date? Because we're liaising with a special judge ... so watch this space!

In the meantime get your registration in as soon as possible (the deadline for is Monday May 4) and encourage everyone to get baking.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope that this will be a really tasty fundraiser for Christian Aid.

Ali & Malcolm Bromhall Banbury Christian Aid co-ordinators

CIRCUIT CHOIR

If you wish to sing in the Circuit Choir at the next Circuit Service on Sunday 1st June at Marlborough Road at 10.30 a.m., please would you attend at least two of the three Friday practices beforehand i.e. 16th, 23rd or 30th May. We practise in the Wesley Room at Marlborough Road Church at 7.30 p.m. (note the new time). You will be very welcome, as were the three who joined us for the last Circuit Service.

LECTIONARY READINGS MAY 2014

4th May

Acts 2:14a, 36 – 41
Psalm 116:1 – 4, 12 – 19
1 Peter 1:17 – 23
Luke 24:13 – 35

11th May

Acts 2:42 – 47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19 – 25
John 10:1 – 10

18th May

Acts 7:55 – 60
Psalm 31:1 – 5, 15 – 16
1 Peter 2:2 – 10
John 14:1 – 14

25th May

Acts 17:22 – 31
Psalm 66:8 – 20
1 Peter 3:13 – 22
John 14:15 – 21

ADDERBURY

We will be celebrating our chapel anniversary this year on 25th May when Revd. Rob Anning will be leading our morning worship at 10.30am. In the afternoon Val Trinder will be opening her garden from 2.30pm to 6pm at 8 Cartwright Road, Charlton. As you may remember from previous years, Val's garden also opens with others in Charlton for the National Gardens Scheme (this year that will be on 18th May), and although fairly small, it is full of colour and interesting plants. Tea and cakes will be available. There will be no entry fee but any donations will go towards Adderbury's nominated charity for this year, Banbury Young Homeless Project. We thank everyone who supported and contributed to our efforts for our charity last year, the Phakamisa Project in South Africa. A splendid total for the year of £768 was raised.

CHACOMBE

Worzel Gummidge Tea Party – This enjoyable event raised £771 and will be shared between the Chapel and the Church.

Bible Study and Soup Lunches – There will be a Bible Study on 13th May at the home of Joan Boyles. A soup lunch will be held on May 27th in the Chapel schoolroom commencing at 1pm followed by Bible Study. All are welcome. Contact Hazel for further details.

Coffee & Chat – These popular sessions are held on alternate Friday mornings from 10.30am – 12.00 noon in the Chapel schoolroom. Everyone welcome. Contact Joan for further information.

CROPREDY

Our praise evenings continue with Sarah Underdown on 21st May at 7 pm, join us for Tea, Coffee and biscuits.

EASINGTON

On **Saturday 7th June from 2pm - 4pm** we are holding a **Plant and Craft Sale**. Do join us to peruse the garden plants, crafts and homemade cakes for sale and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and cakes.

GREATWORTH

CONCERT – As we announced last month we are having a concert in the chapel on Friday 9th May – and this will be at 7.30 pm (and not at 7 pm as we said in last month's Newsletter). Please come along for the performance by Poetic Licence who, as we said last month are a group of seven readers, a soprano soloist and a pianist (Tony Swift). The programme is full of variety and will suit everyone. The tickets cost £7.50 which includes refreshments and are available from Walter Stageman, tel. 01295 711082 or walterstageman@hotmail.co.uk. We look forward to welcoming you.

You are also invited to join us any Monday morning from half-past ten to half-past twelve for our informal 'Open Doors' sessions when a variety of activities are on offer as well as refreshments and conversation. There is no charge.

Our cycle of meals at the Winter Luncheon Club has come to an end and will be restarting on the third Monday in October (17th) after the 'Open Doors'.

We also have an Art Group which meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. The group welcomes artists of all abilities, so please come along and join us.

GRIMSBURY

Grimsbury Methodist Church warmly invite you to our
Table Top Sale
Grimsbury Methodist Church, West Street
Saturday May 17th from 10am until 12 noon.
Refreshments including homemade cake will be available.

Please come and share in our fellowship as we reach out and make contact with our community. Plenty of very good quality goods, lots of cakes and biscuits and oodles of tea and coffee. Come and sample our famous Lemon Drizzle Cake. Please contact either the church secretary on 07971000665 or Rev Victoria Bravette if you have any items that you wish to donate for the sale.

HINTON METHODIST CHURCH (Woodford Halse)

Saturday 3rd May from 10.00am to 12.00pm – Woodford Churches Together Tea and Coffee Morning at Hinton Methodist Church. There are cakes and biscuits plus a stall to purchase items for the chosen charity. If you do not have a car the 200 bus from Banbury stops outside the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

1st May – Which famous person would you like to invite to dinner?

5th June – Evening in Barbara's garden 8 Willoughby Road

Enquiries: – Shirley Davies, 11 Denchfield Road, Banbury, OX16 9EB. Tel. 01295 258193

UPPER BODDINGTON

Every Friday morning the Village Hall committee holds a Coffee Morning in the hall from 10am – 12noon while the Post Office is in operation there. On Friday, 9th May, together with our Anglican friends, we will be raising funds for Christian Aid by running a Cake Stall, Bring & Buy and Bric-a-Brac stalls at the Village Hall Coffee Morning. The tea, coffee and homemade cakes provided are beautifully served each week, so please come and support us as the village organisations work together to help Christian Aid.

Our annual sale of plants will take place at Heritage House, 1 London End, on Saturday, 24th May, 10am – 12noon. We are grateful to David and Daphne Adkins for letting us use their premises for the event, as there will be plenty of parking space and the sale will be under cover. Good quality pelargoniums, perennials and basket plants will be on sale at sensible prices so please come along and buy up plants to fill your containers and borders. All money raised will be for Chapel funds to help pay for our running costs.

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

14th May – Rev Mary Pheasey

28th June – Joan Hancox – Growing up in Banbury

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month except July and August in the Wesley Room 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.

CHANGE IN NEWSLETTER DATES

This year we are changing the newsletter dates. Instead of July/August we will be having a July newsletter followed by August/September. This will allow Rob to do a final article and the new Superintendent can start with the October newsletter.

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EDITION THURSDAY 15TH MAY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER
23 PINE CLOSE, BICESTER, OX26 3YJ
TEL. 01869 321203
E-Mail: mary.tanner1@ntlworld.com
CIRCUIT WEBSITE <http://www.banburycircuit.org.uk/>