



**THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER**

March 2015

Dear Friends,

In the gospels there is a story all about want. It talks of WANT, WANT, WANT, WANT, and even more WANT! There are two men in the story who are individually saying: 'Give me what I want' 'Let it be as I want'.

Their friends, who were close by heard them both, go on and on about what they wanted. These friends were indignant. Now, in all honesty, it could have been that they too, wanted their own say in things, or, that they had their own desires, but simply kept quiet. It was all a sorry state of affairs.

The two disciples in this story were James and John. They wanted power and prestige. They wanted to be in positions where their views would be listened to and implemented. Jesus, though, had other ideas. He told them that they were missing the point. The point of discipleship was not to have power and prestige; discipleship meant a life being turned upside down. A life of discipleship is characterised by being in humble and loving service.

This story comes from Mark 10: 35-45. It came to my mind as I reflect on Church Council Meetings here and in previous appointments. So often there is a debate over property, books, and a piece of equipment and of course money. Sometimes any of the above may be a gift which the chapel has been offered. Getting uptight over what we may or may not WANT, simply because we can, isn't ideal. The purpose of a Church is to exercise the ministry of Christ and a church council is meant to uphold this. What God wants is the most important thing.

Back to the story, Jesus had again predicted his death, of what would happen to him. He was preparing the disciples. Within a very short while after this story, He would enter Jerusalem, be arrested, denied, mocked and crucified. With all of this on his mind, he had two ambitious men in front of him, full of their own wants. He had to deal with them and their requests. He told them that even He, the Son of Man came to serve, and not to be served. Mark 10:45 is the key verse to the whole of this gospel. Jesus came to serve. As Mark's gospel continues, we hear

of James and John again. We hear of them working with Jesus, serving him and God's people. Their own desires and wants are put aside for the Lord's work.

Charles Wesley in his hymn HP 785 says: "To serve the present age, my calling to fulfil; - O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will". These words may have been written in the 1700s, but they are very relevant today. The 'present age', continues to evolve and needs the church to keep up with it, adapting to and meeting the needs of God's people at whatever time. For us, now, we need to work with the people God has given us, accepting how different we all are, consider what gifts we have as people, or even materially, and use all to serve the Lord; just as James and John had to.

We too are travelling towards Jerusalem in our Lenten journey and should be mindful of what happened to Jesus Christ, our Lord. So, during Lent, we as church folk, as Christians are urged to turn away from evil, from our own desires and wants, from all that denies Christ and turn to God. We are to consider life with Christ as a servant church. Our sole aim being to make followers of Jesus, by sharing the Good News that comes from His resurrection, the news we were given by others long ago.

With every blessing,

Lin



Moving.....

The sale of the manse at Kingsway and purchase of a new manse has now been completed. On Friday 27 February 2015 Geoff and I will be moving into the property at

1 Waller Drive, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9NS.

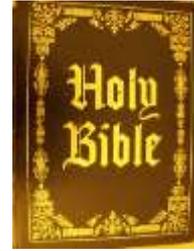
The telephone number and email address will remain the same:

01295 262602 and bancir@outlook.com

We would like to thank everyone for making this move possible. Especial thanks go to Val and Cheryl who have borne the brunt of the work involved in buying and selling the properties – thank you, we have appreciated all of your work and time.

Lin & Geoff Francis

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH 2015



1st March

Genesis 17:1 – 7, 15,16
Psalm 22:23 – 31
Romans 4:13 – 25
Mark 8:31 – 38

8th March

Exodus 20:1 – 17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18 – 25
John 2:13 – 22

15th March

Numbers 21:4 – 9
Psalm 107:1 – 3, 17 – 22
Ephesians 2:1 – 10
John 3:14-21

22nd March

Jeremiah 31:31 – 34
Psalm 51:1 – 12
or
Psalm 119:9 – 16
Hebrews 5:5 – 10
John 12:20 – 33

29th March

Isaiah 50:4 – 9a
Psalm 31:9 – 16
Philippians 2:5 – 11
Mark 14:1 – 15:47 or
Mark 15:1 – 39 (40 - 47)

CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

Our last meeting till we start again in September is on Thursday, March 26th at 7pm for 7.30pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church. Our speaker is Mr Ronnie Johnson of the Star Travel Agency in Banbury. Please book as usual with David Hughes on 01295 253891 by Monday, March 23rd at the latest for yourselves and any friends who will be welcome. The cost per head to include a two course meal and speakers expenses is £10 per head. If you have any special dietary requirements please let David know. I can 't promise that there will be any special holiday offers....but you never know!!! Look forward to seeing you there
Vernon.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB

Thursday March 5th at 7.30pm

Jill Daniels – Talk on Jane Austin

UPPER BODDINGTON

150th Anniversary of the building of the Chapel

We are planning to celebrate this event in April with a special service on Sunday, April 19th. The service will be at 6pm and take place in the village hall, as the hall has much more seating space than the Chapel and there is a good parking area. The Rev. Lin Francis will lead the service and the Rev Alan Haine will be the guest speaker. Tea's will be served in the village hall from 4pm.

GRIMSBURY

Lent Study Group running in partnership with St Leonards Church begins on Wednesday 25th February and will run for 5 weeks. The group will be following the York Study Guide Praise Him.

Meetings will be held in West Court at 2pm.

CROPREDY

The Chapel Continues to be a collection point for the Food Bank at The Salvation Army in Banbury, who remain extremely grateful for the support given by the Chapel goers and villagers alike.

Bible fellowship meets weekly on Wednesday at 2.15pm for details contact Maggie on 01295 750423

The praise evenings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

Feb 25th with Sarah Underdown

And

March 25th with Rev Bill Rolfe.

MIDDLETON CHENEY LENT GROUP

will meet at the home of Mr and Mrs Hunter, 10, Chacombe Road. The time is 2pm, Wednesdays 25th February; 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March. The sessions will be led by Rev Chris Eddy or Hazel Stagg.

It was proposed in the Advent groups at the end of last year that the subject for discussion would be members' faith questions. Please let Chris or Hazel know if you would like to attend, or suggest topics for discussion as it would be good to order these beforehand.

Chris 07733 757993

Hazel 01295 660 294

The Bible Study group on Tuesdays at Jane's has ceased to meet.

CAMEO

(Come And Meet Each Other)

Meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday Afternoons in the Wesley Room at Marlborough Road
at 2.30pm

Men and Women of any age are welcome to share in a varied programme.

Money rased goes to the Methodist Church Fund for
World Mission

Wednesday March 11th – This meeting has been cancelled as the premises are being used by
the Northampton District Synod.

Wednesday March 25th – Reverend Victoria Bravette.

These meetings are held at Marlborough Road but it is a circuit meeting with members from
the other churches.

Why not come and join us????

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL EDITION

SUNDAY 15th MARCH

CONTRIBUTIONS TO LORRAINE SQUIRE

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



Remember to change the clocks an hour
forward on Saturday night of 28th March
..... you don't want to be late
for Church!!