

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER November 2012

Autumn: A time for inoculation?

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

Autumn is most definitely here. The trees along Queensway have been spectacular, their colours shouting to passers by “look at me”. We have experienced the first frosts, and evenings and mornings are often tinged with mist. John Keats was right: It is indeed a “Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”.

It is also a season for preparing for winter. Making sure the pipes are lagged, doing those final few jobs in the garden before the ground begins to freeze, ensuring we have anti-freeze in the radiator. And in recent years, making sure you get the 'flu jab if you are of the age to qualify. We hope that each year, the inoculation will include those strains of 'flu which are most likely to hit us.

I took the cat in for her “cat 'flu jab” just recently but I won't qualify for the human version until next year. But it hasn't stopped me thinking about it and “jabs” in general.

The Methodist Church sees it's calling in four main areas: 1. To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love. 2. To help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care. 3. To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice. 4. To make more followers of Jesus Christ.

We are pretty good at the first three but we find the fourth area, of making more followers of Jesus, the most difficult. A recent video produced by the Methodist Church for use in encouraging “faith sharing” follows the theme of “pass it on”. And that's what brings me back to inoculation and “jabs”.

Sometimes I think as Christians we have taken the health advice a bit too far. It is almost as if we see our faith as something that shouldn't be passed on, that should be kept to ourselves, and others wouldn't appreciate catching it. Almost as though our faith was like 'flu!

And equally, for all kinds of reasons, we often find those we try to share our faith with have been “inoculated against Christianity” by their past experiences, or our history, or issues raised in the news. And this in itself makes “passing it on” really difficult.

I think part of the answer to our dilemma is found in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter nine, when he talks about adapting himself to whoever he is with.

"I become all things to all people, that I may save some of them by whatever means are possible". In other words, we need to consider carefully those to whom we want to "pass on" the message; get to know them first, their interests, their language, their way of living, and then "passing it on" is likely to be more successful.

I do find it strange just how good we are at gossiping; how quickly a piece of news, good or bad, can get around. And yet we are so poor and reluctant to share the "good news" of our faith by simply "gossiping it" with those we meet.

So this winter, keep the 'flu to yourself – but don't do the same with your faith: pass it on!

CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

The Circuit Supper Club meets on Thursday, 22nd November at 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church when the speaker is Andrew Harter and Mrs Harter entitled 'Educating the uneducationalable'. We shall hear about the formation and work of their special School for children with behavioural problems and they will touch on their work with ex prisoners.

The menu by our new caterers will be "Beef stew with dumplings, roasted potatoes and seasonal vegetables, followed by lemon syllabub with a homemade shortbread biscuit".

Please book with David Hughes (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) by Monday evening 19th November at the latest with any special dietary needs. All are very welcome.

Please note the Supper Club for 24th January has had to be changed to Thursday, 31st January.

ANNUAL MINCE PIE COFFEE MORNING

To be held on
Saturday 24th November
At
(*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)
From 10.00 to 11.30
Games, Raffle and Bring and Buy stall
Proceeds for Circuit Funds
Admission £1 to include Coffee and Mince Pie
Hope you can come
Jean and Tony Swift

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2012

Nov. 4th

Deuteronomy 6:1 – 9
Psalm 119:1 – 8
Hebrews 9:11 – 14
Mark 12:28 – 34

Revelation 22:1 – 5

Matthew 5:1 – 12 or Matthew 5 43 – 48
Or John 15:9 - 17

Nov. 11th

1 Kings 17:8 – 16
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24 – 28
Mark 12:38 – 44

Nov. 18th

Daniel 12:1 – 3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11 – 14 (15 – 18) 19 – 25
Mark 13:1 – 8

Or for Remembrance

Isaiah 25:1 – 9 or Isaiah 52:7 – 12
Or Micah 4:1 – 8
Psalm 9:9 – 20 or Psalm 46
Romans 8:31 – 35, 37 – 39 or

Nov. 25th

Daniel 7:9 -10, 13 – 14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b – 8
John 18:33 – 37

ADDERBURY

THE ADDERBURY PICTURE SHOWS ARE BACK – WITH SUPPER TO FOLLOW! – “In the footsteps of poets” is the title of the next Adderbury picture show to be presented by Val Trinder. This will be on Friday 9th November at 7.30pm in the chapel schoolroom and will be followed by a light buffet supper. No admission fee but donations for church funds. All welcome.

2013 CALENDAR – Val Trinder has produced a calendar again this year featuring her photographs entitled Landscapes of Britain. Pictures include Scottish mountains, a dramatic coastal sunset and winter reflections on Wroxton pond! Price £5 – profits will go to projects at Adderbury and Circuit funds. To buy a copy please contact Val (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*), or come to the Adderbury picture show or the Chipping Warden coffee morning!

CHACOMBE

BIBLE STUDY – in the home of Joan Boyles at 2.00pm. These sessions will be led by Hazel Stagg. Further enquiries contact Hazel (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

COFFEE MORNING – The Coffee mornings are still going strong and take place in the school room every Friday morning from 10.30am - 12.00 noon. Come along for that chat and delicious cake.

FAIRWAY METHODIST CHURCH

You are invited to our
Christmas Coffee Morning
Saturday 17th November 2012 10 - 12
Coffee and Mince Pies, craft stall, cakes, bric
a brac.
BRING A FRIEND

**Advance notice -- Annual Candlelight
Supper**
Saturday 15th December 6pm - £7.50
Names to Connie Moses (*contact steward or see
paper copy for contact details*)

HINTON METHODIST & ST MARY'S CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS WOODFORD HALSE

Hinton Methodist Church, Woodford Halse invites you all to come and join us on

Saturday 8th December 2012
From
10.00am to 12.00pm.

There will be tea, coffee and biscuits/cake as well as a very friendly welcome. As we will be raising funds for our Church we will be making a small charge for the drinks and eats. There will be a stall for you to purchase items and you might find that Christmas present to give. So come along and meet up with the friendly team and even meet new people and make new friends. If you do not have a car, the buses do run on Saturday, the 200 bus leaves Banbury Bus Station at 15 minutes past the hour travelling through Wardington, Chipping Warden and Byfield before reaching Woodford Halse. Ask for Hinton Green; the bus stop is right outside the Church. The bus back to Banbury leaves Hinton Green, Woodford Halse, at about 35 minutes past the hour, the last one leaving at 6.55 pm, so giving you time to explore the village and shops in our village. We look forward to seeing you there on Saturday 8th December.



HINTON CAROL SERVICE

Hinton Methodist Church, Woodford Halse invites you all to come and join us at **10.30 am on Sunday 9th December 2012** to sing carols. The service is followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

HORNTON

We had a very successful harvest festival with Rev Janet and afterwards enjoyed a lovely lunch. On 17th November we are holding a soup lunch from 12 until 2 pm with Christmas stalls. Do come and join us if you can. The Macmillan coffee morning raised £210.00, a very good effort. Our Friday coffee mornings continue as normal, 10.30 – 12 call in for coffee, cake and a chat. Back in July we had a very happy wedding with a full congregation and we are looking forward to 4th November when we have a baptism service with Rev Janet. Congratulations to Jean and Isabel on becoming worship leaders and to Michael and Isabel for becoming members of our Church.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

1st November – Rev Rob Anning
6th December – Carols followed by mince pies

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

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS START AT 7.30

31st October – Wendy Humphris – Work of the Street Pastors
14th November – Wendy Robinson – St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem
28th November – Talent/Interest Evening

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.

14th November – Britain (and Banbury) in Bloom Park Ranger
20th November – Seasonal Words and Music – John Warren

**DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION
THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
CONTRIBUTIONS TO
MARY TANNER, (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)**