

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
November 2013**

Thinking About Wholeness

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

I was talking to a lady who had been undergoing investigations for stomach pains for over a year. Then she had gone to see a specialist who, unlike anyone else she had seen, instead of asking her about her symptoms, asked her to tell him her life story.

When we think about health and healing, we tend to think about our physical well-being. Consequently, our definition of good health almost always relates to an absence of disease.

But as human beings we are considerably more than simply the physical. We are a complex make-up of body, mind and spirit, and none of these parts is independent of the other.

The medical profession has now come to recognise this. Not only do our doctors offer us treatment for our physical ailments but they have complementary services which consider the mind and spirit too, such as counselling.

As Christians, we might think that the medical profession has taken a long time to catch on to this. After all, the healing that was offered by Jesus to those he met on his way, dealt with the whole being and not just one single part.

Jesus was concerned about people's physical ailments, but he was also concerned about mental and spiritual well-being. Consequently, he sees connections, for instance, between guilt and physical ailments, between broken relationships and physical ailments, as well as ailments which force us to be separated from our loved ones or communities. He sets out to return the whole person to a state of well-being by tackling the underlying cause.

Jesus draws for us a distinction between "cure" and "healing".

If we understand this distinction correctly, then we can also grasp the possibility that death can be a form of healing. If we believe in the work of salvation that Jesus did for us during that first Easter, then we need have no fear of death. In the words of Henry Scott Holland, reflecting on death, he said: "Death is nothing at all . . .".

SYNOD

The Northampton District met for September Synod this time in a new school in Corby. There were 147 representatives from 23 circuits, one of them being Banbury Circuit.

The gathering began with worship, led by a band from the local LEP church and Michael King as guest speaker; he asked, what did our witness speak of Jesus? This was followed by Holy Communion.

The business was led by Chair of District, Rev Peter Hancock, assisted by the Secretary of Synod, Rev Martin Wellings.

The first part of the meeting was about changes to appointments, district officers and ministers. Two chapels, Greens Norton and Ab Kettleby, were seeking permission to cease worship.

Rev Peter Hancock was unanimously invited to be Chair of District for another five years.

A report from Conference was given out. The Message from the new President is to look for “Glimpses of God” in the ordinary. The discussion of same sex marriage is ongoing. Justin Welby the Archbishop of Canterbury had spoken about Fresh Expressions of church.

There was a presentation by the Rev Margaret Goodhall about MHA celebrating seventy years of service. MHA is offering a Lent course; looking at the witness of real lives.

The Meeting heard good news stories from around the District.

There has been success in the Rugby area where outreach to schools has involved using a young person from the “One” programme.

Rev Rob Anning spoke of outstanding teamwork in the Horton project of fundraising for development and community outreach.

Irtlingborough chapel has a Fresh Expression of church, “Prayer Together”, since the insertion of a cafe area; this is used by a young mums fellowship and a toddler group.

The next Synod meets in May at Hinckley. Banbury circuit has no youth representative.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Rev Rob Anning will be leading an Advent four-week Bible Study entitled “Expecting Christ” on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm. The dates are: 26th November, 3rd December, 10th December, 17th December, all at Marlborough Road. Everyone is welcome to come along and prepare themselves for this coming Christmas.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

November 18th

Psalm 32:1 – 7
2 Thessalonians 1:1 – 4, 11 – 12
Luke 19:1 – 10

November 10th

Job 19:23 – 27a
Psalm 17:1 – 9
2 Thessalonians 2:1 – 5, 13 – 17
Luke 20:27 – 38

November 17th

Malachi 4:1 – 2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6 – 13
Luke 21:5 – 19

November 24th

Sunday before Advent
Jeremiah 23:1 – 6
Psalm 46 or
Luke 1:68 – 79
Colossians 1:11 – 20
Luke 23; 33 - 43

CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

The Circuit Supper Club meets on Thursday 28th November at 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church. Our speaker is Val Trinder with a presentation of 'In the footsteps of Poets'.

The cost is £10 per head for the evening which includes a two course supper and an entertaining evening.

Book with David Hughes (*see paper copy or ask a Steward for contact details*) by Monday 25th November at the latest.

Future speaker – 23rd January – Maureen Sutherland – Experiences of a tour guide

Please put these advanced dates into diaries:

March 22nd A training day for leaders in rural chapels

As mentioned at the Circuit meeting, a Circuit day is being arranged, from 10am to 4pm, for leaders of chapels in the Oxfordshire (Easington, Bodicote, Adderbury, Hornton and Cropredy) and South Northants (Upper Boddington, Hinton, Chacombe, Middleton Cheney and Greatworth) partnerships. It is hoped that 3 (or possibly 4) leaders from each chapel will be able to attend, to hear new ideas and share good news with each other. We will also spend time on vision, thinking ahead to post-September. There will be coffee/tea on arrival, a lunch, and tea will be provided at the end of our day of sharing. The venue is yet to be finalised, but it will be within the Circuit boundary. Please think carefully who will be the most appropriate to represent chapels on March 22nd and put the date in the church diary. More details at the Circuit Meeting in December.

April 12th An afternoon down on the farm in Greatworth!

Ross Adkins has kindly offered to host an afternoon, a short walk round his farm followed by questions and answers about some of the issues facing arable and livestock farmers at present. This will particularly interest those in the Circuit who live in urban areas! If anyone or any group is interested in a Spring visit to the farm, please contact Michael King (*see paper copy or ask a Steward for contact details*). We will need to limit numbers to 25 visitors, so first come, etc...!

ADDERBURY

SCENIC ADVENTURES – NO PASSPORT NEEDED (and there's supper to follow!)

This is the title of this year's Adderbury picture show presented by Val Trinder. The show takes place at Adderbury on Friday 22nd November at 7.30pm and will be followed by a light buffet supper. There's no admission fee but any donations will be given to the Phakamisa Project run by Pinetown Methodist Church in South Africa, which aims to raise the poor out of poverty. Please come along to enjoy a trip around the wonders of the British landscape and support this important work at the same time.

CHACOMBE

Bible Study – At 2 pm in the home of Joan Boyles. These will take place alternate Tuesdays. Further details contact Hazel Stagg. Anyone interested would be most welcome.

Coffee Mornings – Alternate Friday mornings at 10.30 am – 12 noon in the schoolroom. Come and enjoy some homemade cake and a natter. We would love to see you.

CROPREDY

Bible Study as October after the 26th November we shall be joining Rob's group

Praise Evening 20th November 7 p.m. lead by Hazel Stagg

Saturday 23rd November - we are holding a Ploughman's lunch and Craft Fair from 12 - 4pm. Enjoy lunch or a slice of cake and cup of tea and we may have just that gift you are looking for. We look forward to seeing you there.

HINTON METHODIST CHURCH (Woodford Halse)

Saturday 2nd November 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

7th November – Impromptu Concert in the Church in aid of Church funds

5th December – Carol Singing with our Church Choir

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

**A concert of light music
By IMPROMPTU**

To raise money for Church funds

**At Marlborough Road Methodist Church
on Thursday 7th November at 7.30pm**

**Tickets £8 (includes interval refreshments)
available from 'The Mustard Seed' or contact
Linda on 01295 262842**

MIDDLETON CHENEY

Advent Bible Study 2 – Hazel Stagg is offering a four-week Advent course, "Expecting Christ" on Thursday afternoons at 2.15.

The dates are: 28th November, 5th, 12th, 17th December, at the home of Mr and Mrs Bob Hunter, (*see paper copy or ask a Steward for contact details*).

Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse) Shoebox Appeal 2013 – You have probably heard of this appeal, and indeed, have already taken part over the years. All Saints Church and the Methodist Church in Middleton Cheney have been working jointly on this project together, so why not get involved yourself this year? All you need is a medium sized shoe box (approx. 7" x 12" x 5") wrap the lid and the base separately, and fill with suitable items for a boy or girl in one of three age groups: 2-4 years, 5-9 years, or 10-14 years. All items must be new, and include a donation of £3 please, to help cover the cost of getting the boxes to needy children. Or better still, come along to our Wrap & Fill mornings in Middleton Cheney Methodist schoolroom on Saturdays 2nd & 9th November from 9.30 a.m. where you can bring your empty shoe boxes and suitable items to pack boxes along with other people. Helpers for all or part of the sessions will be made very welcome, enjoy a cuppa too! Last date for dropping off completed boxes is Monday 18th November. If you are not able to come along, more details can be

found online at www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk. or leaflets can be picked up from the Library, and The Butler's Pantry, during their normal opening hours, or either of the Churches in the village or ring Carol Souch 01295 275334.

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME
ALL MEETINGS START AT 7.30pm

13th November – Phyllis Maycock Christmas Quiz or Make a Christmas Gift
27th November – Mary Tanner – Holiday in Mexico

UPPER BODDINGTON

Coffee and Chat mornings will resume in the Chapel schoolroom on the first and third Wednesday of each month 10 – 11.30 am starting on 6th November. If you are in the Boddington area on those days please call in for a chat.

We will be having a Coffee morning on Saturday 23rd November 10 – 11.30 am. There will be a cake stall and also a Bring & Buy stall. All money raised will go to our Church funds.

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

13th November – Ann Moss
27th November – Rev Victoria Bravette

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.

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION
THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER

(see paper copy or ask a Steward for contact details)