

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2010**

Remembering Saints and Sinners

Rev'd Rob Anning, Superintendent, writes:

The month of November is dominated by remembering. As the leaves fall from the trees, ending their visible contribution to the natural cycle of nature, so our thoughts turn to lives that have ended, some a while ago, some more recently.

Whilst Remembrance Sunday, November 14, dominates our thinking, particularly about those who gave their lives for our freedom, the remembering really begins on November 1, with All Saints Day. This date has been observed since around 735AD. Traditionally, it is the day on which the lives of Christian saints, known and unknown are celebrated. Who qualifies to be a "saint" is something we may want to argue about!

The following day, November 2, is All Souls' Day, when the souls of the faithful departed are commemorated, and dates back to around 1030AD. I think this is more a day for us, mere mortals, who may strive in our daily lives to live like saints but rarely manage to "fit the bill".

Fortunately, it is not our task to decide which were saints and which were sinners. In most cases, I suspect, they were a combination of the two, like most of us. This definition of "saint" is one that only developed in the second century AD, and more fully in the fourth century, when martyrs and great leaders of the church were considered to be "saints". Earlier, the apostle Paul saw all Christians who were striving to a holy life as saints. For instance, in Romans 8 verses 26 and 27, talking about prayer: ". . . *the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought . . . and God who searches the heart, knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God*".

I prefer to leave the judging to God and get on with the task of remembering and giving thanks for lives that have influenced us all and to which, through love, we are still closely connected.

To that end, on Sunday, November 7, we will be holding a "Remembering Service" at Marlborough Road at 6 pm. This is a service of thanksgiving and remembrance, an opportunity for anyone to bring to mind someone who has died. We will be inviting the families and friends of those whose funerals we have taken in the past 12 months, as well as inviting anyone who wishes to come along and remember someone they love from the past, and perhaps light a candle in their memory. So join with me and use this season to remember.

The Family-Friendly Churches Trust training weekend

Below is part of a report written by Andrea Harding-Smith following the visit of Rev'd Dr Mike Bossingham to Banbury Circuit. If you would like a copy of her full report, please contact Rev'd Rob Anning.

Mike Bossingham, the ordained Methodist Minister who founded and runs the Family-Friendly Churches Trust, began his research during a sabbatical in 2003. For his study, he decided to analyse the attendance returns made each year by all the congregations in Methodism. He plotted the long-term trends, and noticed there were some churches which stood out against the overall national downward attendance figures by showing an increasing attendance. Then he visited a number of these, to try to find out what they were doing which was having this effect, and to look for common features, if any. The workshops and training he gives all derive from what he found out.

He has summarized his findings under several headings. One is to list the models of worship employed by growing churches, and how they incorporate children and young people in worship.

These are

1. The traditional model, which (he says) works well as long as all-age principles are applied effectively to this part of the worship.
2. All-age, where the children are in for the whole service, and this is generally one week in four. It is vital that this is led appropriately and well!
3. Multiplexed. Where different styles of worship take place in different parts of the building. (This is only possible if the building has such facilities!) The different congregations are unlikely to mix or join up.
4. Pick and mix. A range of activities happen over a longer period than the familiar one hour. One church began with breakfast at 10, All-age session at 10.30, All together worship at 11.00, traditional sermon, readings prayers etc from 11.20. Come and go when you want! There are now 20 or so children, and an increased number of adults attending.
5. Liquid Worship. Start off all together. Then there is a chance to choose how to continue, as different sessions move on from the beginning. Perhaps a traditional sermon, a discussion group, dance, crafts, meditation. Conclude by bringing these together.
6. Café style. Usually people sit in groups at tables. Tea, coffee, snacks available – sometimes a meal. An informal style, where people can go and fetch more coffee if they want!
7. Messy Church. This can happen mid-week instead of on a Sunday. For all ages. Lots of craft activities and discussion over these activities. Leads into an act of worship and often a meal afterwards.

Another set of summaries is headed 'The style and atmosphere of worship'. This makes the following points:

- All the churches had a gentle, good natured atmosphere. No one was afraid of having a giggle, or clapping someone.
- There was a good balance of traditional and modern worship. (I think this especially relates to the music, but can also include the prayers etc.) The point was made that although there might be changes made, these need not be big ones, but what is important is that they are consistent. The growing churches did not do café style one week, and messy church another!

‘Small changes consistently applied week by week have more impact than big changes once in a while.’ (This is, I think, the key and core statement made during the weekend.)

- No one had a veto! Some churches are ham-strung by a few die-hards who will not allow anything to change. (But of course you would like everyone to move forward together!)
- There was an overall approach to children’s and young people’s work, where the whole congregation kept in contact with, and shared the responsibility for this work. There needs to be continuity, and flexibility in the groupings – there is no benefit in ‘promoting’ most of a group and leaving one or two youngsters behind with a group they neither know nor have much in common with, simply because some others have reached a particular age on a particular date. Also, this work needs to connect to what the rest of the church’s worship.
- There was a real tolerance of little children. Families that are shushed too much will stop coming! On the other hand, helping provide materials and activities to divert the worst of the distractions for the rest of the congregation is very helpful to all!
- There was a high level of lay involvement. This is where worship leaders are at their most valuable! If someone is gifted in relating to children, they can be a real asset in leading a section of worship which is relevant and attractive to everyone.
- Teenagers were involved in worship – and in leading worship. Giving responsibility creates a sense of responsibility and commitment. Use their gifts!
- All the growing churches had a very clear focus on Jesus as the core of their preaching and worship.
- Good use was made of modern technology. Even if, like in a little Norfolk chapel, this meant getting coloured chalks!! However, owning modern technology doesn’t automatically mean the church has become family-friendly!!
- If the whole church is becoming attractive to a wider range of people, it may well be that there will be adults with special needs present too, as they are also going to feel welcomed as the children do.

Contact details for the Trust are:-

Web site: www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk

BANBURY CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

Thursday November 25th 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Dr Ruth Champion Chair of LARK (Linking Arms with Rescued Kids) is coming with a colleague and a new and up to date DVD to enlighten us on the work of this valuable Charity. Some of you may have heard her two or three years ago but she assures me this is a new DVD.

Usual booking arrangements - telephone David Hughes by Monday night, November 22nd on (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*), and don't forget if you have any special dietary needs, let David know and he will pass it on to our Caterer, Iliia.

Our donation to her will be entirely used by the Charity and if anyone feels moved to donate a little as well that will be much appreciated.

HYMNBOOK COMPETITION

Val Trinder would like to thank everyone who “had a go” at the hymnbook competition which raised a splendid £150 for the Manses Fund. If you want a copy of the solution please get in touch with Val (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) who will send you one. Just in case you’re wondering, the entrants between them found a staggering 52 hymns containing the words “life, light and love” and 20 containing “God, grace & glorious”. Lots of people struggled with a few of the questions: “You’re going to work in Japan” should have been “You’re going to work out my plan” (hymn 450 verse 1 line 3) and “what the busy baker said to the dough” was “I need thee every hour”. Congratulations to the winner, Cheryl Messer from Marlborough Road who scored a whopping 100 points!

CIRCUIT TALENTS DAY

Thank you to all who supported us at this event, raising money for the Manses Fund. There were not as many people came as we would have liked, but it was an enjoyable time together. The total raised on the day was £279.70. This came from: Refreshments £80, Circuit Stall £68, and donations from other stall holders and music £131.70. We would appreciate some feed back on this event. Should we do it again next year? Do you have any suggestions for improvement? Maybe a different date or time would be more convenient. Please let us know what you think.

Thank you. Cicely Lewis and Jean Swift

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Many thanks to everyone who entered the photographic competition. We had over 100 entries. The results were as follows: -

Junior section: Alex Dalby – Corfe Castle
Everyday Life: Louise Deakin – Everyday life is fun
Nature: Jenny Tustian – Touch of Spring
Great Britain: Maurice Humphris – Blackwater Estuary
Lands Afar: Jennifer Warren – Reichstag Dome, Berlin

My thanks to Val Trinder and Liam Atherton for judging this competition. £105 was raised from the photographs and £80 from the refreshments served at the Craft Fair. We hope to run the competition again next year using the same categories.

BANBURYSHIRE CALENDAR 2011 AND LAUGHING METHODISTS!

Val Trinder has produced a 2011 calendar featuring some of her local photographs as seen at the Adderbury Slide Shows. The Banburyshire 2011 calendar is price £4 and will be available for sale in aid of the Manses Fund at the regular Thursday Circuit Coffee Mornings. We also have a few copies left for sale of Val's book, "More Laughing Methodists", price £6.99 for the Manses Fund. If you missed the opportunity to give one to a friend as a Christmas present last year, then this may be your last chance to buy one! Copies available from Val or Gwen Franklin (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

CIRCUIT DIARY FOR 2010

Sunday, 14th November: Remembrance Sunday.

In addition to the above, there is a Coffee Morning and Circuit Holy Communion every Thursday morning, to which everyone is welcome, and monthly Circuit Suppers on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm. All are at Marlborough Road.

GETTING TO KNOW MATTHEW

From Advent Sunday, 28 November, we start a new year in the lectionary. For the next 12 months we will be mainly using Matthew's Gospel. Rev'd Rob Anning will be running three afternoon studies on Matthew's Gospel, to help us familiarise ourselves with the first gospel in the New Testament. Tuesdays, 30 November, 7 and 14 December 2.30pm to 4pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church. All are welcome.

COFFEE MORNING

On **Saturday 27th November** Tony and Jean Swift are holding their annual **Mince Pie Coffee Morning** at their home (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) from 10.00 until 11.30. There will be a Bring and Buy, Cakes, Raffle, Christmas Items and competitions. Admission £1 to include Coffee and Mince Pie. Proceeds for the Manses Fund. Any donations or contributions will be gratefully received.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2010

November 7th

Job 19:23 – 27a

Psalm 17:1 - 9

2 Thessalonians 2:1 – 5, 13 – 17

Luke 20:27 – 38

November 14th

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6 – 13

Luke 21: 5 – 19

Or for Remembrance Sunday

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 Revelation 22:1 – 5

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

November 21st

Jeremiah 23:1 – 6

Psalm 46 or Canticle: Benedictus (Luke 1:68 – 79)

Colossians 1:11 – 20

Luke 23:33 – 43

November 28th

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1 – 5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11 – 14

Matthew 24:36 - 44

THE WORLD MISSION FUND

In the year ended August 31st 2010, I have received the following donations from the Circuit.

Hinton and Upper Boddington	112.93
Cropredy	60.25
Upper Boddington	80.50
Kings Sutton Sisterhood	25.00
Middleton Cheney	45.00
Fairway	40.00
Grimsbury	75.00
Marlborough Road	560.00
For JMA	
Marlborough Road	271.29
	125.00
	200.00
	425.00
	413.19

Thank you for your continuing support. Jean Swift

ADDERBURY METHODIST CHURCH BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
Of the opening of the first Methodist Chapel in Adderbury in 1810

SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER 7.30pm

Slide Show: "Same place: different day"
presented by Val Trinder

SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER 10.30am

Service of Celebration
led by Rev.Dorothy Hewitson

SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 10.30am–3pm

Open Day

Light refreshments, soup lunches, cakes & preserves for sale,
exhibition of historic
photographs, artifacts & documents about Methodism in Adderbury

EVERYONE WELCOME

ADDERBURY

Coffee morning on the first Saturday of the month from 10.30 am to 12 noon and includes bring and buy stall. Friends from the Circuit are very welcome to join us.

BODICOTE PRAISE EVENINGS

Spend an hour of hymn singing, prayers and readings, followed by a welcome cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. We gather at Bodicote Chapel at 7.30 pm, on Thursday evenings once a month. All are welcome.

Dorothy Hewitson

CROPREDY

We hold a Bible study meetings every Wednesday, for details of time and venues please contact Hazel Stagg.

Praise evenings for details please contact Rev Dorothy Hewitson.

FAIRWAY

Saturday November 20th Christmas Coffee Morning 10 to 12 noon at the Fairway Church, Coffee and mince pies, hand made Christmas Cards, bring and buy stall. All very welcome.

Advanced notice..... Don't forget our Candlelight Supper in December Saturday 18th, please phone Connie Moses or Marilyn (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) to put your name down.

GREATWORTH

Please come and join us in our Sunday School Room for 'Coffee, Cakes and Cards' on Saturday 27th November from 10 am to 12 noon. As well as the coffee and cakes there will be a Fairtrade stall with cards and there will also be hand-made Christmas cards on sale. There will be games etc. as well. Do join us, you will be warmly welcomed.

Also, make a note in your diary of our popular 'Carols for Christmas' service which is on Christmas Eve at 6 pm. The Rev. Janet Jackson will be leading our worship. Coffee and mincepies will be served afterwards

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

MIDDLETON CHENEY

We have no organist at Middleton Cheney, and use a Hymnal Plus computerised music making device. Our usual operator is Nigel, and he is of course keen to get the very best results. Therefore, he needs to programme the services in. As Nigel works full-time, he usually does this on Saturday morning preceding the Sunday service. We would be very grateful if an order of service, or at very least the hymn numbers are given either to Mrs. Iris Bean on (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) as early in the week as possible please. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

In August I went on an outing with South Northants Trefoil Guild to Buckingham Palace. The weekend before I had been up to Ludlow and picked up a book at their church – Methodist Heritage Handbook 2010 – information for visitors to historic Methodist places in Britain [free]. In there I found that Methodist Central Hall, Westminster had a Cafe. Having never been to Central Hall, after viewing Buckingham Palace, I walked down Birdcage Walk and into Storey's Gate to find it. I had a very nice lunch in Wesley's Cafe, which was an air-raid shelter during the war, and then had a conducted tour of the building and a stunning view of Westminster Abbey from the outside upstairs balcony. Andrew and Julian Lloyd Webber's father was at one time the organist there and the first performance of Andrew's "Joseph" was staged there. So if you are in Central London and have never been to Central Hall, go and have a look at our heritage and take a bite to eat and you will be pleasantly surprised.

Jenny Rogers Middleton Cheney

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

4th November – Talk by Gideons International (Bibles)

2nd December – Carols by our Church choir followed by mince pies

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

GIFT DAY AND COFFEE MORNING

Marlborough Road Methodist Church Saturday, 20th November, 10 to 12 noon. All gifts will go towards the Spire Repair Fund. Please come along and help Marlborough Road to reach their target of £20,000 to complete the work on the spire.

NEITHROP - MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING AND CAKE STALL

Come and join us, between 10.00 and 11.00 on the first Saturday of the month, for a chat over coffee/tea and biscuits. Stall also includes fruit pies/crumbles, preserves and books.

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP
NEWCOMERS VERY WELCOME
ALL MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAYS STARTING AT 7.30PM
AND ARE FOLLOWED BY TEA/COFFEE AND BISCUITS

27th October – Jacket potato supper followed by a quiz compiled by Archie Buzzard. Will you please bring a food item to sell after supper.

10th November – Jenny Castle will show us photos and talk about her trip to Uganda.

24th November – Margaret and Dennis will be holding a coffee evening between 7 & 9 pm at (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) (3 minutes from Neithrop Chapel). The evening will include a tombola and stalls. Proceeds equally divided between Neithrop Methodist Church and British Wireless for the Blind Fund.

UPPER BODDINGTON

The Arts & Crafts weekend we held early in October was a huge success and our thanks go to Juliet Babbs who organised the event for us. There was plenty going on to keep people interested for a long time and refreshments were served both days so people could sit and chat. £615.50 was raised and that amount has cleared the loan we had to pay for Church roof repairs. It has been fourteen months of hard work – and fun – raising funds we needed, so Church members are looking forward to a few quieter months before starting to raise more money just to help meet our expenses.

NETWORK

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, except for Holy Week. All meetings are at 2.30 pm at Marlborough Road.

27th October – Dressmaking – Kate Kyle

10th November – Speaker – Rev Mary Pheasey

24th November – Visit to Uganda – Jenny Castle

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS OF BUSINESS FROM THE SEPTEMBER CIRCUIT MEETING

The meeting was held at Hornton on 14th September 2010 and chaired by Rev. Rob Anning. The business covered the usual range of regular items and a roundup of news from around the Circuit. Special points to note included:

Safeguarding – Maurice Humphris circulated a report and every church should check that they have received this. It clarifies definitions of vulnerable groups and types of activity but further guidance from the Government about future safeguarding procedures is still awaited. The new CRB check forms must now be used.

Finance – The budget for 2010-11 was received. No increases in assessments are being made this year. The shortfall will be made up from Circuit reserves. We should balance the budget next year when we drop to 2.5 ministers.

Property – The Superintendent is negotiating with Methodist Insurance concerning new quotations. Churches should not reduce their premiums for buildings although contents, especially organs, do not have to be insured for like with like replacement. Methodist Insurance is insisting all churches use Smartwater marking. The meeting agreed to make a grant of £5000 to Marlborough Road towards the cost of repairing the spire, and, subject to checking that we are legally allowed to do so, a grant to St Francis of £5000 towards their extension. The scheme to rebuild the kitchen/toilet area at Hornton now has planning permission and is progressing well. The meeting appointed the two Circuit Stewards to act on its behalf in the legal matters dealing with the sales of Warmington and Brailes chapels. Balscote sale was completed in July.

Circuit review – The Superintendent will be visiting all our Church Councils to discuss where we are in relation to the “four Ps” (see previous newsletters) and explore how the Circuit can support churches in achieving their goals. We hope to appoint a lay worker to work with a few rural churches, so churches are asked to think about the type of help they need. The District is calling groups of Circuits to meet to discuss their respective Circuit Review findings. We shall meet with Chipping Norton, Rugby & Daventry and “Three Bs” Circuits in February.

Local Preachers – The meeting agreed to send a letter of appreciation to Ian Preece, (prior to his move to the Isle of Wight), for all he has contributed to the Circuit. Several preachers are meeting in study groups and others are welcome to join them. In future, stewards are asked to send all information for the Circuit Plan to their own minister please and not to the Superintendent.

Report from the District Synod – The Synod discussed a proposal to change the presidency of Methodist Church to comprise 3 people for 3 years. Our Synod voted against this, preferring a President and Co-President for one year. The final decision will be made at Connexional (i.e. national) level in the Spring. There will be a vote in Circuit Meetings and Church Councils later in the year on changing the Methodist Doctrinal Standards so that they recognise two types of ministry: presbyteral and diaconate. The District has appointed a “Hope in God’s Future” representative to deal with green issues and all Circuits are asked to do the same. Anyone concerned about “greening the church” and interested in this position should speak to Rev. Rob Anning.

Ministerial Sabbaticals – Rev. Dorothy Hewitson will be on Sabbatical from June to August 2011 and Rev. Janet Jackson from May to July 2012.

The next Circuit Meeting will be on Monday 29th November at Easington

WHAT IS LIFE?

Life is a precious thing;
Life is a gift from God;
Life comes in many forms;
Large, small and microscopic.

Life can be man, animals, fish and plants;
Life is a fragile gift;
Life should be respected, cherished and protected.

May we all say thank you to God
For this special thing called life.

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION
THURSDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,
(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)

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