

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

Harvest: A Celebration of Partnership

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

September and October mark the harvest thanksgiving season as we give thanks to God for his faithfulness and provision. It is a season to remind us about partnership. A re-writing of the famous harvest hymn, (We plough the fields and scatter), reminds us of the partnership between God and people:

*We reap the fields with combines;
We bale the new mown hay.
We sow selected strains of seed
And kill the weeds with spray.
But it is God who gives us
Inventive skills and drives
Which cut the toil of labour
And give us fuller lives.*

All too easily we fall into the trap of believing in our own cleverness. A couple of verses in a song written by Julian Lennon, son of John Lennon, sums that up well:

*We climb the highest mountain,
We'll make the desert bloom,
We're so ingenious we can walk on the moon;
But then I hear of how the forests have died.*

*We light the deepest ocean,
Send photographs of Mars,
We're so enchanted by how clever we are;
So why should one baby feel so hungry she cries?*

It is right that we put a special time aside to give thanks to God for our partnership with him in shaping creation, as he allows us to join with Him. It should be a time that reminds us we are the junior partner; a time to reflect on the past and recognise how God has kept his promises to us when we have so often failed Him; and a time to remember that we share this planet with others who are our human partners too. Fred Pratt Green writes:

*In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done;
In our world-wide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.*

PREPARING FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent, writes: I know that when many of you will read this, September 2013 will hardly be complete. And I can hear you say: "Why is he on about September 2014?" Well, it may be a year away but it will soon come around. And in September 2014, the Banbury Circuit moves from two-and-a-half Presbyters (Ministers) to two full-time Presbyters.

We have done enough talking, planning and thinking. Now is the time for some action if we are to be ready and prepared for the change that this reduction in staffing will inevitably bring.

The Circuit Leadership Team are looking for help in two different ways: First, we are looking for each church to consider how they can help. Second, we are looking for each individual in the Circuit to consider how they can help.

So first, a challenge to each Church in the form of some questions to ask yourselves:

Are the times of your Sunday services set in stone? By making a small adjustment, either to an earlier or later time, would it enable those leading worship to fit in two services, in different places, on a Sunday morning?

Is there another Circuit Church fairly close to you that you could partner with? The partnership might lead to sharing services, say every other week, or even every other month? Would it be possible to combine two churches into one, having one church council but two buildings?

Would your church be prepared to give up their building in order to join with another church close by? Could you share a building with an ecumenical partner? Is there a more suitable building near to your own that would make mission, outreach and worship better placed than your present building, perhaps a school or village hall?

And second, a challenge to individuals around the Circuit in the form of some questions to ask yourself:

Could you offer some time to the Circuit? It might be in pastoral care, becoming a pastoral friend in your chapel, leading a house group, training as a worship leader, helping with the administration of the circuit, volunteering in the circuit office, offering to be a Circuit Steward, chairing a church council.

I am amazed at the number of gifts people have around our Circuit. Would you be willing to offer your gifts and time to the Circuit? If so, please speak to me, Dorothy Hewitson or Victoria Bravette, or any of the Circuit Stewards: Val Trinder, Jean Swift, Cheryl Messer or Isabel King. We need to act now, for the time for talking is over!

MAKE SURE YOU ARE READY FOR YEAR "A"

Study Day on MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

Led by

Rev Dr Neil Richardson

*(Former President of Conference and New Testament
Tutor and Principal at Wesley College, Bristol)*

Saturday, 26 October

Marlborough Road Methodist Church,
Banbury, OX16 5BZ

10.30am to 3.30pm

- *Hear about the latest thinking on Matthew's Gospel* •
 - *Discover some of Matthew's major themes* •
 - *Explore Matthew's distinctive picture of Jesus* •

*Bring your own lunch
— drinks provided*

Everyone is welcome at this event!

ANOTHER CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBER FOR VICTORIA

The phone number for Rev. Victoria Bravette has been changed yet again! Our sincere apologies! Her number is now 01295 709717. Please ignore the number stated in last month's newsletter. Thank you.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2013

October 6th

Habakkuk 1:1 – 4; 2:1 – 4

Psalm 37:1 – 9

2 Timothy 1:1 – 14

Luke 17:5 – 10

October 20th

Genesis 32:22 – 31

Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

Luke 18:1 – 8

October 13th

2 Kings 5:1 – 3, 7 – 15b

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8 – 15

Luke 17:11 – 19

October 27th

Sirah/Ecclesiasticus 35:12 – 17

Or Jeremiah 14:7 – 10, 19 – 22

Psalm 84:1 – 7

2 Timothy 4:6 – 8, 16 – 18

Luke 18:9 – 14

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.

CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

The Circuit Supper Club meets on Thursday 24th October at 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church. The speaker is Alan Brewer talking about his experiences as a BOAC and BA Steward looking after many well-known people along with Royalty and Prime Ministers. His talk is entitled 'Up in the clouds with some fluffy bits'.

The cost per head to include a two course supper and speaker's expenses is £10 per head and makes a good evening out.

Book with Vernon Hurst by Monday 21st October at the latest (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) as David Hughes will be away.

Future speakers – 28th November – Val Trinder – An illustrated talk 'In the Footsteps of Poets'
23rd January – Maureen Sutherland – Experiences of a tour guide

CIRCUIT QUIET DAY ON THE THEME: 'ALL SHALL BE AMEN AND ALLELUIA'

This will be held on Saturday 26th October at Wroxton Methodist Chapel, beginning at 10 am and finishing at 4 pm. Copious amounts of tea and coffee are available throughout the day and even cake at the end, but you will need to bring a packed lunch with you. The cost for this Quiet day will be £5 and I shall be pleased to have names of those who wish to book a place by Sunday 20th October at the latest.

Dorothy Hewitson

THANK-YOU FROM REV. JANET JACKSON

Rev. Janet has written us a thank you card which reads:

Dear all,

Thank you very much for your kind gifts and best wishes as I left Banbury. We have settled in our new home and look forward to ministry in a new place. Be kind to one another.

All my love Janet.

HOLIDAY CLUB THANKS FROM HAZEL

Thank you to everyone who prayed for or contributed practically to the holiday clubs this summer. Your help was much appreciated.

A holiday club of five afternoons took place in Middleton Cheney Methodist church at the start of the holidays and another of five mornings at Upper Boddington Methodist church towards the end of the holidays.

Added together over 40 children attended, the majority invited from outside church or Sunday School membership. More thanks to the grown-ups from at least eight congregations; ecumenical partners, parents and young people who enabled this to happen by taking leadership roles, handing out biscuits or accompanying small children.

Our message about the integrity, bravery and faithfulness of Daniel was told, sung and danced out with joy and sincerity along with crafts and games on the theme of outer space.

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 every Wednesday pm Speak to Hazel Stagg for details.

Praise Evening 23rd October 7pm leader Margaret Clarke

Thank you to all supported us during Fairport. Again a very successful time and great to see friends from around the circuit.

Another date for your Diary - 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. More details next month.

EASINGTON

On 20th and 21st October Easington Chapel celebrates its 75th anniversary. We would be delighted to welcome friends from the Circuit at the following two events:

Sunday 20th 10-30am Morning Worship and Holy Communion taken by Rev Dorothy Hewitson.

Monday 21st 7-00pm Anniversary Songs of Praise followed by light refreshments

Come on and celebrate with us

HINTON METHODIST CHURCH (Woodford Halse)

Saturday 5th October 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 form Banbury stops outside the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

3rd October – Talk by Wally Lishman

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

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

Another chance to

“Sing

the

Faith”



An open opportunity to enjoy worship songs together, including some from our new Methodist Hymn Book “Singing the Faith”

on Saturday 12th October 2013

10am-12.30pm

at Marlborough Road Church

Refreshments provided

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

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 (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ALL MEETINGS START AT 7.30pm

2nd October – Harvest – Please bring along some food to share. We shall also have a Bring and Buy
16th October – Nigel Deacon – The Beacon Centre
30th October – Rev Rob Anning

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

9th October – Flower arranging with Margaret Hughes
23rd October – Rev Dorothy Hewitson

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 NOVEMBER EDITION
THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER**
(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)