

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2014

Dear Friends,

HELLO AND THANK YOU

Hello! It is good to be here with you all in Banbury. Geoff and I met many of you at our welcome service on 30 August and really felt welcomed in; thank you. These next few weeks and months will find us trying to marry up faces with names and the churches at which you worship. My worshipping with you at the midweek Holy Communion has been a starting point with this.

You only have my face to remember and so in this respect it will be easy for you to recognise me, but you will want to get to know me. Let me tell you a little about us. Geoff and I were born and bred in Swindon and so in a way we are coming home to an area of the country we know a lot about. My family have been Methodist's for generations; stewards, Sunday School teachers, Local Preacher's and been on all the varying committees. Workwise I have an administration background having worked in payroll and accounts and personnel/human resources with a variety of companies. Geoff and I married in 2003. He has two daughters and a three year-old grand-daughter. We are happy to be closer to our families, sadly though Geoff's dad died this last June, but as my parents need a bit more help than in previous years, we are nearer for them. Keeping in touch with people is vital to family life. Communication is so important in every aspect of life. Children are told to phone or text home if there is a problem with transport or to tell parents when they will be home, we call relatives when we reach our destination after a long journey and in today's world we talk to counsellors when we are in desperate situations.

Many of our bible readings talk of communication, namely in the form of prayer. They remind us that we need to be persistent in prayer, to pray for all people, for one another and to include prayers for those in authority. The Methodist Prayer Handbook directs our prayer life in order that we can give thanks for all that our Church and churches around this connexion and overseas have achieved and to encourage new ways of being church in this twenty-first century. The theme for this year's prayer book is 'Partners in Sacrifice'. We are together in our work for Christ; partners. In our work for Him, we give of ourselves, a sense of sacrifice. Please remember this connectedness when you pray. The voice of prayer is never silent! Many readings talk about struggles. We are encouraged to question and deliberate issues of faith and issues in our everyday world in order to enlarge our minds and develop our spirituality. This is not always easy, especially with the current world situation. As we continue to pray for peace in Syria, Palestine/Israel and Ukraine and think of their plight, we struggle to come to terms with the fighting and bloodshed that continues each day. As Scotland decides whether to be part of the UK or not next week, our prayers for God's will to be done, for people to make the right decision are necessary. In your personal struggles, be persistent in your prayers. As the very old BT advertisement used to say "It's good to talk!" We all need to talk, to communicate with one another. I would like you to know that it is a real privilege for me to share with you all, to talk with you about your faith, your hopes and dreams as well as your fears. So I urge you all to keep talking, to God, to each other and to me. Be persistent in prayer and develop your faith and be assured of God's blessing on you.

With love Lin

P.S. My email address has changed, so if you want to email me please use: bancir@outlook.com

FAREWELL TO REVS. ROB ANNING AND DOROTHY HEWITSON

Val Trinder writes: On Sunday 17th August at Hornton we said goodbye and thankyou from the Circuit to Rob & Pat and to Dorothy. It was a bitter sweet occasion with sad farewells, but also thanksgiving for, and deep appreciation of both their ministries in the circuit. It was suggested to me that we included the farewell poems I had written for each of them in the newsletter. So here they are:

FAREWELL ROB!

Our Super is leaving – sob, sob!
It's farewell to Pat and to Rob,
But since you arrived,
Our Circuit has thrived,
You've done a remarkable job!

You helped make our vision grow strong,
Brought Mike here to help us along.
There's Hornton's new annex,
The Fairway's a phoenix!
Kept faith that things wouldn't go wrong.

Your tact and diplomacy kind,
Have kept all our foibles in mind,
When folk needed care,
You've always been there,
Your preaching has broadened our mind!

So bowlfuls of thanks we are dishing,
And "Happy retirement" we're wishing!
Sit back, take a rest!
Although we have guessed
This fisher of men will keep fishing!

- God bless, and thank you Rob!
- and thank you Pat for your supporting role!

FAREWELL DOROTHY!

Long years ago one August day
From Northern climes far, far away,
A minister to Banbury came,
Although she'd barely heard our name!

With Bodicote and Hornton too,
And Adderb'ry to name a few,
Nine churches came within your care,
Down country lanes – and Brailes is where?

But sure, you cared right from the start
For troubled folk, with all your heart,
And closing chapels helped with love
To seek their guidance from above.

Your worship sensitively led,
Those quiet days where folk were fed,
And paperwork all up to date,
And that mad year, O sev'n to eight!

With Alan sick and Clive now gone,
You had to take the Circuit on!
And though we offered help - but yes
Without you 't'would have been a mess!

So thankyou, thankyou Dorothy
For all you've been to Banbury.
With love we wish you in this song
Retirement happy, full and long!

- God bless, and thank you Dorothy!

Val Trinder, August 2014

TO THE STAFF, STEWARDS, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE BANBURY CIRCUIT

Thank you all so much for the way so many of you gathered at Hornton to say 'Farewell', for your good wishes, and for the gifts you presented me with. You were extremely generous, and I shall, at some point in the future, delight in buying something very special to remind me of you all. Twelve years in one Circuit is quite a long time, and it's only at this point does the reality hit home, when we start counting – Chapels, People, Sunday Services, Quite Days, Meals, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, Carol Services and Harvest Festivals – the list is endless, but I look back on it with many fond memories for all we've shared together, and with gratitude to each and everyone of you for allowing me to minister to you, and serve you as best I could.

Now 'May the Lord watch between you and me when we are absent from one another' (Gen 31:49)

With love and every blessing, Dorothy

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2014

5th October

Isaiah 5:1 – 7

Psalms 80:7 – 15

Philippians 3:4b – 14

Matthew 21:33 – 46

19th October

Isaiah 45:1 – 7

Psalms 96:1 – 9 (10 – 13)

1 Thessalonians 1:1 – 10

Matthew 22: 15 – 22

12th October

Isaiah 25:1 – 9

Psalms 23

Philippians 4:1 – 9

Matthew 22:1 – 14

26th October

Leviticus 19:1 -2, 15 – 18

Psalms 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1 – 8

Matthew 22:34 – 46

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Banbury Historical Society extends a warm welcome to members of the Methodist community to its meeting on Thursday 9 October 2014 when Dr Peter Forsaith will speak on the subject of *Companions or Contradictions: Methodists and Art?*

Dr Peter Forsaith is Research Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Methodist and Church History at Oxford Brookes University. He has in his care the library of the Wesley Historical Society, and the Methodist Church's important but little-recognised collection of modern art, which will be the subject of his talk. He is a historian of religion, culture and society in eighteenth-century Britain, and the author of numerous publications, outstanding amongst which is *Unexampled Labours*, his acclaimed edition of the correspondence of Charles Wesley with the Revd John Fletcher of Madeley.

The Historical Society's meetings take place at Banbury Museum (entrance from Spiceball Park Road) at 7.30 pm. Coffee is served after meetings which gives members and visitors an opportunity to meet the speaker.

An exhibition of examples from the art collection will be staged in St Mary's Church, Banbury, between 1 and 14 October 2014.

CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

The monthly supper club meets again on Thursday, 23rd October at 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church. Our speaker is Mr William French, one time butler to Her Royal Highness the Queen and he will be relating some of his experiences when he was serving Her Majesty. I understand he will be donating his fee to Leukaemia Research a very worthwhile charity.

Please book with David Hughes on 01295 253891 by Monday, 20th October at the latest for yourselves and any friends who will be welcome. The cost to include a two course meal and speakers expenses is £10 per head.

We look forward to seeing you for this interesting insight and if you can offer a lift for one or two please ring Vernon Hurst on 01327 702565 with your name and telephone number so he can give details of who to call for. Many thanks.

Thursday, 27th November – Rev Wendy Biddington, Director of Green Pastures Care Home, telling us all about the work of the home and their planned new build in Banbury itself.

POSTCARDS FOR THE CHURCH IN SUDAN Charity Number 290607

Very many thanks to those who have brought and sent me postcards for the collection. This year's collection from the boxes in the churches at Priors Hardwick and Priors Marston will have been collected on 8th and 9th September as part of a national network of collections, and will be delivered to Mr Len Whittaker in Ingatestone, Essex. Len sorts the postcards according to his encyclopaedic knowledge of where and how best to sell them. Some cards are best sold to collectors who trade at traditional Postcard Fairs and others are best sold to dealers who deal exclusively on the internet. All postcards have some value. Len's summary for the year ending 30th June 2014 reports a sum of £10,601.00 being sent to the Treasurer after £1,205.73 had been deducted for travelling expenses. With increasing use of the internet and mobile phones, fewer and fewer postcards are being used as time goes by. But the troubles of Sudan, North and South continue, and the most recent report to Len stated: "There is the fear of a complete government collapse. A recent UN report declared South Sudan the world's most "fragile" state ahead of Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan."

A new bishop has recently been elected for Sudan – Bishop Ezekiel Kondo – who trained in Bristol. He and his church have a tough task ahead of them.

So, please, if you have any postcards, used or unused, save them until I am in or near your chapel, or let me know and I will make some arrangement for collection.

Once again, very many thanks to all who have contributed.

Margaret Clarke

EXPLORING WORSHIP

Hello again!

I am delighted to say that there has already been a response from enough people to be certain that the 'Exploring Worship' Course will be going ahead in the New Year! The meetings are likely to be held roughly fortnightly; the exact day and time will be arranged when I know who all the course members are going to be, to be the 'best fit' for their schedules and diaries! The course will principally be led by myself, Andrea Harding-Smith, although there may be others involved too. Generally we arrange meetings to be held in the churches and chapels of the people who are attending the course. As we have done before, we are very happy to include people who might like to take the course just to explore what worship is all about; several people in the past have found the sessions led them to a deeper and richer worship life of their own. I attach a summary of the seven sessions that we will be using. Anyone who might be interested is welcome to get in touch with me to discuss the details.

Andrea Harding-Smith. *(see paper copy or ask a Steward for contact details)*

EXPLORING WORSHIP 2015

1. What is worship?
2. Structure in worship
3. Using the senses in worship
4. Using Music in worship
5. Prayer
6. Leading worship when children are present
7. Everything else!!

CHACOMBE

Bible Study – These sessions are held in the home of Joan Boyles. If anyone is interested in joining us, further details can be obtained from Hazel Stagg.

Coffee & Chat – On Fridays 10:30 am – 12:00 noon in the Schoolroom. All welcome.

CROPREDY

Praise Evening – October 22nd 2014 at 7pm – Leader Patricia Haley – Favourite hymns & Reading

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

October 25th – Banbury community action group various local companies free to enter. For further details see Marlborough road church notices

November 29th – Concert British Methodist youth choir at Kidlington Methodist church 7.30pm start

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

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

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

8th October – Trevor Parry – More Experiences!
22nd October – The Reverend Sarah Sharp, Vicar of Bodicote

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month except July and August in the Wesley Room 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.

MIDDLETON CHENEY

'WRAP & FILL' – We are again taking part in the Samaritan's Purse/ Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal.

In covenant with All Saints Church, we have 'wrapped and filled' boxes for the last 7 or so years, and sent over 200 last year. Therefore the two sessions this year, are on Saturday 25th October, and Saturday 15th November, both in the Methodist Church Schoolroom and for slightly longer from 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Operation Christmas Child sends gifts to disadvantaged children round the world, all in a gift-wrapped shoebox. If you are able to help, we would gratefully welcome gifts of goodies, empty shoeboxes (7" x 12" x 5"), wrapping paper, and money towards the shipping of the completed boxes. Leaflets with full details will be available from Middleton Library, and The Butler's Pantry, and completed boxes can be dropped off during their normal opening hours. Or contact Mary Phipps 01295 712894 or Carol Souch 01295 275334. The last day for completed boxes is 15th November to allow time for them to be sent on to the next stage.

Please do come along and join in, as we are also running a coffee morning on both days, and it's a lovely social occasion! Hope to see you there!

Bible Study Group – Led by Hazel Stagg 1st & 3rd Tuesday afternoon of the month 2.15 p.m. at the home of Jane Bullock (*see paper copy or ask a Steward for contact details*). All are welcome. Contact: Hazel Stagg 01295 660294

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME

October 1st – Jane Skelton – will talk about the work of HOMESTART
October 15th – Rev. Victoria Bravette – 'My life before Banbury'
October 29th – Patricia Scott – 'A Good African Story – The Return to Malawi'

NEW EDITOR REQUIRED

I have edited the newsletter for the last twelve years and I feel it is now time past the job onto somebody else. I have enjoyed doing the job and it has kept me in touch with my friends in Banbury. Thanks for letting me carry on doing the job even though my membership is no longer in the Banbury Circuit.

Anyone interested in taking on the job contact me (details below)

Mary Tanner

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER EDITION
THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER
(see paper copy or ask a Steward for contact details)