

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

**FROM SUMMER TO AUTUMN,
FROM MOUNTAIN TO VALLEY**

Rev'd Rob Anning, Superintendent, writes:

The month of September usually leads us gently from Summer into Autumn. The long days of Summer are drawing in, temperatures are falling and around us Nature's colours are changing.

There is always the temptation to want to hold on to Summer for just a little while longer and wishful thinking that we might experience a late Indian Summer. The quieter, lazier and slower days of July and August do have to come to an end and we all have to pick up our pace of life to face the tasks ahead in the Autumn and Winter.

I am reminded of the story of the Transfiguration in Luke 9: "Peter and those who were with him, having fallen asleep, were startled into wakefulness and they saw his [Jesus] glory and the two men [Moses and Elijah] alongside him. As these two departed, Peter said to Jesus . . . 'Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'."

Peter wanted to hold on to this special moment, he wanted time to stand still, and his tactic was to spend as long as possible on the mountain top, fiddling with making three cairns. Jesus was more the realist and knew that the future lay down the mountain, where life goes on, in the valley bottom.

There is nothing wrong with mountain top experiences and cherishing the moment. Those are the experiences and memories that help us through the sometimes mundane work in the valley, but we all know we cannot stay there.

So join with me and return from the mountain top of Summer and let's all get back to the work of the Kingdom in the valley of Autumn and Winter. There is a lot to do for all of us, as we seek the will of God in the re-shaping of our Circuit, and try to help to answer our daily prayer: "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth".

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

This Autumn and Winter, I will be visiting every Church Council in the Circuit, and will spend some time discussing with you the question: “Where do you think you are?”

In planning the future direction and shape of Banbury Circuit, the Circuit Leadership Team want to know what your thoughts are for your church or chapel. Where are you now? Where would you like to get to? How can the Circuit help you to move from one place to another?

To help us with this exercise, I am asking each church and chapel to be honest with me. In answering the question “Where are you now?” I would like you to decide which of these four categories you fit into:

Are you “parked”? Are you stuck in the same place? Do you always do things the same? Do you get the feeling that your chapel is going no-where?

Are you ready for “pruning”? Is your building falling apart? Is it a struggle to get people to do things in the chapel? Are you short on energy in the chapel?

Are you “progressing”? Do you have some idea of where your chapel will be in five years time? Do you have plans to connect with your community? Are you growing in faith and numerically?

Is there an opportunity for “planting”? Is your chapel now in the wrong place? Is it the wrong size, shape, style for modern worship and for community use? Would it be better in another place?

When we have agreed where each chapel and church is situated, then we can begin to ask the questions: Where would you like to be? How can the Circuit help you to move on?

This is where two new words will come in, again, both starting with the letter “P”: Potential and Possibilities.

We need to uncover the potential in our chapels for change, so that we are better equipped to serve the present age. We need to consider what the possibilities are in your village or part of Banbury. Once we know these, then the Circuit can begin to encourage and support you in your work of worshipping God, serving the community, looking to the future.

Rev'd Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister.

HOW FAMILY FRIENDLY IS YOUR CHURCH?

(asks Rev'd Rob Anning)

Rev'd Dr Mike Bossingham is a Methodist Minister who set up the Family Friendly Churches Trust with the aim of helping chapels and churches to be more family friendly, and consequently, more attractive to younger people.

He now devotes his time to running training sessions, devising worship, and helping churches of all denominations, to make themselves more "family friendly".

The Banbury Circuit has invited Mike to come to Banbury for a weekend to help all our chapels and churches to consider their worship, building, the area around the church, and the people who attend the church, through the eyes of a family. There will be no cost for attending.

The programme is wide and varied. You can just come for one session or try to come to the whole weekend. On the Sunday, Mike will lead three different services at Marlborough Road, culminating in a Circuit Holy Communion Service on the Sunday evening.

Please do come along and support this weekend. This is a wonderful opportunity to speak and listen to someone who is passionate about making our chapels more family friendly. We all have much to learn from Mike.

FAMILY FRIENDLY CHURCHES WEEKEND: at Marlborough Road Friday, 8 October to Sunday, 10 October, 2010

FRIDAY EVENING – 7.30 to 9.30 pm: Trends in Worship & All-age Worship Ideas*
** This session will be primarily for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders but anyone interested in worship is welcome to attend*

SATURDAY MORNING – 10 am Opening Worship and Introductions
10.15am to 12.30pm (including a coffee break): Family Friendly? A problem to be solved. Principles of Family Friendly Worship. What have other churches done?
(bring a packed lunch, drinks provided)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON – 2 pm to 4 pm: Your local situation: A time to think, reflect upon and share about your own church in the light of this morning's session.

SUNDAY SERVICES (all led by Rev'd Dr Mike Bossingham) at Marlborough Road
9.15 am Contemporary Worship
10.30 am Traditional Worship
6 pm Circuit Service, including Holy Communion

BANBURY CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB
THURSDAY, SEPT 23rd 7 for 7.30 pm

As we start a new season of our Monthly Supper Club, we invite you to join us and if you haven't been before, do come.

Prof. Ronald Spiers will be recounting some amusing and memorable experiences of an examiner of medieval and dental undergraduates in the UK and abroad, and he does this in aid of our local Katherine House Hospice.

Supper provided again by Ilya, Martin and Dyan Harvey Prices as before: £8.50 per head for the evening. Please ring David Hughes by Monday evening, Sept 20th to book in (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

CIRCUIT QUIET DAY

Theme: The Voice From Galilee
Venue: Wroxton Methodist Church
Date: Saturday, 25th September 2010
Time: 10.00am - 4.30pm

The cost of the day will be £4. Please bring your own packed lunch. We will 'picnic' together at lunchtime, as we share fellowship. If you would like to book a place please contact me (if you haven't already done so.) I need to have firm bookings and your contribution towards the cost of the day by Friday, 17th September.

Dorothy Hewitson (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

CIRCUIT TALENTS DAY - SATURDAY 2nd OCTOBER

On Saturday 2nd October we are holding a Circuit Talents Day. The results of the Circuit Photographic Competition and the Hymnbook Competition will be announced, followed by a Craft Fayre. The photographic entries will be on display. The event will be held from 10-30 until 4-00 pm. at Marlborough Road. Refreshments and light lunches will be available all day. If you would like to book a table, or have further details, please contact Mrs Cicely Lewis (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). Please mark this date in your diary as it promises to be a good day out as well as offering opportunities to do some early Christmas Shopping.

CIRCUIT DIARY FOR 2010

Sunday, 5th September: Circuit Covenant Service, at 10.30 am at Marlborough Road.

Sunday, 26th September: Back to Church Sunday.

Sunday, 14th November: Remembrance Sunday.

In addition to these dates, 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.

LECTIONARY READINGS SEPTEMBER 2010

Sept 5th

Deuteronomy 30:15 – 20

Psalm 1

Philemon 1 – 21

Luke 14:25 – 33

Sept 19th

Amos 8:4 – 7

Psalm 113

1 Timothy 2:1 – 7

Luke 16:1 – 13

Sept 12th

Exodus 32:7 – 14

Psalm 51:1 – 10

1 Timothy 1:12 – 17

Luke 15:1 – 10

Sept 26th

Amos 6:1a, 4 – 7

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6 – 19

Luke 16:19 – 31

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF METHODISM IN ADDERBURY

We would like to invite friends from around the Circuit to join us at Adderbury for a series of special events this autumn to celebrate the bi-centenary of the first Methodist Chapel in Adderbury, opened in 1810:

Saturday 30th October 7.30pm: Slide show "Same place, different day" presented by Val Trinder, followed by light refreshments.

Sunday 31st October 10.30 am: Service of celebration led by Rev. Dorothy Hewitson.

Saturday 6th November 10.30am -3pm: Open day: light refreshments available all day, soup lunches, cakes and produce for sale, exhibition of old photographs, documents and artefacts.

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. The next meetings are 23rd September and 28th October. All are welcome.

Dorothy Hewitson

CROPREDY

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

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*) or by e-mail to Nigel (*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.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

2nd September – AGM – Cheese & Non-alcoholic wine

7th October – Rev Rob Anning – talk & slides on stained glass windows – bring & buy

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

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 harvest service will be at 3 pm on Sunday 19th September followed by a sale of produce and flowers at 6.30 pm on Monday 20th.

UPPER BODDINGTON

Our Harvest Festival is planned for Sunday, September 19th. Our minister, the Rev. Janet Jackson will lead Family Service for us at 10-30 am and Mr. John Cherry will conduct the evening service at 6 pm. The Church will be decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables and we invite friends from the Circuit to come and join us for either of those services. The harvest gifts will be sold by auction in the Church schoolroom on Monday 20th at 7 pm and all money raised from the sale will be sent to MRDF.

On October 2nd and 3rd Boddington Methodists are having an Arts and Crafts Weekend to raise funds for repairs to our roof. We're planning a varied event with a genuinely local feel. There will be plenty to see and admire, including photography, painting, costume making and entries to a junior art competition. On Saturday 2nd (10.30 am – 4.30 pm) Craft produce will be for sale including cards, gifts, paintings, jewellery, cakes, jams and lots more. There will be face painting and children's craft activities plus live craft demonstrations. On Sunday 3rd (2 – 4 pm) although no sales will take place, there will be a further chance to enjoy the exhibition and to hear music played by local children. On both days the refreshment stall will provide a chance to relax and catch up with friends over sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee. The Craft event will be the focus of our evening service at 6 pm and you are warmly invited to stay and join us for that service.

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.

8th September – Holy Communion – The Revd Rob Anning

22nd September – Holiday in Vancouver – Gladys and Tony Harris

SILVER BOXES

My words were harsh & hasty
And they came without a thought.
Then I saw the pain & anguish
That my bitter words had brought.

Bitter words that I had spoken
Made me think back through the past;
Of how many times I'd uttered
Biting words whose pain would last.

Then I wondered of the people
I had hurt by things I'd said;
All the ones I had discouraged
When I didn't use my head.

Then I thought about my own life
Of painful words I've heard;
And of the times I'd been discouraged
By a sharp and cruel word.

And now clearly I remember
All the things I might have done;
But, by a word I was discouraged
And they never were begun.

So, help my words be silver boxes,
Neatly wrapped up with a bow;
That I give to all so freely,
As through each day I gladly go.

Silver boxes full of treasure,
Precious gifts from above;
That all the people I encounter
Might have a box of love

Florence Littauer

DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER EDITION

THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,

(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)

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