

**THE METHODIST CHURCH  
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2011**

**Here we go – again!**

*Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:*

September 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of a new Methodist Year. As September progresses, we all start to get into the routine again, following the quieter (or is that simply different) Summer months of July and August.

Congregation sizes increase as we all return to our regular patterns of life; meetings such as Church Councils and Circuit Meetings appear in our diaries; our different church organisations and groups begin to meet again.

The regularity of the Christian calendar kicks in, first with our Circuit Covenant Service (at Marlborough Road on Sunday, 4 September at 10.30am), then Harvest Festivals, which lead us to a season of Remembrance, which heralds the start of Advent, and then (dare I mention it!) before we know where we are, we are celebrating Christmas and that wonderful gift to our world of Jesus.

We know this routine so well. We are not keen on change, and so there is some comfort in the regularity of it all. But there are also dangers in that regularity. There is the possibility of becoming complacent, of simply going through actions without thinking about what it all means, of perhaps feeling a bit bored with it, we've done all this before, or we may be tempted to use that well known phrase "we've always done it this way".

One of the key messages of the Christian gospel is that of "new life". Jesus tells us that he wants us to "have life, life in all its fullness". This sometimes means that we have to leave the old self behind and start living life in a different way, more the way that God would have us live. I find that idea both challenging but also comforting.

And especially at this time of year, as we re-engage with church life, perhaps we should be asking ourselves the question, do we want to do things this way again or should we try something new?

I don't want us to "throw the baby out with the bathwater". Some of the ways we have done things in the past are still the ways we should do things in the present. But equally, there are many things that we simply do (again) without thinking, and may well need some adjustment, tweaking, re-thinking, abandoning, as we step into a new Methodist year.

## THE METHODISTS' HANDWRITTEN BIBLE GOES LIVE ONLINE

The complete Methodists' Handwritten Bible, created by tens of thousands of people across Britain and Northern Ireland, is now online.

The Handwritten Bible contains 7,000 pages of text and illustrations transcribed by people from every part of Britain and further afield. More than 30,000 volunteers joined in from across communities - including prisons, schools, colleges, libraries, nursing homes, airports and shopping centres - to copy the whole of the NRSV translation of the Bible after Methodists voted to transcribe the Scripture at their Conference in Portsmouth last year.

Since the first volume went live on the [Deepening Discipleship](#) website last month, the Handwritten Bible has been viewed more than 1,000 times. Most of those readers accessed the site from within the UK, but there have been visitors from 76 other countries, including the United States, Malaysia, Australia and South Africa.

Revd Jenny Ellis, Co-ordinator of Evangelism, Spirituality and Discipleship, said: "We have already had many people asking to display the hardbound copies of the Bible, including a request from the Caribbean. The Handwritten Bible has been divided up into 31 volumes; some of those volumes are currently on display at the Liskeard Methodist Church in Cornwall while others are on show at Worcester Cathedral. Now that all the volumes are online, people can view the whole Bible. It's a way of connecting us all together as we value and celebrate the Scriptures."

As part of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, people were invited to join Methodists in handwriting verses from the Scripture. Verses have been written in English, Chinese, Welsh and Braille with accompanying illustrations.

Dave Webster, Internet Communications Coordinator who was responsible for uploading the Handwritten Bible online, said: "The Handwritten Bible has the human touch. The care and love that people put into it are expressed in the ever-changing handwriting and illustrations. This makes reading it a unique and moving experience."

The Methodists' Handwritten Bible will be available for display at churches, Bible Fresh events, anniversaries and museums up until the 2012 Methodist Conference.

If you have occasions or places where you would like to display one or more volumes of the Bible, or the whole collection, please email Jenny Ellis at [Ellisjenny@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:Ellisjenny@methodistchurch.org.uk)

## MUSTARD SEED NEWS

The Mustard Seed is a non-denominational Christian Bookshop located at Marlborough Road Methodist Church and is open Thursdays and Fridays between 10am and 5pm, and Saturdays between 10am and 4pm. We look forward to seeing you in our **NEWSHOP** at the **FRONT** of the church

## Website Offers

Each month we will be selecting a book and a CD which will be made available at a time-limited discount price only when ordered from the website.

For information on our current offer, follow the link to our website - [www.banburyseed.co.uk](http://www.banburyseed.co.uk)

*More stock now in, 'cos it just keeps selling!*

### **THE WORSHIP ALBUM**

#### **100 Best Loved Worship Songs**

We're excited to announce a new 6CD collection of worship songs – at the amazing price of £12.99

Including such Mustard Seed team favourites as Brian Houston, Noel Richards, Tim Hughes, Stuart Townend, DaveBillbrough, this is a terrific boxed set of 100 excellent songs

Call in to the shop, or phone, text, e-mail, facebook or twitter to order! All contacts listed below

### ***Dr John Stott***

Following John Stott's recent death, publishers have already seen enquiries for his books increase significantly from those wanting to discover John's writings for the first time. We are therefore pleased to announce that we have taken delivery of 'Understanding the Bible' (rrp £6.99) together with his 'Lifebuilder Bible Study: Sermon on the Mount' (rrp £3.99), ideal for individuals or small groups. To reserve your copy contact us now.

### **NIV BIBLE-fully revised and updated for 2011.**

With over 400million Bibles in print, the New International Version is the renowned combination of reliability and readability. Ideal for personal reading, public teaching and group study this popular translation has now been **fully revised and updated for 2011**. The updated edition takes into account the latest developments in biblical scholarship and language usage and aims to move the NIV from the English of 1984 to the English of 2011. The new updated NIV text is available now from the Mustard Seed in hardback (at £14.99) and paperback (at £11.99), so call in and have a look

### **NEW FROM HILLSONG: *God Is Able* CD rrp £12.99**

**THE MUSTARD SEED recently took delivery of early copies of this latest CD from Hillsong Live ... and sold out almost before they got on the shelf!**

*God Is Able* is the Hillsong team's 20<sup>th</sup> annual live release and sees the worship team combine a fresh collection of 15 tracks and inspiring congregational anthems. Further copies are now in ... so if you want us to put one by for you please let us know so that we can make sure it's waiting for you when you call in.

When Hillsong release something they go all the way ... so also available:

Deluxe CD Edition with Bonus DVD £14.99

*God is Able* DVD £14.99

*God is Able* Blu-Ray £19.99

Songbook £13.99

CD-Rom Songbook £12.99

MP3 Library £12.99... all available to order.

### **TREVOR DENNIS**

It was a great privilege for the Mustard Seed to provide the bookstall at the recent Anglican deanery study day where the guest speaker was **Trevor Dennis**. Until his retirement last year, Trevor was Vice Dean at Chester Cathedral having previously taught Old Testament studies at Salisbury and Wells Theological College. He is an inspirational speaker and writer. We currently have several of his books in stock including *The Book of Books*, an imaginative retelling of The Bible, and *Imagining God*, a collection of short stories inspired by The Bible and the cycle of the Christian year so.

Ali, Malc, Jo and Ian 07879 057 401 or email [shop@banburyseed.co.uk](mailto:shop@banburyseed.co.uk) Visit us via Twitter or Facebook and on our website at [www.banburyseed.co.uk](http://www.banburyseed.co.uk)

### **ARE WE SAFELY SEATED?**

At the recent Circuit Stewards briefing day we were given a salutary warning from our colleagues in one of the Leicester Circuits. One of their larger ladies sat down on a lightweight stacking plastic chair. These chairs are commonplace in many of our church halls and schoolrooms and we certainly have a few of them around in our own circuit. The chair collapsed underneath the lady who fell heavily on to the floor, and potentially she could have received serious injury (in the event she didn't). Apparently these chairs are only designed to take people up to a certain weight and are not strong enough to support the weight of someone who is excessively obese. We were asked to keep this in mind, not only when holding church events (have sturdy chairs available) but also when purchasing chairs. We were also strongly advised to cover such eventualities in our local church risk assessments and check the safety of our lightweight plastic chairs – over to you property stewards! Val Trinder

## **CLOSURE OF A361 TO CONTINUE TO OCTOBER**

Can all local preachers including Janet who come out to Chropedy, Chacombe, Upper Boddington and Hinton in Woodford Halse that it looks like the A361 will not be opened until October. It appears that the road has been made narrower and I have been advised that two lorries would touch when passing each other. The road is in Northants and NCC has apparently asked that this is rectified.

## **LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2011**

### Sept 4<sup>th</sup>

Ezekiel 33:7 – 11  
Psalm 119:33 – 40  
Romans 13:8 – 14  
Matthew 18:15 – 20

### Sept 18<sup>th</sup>

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11  
Psalm 105:1 – 6, 37 – 45  
Philippians 1:21 – 30  
Matthew 20:1 – 16

### Sept 11<sup>th</sup>

Genesis 50:15 – 21  
Psalm 103: ( 1 – 7), 8 – 13  
Romans 14:1 – 12  
Matthew 18:21 – 35

### Sept 25<sup>th</sup>

Ezekiel 18:1 – 4, 12 – 16  
Psalm 25: 1 – 9  
Philippians 2:1 – 13  
Matthew 21:23 – 32

## **WELCOME! MICHAEL KING**

The Banbury Circuit welcomes Michael King as our new Rural Church and Community Co-ordinator. Michael will begin work on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, with four of our chapels: Adderbury, Chacombe, Greatworth and Upper Boddington. The post is a three-year contract intended to work “with” our chapels to help them engage more closely with their communities, build up new relationships, and build upon, present relationships.

Michael brings with him a wealth of experience from both inside and outside the church. At present, Michael is leader of the World Church Relationships Team (formerly Overseas Missions/World Church) at Marylebone Road, Methodism’s HQ, a post he has held for eleven years.

Prior to working for the Methodist Church, Michael worked as a teacher, both in the UK and in Sierra Leone. Originally he taught History and Geography, before becoming Head of Humanities, then Deputy Head of a school in Hertfordshire. Michael is a local preacher, accredited in 1978, and brings a wealth of worship experiences from around the United Kingdom and abroad. He has held the post of

Circuit Steward in his present Circuit of Enfield, and is a Church Steward in his home church of Goffs Oak.

The search is on for a new home in the Banbury area where Michael, and his wife Isabel, will live. They have two grown-up children and a six-month-old grandson. Outside of church and family life, Michael confesses to being a follower of Birmingham City Football Club and Warwickshire Cricket Club, and occasionally plays golf and tennis.

Just as we were appointing Michael, the Methodist Conference was meeting in Southport, and there Michael was voted Vice-President Elect for the year 2012/2013. This is a great honour and recognises the work that Michael has done in the area of World Church Relationships over the last eleven years. Consequently, the Circuit Leadership Team have agreed that in order that Michael may carry out his Vice-President's duties as well as possible, that during the second year of his three-year contract, he will work three-quarter time instead of full time. We hope that Michael's experience as Vice-President means he can bring knowledge and experience from around the United Kingdom back to the Banbury Circuit.

I hope you will all give Michael and Isabel a warm welcome. We look forward to working closely with him over the next three years.

### **CIRCUIT QUIET DAY**

Theme: 'MOSAICS OF MERCY'

Venue: Wroxton Methodist Church

Date: Saturday, 17th September

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

The cost for the day will be £5. Please bring your own packed lunch. We will 'picnic' together at lunchtime, as we share fellowship. Tea and coffee are available throughout the day. If you would like to book a place please either drop me a line, or telephone Katie Lee (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*). I need to have firm bookings and your contribution towards the cost of the day by Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September. Dorothy Hewitson.

### **CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB**

In the last Newsletter the speakers for the Circuit Supper Club from September 2011 to January 2012 were listed. We can now add:

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Matthew Ambrose on the Building of the Oxford Canal through Banbury and the Services of Tooley's Boatyard

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – David Steadman on The Bletchley Story of Code Breaking during WW2

We look forward to Supper Club starting again on Thursday Sept 29<sup>th</sup> – 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road Church with Revs Janet and Colin Jackson giving an evening of MUSIC, MELODY & ENTERTAINMENT.

Please book with David Hughes (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) by the evening of Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Vernon Hurst (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

### **3<sup>RD</sup> CIRCUIT PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

It's now too late to enter the BBC Country File photographic competition, so why not enter our Circuit one? The prizes are smaller but all entry fees go to into Circuit Funds. Please encourage family and friends to enter as well.

Details are as follows: - The categories are the same as last year: **NATURE, LANDS AFAR, GREAT BRITAIN, EVERYDAY LIFE** and a general Junior section for those 12 years old and under. Please mount your photographs on A4 paper or card, so they can be displayed at a coffee morning at Marlborough Road on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Winners will be announced and prizes given on this Saturday. Entry fee £1.00 per picture for Adults and 50p for Juniors. Closing date: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Pauline Giles: (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

### **ADDERBURY**

We invite friends from the Circuit to our regular “first Saturday Coffee Morning” 10.30 – 12 noon. All welcome.

### **BODICOTE**

**Coffee Mornings:** - Bodicote will be opening the chapel for a coffee morning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the month 10.30 -12.00. We hope any friends near by will join us in fellowship. We hope to make this a regular get together so please come and join us.

**Praise Evenings:** - Recommencing in September, these will now take place on Fridays (not Thursdays!), beginning at 7.30 pm. If you would like to join us for a time of informal praise and worship, then please make a note of the following dates in your diary: - 16<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 18<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ladies Fellowship:** - As part of our continuing outreach in the village, a monthly ladies meeting will commence in September, on Fridays at 2.00 pm. We would be delighted to see you there (whether you live in the village or not), and encourage you to bring along a friend. The dates are as follows: - 9<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December

### **CROPREDY**

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

Come and join us at our Praise Evenings, singing hymns and listening to selected readings followed by a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. All are welcome.

### **THANKS FROM GREATWORTH**

We have just completed some changes in our chapel and these were made possible because of the kindness of the folk at Warmington and Brailes.

Firstly, we received a set of comfortable chairs from Warmington chapel and these inspired us to remove our pews and set out the chairs. Secondly, we received lots of carpet tiles from Brailes - more than enough to completely cover our floor - and we paid to have these laid professionally. It all looks very smart and it gives us greater flexibility in what we can do in our premises and it provides a large room that can be hired out.

We are having a special service, followed by a 'faith meal', to launch the new set-up and it is all due to the generosity of the abovementioned congregations whom we remember fondly and for whom we give thanks.

If anyone from the circuit - especially our brothers and sisters from Warmington and Brailes - would like to come and enjoy our new-found luxury they would be very welcome indeed.

### **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

### **HORNTON**

The 'Jiffy Service' is held on the first Sunday in month at 3.30 pm in Chapel (Jesus Is Fun for You).

### **MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm**

1<sup>st</sup> September – AGM and faith supper (bring along a dish to share with others)

6<sup>th</sup> October – Mobile cinema (film to be decided)

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. Also some Fairtrade food items for sale.

### **NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7.30**

The meetings will be held alternately between Neithrop Chapel and the lounge of Yule Court, Boxhedge Square.

21<sup>st</sup> September – Natter and Nibbles – catching up with news after the summer break.  
Please bring along some nibbles **Chapel**

5<sup>th</sup> October – Margaret and Peter Whittle - a new presentation from this inspiring couple ending with the Chinese Scarf Dance, afterwards they will be selling their crafts for Katherine House Hospice **Yule Court**

19<sup>th</sup> October – Quiz with jacket potato and salad – Archie Buzzard. **Chapel**

2<sup>nd</sup> November – Working on interesting buildings – Ray Cherry **Yule Court**

15<sup>th</sup> November – Craft – make something for Christmas – Phyllis **Chapel**

30<sup>th</sup> November – Carols and Christmas/New Year poems and prose **Yule Court**

18<sup>th</sup> January – Aromatherapy – Marianne Allitt **Chapel**

1<sup>st</sup> February – Table Games **Yule Court**

15th February – From fire officer to St. John ambulance man – David Wright **Chapel**

### **NETWORK BECOMES CAMEO**

At the Network AGM it was agreed that as Network nationally is becoming Methodist Women in Britain, and the fact that our membership includes men and women, we will from August 31<sup>st</sup> cease any connection with the organisation and become an independent group.

From September we will be called CAMEO---Come and Meet Each Other. We will still meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

14<sup>th</sup> September – Rev Rob Anning is taking a communion service

28th September – Rev Janet Jackson

The money we raise will still go to the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission.

### **COME AND MEET US!!!**

1. The pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary.
2. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
3. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
4. Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
5. This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

### **DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER EDITION**

**THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,**

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

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