

# THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012

## A Fresh Start!

*Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:*

The beginning of September is no different from the beginning of any other month of the year and yet somehow it takes on a greater significance. It feels like the start of something new. Maybe it's the children going back to school or a feeling that the Summer is about to end.

For us in Banbury Methodist Circuit, it is the start of a new Methodist Connexional Year which we mark with our annual Covenant Service, to be held at Marlborough Road on Sunday, 2 September at 10.30am. Since the earliest days of the Methodist Societies, encouraged by John Wesley, Methodist people have renewed their covenant relationship with God.

Our Methodist Worship Book describes the Covenant Service like this: "The emphasis of the whole service is on God's readiness to enfold us in generous love, not dependent on our deserving. Our response, also in love, springs with penitent joy from thankful recognition of God's grace. The covenant is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, but the act of the whole faith community".

While the renewal of our covenant with God is an annual event, and in our case, marks the beginning of a new Methodist year, I am aware that throughout the year I am in need of the opportunity to make a fresh start. This is at the heart of our faith in Jesus: that he died and rose again so that each of us might be able to experience a fresh start in our lives whenever we have the need.

As a Christian, there is no need to carry the burdens of the past with us. The grace of God flows to us freely and abundantly; we simply need to be able to say we are "sorry" and the fresh start awaits us.

And with that fresh start comes a whole new feeling, a bit like the beginning of September, that whatever happened in the past, the future can be different and better.

I'm sure that Jesus was thinking of this when he said in John 10 verse 10: "I came that you might have life, and have it abundantly". He wants us to enjoy life, to experience its fullness, and not to be held back by the past.

So as we start a new Methodist year together, may it be a fresh start for us all. Together, may we find the joy and fullness of life that God intended for us.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CIRCUIT MEETING**

We are three-quarters of the way through the financial year and our treasurer told us things "are very much on track" and no problems have arisen. She will shortly be sending out the forms for a new circuit directory. Time was spent discussing where the collections from circuit services should be distributed: it was decided to give 25% each to the host church, the circuit, Home Missions and Overseas Missions.

Three successful courses about 'Creating Safer Space' have been held.

Property: updates about the schemes at Hornton, St. Francis' and the Fairway were given. Marlborough Road is undertaking improvements but they are not going to replace their chairs after all. The next set of quinquennial inspections will be at Middleton Cheney, Bodicote and Grimsbury.

The meeting considered 'Looking at 2014 and Beyond: Preparing to Reshape Ourselves' which entailed three options. The Leadership Team was said to be leaning towards the third option which involves the superintendency being taken away from Marlborough Road – this could be trialled from September 2013. This particular option involves a Town Partnership, an Oxfordshire Partnership and a South Northamptonshire Partnership. Nothing is decided but a decision needs to be made by September – as does a decision about the Rev. Janet Jackson's reinvitation.

Michael King talked about his work: his churches have very different missions. The involved churches will be drawing up action plans. The meeting wished Michael well as he was about to be inducted as Connexional Vice-president.

All of the circuit officers were unanimously re-elected.

The meeting heard about the final service at Wroxton which will have been held by the time of the publication of this newsletter and we prayerfully remember all those who have been involved with the life of this chapel.

## **CIRCUIT MEETING: CHANGE OF DATE**

Members of the Circuit Meeting are reminded that the date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 11 September, 7.30pm at Middleton Cheney church. This is a change of date from that advertised in the Plan. Because of the timing of the Stationing/Invitation process, we had to bring the meeting to an earlier date. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused by this.

## **CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB**

The Circuit Supper Club starts again on Thursday September 27<sup>th</sup> at the usual time of 7 for 7.30pm.

Our speaker is Mr Michael King, our Rural Churches and Community Co-ordinator and he will be Vice President of the Methodist Conference for the New Year. Michael will be sharing some of his experiences abroad working with different Christian Communities.

It will be the first occasion of our new caterers Devour Versatile Catering. As we agreed in March the cost of the meal has had to go up by a pound and your contribution towards speaker's expenses by 50p making the charge for the evening £10.00.

All are welcome and please book in to David Hughes by Monday evening, September 24<sup>th</sup> at the latest (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

## **CIRCUIT QUIET DAY**

Theme: 'STUMBLING BLOCKS  
AND STEPPING STONES'  
Venue: Wroxton Methodist Church  
Date: Saturday, 22nd 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, coffee and biscuits are available throughout the day. There will also be ample opportunity to enjoy a stroll around the village and visit the ducks on the pond!

If you would like to book a place, please let me know. I should like to have firm bookings and your contribution towards the cost of the day by Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September.

Dorothy Hewitson

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

### September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Deuteronomy 4:1 – 2, 6 – 9

Psalm 15

James 1:17 – 27

Mark 7:1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 – 23

### September 9<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 35:4 – 7a

Psalm 146

James 2:1 – 10 (11 – 13) 14 – 17

Mark 7:24 – 37

### September 16<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 50:4 – 9a

Psalm 116:1 – 9

James 3:1 – 12

Mark 8:27 – 38

### September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Wisdom of Solomon 1:16 – 2:1, 12 - 22

Or Jeremiah 11:18 – 20

Psalm 54

James 3:13 – 4:3, 7 – 8a

Mark 9:30 – 37

### September 30<sup>th</sup>

Numbers 11:4 – 6, 10 – 16, 24 – 29

Psalm 19:7 – 14

James 5:13 – 20

Mark 9:38 - 50

## ADDERBURY

### **THE ADDERBURY PICTURE SHOWS ARE BACK – WITH SUPPER TO FOLLOW!**

“In the footsteps of poets” is the title of the next Adderbury picture show to be presented by Val Trinder. This will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the chapel schoolroom and will be followed by a light buffet supper. No admission fee but donations for church funds. All welcome.

## CHACOMBE

Our weekly Coffee Mornings are now being held on Friday mornings from 10.30am – 12.00 noon in the Schoolroom. These meetings are very popular, an ideal opportunity to get together for a chat over a cuppa and a delicious piece of homemade cake. Everyone welcome.

## CROPREDY

Our Harvest Festival will be on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Preacher Mr John Neal.

Praise Evening September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and will be lead by Rev Rob Anning. Come and join friends from around the circuit. There will be Tea, Coffee and biscuits.

**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**

Coffee mornings are continuing on Friday mornings 10:30 – 12 noon and are proving to be very popular. 'Jiffy Services' are held in Chapel 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month at 3:30 pm and Thursday 'After School Club' is from 3:30 – 5 pm.

**MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm**

6<sup>th</sup> September – AGM & faith supper (bring along a dish to share with others)

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

**UPPER BODDINGTON**

We will be holding our Harvest Festival celebrations on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, and invite friends from the Circuit to come and join us as we remember God's promise that seedtime and harvest will never fail. Rev. Robert Arming will lead a Family Service at 10.30am. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served after that service so there will be an opportunity for a chat with friends. Mr. John Neal will conduct the evening service at 6pm.

On Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, the harvest gifts will be sold by auction in the Chapel schoolroom at 7pm. All the money raised from the sale will be sent to M.R.D.F. The harvest sale is always an interesting, often amusing, event so please come and join us if you can. Home grown produce and homemade products will be on offer so please come and buy and help us to raise a large amount of money for such a good cause.

## **CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)**

We 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. The money we raise goes to the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission.

12<sup>th</sup> September – Annual Meeting – followed by My Favourite Book or Poem

26<sup>th</sup> September – Rev Rob Anning

## **THE SUDAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity No 290607)**

### **POSTCARD UPDATES YEAR ENDING 30.06.12 – FUNDS RAISED -**

**£12,500.00.** Once again, very many thanks to the many people who have brought or sent their postcards to me. They have all been sent on via St Leonard's Church Priors Marston and Rev Elizabeth Mordecai of Warwick to Mr Len Whittaker in Essex.

Here are selected paragraphs from the letter sent out recently by Mr Whittaker. "Despite the donations of postcards being down by at least a third over the last 2 years, collectors carefully watching what they spend, plus the increased cost of postage, petrol, printing and just about everything else, we raised more money this year than the previous one. This is some achievement, so well done to all concerned.

In adding up exactly how much money postcards have raised since my involvement began at the end of 1987 (incidentally the figure is £175,100), I discovered the figure for the last 9 years is £103,105.00!

We now have our own independent Treasurer and a finance committee, the accounts of the Episcopal Church are now up to date and the money goes directly to Juba where there is now a 'money' team in place. Should money paid to a particular diocese not be accounted for, then the next payment is withheld. Predominately the bulk of the money goes to the Bishops; they are the link between the people and the church. Although the South is now independent, the Bishops in the North are still clearly included. Circumstances are such that it may not work exactly as intended, but all things considered, 'it's as good as it gets.'

It took time, hard work and a lot of patience, so therefore I would like to thank the chairman and the committee for listening and taking action." (The Chairman is Ven Michael Paget-Wilkes, until a few years ago Archdeacon of Warwick, who has close connections with Sudan)

"There are many people in SCA who are far more knowledgeable about current events in Sudan than I, but I will try to bring you some of the news.

In the North (now Sudan) many Southerners have now fled south (now South Sudan) fearing for their lives and this has left a church with a normal congregation of 300 lucky to now have 20-30. The remainder must move south before May, when a special permit will be needed for them to return & work in the north (Sudan). Fighting and bombing continue in the Nuba mountains, the cathedral in Kadugli has been partially destroyed with the bishop fleeing to America, and the fate of the whole Kordofan area remains in the balance. There are few journalists in these areas so the hidden suffering goes on away from the eyes of the world.

Ex Dorset vicar, Rev Trevor Stubbs, writing in the Sarum Link, (Salisbury Diocese newsletter) is now working in the theological college in Juba, and reports as follows: "Disputes over the oil-rich territory continue and war threatens everything. There is no actual fighting where the college is but it affects everything economically. It does mean that the oil is not flowing, therefore there is no electricity and poor services – and living is very expensive, food is very expensive. Without light the students cannot study at night. In some cases students have never left their village before, or met anyone from a different tribe."

Many of Southern Sudan's previous problems still remain. Reports of age-old tribal differences do nothing to help integrate new independence; kidnapping of children, cattle rustling, and rape are still regular tribal occurrences. Food is always in short supply. Monsoon weather washes away the crops, whereas in the drought periods nothing grows. Still the majority remain cheerful and hopeful for the future; churches in the South are full.

This was a strange year for postcards – fewer cards, more expense but more money raised. Some of this can be explained by many postcards coming from other sources; in fact in the last 2 months I have been given 30,000 postcards by two other charities. Having failed to find any market for them after many years they were quite prepared to 'bin them'. Realistically they are 'rubbish', but I have become pretty good at selling such things, my contacts clearly being better than theirs. Sorting the postcards is time-consuming, it's downright boring, in fact it's a nightmare, but the bottom line is they were worth £145.00 when sold to a dealer selling on the internet."

Thank you all, again, and please keep them coming, Margaret Clarke

**DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER EDITION**  
**THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,**  
*(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)*