



## THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER December 2015 & January 2016

### Christmas is coming, but Advent is here!

Christmas is coming and it seems it is coming very quickly. The shops have had their Christmas stock on the shelves for weeks now. The Christmas lights in London were lit at the beginning of November. Christmas lists for cards and presents are being written, parties organised and the pressure is building. BUT, this is only Advent, Christmas is a few weeks away.

Advent is a time of waiting. We remember that the people in the Old Testament were waiting for the coming of the Messiah. They built up their hopes for him, their expectations and all the while they continued to be Godly people.

For us, many, many, many generations later we know that not everyone accepted Jesus as the Messiah. The Jews do not accept him and are still waiting. Their expectations were not met. As we prepare to remember the birth of Christ and to remind ourselves of the promise that He will come again, what are our expectations?

Talking of Jesus and God. As we approach Christmas, advent will give us the opportunity to reflect on God embracing humanity, on our understanding of God in our everyday life. This is an important time which prepares us for Christmas and the hopes that the Messiah brings. Chris Morley in his book 'The Heart of Christmas' offers us much help in his daily reflections for Advent. There are hints to guide us to read, rejoice, reflect, remember and resolve in terms of our relationship with God. I can't recommend this book highly enough, such phrases as these help me: Remember – that I am loved by God in spite of myself, Resolve – to let God lead me, whether it's into patient waiting or decisive action and Rejoice – that God perseveres when I make it hard for him to love me. Simple things which have a profound effect!

So, from Advent deliberations to Christmas and the coming of Jesus, what does this mean to you? Accepting the coming of Christ into this world means the challenge of accepting him into ones daily life. Any expectation of him will never be founded. The reality of accepting him in our lives is that he will give and lead and use us as he wishes. Every opportunity he gives us may not be well received by us and we may not even like it – it sounds a bit like Christmas presents, but with Jesus we know through our faith, that He is to be relied on.

Wait on the Lord. Wait for his guidance, his leading and be assured of his constant love for you.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful and happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

*Lin*



## *Marriage and Relationships*

- Do you have strong belief about what marriage and relationships should be like?
- How do you work out what you believe?
- Do you find yourself chatting to family and friends beyond the church about relationships you are not sure about?
- Do you ask yourself what God's view of marriage and relationships might be?
- Do you wonder what to think?

The Methodist Conference has asked us all to talk together about these things.

We can grow in confidence about our faith, our Methodist tradition, and how these relate to everyday family and friends' conversations about these crucial questions of our time.

To help with this the Northampton Methodist District has arranged gatherings at which we can talk together.

You are invited to come and join the conversation.  
Get your views heard. Hear what others have to say.

**Tuesday 8 December 2015, 7.30pm at Marlborough Road, Banbury**

No need to book. Just turn up and join in.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL.

All Saints and Methodist Churches, and others from the surrounding area, are very pleased to announce that both our Wrap & Fill days went extremely well. The first session produced 96 completed shoe boxes (78 on the day and 18 brought in), and a total of 106 at the second session. Therefore we have delivered in excess of 200 boxes to the People's Church in Banbury (last year 182). Both coffee mornings went well too, and raised about £170 towards shipping costs. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and helped us so much. We'll be doing it all again next year!



## MARLBOROUGH ROAD

### **Marlborough Road Thursday Club 7.30pm**

Thursday 3rd December

Carol Singing with Choir

No Meeting in January

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February will be a meal out

Enquiries to Shirley Davies 01295 258193

## CAMEO

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

Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Afternoons in the Wesley Room at Marlborough Road at 2.30pm

Men and Women of any age are welcome to share in a varied programme.

Money raised goes to the 'Methodist Church World Mission Fund

9<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Dinner

13<sup>th</sup> January - Gladys Harris- My Grandfather

27<sup>th</sup> January - Val Trinder - Slides

These meetings are held at Marlborough Road but it is a circuit meeting with members from the other churches.

Why not come and join us???

## Banbury Methodist Circuit Supper Club

The Banbury circuit supper club meets in JANUARY 2016 A WEEK EARLIER ON THE THIRD THURSDAY, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm for 7.30pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church.

Your speaker is Superintendent Minister the Rev Lin Francis who will be reflecting on her varied 'Life before the ministry', which we do not normally hear about or know much about.

Please book for yourselves and friends with David Hughes on 01295 253891 before Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> at the latest with any special dietary requirements. The cost for the evening is still £10 per head which includes a two course meal and speaker expenses. We hope to see you there.

Vernon and David



**EASINGTON**

Christmas Coffee Morning  
at  
Easington Methodist Church  
Grange Road, Banbury

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December  
10.00 am to 12 noon

Coffee/Tea and Mince Pies  
Christmas Crafts & Gifts Stall  
Handmade Greetings Card and Cake Stalls

**CHACOMBE**

Chacombe Methodist chapel  
22nd December 2015 at 6.30 pm.

**ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT  
CAROL FESTIVAL**

INCLUDING THE CHACOMBE HAND-BELL GROUP, BROWNIES,  
led by the Rev. Barrie Lawless

-- AND ALLOF US, CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF  
**CHRIST**

SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS AND PUNCH TO FOLLOW

ALL ARE INVITED



## **NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP**

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS - 7.30pm  
Enquiries to Valerie Gainsby.

## **HINTON METHODIST CHURCH AT WOODFORD HALSE**

Come and join us for a free coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits every first Saturday in the month from 10am - 12pm

You can also buy gifts to support a chosen charity.

The stage coach bus number 200 stops right outside Hinton Methodist Church.

### A message from ....**UPPER BODDINGTON**

We start off our Christmas celebrations with an evening of signing favourite carols on Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, when we will sing for about an hour and then move into the schoolroom to have a chat and share in refreshments of mince pies, tea or coffee. This will be a very informal event and we will take a collection that will be donated to Action for Children.

On Christmas Eve the Rev Lin Francis will lead our crib service at 2pm. This will be a short event aimed at children (and their parents). We usually get well supported by families who live in the village and also by our Anglican friends.

On Christmas morning at 10.30am we will have a short family celebration service which will be led by Eileen Burgess.

On Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, our worship will be led by our own members as we praise God for the gift of Jesus by singing carols and listening to favourite seasonal readings chosen by members. We invite friends from the circuit to come and join us for any of these celebration events, and wish everyone a joyful, peaceful Christmas.



## CROPREDY

Christmas Day service 10.45 Led by Rev Lin Francis

Our Coffee and Bring and buy continues on Friday 11th Dec and Jan 8th 10.30 to noon you are assured of a very warm welcome

We had a very good Bazaar on the 7th Nov thanks to everyone that came and those who worked so hard



### **Good news - Christmas Appeal 2015**

Christian Aid's Christmas appeal this year has received a tremendous boost - **match funding from UK Aid!** This means that your fundraising efforts can be doubled. We're really excited about this and what it means for our partners.

We'd be delighted if churches in the Banbury Circuit could support the appeal.

**Malaria is a leading cause of death in Nigeria**, with approximately 250,000 children dying every year. What is shocking about this situation is that it is preventable, but many people don't know how to protect themselves.

We're asking churches to consider what they may be able to do to help **deliver precious gifts to communities in Nigeria this Christmas**, gifts that could save lives: long-lasting, insecticide-treated mosquito nets and an effective public education programme delivered by trained community health agents.

You can order **donation envelopes**, **posters** and other **resources** on the Christian Aid website

**[www.christian-aid.org.uk/christmas](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/christmas)**

*You are cordially invited to  
a Special Christmas Performance*

*Handel's*

# MESSIAH

**Soloists from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama  
Full Choir and Orchestra**

**Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup>  
at 7.00 pm**

**St Peter ad Vincula Church, Ratley**

**Tickets £15 (to include a glass of wine/soft drink)  
from Michael Parkes 01295 670379**

*A great start for the festive season!*

*Everyone is really welcome*



## Lectionary Readings

### December 6<sup>th</sup>

Baruch 5:1-9 or  
Malachi 3:1-4  
Canticle: Benedictus  
(Luke 1:68-79)  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

### December 13<sup>th</sup>

Zephania 3:14-20  
Canticle: Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

### December 20<sup>th</sup>

Micah 5:2 -5a  
Canticle: Magnificat  
(Luke 1:46b-55)  
or Psalm 80:1 - 7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

### December 27<sup>th</sup>

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12 - 17  
Luke 2:41-52

### January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Isaiah 60:1 - 6  
Psalm 72:1 - 7,10 - 14  
Ephesians 3:1 - 12  
Matthew 2:1 - 12

### January 10<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 17<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

### January 24<sup>th</sup>

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

### January 31<sup>st</sup>

Jeremiah 1:4 - 10  
Psalm 71 :1 - 6  
1 Corinthians 13:1 - 13  
Luke 4:21 - 30

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY EDITION IS  
THURSDAY JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup>**

Please forward contributions to

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

