



THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

Dear Friends,

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6: 4-9). These words are called *the Shema and they are* an affirmation of Judaism and a declaration of faith in one God.

These words have always fascinated me. This early ‘creed’ is certainly meaningful today. We are surely meant to love the Lord and have him in our whole being and at work in our whole being all the time. From the very beginning of time God has wanted us to be a part of him and He a part of us. The constancy of our lives. These verses also remind me of Hebrews 13:8 – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” It never ceases to amaze me when, we take our eye off of God! Loving God in today’s world has a different emphasis; we think of this as an emotional thing, a type of romantic emotion. Henry McKeating has written that in the time of the Deuteronomists if a man loves, it isn’t simply that his feelings move him to do so, but because he has decided to. Loving god is like loving ones parents. In ancient Israelite times, people loved their parents not because they were prompted to, but because it was a duty, an obligation. It is our duty, an obligation to love God. When we metaphorically sign up to be believers in God, to be Christians of whatever denomination, this is our duty our obligation.

These things are really in my mind when Victoria and I create the preaching plan. We have such difficulty in trying to fulfil all of the preaching appointments the local churches want with the number of preachers and their limited availabilities. Compromises have been made to meet these requirements, uniting congregations, Circuit Services and Local Arrangements. Some of the complaints about these compromises come about because, as I have been told, people want regular worship, regular united services and at regular times; all of these when THEY want it. If loving and worshipping God is an obligation and a duty and as Deuteronomy tells us ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might’ all the time and not just at 10.30am on a Sunday!

Two things come out from this: 1. Local arrangements and 2. Worship times. So firstly, local arrangements, these were discussed at Methodist Conference this year. Words from The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church were reiterated and endorsed. Here is some of what is laid down:

Local Arrangement Services. Occasional Local Arrangement services are a healthy thing for most churches, as they offer a chance for the wider membership or groups within the life of the church to lead worship. In this, new vocations for worship leading, local preaching, and ordained ministry may be developed and discerned. In more subtle ways, occasional Local Arrangement services may also help to foster a culture of worship owned and actively engaged in by the congregation. Strategically used and supported, they make real the statement “Worship is the work of the whole people of God: a congregation is not an audience or a group of spectators.” (Methodist Worship Book (MWB). It is suggested that Superintendents keep a record of those who take responsibility for Local Arrangements and, where appropriate, encourage the Local Preachers’ Meeting to offer support and training.

“The Methodist Worship Book is a key resource for the planning and leading of Local Arrangement services. The full First or Second service may be used with minimal preparation. Even if the congregation does not have copies of the Methodist Worship Book available, a leader may use the book and adapt the services, using familiar or simpler congregational responses. The leader may also use the order of either service, but use prayers or elements of worship from other sources. 9. In addition to the full services, the Introduction before the First Service (MWB, p. 26) and the Guidance for Ordering a Morning, Afternoon, or Evening Service (MWB p. 51) provide a framework where leaders of a Local Arrangement service do not wish to use the material in the Worship Book, but do need support for the order and elements. “

Local arrangements then, are a positive thing, should be encouraged and there is help for people leading these services. Secondly, Worship Times: All of our Local Preachers and Supernumerary preachers have studied for many years before they were accredited and ordained. They are good and faithful people who spend hours and hours in preparation for serving the Lord, we are truly blessed to have them. It is heart breaking for them when suddenly services are cancelled. So please can we all make sure that the information given in for plan making is accurate. I would seriously like all churches and chapels to review their times for worship. If just a couple of chapels moved their time of worship, we could make such a difference. Please remember that nowhere in the bible does it say only worship at 10.30am on a Sunday!

Rev Inderjit Bhogal (President of Conference 2000) said at Marlborough Road last Sunday evening that we have 50% too many church buildings in the Methodist Church, but that 12 is the optimum number for a congregation. He has for a long time advocated home worship. We spend so much on the maintenance of church buildings which we don’t need. Although I really understand this, I am not advocating it.

We do need to be realistic about our worshipping times and in the leading of worship, but above all we must remain constant in our service to and for God. “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

With blessings from

Lin



VOLUNTEERING WITH YOUNG ADULTS IN BANBURY

Do you want to make a difference in your local community?

Many successful people recognise one or more mentors who helped them achieve early success. At its most basic level, mentoring helps because it asserts in a young person that there is someone who cares about them. Mentors provide their mentees with an experienced friend who is there to help in any number of situations.

Who are we?

Nicodemus Trust (NT) is a registered charity founded on Christian principles that works in Guatemala and the UK. Our mission is to invest in young adults through development of themselves, their country and their world.

About the opportunity

In 2012, Nicodemus Trust recognised the clear benefits that members of Young Adults with Purpose (YAP) in Guatemala – a mentoring programme - were experiencing and saw a need to bring about a similar initiative among the homeless youth in the UK.

YAP UK provides social, relational, economic and spiritual support for young people on an unconditional basis. It also serves to equip and empower young people, with a view that through their own needs being met, they will, in turn, become agents of change for those in their community.

YAP UK started in 2014 and continues to work with residents of the *** Banbury Foyer, Rachel House and will soon be working with BYHP**. YAPUK is a network of support working to facilitate opportunities for young adults in order for them to develop and experience personal growth, as well as participate in and lead community projects and initiatives. This is primarily carried out through one-to-one mentoring, as well as group meetings, socials and educational activities. Local pre-selected mentors volunteer as positive role models, regularly meeting with the young adults to provide guidance, support, motivation and encouragement. The mentor/mentee relationship will continue after the young adult leaves residential care or other professional help, to ensure that their support is ongoing.

What is mentoring?

Mentoring is a **purposeful** relationship where the **mentor** serves as a **role-model** and trusted individual to provide opportunities for development and growth, as well as **support** in helping the mentee work towards **achieving their goals**

Cooking Club

As well as mentor volunteers, we are also looking for volunteers' to join our Cooking Club team. We run a Cooking Club from 5-7pm every Thursday at the Banbury Foyer. As well as share in a cooked meal and socialise, Cooking Club provides cost effective and simple recipes involving young adults in learning.

Commitment

We are looking for volunteers from local churches that are able to commit to a minimum of 12 months meeting with a young adult/mentee at least every fortnight for 1-2hrs or serve on the Cooking Club team. Training and support will be provided.

What are the benefits?

Volunteering isn't just rewarding as you start to witness life change taking place in front of your eyes; it is great for you in many ways. It provides a connection to your local community, helps you understand the issues facing today's youth and build compassion and enables you to live out what you believe in as a Christian. It will also inspire fresh ideas since you'll be stepping out of your normal circle of connections.

Want to find out more?

Contact Josie on 079 5735 2965 or email jsclark@nicodemustrust.org.uk

www.nicodemustrust.org.uk

Information Evening on the 30th September 2015 7:30 pm; Venue - TBC

- * **Banbury Foyer** provides support and accommodation for 16-25-year-old homeless young people
- * **Rachel House** provides residential care and support for young mums and their children
- * **BYHP – Banbury Youth Homeless Project** supports and assists vulnerable young people aged 13 – 25 in finding and maintaining a safe home.

Food Bank – Thank You.

We really value your thoughtful and consistent support, it makes so much difference to us as we organise our supplies, and of course, to the people the food parcels go to.

We have quite a varied mix of people who access the food bank, around 10 parcels a week. Some are families, some are elderly. We have quite a few young (16-24) people come in for support from the Foyer hostel next door to us. Mainly people are vulnerable single adults who struggle with budgeting and have chaotic lifestyles.



We can't offer a food parcel more than every 6 weeks, so we ask people to not ask more regularly than that, although many people still come in to chat and share tea or coffee/soup in between times. Of course we continue to provide for families with children whenever they come, regardless of the 6 week guideline, particularly in the school holidays. We don't have particular requirements, but we do chat with each person who comes in, share a hot drink, and chat through what are the issues going on in their lives at the moment that lead to their needing support. Where we start to see people coming back regularly, we offer budgeting support to help them manage their resources in the meantime. We also offer some toiletries, and sleeping bags and blankets where we have them available. We have pre-prepared parcels, which contain food to keep someone going for at least 3 days, including bread and margarine (which we keep frozen). Where people do not have access to cooking facilities, they are welcome to pick what will be useful from the cupboards, and often people will swap things they will not use for something they prefer. We are very flexible, and offer different sized bags for couples/ families.

Many blessings in all you do. Your support of our work makes a great difference.

Vanessa Coleman

Lieutenant- The Salvation Army

Lectionary readings for October 2015

Oct 18st

Isaiah 53: 4 - 12

Psalms 91: 9 - 16

Hebrews 5: 1 - 10

Mark 10: 35 - 45

Oct 11th

Amos 5: 6-7, 10 - 15

Psalms 90: 12 - 17

Hebrews 4: 12 - 16

Mark 10: 17 - 31

Oct 4th

Genesis 2: 18 - 24

Psalms 8

Hebrews 1: 1 - 4; 2: 5 - 12

Mark 10: 2 - 16

Oct 25th

Jeremiah 31: 7 - 9

Psalms 126

Hebrews 7:23 - 28

Mark 10: 46 - 52

Marlborough Road

150th ANNIVERSARY

The programme of visiting preachers during our period of celebration has proved a great success. It has continued to be a pleasure to see many Circuit friends attending the services. The programme has reached a grand finale, with two preachers, well known to many of us, leading our worship on successive Sundays in October:

- 4 October - Revd Dorothy Hewitson, a member of our Circuit Ministerial team 2002 - 2013
- 11 October - Revd Peter Hancock, Chair of our District

The sale of *Brewers, Brokers and Builders* has gone very well, with a healthy surplus already made towards the Church Redevelopment Fund. Copies are still available in an A5 version, at a cost of £10 per copy, with an online version available on the Marlborough Road Church website. Please contact Alan Vincent if you would like to order a copy: e-mail avbloxham@gmail.com or phone 01295 720809.

Marlborough Road Thursday Club 7.30pm
Thursday 1st October - Rev Lin Frances
Enquiries to Shirley Davies 01295 258193

CAMEO

(Come And Meet Each Other)

Meeting on the 2nd and 4th 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

7th October - The Reverend Stella Fairbairn - Dealing with Wheels

21st October - Michelle Miller Police Safety Advice

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

We start off again for our new season on Thursday 22nd October at 7 for 7.30pm At Marlborough Road Methodist Church with a video presentation on 'Nepal and India' by Mr Ray Evans from Witney. Bookings still to David Hughes on 01295 253891 by Monday October 19th the latest with any special dietary requirements. The cost per head for the evening, including a two course meal is still £10.

Watch out for a variety of interesting speakers for this new season and if you haven't been before, come with friends and try us.

Vernon Hurst 01327 702565

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.

GREATWORTH HALL

Last year we hosted an open day for the circuit here on the farm. Would there be any interest in our arranging another next year?

I would suggest a Saturday in April, or perhaps an evening in May or early June. Please let me have comments and ideas. The sheep will be lambing in early April, although I cannot guarantee one giving birth again!

Ring me on 01295 760348 or email ross@greatworthhall.com

Ross Adkins

CROPREDY

A big thank you to all our friends from around the circuit for your support during our "Fairport" effort. It was good to see familiar faces but also to welcome new faces. Once again the Soup Kitchen proved to be very popular, particularly on a wet and chilly Friday. Not that there was much time for looking outside! Thank you again. Same time, same place next year.

FAIRPORT CONVENTION 2015

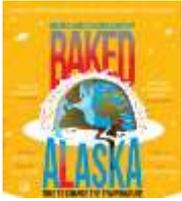
I think that "*Baptism by Fire*" most accurately describes our introduction to Fairport 2015! Hugh and I offered to help with the running of the Cropredy Chapel Soup Kitchen from the Thursday to the Saturday of Fairport, not really knowing what we were letting ourselves in for. Preparation started on the Monday before the festival started and continued each day until the Thursday when we opened for business. Three days of non-stop activity followed - serving soup, drinks, continental type breakfasts and cake. Cakes had been baked by the dozen by many members of our congregation; by Friday we had used all the soup prepared for the whole three days so we all rushed home and raided fridges and gardens to produce many more litres of soup; and Maggie and Norman went shopping every evening for daily supplies. Old friends were reunited, bedraggled festival goers were dried out, new friends were made, sore heads were dealt with quietly, my mental arithmetic improved daily and we raised the magnificent sum of £1,674.43. What are our abiding memories? Fun, fellowship and aching knees! Bring on Fairport 2016!

Hugh & Jan Brooman, Cropredy Chapel

Praise and Friendship Oct 28th at 7 p.m will lead By Patricia Haley

This will be the last one until Oct 2016

The Bible study group continues to meet on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.15pm
Contact Maggie on 01295 750423



Riding Lights' climate-themed show **Baked Alaska** comes to:

The Warriner School, Bloxham

Friday 16 October 2015, 7:30pm

Commissioned by the Diocese of Lichfield, Operation Noah and Christian Aid,

Baked Alaska will serve up a recipe for hope ahead of the *2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change* taking place in Paris this December.

Riding Lights Theatre Company are to serve up their deliciously sharp-witted comedy caper *Baked Alaska* at The Warriner School in Bloxham.

The show brings together stories from all corners of the world, presenting the realities of climate change in a truly unique and engaging way.

Presented in partnership with Christian Aid, Operation Noah and the Diocese of Lichfield, the company hopes it will raise awareness of environmental issues in the build up to the United Nations Conference on climate change later this year.

Focusing on the four themes of food, water, fuel and temperature rise, the play will bring together inter-connecting stories of humanity living with climate change from the four corners of the earth.

Millions of the world's poorest people are feeling the impact of climate change today. They are suffering first and worst from the consequences of our actions, yet they are the least to blame.

Christian Aid's regional coordinator for Oxfordshire, Anwen Newman, said: "In the high-energy, 'seriously funny' style for which Riding Lights is well known, the play underlines how *Baked Alaska* is something we can all look forward to... unless we do something about it.

"In a brilliantly accessible way, it is urging us not to make a pudding of the world, but to speak up for it instead.

"Coming hot on the heels of harvest festivals and just weeks before the crucial 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, which we hope will produce a fair and ambitious global deal on climate change, we hope that congregations will take the time to be both entertained and inspired."

Collectively we need to stop global temperatures rising above 2C, otherwise experts predict more droughts, floods and extreme weather. There will be less crops and more hunger, diminished fish stocks and coral reefs and the people of Africa are predicted to lose up to half of their farming yields by 2020 if we do not take action.

The production takes place at The Warriner School, Bloxham, OX15 4LJ on Friday 16th October, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £12 and concession prices are available.

Box Office: 01904 613000 or book online: www.ridinglights.org/baked-alaska

Adderbury Churches

EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS & CRAFT DAY

LANDSCAPES OF BRITAIN

Photographs by Val Trinder

Saturday 10th October 10.30am - 4pm

at

Adderbury Methodist Church

**Craft stalls, cakes & preserves,
refreshments & soup lunches**

proceeds to WaterAid

2016 Calendars

2016 calendars featuring Val Trinder's photos of "Landscapes of Britain" are now available price £5 and will be on sale at the Photograph Exhibition in Adderbury on 10th October. Alternatively contact Val at v.m.trinder@btinternet.com or telephone 01295 811139. This year all the proceeds will be given to WaterAid

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER EDITION

Thursday October 22nd

Please forward contributions to

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lorraineasquire@gmail.com

Tel: 07971000665

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

