

The Methodist Church
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

Circuit Website <http://www.banburycircuit.org.uk>

2024

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

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ECUMENICAL MINISTERS

Rev Chris Gaynor ☎ 01295 271403

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*9 June
Helen
Cameron
Leaving
Service*

*16 June
Father's
Day*



*15 June
The King's
Official
Birthday*

*30 June
Phil
Robinson
Ordination
Service*

DEADLINE - Third SUNDAY each Month

For the **July/August** edition the deadline is **Sunday 16 June 2024**

If you have anything you would like to share with members of the Circuit, please send to Margaret Smith:

margaret@emjay.org.uk ☎ 01295 278841

or 49 Queensway, Banbury OX16 9NF





From the Editor's Desk:



Error in the May Newsletter

I am very sorry for the confusion I must have initiated in last month's newsletter, especially if I caused you to think you had a major lapse of memory. I printed the quiz, submitted by Jenny Tustian, complete with answers - sorry. No excuses, my mistake.

Margaret Smith

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home'

Just before moving to Banbury, Zoe and I took a trip to the beach at Southport where we were living at the time. It was a day when the tide (as it often was) did not come in very far, and to walk from the start of the beach to the sea was a distance of nearly two miles. It was a very hot day and it felt like it was taking forever to get to the water. I was beginning to contemplate giving up when Zoe urged me to turn around saying, "Wow - look how far we've come". Seeing what we had already achieved gave me the impetus to keep going.

This story has been very much on my mind recently, as has the above line from the classic hymn *Amazing Grace*. In just a few weeks time, I will be ordained as a minister in the Methodist Church, having completed two years of probation in the Banbury circuit. In reflecting on my time in ministry, seeing how far God has brought me and my family, and the many blessings that we have received on the way, fills me with thankfulness and inspires me as I look to the work that lies ahead of me in the circuit.

There are undoubtedly times in all of our individual and collective faith journeys where life will feel very difficult and at these times the temptation to give up may feel very strong. It is at these times that being able to look back at what God has done in our lives and the obstacles that have been overcome can serve to give us all strength and hope.

I am very grateful for everyone who has made us feel so welcome and supported us over the past two years and look forward to being able to celebrate with many of you over the coming weeks. It is my hope and prayer that in doing so, we can recall the blessings that have been granted to us through the grace of God and reinforce our hope that God's grace will indeed lead us safely home.

Blessings, **Phil**

The Rev Helen Cameron reflects on receiving The King's Coronation Medal

I was surprised but delighted to receive a letter on St George's Day informing me that King Charles III had conferred The King's Coronation Medal on me in recognition of my contribution and participation in the Coronation of their Majesties, the King and Queen, in May 2023.

Coronation medals have been struck to commemorate the coronation of every British monarch since King Edward VI in 1547. The tradition of giving silver medals to those assisting in a coronation at Westminster Abbey began in 1603 with the coronation of King James I, and has continued ever since.



The privilege of participating in an ecumenical blessing of the newly crowned King in my role as Moderator of the Free Churches Group stays with me as does the privilege of leading prayers at the funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth. Whatever our individual or corporate views are of the role of the monarchy, I was conscious in that moment, in the life of our nation, that it was

good that the people and the prayers of the Free Church were valued and visible. I still feel that.

Conversations with my fellow presidents and the General Secretary of Churches Together in England in this last year reinforce how important that ecumenical blessing was. It was an important symbol and sign of the change in understanding of the diversity of the Church and the importance of ecumenical relationships in England and the UK since 1953. Many people who talk to me about it saw it as an important celebration of the gift of diversity we know together in Christ.

Reverend Canon Helen Cameron, *Chair of the Northampton District
Moderator of the Free Churches Group
President - Churches Together in England
President Designate - Methodist Conference 2024-25*

Rev Helen Cameron Leaving Service

Sunday 9 June at 3:00pm

Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford

The Service will be followed by refreshments

Ordination of Rev Phil Robinson

We are excited that Rev Phil Robinson will be ordained at this year’s Methodist Conference, in Bradford Cathedral on Sunday 30th June.

Our Chair of District, Revd Helen Cameron, will be inducted as President of Conference the previous day.

If you would like to attend Phil’s Ordination Service,

on

Sunday 30th June

the Circuit has arranged a coach, leaving

Banbury Cross coach park at 11:30am

and returning, at the latest, by 10:00pm.

Whilst there is no charge for the coach, you will either have to bring refreshments or purchase them during the day.

To book a place,

please contact Clare in the Circuit Office, ☎ 01295 257193,

as soon as possible as we have limited places.

Or, you are invited to watch the

Conference Service,

when Phil will be received into ‘Full Connexion’

on

30th June at Marlborough Road

The Service will conclude about 12:45pm.

Or, you can also watch at home, via The Methodist Church website.

Let's be brief - Answers are initials only

Example: Desire jealously = Envy Answer is **NV**

1 Hot powder (spice)

2 Town in Germany

3 Without contents

4 Said of some eyes

5 Mouldy state

6 Climbing plant

7 Composition

8 Honey maker

9 Mediterranean

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Worship on Thursday - 11.00am

You are invited to meet up and join with friends from across the circuit for a short informal act of worship, including Holy Communion,

Thursday mornings at Marlborough Road Methodist Church
The service is led each week by one of our local circuit ministers.



JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES TEAM

CHURCHES WORKING FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

Public Issues Calendar

For further information see <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/>

- June Bible Month
- Jun 5 World Environment Day
- Jun 8-18 Fair Tax Week
- Jun 10-18 Great Big Green Week
- Jun 11 Tax Justice Sunday
- Jun 19-25 Refugee Week
- Jun 25 Sanctuary Sunday
- Jun 26 Internation Day in Support of Victims of Torture

The Public Issues Calendar collects together observances in the year when Christians and those across wider society might focus their attention on certain movements towards peace and justice.

MUSICAL MEMORIES

A group for those with Dementia and their carers.

Come and enjoy a cup of coffee with singing and all things musical!

1st & 3rd Mondays each month, 10:30am to 11:45am in St Francis Church

For more information call

Janet ☎ 01295 368238 or e-mail sfrancischurchbanbury@gmail.com

Let's Be Brief Quiz - (Continued from page 4)

- 10 Colourful bird
- 11 Feeling unwell
- 12 Not difficult.....
- 13 Wigwam.....

(Continued on page 6)

Let's Be Brief: (Continued from page 5)

- 14 County
- 15 Very cold.....
- 16 Surpass
- 17 Too much.....
- 18 Vegetable
- 19 A drink or light meal
- 20 A question.....

EASINGTON

Ladies' Fellowship - Every Tuesday at 2:30pm.

A varied programme of Talks, PowerPoint Presentations and Quizzes,
followed by light refreshment, usually finishing at about 4:00pm.

Whether you would like to come regularly or just occasionally you will be most welcome.

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**Fortnightly Meet Your Neighbour
Coffee and Games Mornings**

Wednesdays at 9:30am - June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24

Even if you do not live close by, you are still our neighbour and will be most welcome

WIGGINTON

Coffee Mornings

First Saturday each month at 10:30am.

CROPREDY

Coffee Mornings

2nd Friday each Month, 10.30am - Noon

HINTON

Coffee Mornings

Second Saturday Each Month

10:00am to 11:30am

Everyone Welcome

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

Weekly Coffee Morning

Thursdays at 10:00am

All are welcome

GREATWORTH

Art Group

every 2nd and 4th Monday

(except Bank Holidays)

1:00pm to 3:00pm

Any medium and all abilities are welcome.

No experience is necessary.

£3 a session

ADDERBURY

Knitting Group

1st Monday each month, 2pm to 4pm

Everyone is Welcome.

Bring your needles to enjoy a natter
while knitting.

HORNTON

Coffee Mornings

Fridays 10:30am to Noon

Everyone Welcome

COMMUNITY GATHERS to LAUNCH NEW FOOD LARDER at MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Banbury residents gathered at the town's Methodist Church on Tuesday April 30 to officially mark the launch of a new community larder.

The new community larder is a joint initiative between local councillor Taraji Ogunnubi, Banbury Town Mayor Fiaz Ahmed, The Methodist Church and the SOFEA charity. It aims to provide fresh fruit and vegetables, essential foods and a host of advice services every week to those in need of a helping hand.



Users of the larder will pay a £3.50 weekly subscription and - in return - they will receive a box of food valued at £15+.

Taraji said: "We are that link between various organisations and the community, where people can come and be made aware of organisations near them that can support them with any barriers they may be facing. We will have different organisations like the Sunshine Centre, The Hill or BYHP come here and speak to people about the work they do. So that when people collect their food, tea and coffee, they can also receive help for mental health, with their children or whatever they need."

The larder will work in partnership with the South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance (SOFEA), a youth education charity based out of Didcot. SOFEA helps young people across the county who have struggled in mainstream education to achieve their GCSEs, as well as assisting them with mental health and social issues. One of the main projects of SOFEA is getting young people involved with local food banks by collecting food from supermarkets and delivering it to community larders. Over the past two years, SOFEA has saved over 1,556 tonnes of food from going to landfill by giving it to the community larders.

The Community Larder will be open each Tuesday from 2pm until 4pm at the Banbury Methodist Church on Marlborough Road. Local Minister and Superintendent of the Banbury Methodist Circuit, Rev David Alderman, is delighted that the Church will be the larder's base and looks forward to getting involved. He said: "*I think it's absolutely wonderful, and as a church, we are privileged to provide hospitality for the Banbury Community Larder. In a town like Banbury, there is a growing need for support for all kinds of people, not just with food but all of the other support that the larder will offer. As a Church family we will continue to support our local Foodbank, through donations of*

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food and money, but the Larder will give us another pathway to help those who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis”.

Marlborough Road Church is part of the “Warm Space” network and offers a safe welcoming space on Thursday mornings. Rev Alderman said, “*The Town Council through the Mayor’s office, approached the church to see if we could offer space, and the church leadership were delighted to be able to get involved.*” The Banbury Methodist Circuit is already a stakeholder in “*Chaplaincy for Banbury*” - a dedicated team of trained volunteers who support those who work or visit the town centre, coordinated by Supernumerary Minister Rev Robert Jones and “*Banbury Street Pastors*” which also run out of Marlborough Road Church on a Saturday night. Both groups were represented at the launch.

Also involved in the larder is the founder of the Lunch Box Project Prabhu Natarajan, who will take on a role as director. Prabhu said: “This is a very good initiative for Banbury because it goes beyond just helping people with food; there will also be mental health support, financial support, and job advice. It’s very useful and time-saving for groups like the Lunch Box Project to have a place like this in the town centre where we can direct people to collect food.”

Volunteers for the weekly larder will be made up of people from a range of backgrounds and organisations. Rocky John Wood explains the importance of volunteering at the larder. He said: “People are really struggling at present; food prices have gone up unbelievably. There is also a social aspect to it because a lot of people are very lonely at the moment, and it’s good to help people and give back to the community.”

Answers to Last Month’s Patron Saints Quiz

- Who is the patron saint of the internet? **ISIDORE OF SEVILLE**
Valentine is the patron saint of love, but which hobby/occupation also falls under his patronage? **BEEKEEPING**
On which date is St. Andrew’s Day celebrated? **30 NOVEMBER**
What did St Patrick use to explain the Holy Trinity? **A SHAMROCK**
According to legend, for how many days will it rain if rain falls on St Swithin’s day? **40**
What did St Patrick banish from Ireland? **SNAKES**
Saint Giles is the patron saint of which British city? **EDINBURGH**
Who is the patron saint of doctors? **ST LUKE**
Which country’s patron saints were previously Edward, Edmund the Martyr and Gregory the Great?..... **ENGLAND**



Saturday 6 July 2024
MAYC Orchestra and Singers and OneSound
 together again for a
50 Anniversary Reunion Concert
 at
Coventry Central Hall
 CV1 2HA

Bringing together members of *One Sound* and *MAYC Orchestra Singers*
from across 50 years

Tickets: £5 (Free under 18) - Also available on the door

Contact us on os50threunion@gmail.com

Don't You Just Love Children?

One day, the CEO of a large finance company was wondering why one of his most valued employees had not turned up for work, nor had he phoned in sick. So, the CEO rang the man's home number, which was answered with a child's whisper.

"Hello?" "Is your daddy home?"

The small voice whispered, "Yes, he's out in the garden."

"Can I talk to him please?" The child whispered, "No".

"Well," asked the CEO, "is your mummy there?" "Yes, she's out in the garden too."

"Well, can I speak to her then?" Again came the answer, "No".

Hoping that there was someone else with whom he could leave a message, the CEO asked, "Is anyone else there?" "Yes," whispered the child, "a policeman."

Wondering what the police would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, "Can I speak to the policeman then?" "No, he's busy," whispered the child.

"Busy doing what?" "Talking to mummy and daddy and the men with the police dogs."

Growing more intrigued as he heard a loud noise in the background, the CEO asked, "What's that noise?" "It's a helicopter," answered the whispering voice.

"What is going on there?" demanded the CEO, now truly concerned.

"The search team just landed a helicopter."

"A search team?" said the boss, "What are they searching for?"

Still whispering, the young voice replied with a muffled giggle.....

"ME"

Grandpa's Hands

Grandpa, some ninety plus years old, sat feebly on a bench in the garden. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him, he didn't acknowledge my presence and as I sat I wondered if he was unwell. Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but at the same time wanting to check on him, I asked if he was okay. He raised his head, looked at me and smiled.

"Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were okay," I explained.

"Have you ever looked at your hands?" he asked. "I mean really looked at your hands." I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands. As I tried to figure out the point he was making, Grandpa smiled and said:

"Stop and think for a moment about your hands, how they've served you throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out, grab and embrace life.

They braced and cushioned my fall when, as a toddler, I crashed upon the floor.

They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back.

As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer.

They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots.

They held my rifle and wiped my tears when I went off to war.

They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent.

Decorated with my wedding ring they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special.

They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my new born son.

They wrote the letters home and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and wife and walked my daughter down the aisle.

Yet, they were strong and sure when I dug my comrade out of a foxhole and lifted a plough off my best friend's foot.

They have held children, consoled neighbours and shaken in fists of anger when I didn't understand.

They have covered my face, combed my hair, washed and cleansed my body.

They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw.

To this day, when not much of anything else of me works well, these hands hold me up, lay me down and continue to fold in prayer.

These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life.

More importantly, it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when He leads me home. With my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

I will never look at my hands the same again.

PRAYING for PEACE and JUSTICE throughout the WORLD

The world seems so rife with conflict and violence
and it can feel overwhelming.

But, as we continue to trust in God's faithfulness and desire to see justice and
peace prevail, let us continue to pray at 8:00pm each day
for peace with justice everywhere, and for the safety and security of
the most vulnerable and marginalised.



MAY LECTIONARY READINGS

2 June

Continuous

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23-3:6

Related

Deuteronomy 5:12-15
Psalm 81:1-10

9 June

Continuous

1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15),
16-20 (11:14-15)
Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Related

Genesis 3:8-15
Psalm 130

16 June

Continuous

1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13
Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Related

Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

23 June

Continuous

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49
Psalm 9:9-20
or 1 Samuel 17:57 – 18:5, 10-16
Psalm 133

2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

Related

Job 38:1-11
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

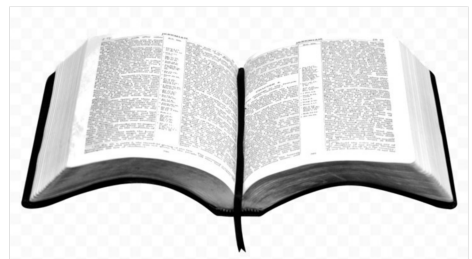
30 June

Continuous

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

Related

Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15; 2:23-24
or Lamentations 3:22-33
Psalm 30





DATES for your DIARY

Further details elsewhere in this newsletter

Tip: To keep the dates readily available, pin this page to your home notice board.

See the Circuit Preaching Plan for information on Regular Sunday Services

EVENTS and MEETINGS AROUND the CIRCUIT

Every Day, at 8:00pm, pray for Peace and Justice throughout the world

Weekly

Tue 2:30pm Ladies' Fellowship Easington MC
 Thur 10:00am Coffee Morning Marlborough Rd MC
 Thur 11:00am Informal Holy Communion Service Marlborough Rd MC
 Fri 10:30am Coffee Morning Hornton MC

Monthly

1st Sat 10:30am Coffee Morning Wigginton MC
 2nd Sat 10:00am Coffee Morning Hinton MC
 1st Mon 2:00pm Knitting Group Adderbury MC
 1st & 3rd Mon . 10:30am Musical Memories St Francis
 2nd Fri 10:30am Coffee Morning Cropredy MC
 2nd & 4th Sat ..Nights Street Pastor Patrols **Please pray for them**
 2nd & 4th Mon . 1:00pm Art Group Greatworth

Other Events

Sun 9 Jun 3:00pm Rev Helen Cameron Leaving Service Oxford
 Wed 12 Jun... 9:30am Meet Your Neighbour Coffee Morning Easington MC
 Wed 26 Jun... 9:30am Meet Your Neighbour Coffee Morning Easington MC
 Sun 30 Jun.... 10:45am ZOOM of Conference Service Marlborough Rd MC

