



The Methodist Church
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
Circuit Website <http://www.banburycircuit.org.uk>
2025

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Rev David Alderman ☎ 01295 262602 super@banburycircuit.org.uk

Rev Phil Robinson ☎ 01295 709717 ministry@banburycircuit.org.uk

ECUMENICAL MINISTERS

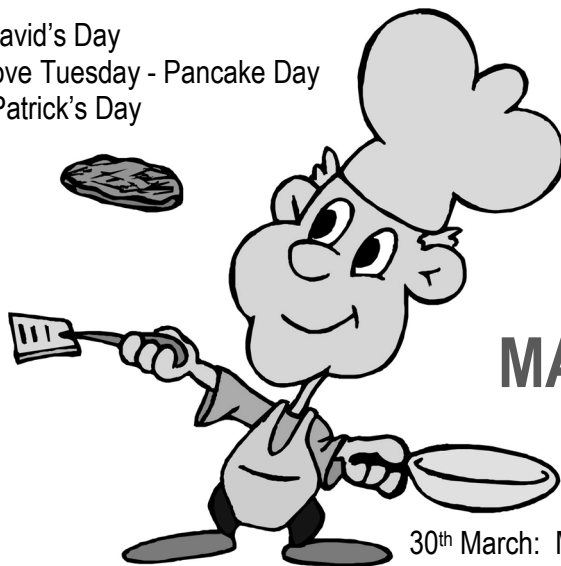
Rev Chris Gaynor ☎ 01295 271403

Rev Lynda Spokes ☎ 01295 253508

1st March: St David's Day

4th March: Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day

17th March: St Patrick's Day



MARCH

30th March: Mothering Sunday
British Summer Time Begins

DEADLINE - Third SUNDAY each Month

For the **April 2025** edition the deadline is **Sunday 16 March 2025**

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



Talking with you

In days gone by “they” were a means of using up eggs and other luxuries in the house on the eve of Lent. Nowadays, many continue this Shrove Tuesday tradition. Well, they do taste good! I’m talking of course about pancakes.



Why is Lent on the Christian agenda? Well, it goes right back to the 4th century when Christians began to set aside this forty-day period running up to Easter.

No doubt there’s some link with Jesus’ forty days of fasting in the wilderness. Easter was a time when many new Christians were Baptised, and these six weeks were an important part of their preparation so they could also receive Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

Lent has often been associated with giving things up. And that can be helpful if it leads us closer to Jesus. But it’s certainly an opportunity to have a spiritual spring clean! To get rid of any excess baggage in our lives that may be holding us back from following Jesus.

Are there any things I need to put into the “spiritual rubbish bin”? It takes time to work this out before God. And so, from now until Easter, it could be an opportunity to spend a little more time in listening to Jesus, as we read the Bible, and speak to him in prayer. To help in this process I invite you to share in the various Lent activities in our churches, from bible studies to the special services during Holy Week.

Lent blessings to you. **David**



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/>

March: Women's History Month

- 1 Zero Discrimination Day
- 2 Church Action on Poverty Sunday
- 3 World Wildlife Day
- 3 National Day of Reflection for people bereaved by COVID (tbc)
- 5 International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness
- 7 World Day of Prayer
- 8 International Women's Day
- 15 International Day to Combat Islamophobia
- 21 UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21 World Down's Syndrome Day
- 22 World Water Day
- 22 Earth Hour (8:30-9:30pm)
- 25 UN International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- 30 International Day of Zero Waste
- 31 Transgender Day of Visibility

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.

A **F** Loving God,
O **O** We see the news and are afraid.
P **R** Violence is everywhere - here in the UK as well as in far-away lands.
R **R** We don't know what to think or feel.
A **P** The temptation to fall into hatred, or despair feels very close at hand.
E **E** Help us to remember, nothing in all creation can separate us from your love.
Y **A** May your perfect love for us cast out our fear and free us to discern what is ours
E **R** to do amidst the chaos of this suffering world.
R **E** In Jesus' Name. **Amen**

Online Bible Study

We have a small group doing Bible Study every Tuesday 2:00pm - 3:00pm on Zoom.
If you would like to join the group please email: revchriseddy@gmail.com

Chris Eddy

GREATWORTH

**Monthly Art Group 2nd and 4th Monday
1:00pm to 3:00pm**

Any medium and all abilities are welcome.

No experience is necessary.

£3 a session

EASINGTON

Ladies' Fellowship

Every Tuesday at 2:30pm.

A varied programme of speakers, quizzes, slide presentations and informal chats, followed by light refreshments, usually ending at about 4:00pm.

Whether you wish to come regularly or just occasionally, you are most welcome.

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**Meet Your Neighbour**

**Coffee and Games Mornings**

**Wednesdays at 9:30am**

**Mar 5 & 19, Apr 2, 16 & 30**

Even if you don't live close by, you are still our neighbour and will be most welcome.

### HORNTON

**Coffee Mornings**

**Fridays 10:30am to Noon**

Everyone Welcome

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Circuit Quiz Night

(General Knowledge etc.)

Hornton Methodist Church

Friday 28 March at 7:30pm

Bring-and-share buffet at halftime

Tea and coffee provided

Admission £5.00

(50/50 Circuit and Church Funds)

For more information contact David Miles

☎ 01926 640199

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

St Francis Church

For more information call

Janet ☎ 01295 368238

or e-mail

stfrancischurchbanbury@gmail.com

The Banbury Larder LUNCH CLUB

Savour the flavours and share the laughter at our monthly lunch club.

GAMES AND PUZZLES AVAILABLE

from February 2025

The first Wednesday every month

12 noon to 2:00pm

Everyone Welcome!

To register please email

Thebanburylarder@gmail.com

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

OX16 5BZ

CROPREDY

Coffee Mornings

2nd Friday each Month

10.30am - Noon

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**'Warm Spaces'**

All are welcome

**1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays**

**10:30am - Noon**

**Methodist School Room**

Many thanks to the Parish Council and the Brasenose Arms for their support.

**WIGGINTON**

**Organ Concert - Nicholas Martin B.E.M**  
**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> of April at 2.00pm**  
**Admission £8.00**

Tea coffee & biscuits served in the interval

An afternoon not to be missed

To book your seat  
please contact David Gardner

☎ 01295 271469

email davidjg1@talktalk.net

**MARLBOROUGH ROAD**

**Weekly Coffee Morning**  
**Thursdays at 10:00am**  
All are welcome

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Craft and Tabletop Sale
Saturday 5 April
10:00am to 1:00pm
Stalls and Refreshments
Free Entry

HINTON

Coffee Mornings
Second Saturday Each Month
10:00am to 11:30am
Everyone Welcome

Lent Study Group
Wednesdays
12th March, 26th March & 9th April
9.30am - 11.00am

Rhyming Pairs - Answers to Last Month's Quiz

- 1. **CT** Leading robber **CHIEF THIEF**
- 2. **CB** Irate employer **CROSS BOSS**
- 3. **FS** Speedy thoroughfare? **FLEET STREET**
- 4. **PJ** Not a very pretty girl **PLAIN JANE**
- 5. **TD** Untrustworthy Richard **TRICKY DICKY**
- 6. **BP** Desolate mountaintop **BLEAK PEAK**
- 7. **CP** Not a very warm pond **COOL POOL**
- 8. **LM** A friend who is overdue **LATE MATE**
- 9. **MW** Large bet **MAJOR WAGER**
- 10. **YF** Cowardly man **YELLOW FELLOW**
- 11. **WD** Jocular song **WITTY DITTY**
- 12. **GM** Jovial though humble servant **GENIAL MENIAL**
- 13. **RB** Royal Hound **REGAL BEAGLE**
- 14. **SB** Daft William **SILLY BILLY**



World Day of Prayer - Friday 7 March 2025

A women led, global, ecumenical movement

This year's prayer focus, led by the women of the Cook Islands is,
I made you wonderful

The first World Day of Prayer (WDP) service was held on the island of Rarotonga in 1971. In 1990, WDP Cook Islands formed a committee with a total of thirteen women from six different denominations. The number of attendees at WDP services has declined in the Cook Islands since Covid-19, but the spirit of prayer remains strong among those who participate. The WDP service continues to be an annual event in Rarotonga and the Pa Enua (Outer Islands).

The current WDP Cook Islands committee organised a Writers' Workshop in August 2022 to launch the writing process for the 2025 programme. The group enjoys working together, especially now that women from every part of the Cook Islands have joined together to proclaim: **"WE ARE BEING MADE WONDERFUL!"**

A local service is being held
at **2:00pm** in
St Mary's Church, Adderbury
Mill Lane, OX17 3LP

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Woman and a Fork

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and been given three months to live. As she was getting her things ‘in order’, she contacted her Pastor and asked him to come to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at her service, what scriptures she would like read and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her.

“There’s one more thing,” she said excitedly.

“What’s that?” came the Pastor’s reply.

“This is very important,” the young woman continued.

“I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.”

The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say.

“That surprises you, doesn’t it,” the young woman said.

“Well, to be honest, I’m puzzled by the request,” said the Pastor.

The young woman then explained.

“My grandmother once told me, and from that time I have tried to pass this message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement.”

“In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, “Keep your fork”. It was my favourite part because I knew that something better was coming... like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful and with substance!”

“So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, “What’s with the fork?” Then I want you to tell them: ‘Keep your fork, the best is yet to come.’”

The Pastor’s eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. He also knew, however, that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She **knew** that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman’s casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, “What’s with the fork?” And over and over he smiled. During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolised to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the

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CHAPLAINCY
for
BANBURY
working where you are

A Christian organisation, registered with the Charity Commission and supported by Banbury Christians Together (not by any one church or denomination).

Its purpose is to enhance the emotional and spiritual well-being of people of any faith or none who work in or visit Banbury.

They have the endorsement of a number of civic and business leaders and other faith groups and are always seeking more support.

They serve the public, working in, visiting and frequenting the town of Banbury and the surrounding areas by providing pastoral care through a chaplaincy service.

What is a chaplain?

Chaplaincy for Banbury is a dedicated team of Christians who have been trained to support the community in Banbury.

They are volunteers, independent of any business or authority.

Anyone may talk to the Chaplain about anything that concerns them, whether health, work or home. If it matters to them, then the Chaplain will be happy to talk with them.

Chaplaincy is about reaching out to people who wouldn't naturally have contact with someone who is trained to listen and independent to talk to; people who might not be confident to even approach others, but who need to know that there is someone who cares.

Why may I need a Chaplain? What can Chaplains do?

Many people today find life stressful - whether caused by family difficulties, bereavement or anxiety about any number of concerns. This affects their work and home life. In a climate of uncertainty, it's difficult not to feel under pressure, whether at home or in the community. Chaplains care and provide support that really makes a difference.

Please pray for the chaplains, the work they do and the people they help.

www.chaplaincy4banbury.org.uk chaplaincy4banbury@gmail.com

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fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise

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Successful Age Friendly Banbury Partnership Cost of Living Event **At Marlborough Road Methodist Church – February 11th**

The Banbury Larder hosted Age Friendly Banbury partners bringing advice and support for residents experiencing the challenges of the Cost of Living.

Team members from *Cherwell District Council*, the *DWP*, *Citizens Advice CHIP* service, *Age UK Oxfordshire* and *Banburyshire Advice Centre* were all on hand to help *Banbury Larder* users with advice and support for coping with the cost of living. Enquirers were supported in the relaxed surroundings of the church hall, with hot drinks and refreshments provided by the Larder volunteers. Organiser, Taraji Ogunnabi, welcomed the additional support for Larder members. Other partners who might attend weekly sessions on Tuesdays from 2:00pm – 4:00pm are welcome to promote their services to members. For information contact Taraji ☎ **07862 779494**

Home Library Service

Would you like to borrow library books but are unable to visit the library?

The Home Library Service is run by Oxfordshire County Council and serves 860 customers throughout the county.

How it works

Contact us to talk about the types of books you enjoy, whether they are large print or regular print, as well as DVDs, audiobooks on CD, music CDs and DVDs. We can then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home and provide a helpful and friendly service - they are db's checked and will wear an identification badge). Whenever possible, we try and arrange for the same volunteer to visit you each time. Your library materials will be delivered and collected every 3 weeks. The Home Library Service is FREE of charge and there is no charge for requests or late returns.

How to register

To register for this service, or for further information, please contact your local library or call the Home Library Service on ☎ **01865 810259** or email **homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk**.

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and they always want to open their heart to us. Show your friends how much you care. Remember to always be there for them, even when you need them more. For you never know when it may be their time to “Keep the fork.”

Cherish the time you have and the memories you share... *being friends with someone is not an opportunity but a sweet responsibility.*

Keep Your Fork

Name the Meals and Desserts

(Initial and number of letters in each word)

Example: S5 & K6 P3 = Steak & Kidney Pie

- 1 B5 & E4
- 2 F4 & C5
- 3 T4 I2 T3 H4
- 4 R5 B4 & Y9 P7
- 5 I5 S4
- 6 W5 R7
- 7 C7 P3
- 8 L5 & B5
- 9 B5 B5 O2 T5
- 10 S7 D4 & C7
- 11 B7 & M4
- 12 S9 B9
- 13 C6 C3 C5
- 14 B5 & B6 P7
- 15 C3 A2 V3
- 16 C7 P4
- 17 T5 & O6
- 18 L5 M8 P3
- 19 F7 & M5 P4
- 20 C7 T5 M6
- 21 K8
- 22 C6 & B8
- 23 S9 P3
- 24 J3 R4 P4
- 25 C7 C4 M4

With thanks to **Jenny Tustian**

LECTIONARY READINGS

2 March

Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

5 March

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 *or* Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

9 March

First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

16 March

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Luke 13:31-35

23 March

Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

30 March

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

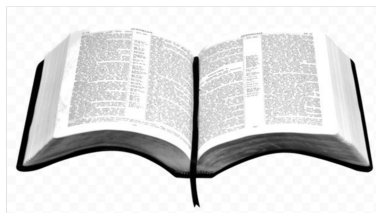
***or for* MOTHERING SUNDAY**

Exodus 2:1-10 *or* 1 Samuel 1:20-28

Psalm 34:11-20 *or* Psalm 127:1-4

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 *or* Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:33-35 *or* John 19:25-27



PRAYING for PEACE and JUSTICE throughout the WORLD

We may feel that our pleas are unanswered, our hope may be faltering, but we must continue to pray for peace and justice throughout the world. **Pray at 8:00pm each day for one minute.**



Creator God,

Today, in our fractured world, we pray for peace and justice; your peace, not built on broken promises and failing courage, but your deep peace, embodied in the service and sacrifice of Jesus.

May we follow Him, seeking your justice, acting in solidarity and hope, even when the way seems unclear and the powers of our world don't reflect your kingdom, your peace or your justice.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**



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

Weekly

Tue2:30pm Ladies' Fellowship..... Easington MC
 Tue2:00pm-3:00pm Bible Study ZOOM
 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&3rd Mon 10:30am Musical Memories..... St Francis
 2nd&4th Mon.... 1:00pm Art Group..... Greatworth MC
 1st Wed 12-2:00pm..... The Banbury Larder Lunch Club Marlborough Rd MC
 1st,3rd&4th Fri ... 10:30am 'Warm Spaces' Cropredy MC
 2nd Fri 10:30am Coffee Morning..... Cropredy MC
 2nd Sat..... 10:00am Coffee Morning..... Hinton MC
 2nd&4th Sat Nights..... Street Pastor Patrols **Please pray for them**

Other Events

Wed 5 Mar 9:30am Coffee & Games Morning..... Easington MC
 Thu 6 Mar 7:30pm Local Preachers' Meeting..... Fairway MC
 Fri 7 Mar 2:00pm World Day of Prayer Service St Mary's PC, Adderbury
 Wed 12 Mar .. 9:30am Lent Study Group Hinton MC
 Wed 26 Mar .. 9:30am Lent Study Group Hinton MC
 Fri 28 Mar 7:30pm Circuit Quiz Night Hornton MC
 Sat 29 Mar 10:00am-3:00pm..... LPWL Study Day Marlborough Rd MC
 Sat 5 Apr..... 10:00am-1:00pm..... Craft & Tabletop Sale Marlborough Rd MC
 Wed 9 Apr..... 9:30am Lent Study Group Hinton MC
 Thu 10 Apr.... Time tbc Circuit Meeting St Francis
 Sat 26 Apr..... 2:00pm Nicholas Martin Organ Concert..... Wigginton MC

Remember to put your clocks forward
on Saturday night, 29th March

