

The Methodist Church
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
Circuit Website <http://www.banburycircuit.org.uk>
2024

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

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12 - 19 May: Christian Aid Week



DEADLINE - Third SUNDAY each Month

For the **June** edition the deadline is **Sunday 19 May 2024**

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

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TALKING WITH YOU

It's A Funny World Isn't It!

On 19th May, Pentecost, we celebrate the church's birthday.
But how do we see the church? And what is our commitment to it?

- FUNNY –** How £5.00 seems so much when you take it to church and so little when you take it to the supermarket.
- FUNNY –** How long an hour seems when you are doing things for God and how short it is when you are gardening.
- FUNNY –** How laborious it is to read a chapter of the Bible and how easy it is to read 200 pages of the latest novel.
- FUNNY –** How we can't think of anything to say when we pray and yet don't have any difficulty talking to a friend on the phone.
- FUNNY –** How refreshing rain is at home but how foreboding it is at church-time.
- FUNNY –** How boring sermons can be but how interesting it is to sit through a three hour film.
- FUNNY –** How we simply don't have the time to play our part in the life of the church but plenty of time to watch television.
- FUNNY –** How we seem to have difficulty learning to worship God but find it easy to learn to do many other things.

Funny world isn't it! ~ David

Patron Saints Quiz

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

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.

Phil will be sharing his testimony at the

District Service

held at

Aylesbury Methodist Church

[HP20 2NQ]

on

Sunday 19th May at 6:00pm

to which all are invited.

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.



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/>

12-19 May Christian Aid Week

June Bible Month

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.

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

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 stfrancischurchbanbury@gmail.com

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 - May 1 & 15**

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

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Seasonal Coffee Morning - Gardening

Saturday 11 May, 10:00am to Noon

There will be the usual Cake Stall, plus a Garden/Gardening Stall

Come along, bring your family, friends and neighbours.

WIGGINTON

Coffee Mornings

First Saturday each month at 10:30am.

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### Annual Plant Sale

**Saturday 4 May, 10:30am to 3:00pm**

## GREATWORTH

### Art Group

**every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday**

(except Bank Holidays)

**1:00pm to 3:00pm**

Any medium and all abilities are welcome.

No experience is necessary.

**£3 a session**

## HINTON

### Coffee Mornings

**Second Saturday Each Month**

**10:00am to 11:30am**

Everyone Welcome

## ADDERBURY

### Knitting Group

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

## CROPREDY

### Coffee Mornings

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday each Month, 10.30am - Noon**

**Modern lifestyle in a nutshell.**

When the phone was tied with a wire -  
humans were free.

## MARLBOROUGH ROAD

### Weekly Coffee Morning

**Thursdays at 10:00am**

All are welcome



## **Christian Aid Week – 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Christian Aid is a charity that works around the world with communities who don't have the basic things they need to live full lives, free from poverty. The core values of LOVE, DIGNITY, EQUALITY, and JUSTICE are part of their Christian foundations.

The main Bible verse for Christian Aid Week this year is: 1 Corinthians 13:13 *And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.* (NRSV)

Pray this Christian Aid Week that people pushed to the brink by poverty find the strength and opportunity to push back and fulfil their hopes and ambitions.

### **A Prayer for Christian Aid Week**

*Loving God, help us hear the voices of those enduring extreme poverty.*

*It is hard to listen to stories of pain.*

*Show us how compassion for others can bring healing and fulness of life for all.*

*Help us to understand that we are one through your love, for every human being is loved by you, beyond measure.*

*Loving God, you call on us to build your kingdom of justice, mercy and truth.*

*It isn't a task for the faint-hearted.*

*When we lose our sense of purpose, fill us with faith.*

*When we doubt or throw up our hands in despair, fill us with hope.*

*When we pass by our neighbour as though we did not know them, fill us with the love that turns us back and takes us to their aid.*

*In Jesus' Name. **Amen***

### **HUGS...**

There's something in a simple hug that always warms the heart.

It welcomes us back home - and makes it easier to part.

A hug's a way to share the joy and sad times we go through, or just a way for friends to say they like you 'cos you're you.

Hugs are meant for anyone for whom we really care, from your grandma to your neighbour, or just a cuddly bear.

A hug is an amazing thing - it's just the perfect way to show the love we're feeling but can't find the words to say.

It's funny how a little hug makes everyone feel good; in every place and language, it's always understood.

Hugs don't need new equipment, special batteries or parts - just open up your arms and open up your hearts.

## **Facts about the 1500s**

*[from 'Farming Briefing' – July 2005]*

The next time you're washing your hands and feel like complaining because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about life in the 1500s...

Most people married in June because they bathed yearly in May and still smelled pretty good by June. They were, however, starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of sweet-smelling flowers to hide their body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths were big tubs filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, followed by his sons and other men of the household, then the women, children and finally babies. By the end the water was so dirty someone could be lost in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water".

Houses had thatched roofs of thick straw, piled high, with no wood underneath. Small domestic animals sheltered there (as did mice and bugs). When it rained and became slippery the animals would slip and fall off the roof.

So came the saying "It's raining cats and dogs".

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and small-animal droppings could mess up the bed. A bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection.

This is how four-poster, canopy beds came into existence.

Only the wealthy had something other than bare dirt for flooring in their houses.

From this comes the saying "Dirt poor".

Those more well-to-do had slate floors that could get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, more thresh was added until, when the door was opened, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way to retain it.

Making, of course, a 'threshold'.

Bread was divided according to status. Servants etc. were given the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family ate the middle and guests were given the top – or 'upper crust'.

### **God's Handiwork**

A little girl was sitting on her grandpa's lap as he read her a story. From time to time she took her eyes off the book to reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She alternately stroked her own cheek, then his again. Finally, she said, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago". "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago". Feeling both their faces again, she said, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

## Answers to Last Month's Cryptic Fishy Quiz

With thanks to Jenny Tustian

1. Still raw in the middle even when cooked ..... PRAWN
2. You'll have to pay when the parcel arrives ..... COD
3. An 'S' makes it a captain..... KIPPER
4. It's bad, turned around..... DAB
5. Add 'R' to a shaft of light ..... BREAM
6. A bird's resting place ..... PERCH
7. A character in 'Dad's Army' ..... PIKE
8. There's a \_ \_ \_ \_ for us, as in the song ..... PLAICE
9. Makes you strong ..... MUSSEL
10. Non-swimmers do this in deep water ..... FLOUNDER
11. Must be valuable ..... GOLDFISH
12. Has wings and comes from heaven..... ANGELFISH
13. A vehicle with a 'P' on its back ..... CARP
14. A fish called Fido..... DOGFISH
15. Without a 'T' they could perform operations ..... STURGEON
16. You can do this on ice..... SKATE
17. Not black, but it's on the hook..... WHITEBAIT
18. Brand of lock..... CHUB
19. Sounds like it's propelled by a girl's toy ..... DOLPHIN
20. Model and fashion designer Jean's nickname ..... SHRIMP
21. Greg Norman was a white one..... SHARK
22. Famous name of a beer..... BASS
23. No 'H' in this part of the foot ..... EEL
24. Sounds like this fish is musical..... TUNA
25. This fish gets out of breath..... PUFFER



## Why there was no Noah's Ark this time around...

The Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In six months I'm going to make it rain until the whole world is covered with water and all evil is destroyed. But I want to save a few good people and two of every living thing on the planet. I'm ordering you to build an ark." In a flash of lightning, He delivered the specifications for the ark. "OK," Noah said, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints, "I'm your man."

Six months passed, dark clouds appeared in the sky and the rain began to fall. God looked down and saw Noah sitting in his garden, weeping and there was no ark.

"Noah!" shouted the Lord, "where is my ark?"

"I did my best, but there were some big problems."

"First, I had to get planning permission for the ark's construction, but the Borough Council didn't like your plans. When I put in my application, the Chief Planning Officer came for a site inspection and said he didn't consider my small garden had development potential for a large ark."

"Then English Heritage arrived and said my cottage is Grade 2 listed and an ark might have detrimental impact on the character of the property. If I was to go ahead, however, I should at least make the ark out of authentic gopher wood and not settle for anything reconstituted."

"Then the Highway engineers arrived, worried about vehicular access. They didn't see how I was going to get my ark out of the garden without cutting down an ancient hedgerow. If I did that, they'd get the Council for the Protection of Rural England after me. They didn't believe me when I said I expected it to float away!"

"Then the planning officers said I wasn't allowed to build anything in cubits – it all has to be centimetres now. So, I had to hire an architect to re-do the plans, only to get into a long argument with him about whether to include a sprinkler system."

"Then, I had a big problem getting enough of **any** kind of wood, because there's a ban on cutting trees to save Barn Owls. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save more than just the owls, but they wouldn't believe me."

"Next, I started gathering the animals, but got sued by an animal rights group that objected to me taking only two of each kind and just when the case got dismissed, the Nature Conservancy Council notified me that I couldn't complete the ark without filling out an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the Supreme Being. Then the Borough Council and Railtrack wanted a map of the proposed flood plan – I sent them a globe!"

"Right now, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Rights people over how many minorities I'm supposed to hire, and the RSPCA has persuaded the Home Office to seize my passport, as they claim that I am trying to leave the country with a lot of animals who haven't been micro-chipped."

*(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)

“So, I’m really sorry, but I don’t think I can finish the ark.”

With that the Lord sighed and the rain slowly stopped. The sky cleared, the sun began to shine and a rainbow arched across the sky.

Noah looked up and smiled. “You mean you’re not going to destroy the world?” he asked hopefully. “No,” said the Lord, “I can’t face all that bureaucracy either!”

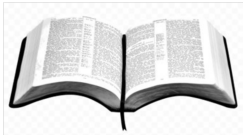
### **PRAYING for PEACE and JUSTICE throughout the WORLD**

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**



#### **5 May - Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

#### **9 May (Thursday)**

##### **Ascension Day**

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

#### **12 May - Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday in Ascensiontide**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

#### **19 May - Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21

or Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

or Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

#### **24 May (Friday)**

##### **John & Charles Wesley Day**

*These readings should not normally be used  
at the Principal Service on Pentecost.*

Isaiah 12:1-6 or Isaiah 51:1-3, 7-11

Psalm 130

Romans 5:1-11 or 2 Peter 1:1-11

Mark 12:28-37 or Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

#### **26 May - Trinity Sunday (also Aldersgate Sunday)**

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

## **A Meditation for Pentecost**

**Ross Adkins**

‘Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.’ 2 Corinthians 3:17b

When the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts, and lives, He deals with our fears and gives us courage. We who are quite ordinary people are given the ability to be witnesses to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

It is true that the Church owes much to those outstanding people who have given their all to the Lord, but it is also true that the Christian faith has been largely spread by ordinary, unnamed, people who, through the years, have shared their faith with family, friends and colleagues.

The first disciples were ordinary people but, after their encounter with the risen Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit, their lives were never the same again. They possessed an inner power that showed itself in many ways. What a sense of community they must have had, especially as large numbers of people were being converted. Three thousand were saved on that first day, and the Lord added to their number daily (Acts 2:41 and 47). The excitement must have been intense and infectious. The joy of forgiveness, the awareness of being part of God’s plan, there must have been a tremendous thrill.

The apostle Paul sums it up with the statement ‘Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.’ Of course the Spirit brings liberty. When He comes the burden of guilt is removed and the heart is cleansed. We know that we can do whatever God calls us to do because He gives us the strength and resources to do it. When His joy fills us we have complete confidence for the future, and we also know that we have become part of the family of God. That is liberty indeed.

Prayer:

Holy spirit, love divine,  
glow within this heart of mine,  
kindle every high desire,  
perish self in Thy pure fire.

(H&Ps 289)





## 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

### Fortnightly

Wed 1 & 15 May ..9:30am ..... Coffee & Games Morning ..... Easington MC

### Monthly

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

### Other Events

Sat 4 May ..... 10:30am-3pm ..... Annual Plant Sale ..... Wigginton MC  
 Sat 11 May ..... 10:00am-Noon .. Seasonal Coffee Morning - Garden ..... Easington MC  
 12-19 May ..... Christian Aid Week  
 Sun 19 May ..... 6:00pm ..... Ordinands' Testimony Service ..... Aylesbury MC  
  
 Sun 30 Jun ..... 11:30am ..... Coach to Bradford ..... Banbury Cross Coach Park  
 ..... **Booking essential A.S.A.P.**  
 Sun 30 Jun ..... ZOOM of Conference Service ..... Marlborough Rd MC

