

The Methodist Church
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

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

2024

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

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ECUMENICAL MINISTERS

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1 November:
All Saints Day

5 November:
Guy Fawkes
Night

10 November:
Remembrance
Sunday

11 November:
Armistice Day



30 November:
St Andrew's
Day

DEADLINE - Third SUNDAY each Month

For the **Dec/Jan** edition the deadline is **Sunday 17 November 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

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I am just recovering from the best part of a week spent in bed after contracting Covid for the second time. It has been a slightly frustrating time - I have missed being able to be out and about seeing people, and the bedroom walls did seem to be closing in somewhat after a couple of days. Nevertheless, the wonders of the technological age enabled me to keep in contact with friends and colleagues, as well as joining in with the circuit service via YouTube and a catch-up with other ministers in their early years of ministry on Zoom.

An important part of the mission that we all share in as Christians is looking to build relationships and form community with others both inside and outside of the church. For all of its faults, new technology such as social media has provided us with another way of helping to build those relationships. It was great to be able to take part in a Digital training morning with people from across the circuit at the end of September as we learned more about utilising these technologies to reach out to the communities around us and interact with people of all ages online, to make the love of God for all known more widely.

Alongside this, the opportunities to build relationships in real life, such as taking young people from across the circuit to 3Generate (see article on pages 9 & 10) are always much appreciated. There is nothing like a week's self-isolation to bring home how much we are designed to live in relationship, and how valuable it is to spend time in the company of others.


Jesus spent much of his ministry building relationships and living in community (whilst also making time to be with God by himself). His words, when asked about the most important commandment of all, serve as a useful guide to us when we consider how we should live relationally - 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind... love your neighbour as yourself' (Matthew 22.37-39). One of the

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greatest services we can do God is building relationships that are supportive, full of encouragement, laughter, honesty and concern for the well-being of each other. Whether we do this online, in person, or a bit of both, when we form communities where each member knows how much they are loved, we are doing our bit to bring the love of God to a hurting world.

Every Blessing, **Phil**

	<p style="text-align: center;">JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES TEAM CHURCHES WORKING FOR PEACE & JUSTICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Issues Calendar</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For further information see http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/</i></p> <p>Nov 6 International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians</p> <p>Nov 6–12 Living Wage Week</p> <p>Nov 9 International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism</p> <p>Nov 10 Remembrance Sunday</p> <p>Nov 10–17 Interfaith Week England & Wales</p> <p>Nov 19 World Toilet Day - see note on page 8.</p> <p>Nov 19 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims</p> <p>Nov 20 International Transgender Day of Remembrance</p> <p>Nov 20 World Children’s Day</p> <p>Nov 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women</p> <p>Nov 29 International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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.</i></p>
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Achievement

If you think you’re too small to have an impact,
try going to bed with a mosquito. **Anita Roddick**

I can do no great things, only small things with great love. **Mother Theresa**

All great achievements require time. **Anne Frank**

From *Bursting at the Seams*, Killy John and Alie Stibbe, Monarch Books



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.



EASINGTON

Ladies' Fellowship
Every Tuesday at 2:30pm.

A varied programme of Speakers, PowerPoint Presentations and Quizzes, is followed by light refreshments, 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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**Meet Your Neighbour**  
**Coffee and Games Mornings**  
**Wednesdays at 9:30am**

**November 13 & 27, December 11**

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

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Advent/Christmas
Seasonal Coffee Morning
Saturday 30th November

10:00am to Noon

Cake Stall and an
Advent/Christmas Stall.

Come along, bring your family, friends and neighbours to enjoy a cup of tea/coffee in a friendly atmosphere.

Treat yourself to homemade cake(s) and perhaps do some of your Christmas Gift Shopping.

WIGGINTON

Coffee Mornings
First Saturday each month at 10:30am

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**Fund Raising for Ukraine**

Please could you consider donating 1p, 2p & 5p coins that you don't have a use for to our fund raising for Ukraine.

They may be dropped off at Wigginton Methodist Chapel at the Coffee Mornings - details above.

With our grateful thanks  
David and Cynthia Gardner

### MARLBOROUGH ROAD

**Weekly Coffee Morning**  
**Thursdays at 10:00am**

All are welcome

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Craft and Table Top Sale
Saturday 9th November
10:00am to 1:00pm

Free entry, refreshments,
cake stall and many others

HORNTON

Coffee Mornings
Fridays 10:30am to Noon
Everyone Welcome

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.  
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Christmas Market

30 November 2024

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Stalls will include

New handbags, including '*The Bag Lady*'
who makes all the bags she sells;

Clean, Modern Books;

Christmas Table Decorations;

Cosmetics (all new), including '*P. Louise*';

'Mitchell' and *'Benefit'*;

Christmas and retro Clothing;

Craft Items; White Elephant;

Bric-a-Brac and Raffle.

HINTON

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

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

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

Emergency Phone Numbers

When in sorrow..... call John 14
When others fail you..... call Psalm 27
If you want to be fruitful..... call John 15
When you have sinned..... call Psalm 51
When you worry..... call Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger..... call Psalm 91
When God seems far away..... call Psalm 139
When your faith needs stirring..... call Hebrews 11

NOTE: ALL LINES TO HEAVEN ARE OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY!

From *A Bucket of Surprises*, J John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.

From the editor: *This is just a few, there will be others in future editions.*

From the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Statement issued on 10 October 2024

We mourn the tragic loss of life in the Middle East over the past year. Even in the light of the suffering of Gazans over so many years, the extreme attack by Hamas militants on civilians in Israel on October 7th, causing the single biggest loss of life to the Jewish community since the Holocaust, is horrifying.

The abduction of women and men to be held as hostages substantially increases fear and suffering within the population of Israel.

The Government of Israel's chosen response has seen the deaths of over 40,000 people in Gaza. Schools, universities, houses, water systems have been targeted and whole areas of Gaza reduced to rubble. Religious and cultural buildings, tower blocks, houses and a university have been blown up after they have been evacuated.

The physical devastation is so extensive it is difficult to imagine how a community could be rebuilt in the future.

The physical and emotional trauma of the people of Gaza is also profound. So many have been physically injured or are grieving for lost family members. In the West Bank the expulsion of Palestinians from houses and neighbourhoods has increased.

These actions on the part of the Government of Israel do not appear consistent with an intention to establish a future peaceful settlement. Rather they are likely to convince a new generation of Palestinians that Israel is their enemy.

In recent days we have witnessed the deadliest attacks in Lebanon for many years. Somehow the cycle of violence must be halted.

We trust that on both sides there are many who, while increasingly fearful, nevertheless desire political accommodation over conflict.

Our prayers are for a viable future for Israelis and Palestinians; a future that is respectful of another's dignity and that turns in a markedly different direction to the violence of the past year.

We are convinced that such a future is only likely to be realised with the principled involvement of the wider international community.

The Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference
Carolyn Godfrey, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

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.**

God of all hope and peace,
we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.
Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost
and torn apart by grief in so many places .

We pray for an end to violence and warfare and a beginning of understanding,
so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.

Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity
so that in our differences we may work together for justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Answers to Books of the Bible Anagrams
Old and New Testament

GEE SINS	GENESIS
CAST	ACTS
AS HOE.....	HOSEA
OX USED	EXODUS
A BOA HID	OBADIAH
MANORS.....	ROMANS
VIOLENT ERA	REVELATION
SAINT GALA	GALATIANS
NATIONALS MET.....	LAMENTATIONS
VICE LIT US.....	LEVITICUS
LEMON HIP	PHILEMON
HER WEBS.....	HEBREWS
VRBS ROPE.....	PROVERBS
SET ICE SCALES	ECCLESIASTES
HE NAME HI.....	NEMEHIAH
CASINO LOSS	COLOSSIANS
RAZE	EZRA
THREES	ESTHER
HA A GIG	HAGGAI
CHAIR HAZE	ZECHARIAH



8 October 2024

All of us at Katharine House were delighted to receive your wonderful donations totalling £605, raised by Banbury Methodist Circuit at the recent final service in Adderbury Church. How kind of you all to support us this way, we are so grateful.

Katharine House Hospice provides specialist palliative care for adults across north Oxfordshire and south Northamptonshire. We believe everyone with an incurable, life limiting illness should be given the opportunity to live as fully as possible, from the point of diagnosis until their final breath.

We pay Oxford University Hospitals Trust (OUH) a grant to provide all our clinical services. We receive some government funding which covers about one third of the hospice's total costs, but this Means we need to continue to fundraise £3m a year for the remainder. Last year it cost more than £4.7m to run Katharine House Hospice, that is £12,995 a day. Your support is so important to us, so we can carry on providing vital care to our patients – completely free of charge.

We supported over 1300 families last year and the need keeps growing so your gift really makes a difference to those families and the others that will need our help in the future.

With best wishes,
Hannah Timms, Supporter Care Officer

World Toilet Day - 19 November 2024

Take a moment to think of how many different toilets to which you have access. You've probably got at least one at home, several at uni or work, plenty in all the cafes, shops and local places you visit. Then, think about twinning your toilet (either at home or in your church). The principle is simple – you choose a toilet you use, and 'twin' it with one given to a community who are in need of safe places to go to the toilet.

For more information, visit <https://toilettwinning.org>, where you can donate £60 to twin your toilet. They will email you a certificate* to print at home and hang in your loo – showing a photograph of your overseas toilet twin and GPS coordinates so you can look up your twin's location on Google Maps!

*Or, you can choose at checkout to order a framed or unframed certificate, which will be posted to you.

Twin your toilet and fund a community project that helps families to build their own basic toilet, access clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives.

3Generate 2024

More than 1,600 children and young people aged 4 to 18 years, 560 leaders and 340 volunteers from across the Connexion attended *3Generate*, the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly. This year's *3Generate* was held at the NEC, Birmingham from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 October.

3Generate is a vibrant weekend of fun and worship... This year it started on Friday evening with icebreakers and a welcome session that set the tone for the weekend. Throughout, speakers, artists and musicians shared their inspiring stories and encouraged those taking part to share their own.

The venue was made up of over twenty areas, each one with its own theme – including the Tech Hub, theatre and an inflatable chapel. The weekend was packed with activities for the guests,... the youngest attendees (aged 4-7) enjoyed their own *Mini 3Generate* area with arts and crafts, storytelling and interactive games.

The event had two new venues this year that offered young people the opportunity to look at faith in a different way: the *Discovery Centre*, where children could focus on self-exploration and take part in faith conversations that were facilitated by Cliff College, and *Eden*, a reflective space celebrating God's creation. In The Tech Hub, alongside the games and a repair café, participants could hone their social media skills at a TikTok creation workshop.

The Girls' Brigade ran the Village Green venue and the Boys' Brigade facilitated a prayer pilgrimage.

Throughout the event, attendees could participate in dance, climbing and various sports, or simply relax at the Village Green, a communal area for socialising and unwinding. There were also numerous opportunities for prayer and worship, with dedicated sessions for reflection and spiritual growth. Workshops covered topics such as mental health, social justice, and environmental stewardship, led by experts and activists in these fields.

One of the highlights was the Saturday evening 'Barn Dance and Ceilidh' at the Arena, followed by a reflection from *Metal Methodist*. Additionally, there were talent shows and open mic sessions where young people could showcase their skills and creativity, notably the '*3Gen from Scratch*' singing and theatre held in the Park.

On Sunday, the closing sessions were more reflective, with a collective prayer and a call to action, encouraging the young attendees to take what they had learned and experienced back to their communities.

Team leaders also enjoyed the event and slept on site in tents close to the young people in their care.

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3Generate 2024 was a dynamic and inclusive event, offering a rich tapestry of activities that catered to the diverse interests and spiritual needs of all its participants. The event emphasised the importance of community, spiritual development and the young voices in the church. It was a weekend of growth, learning, and celebration, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended.

From Rev Phil Robinson.....

It was a pleasure and privilege to be able to take a group of eleven young people aged 8-15 from across the circuit (along with four adults) to this year's *3Generate*.

Despite a few hiccups across the weekend (mainly transport-related), there were some real highlights - it was great to see how enthusiastically the young people participated in an amazing range of activities (VR escape rooms, musical theatre, caving, jewellery making to name just a few) and discussions (such as Bible studies, seminars on neurodivergence in the church and protesting social justice issues).

Sharing in a final worship time with almost 2000 youngsters on the Sunday was also a very special experience and seeing how our group engaged with what was going on made my weekend. Despite all the hitches, I am so glad that we went, and look forward to being part of the group that will head to *3Generate 2025*!

Protection

An article in *National Geographic* several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's wings.....

After a forest fire in *Yellowstone National Park*, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree.

Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked the bird over with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise.

She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." (Ps 91:4)

From *A Bucket of Surprises*, J John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.

LECTIONARY READINGS

1 November All Saints

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9
or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 21
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

3 November Continuous

Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

Related

Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Psalm 119:1-8

10 November Continuous

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Related

1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146

or for **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Isaiah 25:1-9 or Isaiah 52:7-12
or Micah 4:1-8
Psalm 9:9-20 or Psalm 46
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
or Revelation 22:1-5
Matthew 5:1-12 or Matthew 5:43-48
or John 15:9-17

17 November Continuous

1 Samuel 1:4-20
Canticle: 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

Related

Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16

24 November Sunday before Advent (Christ the King)

Continuous

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18)
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

Related

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93



Time-keeper divine,
we ask you to bless us today.
Help us to live each moment -
not looking back, or rushing forward,
but looking up to you. **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

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,3rd&4th Fri . 10:30am 'Warm Spaces' Cropredy MC
 1st Sat 10:30am Coffee Morning..... Wigginton MC
 2nd Sat..... 10:00am Coffee Morning..... Hinton 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

Sat 9 Nov 10:00am Craft and Tabletop Sale Marlborough Road MC
 Wed 13 Nov.. 9:30am Meet Your Neighbour Coffee Morning..... Easington MC
 Wed 27 Nov.. 9:30am Meet Your Neighbour Coffee Morning..... Easington MC
 Sat 30 Nov 10:00am Advent/Christmas Seasonal Coffee Morning .. Easington MC
 Sat 30 Nov 2:00pm Christmas Market..... Cropredy MC

Open my eyes that I may see the Presence that is all about me.

Open my ears that I may hear the voice that is quiet yet ever near.

Open my heart that I may feel the love of God close and real.

Open each sense, make me aware of the Power and Peace always there.

From *A Bucket of Surprises*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books

