

THE METHODIST CHURCH BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2011

Happy New Year!

Rev'd Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

This is my first opportunity to wish everyone in the Banbury Methodist Circuit a very "Happy New Year!" I suspect it is going to be an interesting, exciting and scary year. I think it will be an *interesting* year because 2011 is the "Year of the Bible". This year marks the 400th anniversary of the first authorised translation of the Bible into English: the King James Version (KJV) or Authorised Version (AV).

Throughout the year, there will be lots of events and activities taking place around the Northampton Methodist District (*see another page for details of a District Event in High Wycombe on Saturday, 12 February*). The Circuit have purchased a leaflet called "The Bible Reading Challenge" and everyone in every church/chapel in the Circuit will receive a copy. The challenge is to try and read more of the Bible during 2011. And nationally, there will be lots of activities under the name of "Biblefresh" to encourage the Bible to read and studied more often both inside and outside the church.

I think it will be an *exciting* year because the Circuit Meeting approved a proposal by the Circuit Leadership Team to employ a Lay Worker for three years from September 2011, to work alongside three or four of our rural chapels to help them make connections with their communities. This is a new venture for our Circuit. It is exciting when you start out on something new and challenging. This is a step of faith as we try to become more mission oriented as a Circuit; as we try to reach out to share our faith beyond our churches and chapels.

I think it will be a *scary* year because during June, July and August, Rev'd Dorothy Hewitson will be on sabbatical and as a Circuit we will need to try to adjust our ways of working with just two Ministers rather than three. Of course, Dorothy's sabbatical is only a dry run for what the Circuit will be like beyond September of this year. For then Dorothy steps down from full-time ministry to half-time and Rev'd Janet Jackson takes on two additional chapels as part of her work load and I take on one additional chapel. There will be lots of changes, challenges and adjustments to make.

At the start of the year, that all feels to me as being rather *interesting, exciting and scary*. I ask you all to surround these activities with your prayers and to step into this New Year together with the confident knowledge that God journeys with us:

*Come let us anew Our journey pursue
Roll round with the year, And never stand still till the Master appear.
Charles Wesley*

biblefresh festival

It could change your world

Saturday 12th February 2011

Registration 10.00 am

All Saints Parish Church

High Wycombe

Admission free

bible workshops

bible resources

bible labyrinth

Guest Speaker
Rev. Alison Tomlin
President of
the Methodist Conference

for further information see

www.highwycombemethodist.org.uk/biblefresh.php

The **Methodist** Church 

Organised by High Wycombe Circuit
for the churches of High Wycombe and
for the Northampton Methodist District

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS OF BUSINESS FROM THE CIRCUIT MEETING HELD AT EASINGTON ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2010

The meeting was chaired by Revd. Rob Anning. News from around the Circuit revealed a variety of activities, many of which have been reported in this newsletter.

Safeguarding: Maurice Humphris, the Circuit Safeguarding Officer presented a brief report, noting that we are still awaiting the results of the government review of the proposed vetting and barring scheme. The new Methodist Safeguarding Handbook comes into effect from 1st January. Gill Crippen, the District Safeguarding Officer hopes to visit the Circuit soon to meet as many church safeguarding officers as possible, so watch this space for a date.

Finance: The final accounts for 2009-10, (un-audited at the time of the meeting), were received. For the first time in several years we had not had to draw on our general reserves in order to meet our regular financial commitments. This was due to a transfer into general funds of £4000 from the Circuit Model Trust Fund (formerly the Advance Fund), and refunds of expenses incurred during the process of two chapel sales. It was noted that because of the sale of Chipping Warden and Balscote chapels, the Model Trust Fund balance had increased by approximately £200,000.

Manses: Jean Swift reported on maintenance of the manses. The District Inspection of the Kingsway manse had produced a favourable report. A few matters need attention and will be put in hand. The major work next year will be replacement of the central heating boiler and system plus related work at Sycamore Drive.

Property: Val Trinder reported on the closed chapels. A planning application is under way for conversion to a dwelling at Warmington, and at Brailes we are attending to necessary repairs required by our surveyor's report prior to sale. The meeting discussed insurance, noting that SmartWater marking of all valuable items including roof lead, is a Methodist Insurance condition. Hornton are currently receiving quotes for their building scheme and St Francis are busy fundraising for their extension. The Superintendent reported that a number of potential partners have expressed interest in the development of the Fairway site. The intention is that a partner organisation would re-build and run new premises which would include a space for church use.

Lay Worker: Rev. Rob Anning outlined proposals for the employment of a "Rural Church and Community Co-ordinator", to work in the Circuit, initially for 3 years, to help facilitate development and outreach in some of our rural chapels. The meeting considered an outline of the duties and person specification. The Charity Commissioners expect us to use our reserves and the costs can comfortably met from the Model Trust Fund given the new income from chapel sales. It was likely that we could also obtain a District grant. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with this.

Ministerial sabbaticals: Rev. Dorothy Hewitson will be on Sabbatical from June to August 2011, and Rev. Janet Jackson from May to July 2012.

Year of the Bible: 2011 is the 400th anniversary of the King James' Bible. There will be a number of initiatives nationwide to encourage everyone to look at fresh ways to engage with the Bible. Watch this space for more on what we will be doing.

Diary dates: Circuit services will be held at Marlborough Road in the morning (10.30 am) on 13th February, 19th June and 4th September, and in the evening (6 pm) at Hinton on 27th March, Marlborough Road on 15th May (this will be the Circuit Easter Offering Service) and Adderbury on 31st July.

Next meeting: at Adderbury Tuesday 8th March, 7.30pm.

BANBURY CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

Our speaker for Thursday, February 24th at 7 for 7.30 pm at Marlborough Road as usual is Sqdn Leader Garry Garrett, MBE, who will be relating his experiences as a Pilot during the Berlin Airlift which took place shortly after the end of the Second World War.

As he will be travelling from Thame which is some distance it will be good to have a full turn out for him. Usual booking arrangements – telephone David Hughes (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) by Monday night, February 21st, to book in and mention any special dietary needs you have.

Please note that our March Supper Club has had to be brought forward from March 24th to March 17th owing to a Blood Donor Session in the Hall on March 24th.

CIRCUIT QUIET DAY

This will be held on Saturday, 16th April at Wroxton Methodist Chapel, when we will be '*All at Sea?*'

Further details to follow, but please make a note in your diaries and contact me to book a place.

Dorothy Hewitson

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2011

Feb 6th

Isaiah 58:1 – 9a (9b – 12)
Psalm 112:1 – 9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1 – 12 (13 – 16)
Matthew 5:13 – 20

Feb.13th

Deuteronomy 30:15 – 20
Or Sirach/Ecclesiasticus
15:15 – 20
Psalm 119:1 – 8
1 Corinthians 3:1 – 9
Matthew 5:21 – 37

Feb.20th

Leviticus 19:1 – 2, 9 – 18
Psalm 119:33 – 40
1 Corinthians 3:10 – 11, 16 – 23
Matthew 5:38 – 48

Feb.27th

Isaiah 49:8 – 16a
Psalm 131
1 Corinthians 4:1 – 5
Matthew 6:24 - 34

ADDERBURY

We invite friends from the Circuit to our regular “first Saturday Coffee Morning” on 5th February, 10.30 – 12 noon. Bring and buy stall. All welcome.

BODICOTE PRAISE EVENINGS

Spend an hour of hymn singing, prayers and readings, followed by a welcome cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. We gather at Bodicote Chapel at 7.30 pm, on Thursday evenings once a month. The next two meetings are 17th February and 17th March. All are welcome.

Contact Dorothy Hewitson

CHACOMBE

Our Bible Study, led by Hazel Stagg, has recommenced and we meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2 o'clock in Joan's house. Anyone wishing to join us will be most welcome and there's a cup of tea and piece of cake thrown in! Further details contact Joan (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

CROPREDY

We hold a Bible study meetings every Wednesday, for details of time and venues please contact Hazel Stagg.

Come and join us at our Praise Evenings, singing hymns and listening to selected readings followed by a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. They are led by Rev Dorothy Hewitson. The next one is 9th February at 7.00 pm. All are welcome.

EASINGTON

Gift Day service – On Sunday March 13th at 10-30 am we are holding a Gift Day service. In addition to our regular congregation we shall be inviting those who have a past or present association with the church. All friends from the Circuit will of course be welcome.

Quiz supper – We are holding another of our by now legendary quiz suppers on Friday April 15th at 7-00 pm! For tickets (£6 per head including supper) and/or further information please contact Janice and Steve Smith or Ian and Jo Hearle (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*).

HINTON METHODIST & ST MARY'S CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS WOODFORD HALSE

Gods love is free so is our coffee and tea (And cakes and biscuits!)
You'll be very welcome to come and relax and chat between 10 and 12 o'clock in
Hinton Methodist Church on the first Saturday of every month

MIDDLETON CHENEY

We have no organist at Middleton Cheney, and use a Hymnal Plus computerised music making device. Our usual operator is Nigel, and he is of course keen to get the very best results. Therefore, he needs to programme the services in. As Nigel works full-time, he usually does this on Saturday morning preceding the Sunday service. We would be very grateful if an order of service, or at very least the hymn numbers are given either to Mrs. Iris Bean or emailed to Nigel (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) as early in the week as possible please. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

LENT BIBLE STUDIES AT MARLBOROUGH ROAD

There will be five Lent Studies held at Marlborough Road on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 pm to which everyone is invited. This year we shall be using the York Course material, running parallel with the Bible Study at Wroxton.

The dates are: Tuesday, 22 March: An Empty Tomb
Tuesday, 29 March: A Group of People
Tuesday, 5 April: A Story
Tuesday, 12 April: A Power
Tuesday, 19 April: A Meal.

For more information, contact Rev Rob Anning.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

3rd February – Dr Ruth Champion – slides on Southern Peru and the Galapagos (in aid of ‘Linking Arms for Rescued Kids’)

3rd March – Mobile cinema (film not yet decided)

Enquiries: – Shirley Davies, (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

NEITHROP - MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING AND CAKE STALL

Come and join us, between 10.00 and 11.00 on the first Saturday of the month, for a chat over coffee/tea and biscuits. Stall also includes fruit pies/crumbles, preserves and books. Also some Fairtrade food items for sale.

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP NEWCOMERS VERY WELCOME ALL MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAYS STARTING AT 7.30PM AND ARE FOLLOWED BY TEA/COFFEE AND BISCUITS

4th February – Bible Texts – e.g. Find a text like ‘I am the salt of the earth’ and bring a bag of salt

16th February – Judith Hurst will show photos and talk about ‘Judith and Vernon’s Special Holiday’

2nd March – Beetle Drive

WROXTON LENT GROUP 2011

'RICH INHERITANCE' Jesus' legacy of love

The material in 5 parts produced by York Courses will be as follows:

Week 1 – Thursday, 17th March: *An Empty Tomb*

Week 2 – Thursday, 24th March: *A Group of People*

Week 3 – Tuesday, 29th March: *A Story*

Week 4 – Thursday, 7th April: *A Power*

Week 5 – Thursday, 14th April: *A Meal*

These meetings will take place in Wroxton Methodist School Room. This year, however, we have decided to meet during daylight hours – **at 2.00pm** – and hope this will make it easier for people to attend.

The invitation is open to anyone in the Circuit who is interested, or who doesn't have a Lent group nearby, to come and share in any, or all, of these sessions.

The Lent Group will draw to a conclusion with Holy Week Communion, on Tuesday, 19th April at 7.00 pm.

Dorothy Hewitson

NETWORK

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, except for Holy Week. All meetings are at 2.30 pm at Marlborough Road.

9th February – Speaker – The Revd Dorothy Hewitson

23rd February – Speaker – Val Trinder

9th March – Dogs for the disabled

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH EDITION
THURSDAY 10TH FEBRUARY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,
(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)**

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