

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
BANBURY CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2011**

Learning from Nature

Rev Rob Anning, Superintendent Minister, writes:

The trees are changing and a few days of strong winds will transform the array of colour into a time of bleakness and emptiness. A friend of mine, Sam Davidson, who died quite a while ago, wrote a poem called “The Golden Leaf” which started like this:

*A Golden Leaf fluttered to the ground
In fullest shades of Autumn Dress
So now the tree with spikey limbs
Looked bleak and fingerless.*

Sam was a very talented, thoughtful man, and his aim in writing the poem was to help us see that although the Autumn season heralds an end of Spring and Summer, leading into Winter, we should see in the cycle of nature not as an end but a preparation for a new beginning.

The season of Autumn is teaching us that transformation and change are an inevitable part of life. None of us can escape it. We need to learn to live with change as much as we may dislike it.

The cherry tree in the manse garden is about to “let go” the leaves it has used to grow through the months which have past. And it is in the learning to “let go” in life that we can discover new possibilities, new opportunities, new life.

This applies both to our own personal Christian lives as much to the life of our Churches. The life of Jesus speaks to us; at the heart of our faith lies the message of death and resurrection. On-going change, with all that that process offers us for renewal, refreshment and renewed life, is not something to be afraid of, but something to embrace and make the most of. It is God-given.

Sam ended his poem with the words:

*This new start to rest within the soil
When finger’s probe assisting in the Spring
Golden Leaf fell one Autumn Day
To make me see the joy that it can bring.*

THE MUSTARD SEED

PRE-ORDER Songs of Fellowship Music Edition + Disc at the INTRODUCTORY PRICE OF £19. AVAILABLE FROM THE END OF NOVEMBER 2011

Packed full of over 500 songs and hymns, the latest Songs of Fellowship songbook includes new songs from the world's leading worship songwriters. Stuart Townend, Keith and Kristyn Getty, Matt Redman, Tim Hughes, Hillsong, Chris Tomlin, Brenton Brown - they're all included. Including a CD Rom that contains the words to all the songs, this is a vital resource for any local congregation or small group looking to invest in their worshipping life. RRP £24.99 but order from the Mustard Seed now and it's yours for £19. Orders must be received before Saturday 19 November 2011

BIBLE READING NOTES

Next time you're in the shop, why not take a look at the wide selection of Bible Reading notes we have. We keep stocks of a number of different titles – and we offer a reservation service whereby we order in and set aside the title of your choice and call you in plenty of time to collect before the current set runs out. You can order on an ongoing basis, an annual basis, a suck-it-and-see basis, pay in advance or pay on collection – whatever you want: our aim is to make keeping up-to-date with your favourite Bible Reading notes as easy as possible. And we usually have copies of previous issues available at reduced prices as tasters.

Website Offers

Each month we are selecting a book and a CD which will be made available at discount price only when ordered from the website.

For information on our Current Offers, follow the link to our website - www.banburyseed.co.uk

Now in stock at the Mustard Seed ...*Only One Name ...Worship from New Wine* (£12.99)

Released at this year's New Wine Summer Conferences, *Only One Name* encompasses the worship highlights from New Wine churches around the UK. Says John Coles, director of New Wine: "With a focus on Jesus, the songs represent the creativity of the Spirit, and as you sing them, either alone or with others, may you be led into a deeper relationship with our wonderful Father God!" The CD features Nick Drake, Gareth Robinson, Nick Herbert, Melody Ball, Sam Bailey, Lauren Keenan, Lynsey Berry, Quintin Delpont, Nicole Brown, Chris McClarney, Becky Drake and Pete James.

Call in to the shop, or phone, text, e-mail, facebook or twitter to order! All contacts listed below

The Mustard Seed is a non-denominational Christian Bookshop located at the **FRONT** of Marlborough Road Methodist Church and is open Thursdays and Fridays between 10am and 5pm, and Saturdays between 10am and 4pm. We look forward to seeing you. Ali, Malc, Jo and Ian 07879 057 401 or email: shop@banburyseed.co.uk. Visit us via Twitter or Facebook and on our website at: www.banburyseed.co.uk.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS OF BUSINESS FROM THE SEPTEMBER CIRCUIT MEETING

The meeting was held at Wroxton on 13th September 2011, chaired by Rev. Rob Anning. A variety of activities around the Circuit were reported as usual. The main points of official business included:

Safeguarding – Maurice Humphris presented a new safeguarding policy for the Circuit which was agreed.

Circuit Officers – Circuit officers were re-appointed. We are looking for someone to be Social Responsibility Secretary in the Circuit to act as our “ears and eyes” on social and ethical issues and help us all to be more proactive in speaking out with a Christian voice. We are also looking for someone to champion “green issues”. Anyone interested in either of these roles, please contact the Superintendent.

Candidate for the ministry – The meeting recommended that John Mills goes forward as a candidate for the ministry. John currently works as a teacher with British forces in Cyprus but is candidating through our Circuit. He will be preaching at the Circuit Service on 23rd October at Cropredy.

Finance – The final accounts for 2010-11 are currently being prepared and will be presented to the December meeting. A grant to Hornton of £50,000 from Circuit reserves was agreed to support their building scheme.

Property – The meeting gave permission for the proposed scheme at Fairway to proceed subject to a satisfactory valuer’s report and the agreement of Fairway Church Council. Cherwell Council will provide a new building and car park in exchange for the remaining land. The church will only need to find funds for furnishings and “kitting out” their new building.

The Mustard Seed bookshop has recently moved to its new accommodation at the front of Marlborough Road and already more people have visited the Church.

Property Stewards were reminded that unless our premises are marked with “Smartwater”, with a warning notice displayed outside the building, Methodist Insurance will not honour any claims for loss or damage. It was noted that attempts are being made to achieve a Connexion wide contract for the supply of gas and electricity to chapels.

Lay workers – Michael King begins work as Rural Church and Community Co-ordinator on 3rd October. The meeting also agreed to the appointment of Hazel Stagg as a voluntary pastoral worker. Hazel will assist Revd. Janet Jackson initially at Middleton Cheney and Hinton.

Local Preachers – Ian Hearle will be commissioned as a Local Preacher on 22nd September. Janice Smith has moved from On Note to On Trial.

Circuit Website – All local church officers were reminded to check that the details about their chapels and officers are up to date.

Ministerial Sabbaticals – Revd. Janet Jackson will be on Sabbatical for three months from 23rd April to 23rd July 2012. The meeting was reminded that Revd. Dorothy Hewitson is now half time, working on Sundays, Fridays and one other day per week.

The **next Circuit Meeting** will be on 14th December at Neithrop.

HOW TO DO IT!

From time to time people say to me “we could do with some help” or “we don’t really know how to go about doing so & so”. So we are proposing putting together a series of short training sessions on some of the practical skills on which people in our chapels have asked for help. Some of the topics that we hope to cover are:

- How to plan and lead a “Local Arrangement” service
- How to let out chapel premises successfully
- How to be a good church steward
- How to write a reserves policy
- How to use Powerpoint software

If you are interested in any of these please let me know so that we have some initial idea at to the level of interest before we make detailed arrangements. But also please let me know if there are any other areas which you would like us to cover. Thank you.

Val Trinder, Senior Circuit Steward (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

CIRCUIT SUPPER CLUB

Speaker for November is Professor Ronald Speirs giving an autobiography, entitled "A full frontal ". He came last autumn and was both interesting and amusing. All are welcome: 7 pm for 7.30 pm start on Thursday, November 24th. Bookings to David Hughes (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) by Monday, November 21st at the latest.

HOUSE EXCHANGE

Is anyone interested in exchanging house and car from late July and August next year (say 4-6 weeks) with a Methodist Minister and his wife living in South Auckland, New Zealand which is reasonably central for travel around the upper half of the North Island. Initial interest to and further information from Vernon Hurst of Neithrop Chapel: Tel (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2011

Nov 6th

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12 - 16 or
Amos 5:18 – 24
Canticle: Wisdom of Solomon 6:17 –
20 or Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18
Matthew 25:1 – 13

Nov 13th

Zephania 1:7, 12 – 18
Psalm 90:1 – 8(9 – 11)12
1 Thessalonians 5:1 – 11
Matthew 25:14 – 30

Nov 20th

Ezekiel 34:11 – 16, 20 – 24
Psalm 95:1 – 7a or Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15 – 23
Matthew 25:31 – 46

Nov 27th First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1 – 9
Psalm 80:1- 7, 17 – 19
1 Corinthians 1:3 – 9
Mark 13:24 - 37

WORSHIP LEADERS' COURSE

Could I read the Bible lesson any better? Why do services have all those prayers? How do preachers even start choosing hymns? Is there anything we can do to make services more attractive to other people?

I have been asked to run the Worship Leaders' Course again, which will probably happen in the New Year. In the past, those attending the course have found they have learned so much about what goes into services and why and how materials can be chosen that their worship experience is much richer, whether or not they consider agreeing to become a worship leader. If you would like to explore what goes into creating and presenting worship, with no pressure to think of formally becoming a worship leader in the circuit, please get in touch with me. Andrea Harding-Smith (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*)

CIRCUIT DAY (Saturday 8th October)

Thank you very much to everyone who was involved in any way at this worthwhile event. It was a good opportunity to meet with friends from around the Circuit. A special 'thank you' goes to Pauline and Tony Giles for their organisation of the very successful photographic competition and the refreshments. The amount to forward to the Manses' fund was £295.

The Circuit Stewards

WEST COURT

On Saturday 15th October I attended a service of thanksgiving to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Opening of West Court, Banbury. It brought back a lot of memories for me as my Father was part of the negotiations with MHA for them to build the flats and a new Church. After the service we had tea in the lounge followed by entertainment from 'Telling Tales'.

Mary Tanner

MINCE PIE AND COFFEE MORNING

We will be hosting this annual event at 1 The Close, Chipping Warden, on Saturday 26th November, 10 am until noon, in aid of the Manses' fund. There will be a bring and buy stall and cake contributions will also be welcomed. The A361 should be open by then...

Jean and Tony Swift

ADDERBURY

Early Christmas shopping? – You've seen the Adderbury slide shows – now buy the calendar! Val Trinder has produced a calendar for 2012 featuring her photographs called Landscapes of Britain. The calendar is on sale, price £5 for Adderbury chapel funds.

There are now fewer than half a dozen copies left of Val's book "More Laughing Methodists" which has already raised well over £1500 for Circuit manse funds. If you haven't yet read it, or are in need of a novel Christmas present for some of your Methodist friends, contact Val (*contact steward or see paper copy for contact details*) to purchase a copy, price £6.99.

ADDERBURY COFFEE MORNINGS

Friends from the Circuit are always welcome at our coffee mornings on the first Saturday of each month, 10.30 – 12 noon. In the run up to Christmas the stall will be expanded to include homemade jams and chutneys and the 2012 calendar and cards featuring Val's photographs. Please note though, that there will be no coffee morning in January.

BODICOTE

Coffee Mornings: - Bodicote will be opening the chapel for a coffee morning on the 3rd Saturday in the month 10.30 -12.00. We hope any friends near by will join us in fellowship. We hope to make this a regular get together so please come and join us.

Praise Evenings: - These will now take place on Fridays (not Thursdays!), beginning at 7.30 pm. If you would like to join us for a time of informal praise and worship, then please make a note of the following dates in your diary: - 18th November and 16th December.

Ladies Fellowship: - As part of our continuing outreach in the village, a monthly ladies meeting will commence in September, on Fridays at 2.00 pm. We would be delighted to see you there (whether you live in the village or not), and encourage you to bring along a friend. The dates are as follows: - 11th November and 9th December

CHACOMBE

The refurbishment of the Kitchen and Schoolroom is now complete - the new carpet having recently been fitted and approved by all who use the facilities. Donations were received from W.I, over 60's, Horticultural Society and Parish Council. We were also rewarded the maximum £500 from South Nothants Homes.

Fundraising events included Street Market, Easter Eggstravaganza (Churches together) Coffee Mornings, sale of surplus garden produce and sponsorship for Rev Janet's blanket.

Our congregation has increased slightly and we hope that our recent visitor will join us in membership. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Michael King and look forward to working with him. Some of the village residents were able to meet him on his recent 'walk about' where he was accompanied by Joan Boyles.

Our Bible Study sessions led by Hazel Stagg are going well. They take place on Tuesday afternoons at 2.15pm in Joan's home. Anyone interested in joining us would be most welcome.

CROPREDY

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

Come and join our praise evenings singing Hymns and listening to interesting readings followed by Tea and cakes. Join friends from around the Circuit. November meeting is on 30th November at 7 pm leader Margaret Clarke, Sankey Hymns. December will be an evening with a Christmas flavour.

Friday 16th December carol singing on the Green proceeds for Action for Children more details later.

FAIRWAY

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING With BRING and BUY SALE, RAFFLE, HANDMADE CARDS Saturday 12 th November 2011 10am – 12noon

ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT SUPPER SATURDAY 17 TH DECEMBER 2011 At 6 pm Cost £7.00 Names to Connie Moses Or Marilyn Nutt (<i>contact steward or see paper copy for contact details</i>)

GREATWORTH

Coffee, Cards and Cakes – Friends from around the circuit are warmly invited to join us on Saturday 26th November between 10 am and 12 noon. Come along and enjoy the white elephant stall, presents, games, cards, etc. You will be warmly welcomed.

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

HORNTON

We are continuing with our fund raising for our building project. On 12th November we are holding a soup lunch from 12 until 2 pm. There will also be various stalls on a Christmas theme. Please come along and enjoy lunch with us.

Our weekly coffee mornings are proving a great success – we would love to see you – they take place every Friday from 10.30 to 12 noon.

Also on the first Sunday in – 6th November – there will be the monthly JIFFY service (Jesus is Fun For You). The service is aimed at young children and their families and begins at 3.30 pm.

MARLBOROUGH ROAD THURSDAY CLUB 7.30 pm

3rd November – Dr Ruth Champion – Slides on Southern Peru etc and bring and buy

1st December – Carol singing with members of our Church Choir (please bring either mince pies or sausage rolls)

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

MIDDLETON CHENEY

Operation Christmas Child latest – In April the last shoe boxes of 2010 were being delivered [to Swaziland and Belarus] making a grand total for last year from the United Kingdom of 1,128,627 boxes. It's never too early to start collecting items for this year! Middleton Cheney Methodists along with the Parish Church combine the efforts of all the organisations in Middleton Cheney. We have a box covering day and then a packing day. Last year we packed 224 boxes. People are able to contribute as little or as much as they would like. It's quite a challenge to find the bargains to fill the boxes with and a very fulfilling task. We have our collecting bin out already and it contains many items. If you would like to contribute we will be happy to receive.

NEITHROP

We will no longer be holding our monthly Saturday cake stall and coffee morning. This popular event was started over twenty years ago – were we the oldest in the circuit? We would like to thank all who have supported us over the years.

NEITHROP CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7.30

The meetings will be held alternately between Neithrop Chapel and the lounge of Yule Court, Boxhedge Square.

2nd November – Working on interesting buildings – Ray Cherry **Yule Court**

15th November – Craft – make something for Christmas – Phyllis **Chapel**

30th November – Carols and Christmas/New Year poems and prose **Yule Court**

UPPER BODDINGTON

In August we had a very good holiday club for five mornings about 18 children attended each time. Hazel and her helpers did a wonderful job giving them lots of things to do with a Bible message and texts to learn each morning.

Our harvest festival services were well attended and about forty-three people sat down to lunch.

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month except July and August at Marlborough Road at 2.30 pm and welcome Men and Women of any age to share a varied programme.

9th November – Mrs Chris Hale, slides of Peru

23rd November – Mrs Andrea Harding-Smith

The money we raise goes to the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission.

COME AND MEET US!!!

THE 'WESLEY SCOUTS' PROVE POPULAR IN GERMANY

Barry and Gillian Sloan, two of the Methodist partners in Germany, have been having a good projects that they set up to cater for young ago, they started the 'Wesley Scouts' (a scout of Chemnitz, where they are based. It has had a despite some early reservations. "Uniformed frowned upon by the Church, because of the Germany," explains Barry. "Because of the Hitler Youth and the Communist Youth, churches had an aversion to uniformed organisations. And it's only now that this is slowly starting to change, and we just took a risk with running a scout group. We called it Wesley Scouts; they have a sweatshirt with a little scout badge on it. But it's been accepted, and some kids from outside in the neighbourhood are finding it interesting." Earlier this year, the Sloans started hiring a sports hall in Chemnitz, from where they organise a 'fun and sport' afternoon every Friday. "That's for the kids in the neighbourhood that are from poorer backgrounds, or neglected, or just need a bit of support," says Gillian. "We give the kids a hot meal at the end of it."



Church's mission response to people. Two years group) in the town good response, organisations were history in

"What we're planning to do - what we would like to do - is develop this ministry in the sports hall," says Barry. "It's an ecumenical ministry; we're working together with the Lutheran Church, and we're basically just trying to develop a social ministry there to the neighbourhood. We would like to develop homework classes to help kids with their homework. Eventually, we hope to be in a position where we can employ a social worker, and have a drop-in and advice centre. But those are things that are in the future. We're working towards that; we'll see what happens." This is one piece of work that Methodist Church mission partners are doing across the world.

More such stories can be found in the monthly World Church Relationships News Bulletin.

NB Day 27 in the Methodist Prayer Handbook also mentions Chemnitz

STOP!

A woman drove a mini-van filled with a dozen screaming children through the supermarket car park, looking for a space. Obviously frazzled, she drove through a stop sign. 'Hey, lady, have you forgotten how to stop?' yelled an irate man. She rolled down her window and demanded indignantly: 'What makes you think these are all mine?'

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION

THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARY TANNER,

(contact steward or see paper copy for contact details)

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