

New Malden Methodist Church
'The Church in the High Street'



Ubuntu
February 2012

Who's who at New Malden Methodist Church

Circuit Superintendent

Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard
(Tel: 07590 564477)

Assisting Minister

Rev D Finnan

Church Workers

Julia Morton (Youth and Children's Worker)
Sarah Moore (Administration)
Angy Stagg (Pastoral work)

Stewards

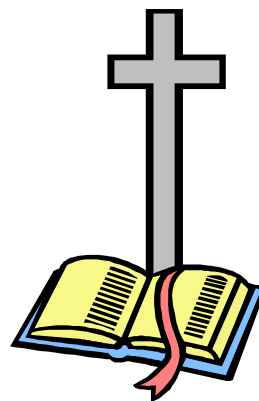
George Alleyne
Jane Bennett
Maurice Chattle
Liz Edwards
Janet Jones

Music Co-ordinator and Organist:

Dr. Peter Bullett

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7



Contents

Superintendent's Letter	Page 4
Church News and Announcements	Page 6
Circuit News	Page 15
Star Dance	Page 17
Junior Church Pages	Page 20
Church Services in February	Page 22
Church Services and Activities	Page 23



Ubuntu

Ubuntu is an African word highlighting the importance of our common humanity, the relationships we share and the connections that bind us together. If we want to display Ubuntu to others we will be hospitable and compassionate; willing to share and caring in our attitudes. We welcome you to our Church family here at New Malden Methodist Church and invite you to join us in our fellowship and worship.

The March edition of Ubuntu will be available on Sunday 26th February. Contributions can either be sent by email to:
rosemarie.a.lester@btinternet.com
Or, they can be left in the Church newsletter pigeonhole by Friday, 17th February. Thank you

Rosemarie

(Additional material courtesy of parishpump.co.uk)

Superintendent's Letter

“How are we ever going to find the right people to do all the jobs at the church?”

It's a question often asked amongst the members of a congregation, often accompanied by looks of either panic or despair! In many churches, the next comment is something to the effect of *“all our people are getting older now and the young ones are all working”* or *“well it would be very hard to replace So-and-so because s/he's been doing it for 23 years and no one else will take it on!”* Early on in my ministry in the British Methodist Church, I heard such complaints – along with an expectation that the Minister (me!) and the Stewards would be the ones to find such mystery persons to carry out all the work of the church... And I, especially being the *new* Minister, didn't really know the congregation well enough to know who could fill which roles... and it was very easy to see that the Stewards already had enough to do, and in fact, it was hard to find people to be Stewards because the role was too large!

At that point I dug deep in my well of prior experience of working with other church and para-church organisations to propose the concept of the Nominations Committee, known affectionately as the “Nom Com”. Since then I've proposed Nom Coms at several British Methodist Churches, and, invariably, the plan has worked. It follows a basic precept that I heard long ago: **God has already planted in each congregation the people needed to fulfill all the roles in that congregation. Our job is to identify those people and provide the encouragement and tools they need to fulfill those roles.** And that is the basic premise of the Nominations Committee.

Back in October, the Church Council approved the formation of a Nominations Committee for New Malden Methodist Church. I then set about, with the help of the Leadership Team, to identify people to form that Nom Com for the current year. Those who accepted the invitation were Judith Jewell, Greta Curry, and David Knowles, with Donald Finnan providing pastoral input and leadership. A few Saturdays ago, this group met at Chessington Methodist Church, along with the Nom Coms from Surbiton Hill, Kingston, and Chessington, to begin work. At that meeting, we went through the general principles and schedule of how we would carry out the work that would hopefully see the task completed in time for each church's Annual Church Meeting in the late spring. Some of the churches in our circuit have had Nom Coms for a few years now. I enjoyed watching the interaction and cooperation between the various groups, each recognising its own set of challenges and looking to the others for tips on how to succeed!

Superintendent's Letter

Basically, the Nominations Committees will be meeting over the next 3-4 months to review *all* the roles and jobs that are being done – or need to be done – in their own church. They will also be reviewing the lists of members and adherents to determine who-is-already-doing-what. Their most important task will be to ensure that all the roles on Church Council are filled. Church Council positions are only elected/appointed for one year at a time, so everyone on Church Council will need to be asked (by someone on the Nom Com) if they are willing to continue for another year. It is also a Methodist “rule” that no-one should remain in a particular Church Council position for more than six years (except the Minister and lay workers). If someone has completed six years in a Church Council position, the Nom Com will be looking for a replacement for that person in that role.

One of the benefits of the Nom Com is that they can have a “bird’s eye view” of the church membership. They can identify those who need a new or different job to do as well as those who are perhaps doing more than they can or should be doing. They can look at committees and groups strategically to see how they are fitting in with the overall mission of the church and, in some cases, identify positions that need to be added or deleted in the present context. They can have confidential conversations with a wide variety of people about where their talents might best be used in the life of the church or suggest new possibilities of how God might be using their gifts.

The end results of the Nom Com’s deliberations will come first to the Church Council and then to the Annual Church Meeting (as some positions in the life of a local Methodist Church are appointed by Church Council and some are elected by the Annual Church Meeting). When the Nom Com brings its “slate” (an American word which refers to a suggested list of persons), we can be assured that it has sought out the best persons for each job, and that each suggested person has been given careful consideration to whether s/he is willing and able to fulfill that role. It is still the ultimate responsibility of either the Church Council or the Annual Church Meeting (as appropriate) to appoint/elect its officers, but in this system the hard work of identifying and receiving consent will already have been done in a careful and thoughtful – and prayerful! – way.

I am looking forward to working with New Malden’s new Nominations Committee over the next few months. I hope each of *you* will also be a willing participant in the process when someone comes to speak to you! If there is a position you would like to take on (or give up), please feel free to speak to one of those on the

Superintendent's Letter & Church News and Announcements

Nom Com or to me. When you are approached, I urge you to take the request seriously – it is entirely appropriate for you to say , “No, this is not right for me now” if that is the case – but it’s also wonderful if you can say, “I’ll give it a try!” Altogether, we can realise the plans God has for us in this time and in this place!

Bonni-Belle

Summary of December and January Notices

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

I would just like to say a very big THANK YOU to all my friends in NMMC. I was very touched by the amount of love and affection shown to me at my last Sunday and Tuesday here. Thank you and God bless you all. **Gladys Hammond, 6** The Homestead, Homestead Way, Northampton NN2 6JH, telephone 01604 712628.

It is with great sadness that we announce the deaths of **Lambert Tracey**; (his funeral was held on Thursday 8th December), and **Ronald Hampton**, father of Keith Hampton, who died aged 81 on Monday 5th December at Hobkirk House. We send our love and prayers to the families and friends of both Ronald and Lambert.

We are also sad to report that Nicky Horton’s grandmother (Glenda Sidding’s mother) died on Monday 9th January and again we send our love and prayers to the whole family.

News from the **Catfords**. Suva is to be stationed on 8th January and Rebecca is having her final interview as a local preacher. Elizabeth has settled into life in Benfleet with Zoki coping with being a minister’s spouse!

John King is recovering well after his hip operation. He is back home and has his daughter staying with him. He would like to thank everyone for their care and concern.

OUR NEW CIRCUIT MINISTER

The Circuit Invitation Committee is pleased to report that it has been agreed from the first round of stationing that Rev. SoonCheol Choi will be joining our circuit next September with pastoral charge of Kingston & New Malden Churches. He is known to all as ‘Choi’, and his wife is Sarah. They have a daughter of 27 and

Church News and Announcements

a son of 17. Originally from Korea, Choi trained at as a Methodist Minister at Bristol and has since served in circuits at Skelmersdale in Lancashire and Sherborne in Dorset -- and so has encountered a range of accents! We look forward to welcoming Choi & Sarah. (*Alan Bennett, Senior Circuit Steward*)

To date, the **CHRISTMAS FAIR** has raised a magnificent £1174.49 for the Princess Alice Hospice and The Royal Marsden hospital. Very many thanks to all who contributed with goods and time. A fabulous occasion!

THANK YOU FROM REFUGEE ACTION KINGSTON

“Thank you for the wonderful gifts your congregation donated to us. It was a truly wonderful treat for the children and a real delight to see their faces when they opened them so thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. We really appreciate your support and are so happy that we were able to give the children such gifts that they otherwise wouldn't be able to have. I wish you and everyone at New Malden Methodist Church a very happy Christmas and hope to be in contact with you again soon. “

THANK YOU to all members, volunteers, helpers, stewards and anyone who gives their time and care to the church in any way. Your help and support are invaluable to the running of the church, servery and the many groups and clubs that meet here especially over the last months.

GENERATION GAME EVENING - postponed Due to circumstances beyond Julia's control, this evening has had to be postponed. Another date will be arranged later in the year.

HOSTS REQUIRED FOR FAMILIES OF OLYMPIC ATHLETES

More Than Gold (MTG), The Agency set up by all the main denominations to help churches engage with the 2012 Games, launched the Athlete Family Home Stay Programme on Monday 7th November. The recruitment of approximately **1000** families across denominations has begun in earnest so please see the website if you are interested www.morethangold.org.uk

Also, by the time this goes to print, Ish Lennox, Project Co-ordinator from the Methodist Connexion, will have attended the Circuit meeting to talk about how churches can become involved in MTG. More details will be rolled out shortly.

WORLD CHURCH (OVERSEAS MISSION) BOXES

It is time once again for these boxes to be brought in and the proceeds sent to the Methodist Church Fund for World Missions. Please hand your box as soon as possible to Gordon Teanby. We are very grateful for your continuing help in supporting this work. For various reasons the number of collectors continue to decline, therefore new collectors would be very welcome. If you would like a box to put in your home for this worthwhile cause please ask Gordon. *Thank you.*

Church News and Announcements

Diary Dates for February 2012

Thursday 2 nd		Night Shelter
Saturday 4 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar WAGs
Monday 6 th	8.00pm	Abacus Committee Meeting
Monday 6 th	8.00pm	Junior Church Council
Tuesday 7 th	2.30pm	WAGs – Devotional
Tuesday 7 th	7.00pm	Junior badminton
Tuesday 7 th	8.00pm	Meeting Point - Musings of a Hospital Pharmacist – Janet Jones
Thursday 9 th		Night Shelter
Saturday 11 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar for Women's World Day of Prayer
Monday 13 th	7.30pm	Wives – Favourite Music – Alison Bullett
Monday 13 th	8.00pm	Leadership Team Meeting
Tuesday 14 th	2.30pm	WAGs – Julia Morton
Tuesday 14 th	8.00pm	Meeting Point - Desert Island Discs John Kelsey
Wednesday 15 th	7.00pm	Panto rehearsal
Thursday 16 th		Night Shelter
Saturday 18 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Guides
Tuesday 21 st	7.00pm	Junior badminton
Tuesday 21 st	8.00pm	Meeting Point - Pancakes and Readings Members
Tuesday 21 st	2.30pm	WAGs – My Favourite Hymns – Carol
Wednesday 22 nd	7.00pm	Panto rehearsal
Thursday 23 rd		Night Shelter
Saturday 25 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Monica for Lou and Philippine tsunami
Monday 27 th	7.30pm	Wives – Julia Morton
Tuesday 28 th	2.30pm	WAGs – Musical Afternoon
Tuesday 28 th	8.00pm	Meeting Point - Lent Talks - Donald Finnan
Wednesday 29 th	7.00pm	Panto rehearsal



Church News and Announcements



An Evening with

John Wesley

A performance by Mark Topping

High Cross Church, Knoll Road, Camberley Surrey GU15 3SY

7.30 pm

No ticket necessary, retiring collection at the end of performance

For further details contact: 01344 762407

or email keggerretfan@aol.com

A Little Biblical Humour!

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany ?

A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden ?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.



Church News and Announcements

Wimbledon Cancer Friendship Group

- This support group, based at the Wimbledon Guild, offers friendship and emotional support to anyone who is, or who has been, affected by cancer.
- As well as emotional support, they provide information on local cancer centres and services, and can facilitate access to Citizens Advice and professional counselling.
- There are weekly drop-in meetings, evening talks and occasional socials held at the Wimbledon Guild:30-32 Worple Road, SW19 4EF.
- Leaflets, offering more information are available in the welcome area or telephone: 07948 767936

Music in New Malden *Series Four 2011 – 2012*

We are delighted to announce the fourth series of concerts of music on authentic instruments master-minded by two local professional musicians
Jane Booth and John Irving.

An hour's music at 3 o'clock on the second Sunday of the month followed by tea and cake, with a retiring collection in aid of charity.

11th March Jennifer Morsches – *cello, piccolo cello*
Robin Bigwood – *harpsichord*
Bach, Lanzetti and Francischello

10th June John Irving and Steven Devine – *fortepiano*
Mozart piano 4 hands



Church News and Announcements

HUGH PRICE HUGHES LECTURE SERIES 2012

“Belonging Together?”

Hinde Street Methodist Church
London W1U 2QJ

Lectures start at 7.30pm

Admission Free

The increasing diversity of the worlds in which we live presents each of us with a daily challenge about how we relate to difference. Christians speak about being “members of the body of Christ.” We affirm that we “belong together.” And we celebrate our diversity as a God-given gift. Yet it is rare to hear constructive public conversation about the difficulties and challenges of belonging together – especially in relation to the wider society – our context for life and mission. Taking five different starting points, the lecturers in this series, will use their practical experience to explore some of these issues.

- February 14th** Hugh Starkey *“Learning to Live Together”*
- March 13th** Frances Ward *“Political Friendship”*
- April 17th** Ann Morisy *“Playing Fair Across the Generations”*
- May 8th** Clive Marsh *“Belonging together... with those of no faith?”*
- June 12th** Katei Kirby *“Belonging together – dream or reality?”*

This is the fourteenth series of Hugh Price Hughes Lectures. The Revd Hugh Price Hughes founded the West London Mission in 1887. He was one of the most forward-looking thinkers of the day. We believe these annual lectures are making a significant contribution towards exploring our faith in the 21st Century.

More information is available at: www.hindestreet.org.uk and on the Church notice board.

Church News and Announcements

NMMC Church Council Meeting – 11th January 2012

Summary of main discussion points

The meeting was chaired by Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard (BBP) with 25 members of the CC, plus 1 observer. Rev Donald Finnan attended by invitation.

Tony Chalk was pleased to report that as a result of contributions received from members and friends, the church expenditure for the purchase of “**Singing the Faith**” had been £100. It was agreed that there would be a Dedication Service for the new hymn books, led by BBP, on 12th February.

Clive Edwards has volunteered to take over from Sarah Moore as the NMMC representative for **Action for Children**.

BBP confirmed that the **NMMC Nominations Committee** has been set up and the first meeting already arranged for January. The Committee would be tasked with ensuring that key officers and CC members were happy to remain in post and to look for replacements where necessary.

Doreen Downey (Pastoral Committee) reported that NMMC membership totalled 119 in October 2011, a decrease of 2 since March 2011. The Committee had considered ways of ensuring that newcomers felt welcome at NMMC and it had been suggested that offering free tea and coffee (on a trial basis) might encourage visitors to stay and meet members. BBP suggested that using a “donation bowl” might be an option. The wearing of name badges by church officers on Sundays was considered to be helpful to newcomers. The Committee had talked about how we might encourage adherents to become members of NMMC and BBP mentioned that she was hoping to run some Membership Classes after Easter. Doreen said that more pastoral visitors were being sought to supplement the existing team and 4 more “Getting to know you” lunches are planned for 2012. The next Pastoral Committee meeting will be on 28th March at 7.30pm.

Julia Morton (Service Committee) reported that the Christmas Fair had been a great success and it was agreed that it would be held on a Friday evening in future. The next Service Committee meeting will take place before Malden Fortnight, and this will be a useful forum for looking at fundraising ideas for the Sanctuary refurbishment.

Irene Chalk (Property Committee) updated members on the estimates she had received for the redecorating and re-carpeting of the Sanctuary. The total cost will be around £23,000 and after a short discussion, her proposal to go ahead with the work in July/August 2012 was voted on and carried. Tony Chalk will prepare a letter to members and friends requesting contributions and fundraising

Church News and Announcements

ideas will be considered. Later in the meeting, Irene was warmly thanked for her work in organising the refurbishment of the toilets in the welcome area.

BBP (Worship Consultation) sought views from members about our Easter services. It was agreed that NMMC will host a Circuit Service on Ash Wednesday. Kingston Church has extended an invitation to attend a “Seder” supper on Maundy Thursday and on Easter Sunday NMMC will have Communion Services at 8.00am and 10.30am, together with a breakfast, but no evening service.

Julia Morton (Youth Work) said that NMMC would again be sending young people to Fort Rocky and Greenbelt in 2012. She thanked those who had sponsored Greenbelt places last year and mentioned that there would be a further appeal and fundraising to help cover the costs for this year.

Des Hancock (Mission Outreach) confirmed that the KCAH night shelter would start on January 19th and continue for the next 6 Thursdays. Contributions towards the cost had been received through donations; including the proceeds from a recent coffee morning and a collection would also be made on Sunday, 15th January. He asked for help with the supply of pillows and also with the provision of breakfast and cleaning on Friday mornings. BBP gave members some information on the Joel Community Project which is seeking to provide a permanent shelter at St Peter’s Church, Norbiton. They have asked people who have been involved in the night shelters to help them, if they feel able to, by writing to Kingston Council to support their work. BBP suggested that anyone who wanted to help with this should contact her for more information.

Tony Chalk (Financial Report) reported that most figures for income are up on the previous year and expenditure is down (partly because of the cost of replacing the windows the previous year). We have more surplus now than we had deficit last year and consequently are in a stronger financial position.

BBP (Circuit/District matters) introduced a Deferred Special Resolution to members before it was voted on and approved. The DSR has been sent to churches, circuits and districts with the aim of bringing in an amendment to the Deed of Union in order to clarify that the term “minister” in official documents includes presbyters and deacons. Having consulted throughout the church, a decision will be made at Conference.

NMMC had not been able to find anyone to attend the **MEDAL 2012** conference but delegates from other churches in the circuit would be going. (There is still space if someone would like to come forward.)

BBP informed members about “**More Than Gold**”, an ecumenical group set up to encourage and organise church involvement in the Olympic Games. For

Church News and Announcements

example, hosts are being sought to help with accommodation for family members of athletes who cannot afford hotels.

BBP invited discussion on a request by **Korean Christian Fellowship** to hold quarterly, Sunday afternoon, worship services at NMMC. It was noted that Rev Alex Jun and Rev Sang-Don Han (Paul) are on our circuit preaching plan; accountable to the circuit through BBP. KCF has been holding regular services and meetings at Chessington church and now wishes to broaden its worship to include NMMC. It was stressed that KCF is not a church and that those attending are already members of other churches; for example, many of those attending KCF worship at Chessington have also been members of the congregation at the morning service there. Several possible ways of encouraging integration were suggested; such as NMMC members attending the KCF quarterly worship and KCF contributing to our morning service. It was agreed that the CC would approve the KCF request and that this action would be reviewed in one year's time. The possibility of KCF making a contribution towards the use of the premises would be raised with them.

It was announced that there would be a **Spring Fundraising Supper** on March 17th. All members and friends are invited and the children will be preparing and serving the meal. The proceeds will go towards the refurbishment of the Sanctuary. **A pantomime** has also been arranged for May 5th.

It was agreed that NMMC would purchase some **new advertising posters** for the outside of the church.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, 12th March at 8.00pm.**

Rosemarie Lester - Church Council Secretary

With Valentine's Day in mind:

- *Love is the master key to a happy home.*
- *Marriage: requires falling in love many times – always with the same person.*
- *If you work at love, you will find love at work.*
Peter Jackson
- *When there is room in the heart there is room in the house.*
Danish proverb



Around the Circuit February 2012

news from your Circuit Coordinator

Training and support is in abundance for a variety of roles within our circuit! What a wonderful situation to be in. Help is on hand for Trainee Ministers, Local Preachers, Church Stewards, Circuit Stewards, Sunday School Teachers, Safeguarding Officers, Church Council members and many more. This has come about through the dedication and hard work of all the organisers. Please support them in prayer and encourage each other to take advantage of these events.

Circuit Events

Church Stewards Get Together - Thursday 2nd February 6.45 pm at Chessington Methodist Church. CMC Church Stewards will be hosting an event for all Church Stewards, starting with a simple meal. There will be a time to brush up on duties and share experiences. New stewards especially welcome but please let Chessington know in advance. Puddings will also be especially welcomed!

Core Skills Training – Sundays 2.30 - 4.30 at New Malden Methodist Church 26 Feb, 25 Mar, 29 Apr. The first session took place on 8th January. Designed for those working with children and young people, it was well attended. Encouraging comments are feeding back and attendees are looking forward to the next sessions. For more details contact Julia - email: nmmcyw@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: NM church office on 020 8942 1288.

Nominations Committees were officially launched at Chessington on Saturday 14th January. Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard outlined the process and the 4 church 'Nom Coms' then split into individual groups. Over the next few weeks members of these committees will be chatting to all those who hold roles within their church. This is the opportunity to consider your position, whether you are happy to continue in it or whether it is time to hand the reins to someone else and take up a new challenge.

Other Events

MEDAL (Methodists Enabling Disciples As Leaders) 2012 District Conference 17-19th Feb 2012, High Leigh; Two members within the Kingston Circuit have volunteered to attend this conference, namely Mrs Shernett Ransom from Surbiton Hill and Mrs Jochabed Okaga from Kingston. If anyone else is interested please contact the circuit office as quickly as possible.

Circuit News

The Epsom Book Fair & Action for Children Reminder – you can help:

- by collecting books and delivering them to EMC between 9am and 8pm on 8th to 11th February.
- by helping with sorting from early evening of the 8th to the morning of the 15th (not Sunday). You don't have to be there all the time, just turn up when you have an hour or two to spare as often as you can and someone will show you what to do.
- by visiting the fair between 10am and 8pm on Thursday and Friday 16th and 17th and 10am to 4pm on Saturday 18th February and buying lots of books. Entry is 50p and most paperbacks are priced at 60p with hardbacks starting at £1.

“Calling all Women in the Methodist London District to the **2012 Daffodil Day event ‘In Praise of Music’ Monday 5th March, Methodist Central Hall.** Community Singing starts at 2pm (be seated by 1.40pm) and the main event follows. See posters in church for further information. (Don't forget your Marie Curie Daffodil or purchase one on the door). (Men welcome too!)”

Quiet Day – Creative reflection for Lent Saturday 25th February at the Guy Chester Centre 10am - 4pm, £25 suggested donation An opportunity to explore, creatively, issues for reflection during the journey to Easter. No artistic skills needed, just come and enjoy! Leader: Jenny Spouge is a Methodist exploring what it means to 'be' in relationship with God through creativity rather than silence and to 'do' ministry without church structures. This is just one of many events run by the Guy Chester Centre, Chester House, Pages Lane, Muswell Hill, London N10 1PR. For more info contact Morfa Jones Tel: 020-8883-8204 Ext 230 or visit their website www.chestercentre.org.uk

And finally If your church has an event it wishes to share with the circuit, please forward details to me for inclusion in this section of each church's newsletter/magazine.

Daphne Baker email: circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk Tel 07510 548931

Circuit Office, Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, 39 Ewell Rd., Surbiton KT6 6AF

Contributions from Members

Star Dance - Author: E W Murray

The boy looked up, into a thousand stars..... myriads he thought smiling slightly. They had always been there, dancing, tantalising, through the ages.

He thought of his father, long gone now, telling him of his race..... how they had always felt beckoned on, excited by the making of that first sword, the cutting of its edge..... and the making of the wheel to move faster. The excitement of discovering atoms that could move even faster had scarcely been greater, and they had reached for the stars.

Her hand nudged his --- “time to go” she smiled.

Yes, he thought; they had explored and exploded their stay here. It could not contain them longer. They slipped across the void --- just the two of them, to start somewhere else their human race.



We stepped ashore, for we had needed water, and in this other place we had found it.... hand in hand, many of us, longing for air, and beauty, solace and joy. What we had left behind, a planet gone, a fading memory, but not being lost forever, a shadowy past. Eons it had taken, but now it was done, the journey of our race.

Light shone across our faces, rising sun. Food lay before us, such as we had never seen before, but nutritious. Strange how life begins again. That day we named this place. It had power in its folds, strange music in our ears, life had beckoned, we began.

It was not long before we made our first discovery, a field of clay. It clung to our feet, besoiled our fingers, but built our cities and made our homes. The earth was ours and what more beyond and sadness came.

Continued overleaf

Contributions from Members

It started as a squabble; but oh soon the power, soon the violence. He had farmed the land, his other had raised the cattle. Now it lay broken, gun law ruled. The one we buried, the other we banished. Our hearts wept. Older and shaken, we touched hands.

“How could we have known, we were but children” she said. “Love needs co-operation, no power and no throne.”

Tears dried; no crying is in vain.

We smiled. The journey started again.



“Today” we said, “It is all new” Laws were passed to make it safe to be different. Time was stood on its head. No longer it flowed this way or that ... but only straight forward, cut and dried. We knew where we stood and who had what – and why, and when, and for how long.

Flowers bloomed and crops were cropped, each in due season. But oh for the time that had idled mildly, that had appeared bursting with ecstasy. The shadow of its past lingered heavily, an affront to those who frowned.

You could not guess the progress we made.

People were called to account, crimes untold resurrected. The price was paid, yet there was mercy --- a hill to run to, cities for refuge. There had to be leeway, for who could judge surely, once and for all. So justice was tempered with mercy.

Yet still the heart beat, for something to unfold. A lingering of a shadowy past, when time had stood still in summery bliss --- a childhood vanquished. But could we regret? Our adulthood was sure. Pain and sorrow we had met, though not understood.

Contributions from Members

Our hands touched --- but we smiled much less. There were things to be done, a god to assure that we were morally just, but whose voice we heard no more.

Where did it come from, that raucous clamour, that anger of people no longer appeased by treaties unfolded with profit for none. They crowded in numbers so vast in such squares, and freedom demanded with justice for all. A burst of great anger from a shadowy past demanded a life for us **all!** Our hearts stopped still, then burst with delight. Our lives were not trivial, they had come alight. A great voice sounded, “you are my children, in whom is my delight”. It came from the past, it broke to the fore. It woke us up, and Godlike creation ahead lay in store. We laughed with delight, filled with great joy.

Our hands touched, we were one once more.



Postscript

Have you ever had a dream, that woke you up...and you knew you had something to do? Something like that happened to me, recently. Stars seemed to light up words crossing the ceiling. The words? “The boy looked up, into a thousand stars.” I knew I had a story, and grabbed paper and pencil.

I thought it finished on the first page. It didn't, it continued over the next few nights. Each time the piece ended, I fell asleep.

Nothing magical; I'd been told to expect bursts of energy emerging after the recent treatment I'd had. I was advised to do something constructive with it; no point in just trying to go back to sleep! Apparently the energy had the same idea, and I started writing. Since then I've written three more short stories, and been encouraged to do more. Fortunately while the bursts of energy are abating the interest isn't. So I'm sleeping better and writing more.

EWM

Children's Pages

Hi,

By the time you read this I will have travelled to the other side of the world and be about to return. It's a really long journey even on a jet plane. I expect I will have read a few new books and dozed off watching some films. I will be reminded of how big the world is.

One of the favourite songs in assembly when I was still teaching was "He's got the whole world in his hands", mostly I think because it had actions and was quite jolly compared with other early morning hymns. It reminds us of how God knows and cares for each and everyone of us. He knows how many hairs each of us has on our heads (some more than others!) He knows you well and thinks you are brilliant. So, you may not get everything right all the time but he will never give up believing in you and wanting the best for you so keep trying.

Love through Jesus

Julia

Joke

What do you call James Bond in the bath?

Bubble 07!



God is in charge.

What rules are needed where?

Share with one another

listen when you are asked to

walk in the corridors

don't cheat

Think of yourself as a place. Draw in flags where God is in charge.

my fears

what I say

at home

at school

my temper

what I want

at swimming

with friends

A	B	D	E	G	H	I	L	M	N	O	T	U	W	Y	V	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

14,6,4,10 15,11,13 8,11,16,4 5,11,3
 15,11,13 14,1,10,12 12,11 11,2,4,15 6,7,9
 1,10,3 3,11 14,6,1,12 6,4 14,1,10,12,17.

Church Services in February

5th February	10.30am Service (W) 6.30pm Service (CC)	Mr S Seo Rev E Murray
12th February	10.30am Service (HC) 6.30pm Service(HC)	Rev B Pickard Rev Dr S Talbot
19th February	10.30am Service (AAW) 6.30pm Service (BS)	Ms L Webb Rev D Finnan
26th February	10.30am Service (W) 6.30pm Service (Unity)	Rev D Vernon At Kingston MC

Notes

AAW	<i>All Age Worship</i>
BS	<i>Bible Study</i>
CH/LITE	<i>Café Church</i>
HC	<i>Holy Communion</i>
W	<i>Preaching Service</i>



Flower Rota for February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by:</u>	<u>Arranged by:</u>
5th February	Mrs S Chattle	Pam W
12th February	Miss G Bryant	Jane
19th February	Mrs P Bugeya/Mr R Finch	Pam B
26th February	Mrs V Hoare	Julia



Church Services and Activities

Sunday	10.30am	Junior Church (3-16) & Crèche (0-3)
	10.30am	Morning Worship
	11.30am	Junior Choir
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
	6.30pm	Activ8
Monday	8.00pm	Badminton Club
	7.30pm	Wives and Friends Fellowship (fortnightly*)
Tuesday	2.30pm	Women's Afternoon Guild*
	4.15pm	Rainbows (age 5-7)
	5.15pm	Brownies (age 7-10)
	6.30pm	Class Meeting
	7.00pm	Junior Badminton (age 12-16) (fortnightly)
	8.00pm	Meeting Point*
Wednesday	10.30am	Bible Study (term-time)
	12.15pm	Holy Communion in the Church
Thursday	9.45am	Toddlers Group (term-time)
	6.30pm	Youth Club (Monthly, 1st Thursday in month)
Friday	10.00am	Friday Fellowship (once a month)
	5.15pm	2nd Brownies (age 7-10)
	7.00pm	Guides (girls, age 10-14)
Saturday	10.30am	Prayers in the Church (15 mins)

* Programme details announced separately. Please ask a Steward.

Coffee is served in the Welcome Area, Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 2.00pm and Saturday, 10.00am to Noon.

Abacus Pre-School (term-time) Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 12.00 noon and Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Housegroups meet on various days. Please ask for details

Church Office telephone number: 020 8942 1288

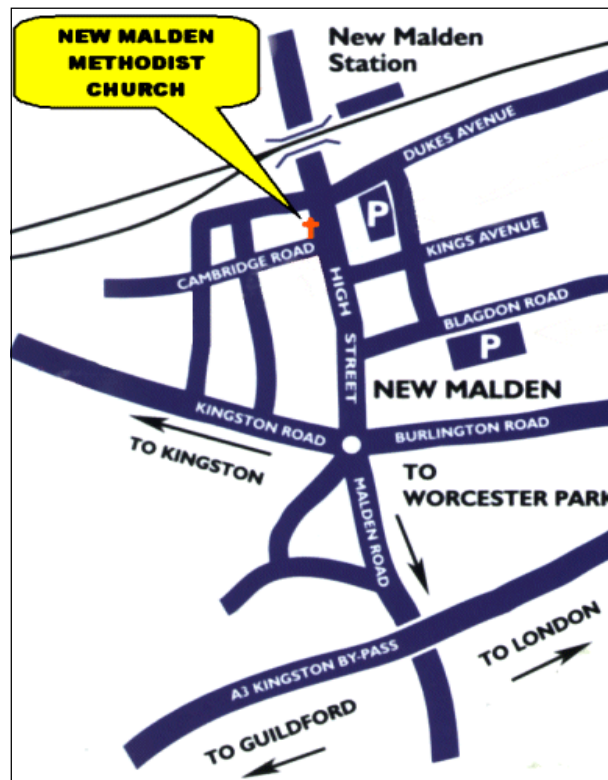
Church Website: www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

Church Admin Email: nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

Travel Directions

New Malden Methodist Church

49 High Street
New Malden
KT3 4BY



Trains

New Malden Station (South West Trains)
2 minutes walk away

Buses

K1 (New Malden to Kingston) and **213** (Kingston to Sutton)
Both pass the door

131 (Kingston to Wimbledon) is a short walk from the roundabout at the Kingston/ Burlington Road junction