

The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church April 2015



Message from Reverend Choi

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). John 20. 15-16

Dear friends,

At the beginning of this month, we are to celebrate Easter after a challenging six weeks journey through Lent. But, what do we celebrate? And, what does it mean to you? Is it a celebration of the new life of spring? Or, is it just an unusual long weekend? Or, is it a festival of chocolate after a period of denial? (Nowadays, even non-believers observe Lent with the chocolate fasting or something else.) What does Easter mean to you, then? You may have different ideas and understandings. But, it is the word, the unique and extraordinary word of God, which tells us of Hope. It is, in a sense, quite different from a hope which can be predicted like the return of spring or new life of a hatched chick. It is to show us that life, the new life, can come out of the total despair, total destruction, and the complete emptiness.

As we see in John 20, Mary was weeping and crying in searching for Jesus' body. She was in despair and even horror, with no hope, which is absolutely understandable in our mindset.

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However, what's amazing is that she was not left alone in that total despair and hopelessness, of which she was not aware at all. She was, and had been surrounded by the presence of the risen Jesus, and got to recognise his voice when she was called by name.

Our names are the most personal aspect of ourselves. So, to call us by names is to show us great deal of dignity, and to make a personal connection. The Easter Hope is not far away from us. Darkness or grief may blind us and keep us from hearing his voice. But, when we come to ourselves and to our senses, we can begin to grasp that something beyond our experience may be happening and to recognise the risen Christ. Then, we are to shout "I have seen the Lord!", as Mary did.

May the Hope of Easter give us the grace and courage to renew our lives and to proclaim the good news of the risen Christ.

Happy Easter to you all.
Choi.

Invitation to Healthy Church Audit

This Spring, the Methodist Churches of the Kingston upon Thames circuit are embarking on an adventure called “Healthy Churches”. It’s a process for identifying the “state of health” of our congregations -- an “MOT” of our discipleship and spiritual journey -- which helps us discover those aspects of our congregational life which are going well and those which need strengthening.

The process will start with a Healthy Church Audit at each of our churches one Sunday in March/April (Chessington: 8 March, Kingston: 12 April, **New Malden: 19 April**, Surbiton Hill: 26 April). On this Sunday, we will gather as a congregation first for a short time of worship and then spend the rest of the morning exploring the Seven Marks of a Healthy Church and scoring our own church against the same. We will then share lunch together. In the afternoon, we will have a chance to see the “results” of our congregation’s Healthy Church scoring and begin to formulate ways that our church can take action to become an even healthier Body of Christ.

This Healthy Church Audit will be open to our whole church – members and attenders of all ages. We want to hear from those who have been in the church for decades and those who have come quite recently, from young and old, from those who are heavily involved and those who come only occasionally. We are carefully planning ways that children can be involved in the process.

After the Healthy Church Audit Sunday, the church Leadership Team will be considering this input and formulating an Action Plan for our congregation. This will be presented at our

Annual Church Meeting (17 May) for further discussion and development. Each church will then share its findings with the Circuit at the June Circuit Meeting so that the whole circuit can support each church in its journey.

This is an exciting time for each of our churches and our circuit! We hope that each one of you will mark the date on your calendar for your church’s Healthy Church Audit and be prepared to join in the journey. **We are also including a copy of the Seven Marks Summary Sheet** so you can begin thinking for yourself about how your church measures up to being a Healthy Church.

Yours in the Journey,
Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard, Superintendent
Rev S. Choi, Minister

Seven Marks Summary Sheet

Mark 1: energized by faith

rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive

- worship and sacramental life: move people to experience God’s love
- motivation: energy comes from a desire to serve God and one another
- engages with Scripture: in creative ways that connect with life
- nurtures faith in Christ: helping people to grow in, and share, their faith.

Mark 2: outward-looking focus

with a ‘whole life’ rather than a ‘church life’ concern

- deeply rooted in the local community, working in partnership with other denominations, faiths, secular groups and networks
- passionate and prophetic about justice and peace, locally and globally
- makes connections between faith and daily living
- responds to human need by loving service

<p>Mark 3: seeks to find out what God wants <i>discerning the Spirit's leading rather than trying to please everyone</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vocation: seeks to explore what God wants it to be and do • vision: develops and communicates a shared sense of where it is going • mission priorities: consciously sets both immediate and long-term goals • able to call for, and make, sacrifices, personal and corporate, in bringing about the above and living out the faith. <p>Mark 4: faces the cost of change and growth <i>rather than resisting change and fearing failure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • while embracing the past, it dares to take on new ways of doing things • takes risks: admits when things are not working, and learns from experience • crises: responds creatively to challenges that face the church and community • positive experiences of change: however small, are affirmed and built on. 	<p>Mark 5: operates as a community rather than functioning as a club or religious organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relationships: are nurtured, often in small groups, so that people feel accepted and are helped to grow in faith and service • leadership: lay and ordained work as a team to develop locally appropriate expressions of all seven marks of a healthy church • lay ministry: the different gifts, experiences and faith journeys of all are valued and given expression in and beyond the life of the church. <p>Mark 6: makes room for all being inclusive rather than exclusive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • welcome: works to include newcomers into the life of the church • children and young people: are helped to belong, contribute and be nurtured in their faith • enquirers are encouraged to explore and experience faith in Christ • diversities: different social and ethnic backgrounds, mental and physical abilities, and ages, are seen as a strength. <p>Mark 7: does a few things and does them well focused rather than frenetic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does the basics well: especially public worship, pastoral care, stewardship and administration • occasional offices: make sense of life and communicate faith • being good news as a church in its attitudes and ways of working • enjoys what it does and is relaxed about what is not being done.
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Christian Aid Literary Quiz

Have you bought a copy of the quiz yet? It really isn't too hard and can be lots of fun! So why not have a go? Copies are available on most Sundays and at the Christian Aid Coffee Mornings:

Saturday 4th April

Saturday 9th May

All proceeds will go to Christian Aid.

Jennifer Townsend

As an example of where Christian Aid money ends up, read about Loko in this article from the Christian Aid website:
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/christianaidweek/lokos-story.aspx>.

There are photos too on the website along with facts, figures and case studies.

Loko's daily battle to stop her children starving

Loko walks alone for eight hours a day, in shoes so thin that thorns repeatedly pierce through to her feet, to gather and sell firewood so she can feed her children.

Loko is frightened of being attacked by hyenas with no one to hear her screams. So she prays as she walks. Her faith pushes her on.

It's a job she dreads, but she has no choice; she must continue, week after week. If she doesn't, her children will starve. As it is, Loko can only afford to give them one small meal a day.

Loko refuses to give up hope. She dreams of owning a cow one day; its milk would help her children to grow strong, and she could also sell some so she could save enough money to set up a small business buying and selling tea and coffee.

Give Loko hope

With your help, we can provide cows to vulnerable women in Ethiopia – **just £150 is enough to buy a female cow and a promising future for someone like Loko.**

Christian Aid Week 2015 will focus on our transformative work in Ethiopia. Explore Loko's world through films, posters, sermon notes and photographs, all available from January 2015.

Easter Egg Decorating Competition

You are once again challenged to decorate an egg for Easter morning.

Bring your beautiful egg in an eggcup on Easter morning by 10.25am before the morning service and place it on the table. I will put a small receptacle in front of the eggs and the congregation will vote for the best as we did last year by placing a coin in front of your favourite. These will be counted and the one with the most coins will win. There are 2 categories under 18 and group entries (no age restriction!) The money will be donated to JMA.

Julia



And now a letter from **Paul Horn, Head of the Wings of Hope Nursery in Jepperstown, Johannesburg** via Stella Chattle

Dear Stella,

A HUGE thank you to your and your team for another year of marvellous teddy bears, and beautifully crafted scarves and caps. You have brought great joy to the children, just as the weather is getting colder. (See photo attached).

We especially like all of the bright new colours in the bears, and the very stylish striped trousers!

Every year the work of you team brings untold joy to the homes of our community members. In addition to the practical gift of scarves and hats, you give our children the only toy they might have for years to come.

Many, many thanks,
Paul Horn
Executive Director

Sadly I can't get the fantastic photograph that accompanied this letter to appear in reasonable form in the newsletter. Also, we can only print in black and white and that just wouldn't do justice to the 4 small, beaming children clad in red tops with matching scarves, all holding colourful bears knitted by members of the congregation. I'll ensure a copy in all its glory goes on the noticeboard instead [Caroline]

Dads and Doughnuts

I am proposing to start up a new venture with dads in mind!

It will be a "toddler+" (up to 5 years) and dad's session based on the "Who let the Dad's out" principle. (There is a website)

It will be hosted here once a month on a Saturday afternoon for 2 hours on a drop in basis. I will apply for a grant to fund additional extras like hiring a bouncy castle, soft play items and ball pools.

I need some MEN to help with this, I will do the organising but it would be great to have a man on the door to meet and greet and some others to chat! Refreshments will be on hand for the dads and the offspring.

It would be called Dad's and Doughnuts! As bacon butties are more geared to mornings.

Please consider this, granddads are welcome too! You have a wealth of experience.

Please let me know if you are interested in any way (mums get the time off, this is a NO mum zone - so those with young children please encourage them to come!)

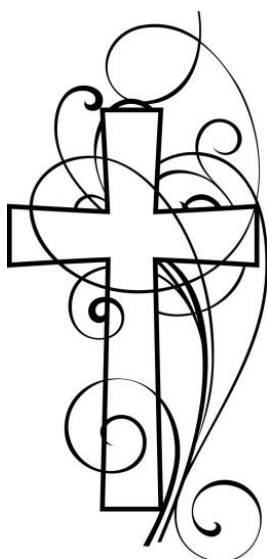
Watch this space for a starting date.

Julia

Speaking of young people, the **Methodist Association of Youth Clubs** was founded in June 1945 with a special event held in the Royal Albert Hall. On Sunday 31 May 2015 at Tewkesbury Methodist Church, there will be a **special event to celebrate Methodist youth work past and present**. The celebration will start with worship at 10.30am and continue with lunch and the sharing of memories and hearing about present-day Methodist youth work. To register your interest and for more information, please email Michael Jebson at michaeljebson@outlook.com

An Invitation to take part in an Easter Contemplation

Come and spend time to
quietly reflect upon and
interact with the
“Stations of the Cross”



Open for Holy Week 10 am – 2 pm

(Monday 30th March -
Thursday 2nd April)

All are welcome

Circuit News:

Mr **Michael Axton**, a former civil servant from E Molesey Methodist Church who took early retirement, has been appointed **as the new Circuit Coordinator**. He will begin work on Monday, 13 April, with the same working hours as Daphne had: Mon-Thurs mornings, 9.30-12.30. Michael comes to us with a wealth of experience from his previous work and his long-time association with the Teddington Methodist Circuit. We look forward to having him working with us!

Healthy Church Audits (see above) are continuing around the circuit during this month of April. Be sure to be included in your church's audit!

Workers with children and youth had a good 'taster session' meeting with **the London District Children and Youth Training Officer**, Mr Brian Smith, on 9 March. We are looking towards planning a few more training days in the coming months. These will be useful for anyone working with children/youth in our churches, including Jr Church, Sunday School, Messy Church, Toddler Groups, Uniformed Organisations, and after-school clubs.

Diary Dates for April

Holy Week 10.00am-2.00pm

Stations of the Cross Meditative experience in the Church

Wednesday 1st 7.00pm

Good Friday Music rehearsal

Thursday 2nd 8.00pm

Youth Stop-up in Church

Friday 3rd 8.00pm

Good Friday Music performance

Saturday 4th 10.00am

Coffee Bar – Christian Aid – Jennifer Townsend

Sunday 5th 8.30am

Easter Breakfast

Monday 13th 7.30pm

Wives – Famous People we have met

Tuesday 14th 7.30pm

**Meeting Point – Surrey Save Credit Union
– Ted Smith**

Sunday 19th

Healthy Church Sunday

Saturday 25th 10.00am

**Coffee Bar – Alzheimers' Society – Nicky
Horton**

Sunday 26th 6.30pm

Youth Club

Monday 27th 7.30pm

Wives – A Child's War – Mike Brown

Tuesday 28th 7.00pm

Junior Badminton

Summary of March Notices

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

A message from Janet and Robert Jones:
The last boxes have been unpacked,
pictures are on the walls and we are
beginning to find a home for most things!
Downsizing has been a challenge!
We want to say a huge thank you for so
many messages and cards of good wishes
and prayerful support. It has meant a
great deal and has been invaluable in
helping the moving process. We will be
thinking of you on this Mothering Sunday
and hopefully we will be sharing the same
at a nearby church. We send our love
and good wishes. **Janet and Robert**

REQUEST

Does anyone have a "shampoo " carpet cleaner I
can use over the Easter holidays on the large
toddler mat please? Thank you **Julia**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – HOLY WEEK

You are invited to take some time out in the
week leading up to Easter to come and
contemplate in a gentle way the events which
occurred during Holy Week from Palm Sunday
to Easter morning. Come and view and/or
interact with the Twelve Stations of the Cross
displayed in the Sanctuary. Stay for as long or as
short a time as you like.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER

Kingston Methodist Church invites friends from
New Malden to join them for a Maundy
Thursday supper, led by Choi, on 2 April at 7pm,
together with friends from neighbouring
churches. If you would like to come, please let
Val Hayden know on 020 8546 1669 or
val.hayden@btinternet.com. It would be lovely
to see you.

Easter Breakfast

Once again we will be serving breakfast at
8.45am, between the two morning services on
Easter Sunday. Please put your name on the
sign-up sheet in the Welcome Area if you would
like to join us. Judith Jewell, Sue and David
Knowles.



Children's Corner – an interesting article on Easter that contains more than a few nuggets of general knowledge.

Hi

I thought you might like to discover some facts about Easter.

It is as you are aware a Christian Festival when the giving of eggs celebrates new life. We believe that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead and that through His resurrection, Jesus defeated death and sin and offers people the promise of eternal life.

The first eggs given at Easter were bird's eggs. These were painted in bright colours to give them further meaning as a gift. We still paint bird's eggs today (usually chicken eggs).

An Anglo- Saxon legend tells how the Saxon goddess Eostre found a wounded bird and transformed it into a hare, so that it could survive the winter. The hare found it could lay eggs! So it decorated these each spring and left them as an offering to the goddess.

Pace Eggs are hard boiled with patterned shells, they are traditional in northern parts of England, sometimes being called Paste Eggs. The word Pace comes from "Pesach" meaning Passover. The background colour is provided by onion skins with designs created by the leaves and flowers placed next to the shell.

Decorating and colouring eggs for Easter was a common custom in

England in the middle ages. Eggs were brightly coloured to mimic the new fresh colours of spring.

The practice of decorating eggs was made even more famous by King Edward 1 who ordered 450 eggs to be gold leafed and coloured for Easter gifts in 1290.

We have an Easter egg competition for individuals and groups on Easter morning. Please do enter the fun by entering your decorated egg on your own or with your family.

Egg rolling is an Easter Monday sport when hard boiled eggs are run down a hill. The winner can be either the one that rolls the farthest, survives the most rolls or is rolled between 2 pegs. Egg Jarping is a bit like conkers with players tapping their opponents' egg until one breaks.

Whatever you do this Easter please remember that God loves you so much that he sent his son, Jesus to die and live again what a great gift that is!

Julia

Just space to list the services for April with flower dedications:

3rd – Good Friday Churches Together

5th –Easter Sunday – Rev Choi – HC – flowers
Mrs B Cowan

12th – Mr Lloyd– worship – flowers – Mrs J Haines

19th – Healthy Church day – flowers – Mr and Mrs Taviner

26th – Ms Webb – worship – flowers – Mrs J Bedford

Next copy date 9am Friday 17th April 2015 by email to: carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.