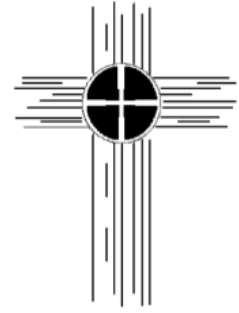


The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church April 2016



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Message from Reverend Choi

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. (Luke 224: 13-16)

I think this story, usually called, 'two disciples on the road', must be one of the beautiful stories in the gospels and the finest picture Luke ever painted in his books. I love this story, not because I envy their long walk with Jesus, but because I can dig out from it almost everything about Christian learning and living and discipleship.

However, what strikes me first is, as followers of Jesus, who had been with him for many years, how on earth they could not recognise him, who was walking along with them. What blinded them on the road? Was it sorrow? Were their hearts too full of grief to sense his presence? Whatever case it was, trouble was that they were travelling towards a village called Emmaus, about 7 miles away from

Jerusalem, westward, where the sun set. It was the trouble, not only because they left Jerusalem, but because they were heading to the sunset, which was the wrong direction. It is symbolic, but they should have remembered that in the book of Numbers 21:11, the Israelites were told to journey towards the sunrise, not to the sunset.

In a wrong direction, they could not feel the presence of the risen Christ, could not understand the real meaning of the Scripture. It was not until they invited the stranger to the table that they could feel their hearts warmed and recognise the risen Jesus.

Do you feel your heart strangely warmed? Do you see Jesus from strangers around you? If not, you may need to check your direction.

Happy Easter, and every blessing to you all.

SC Choi.



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Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st MAY 2016

Once again, I am asking for volunteers to help with the house-to-house collecting. Please give me a ring on 8942 6867 if you feel you could help. Several roads are no longer covered so even collecting on just one side of a road would be very much appreciated . . and, if you are apprehensive about knocking on doors, you could always work in pairs!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 15th May (after morning service) - Bread and Cheese Lunch to be held in the Lower Hall.

Saturday 21st May (10am -12 noon) - Coffee Morning in the Welcome Area. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who could make cakes for this event.

I do hope you will be able to attend at least one of these events which support the important ongoing work of Christian Aid throughout the world. To find out more please visit their website christianaid.org.uk.

Jennifer Townsend

Be Creative!

The annual Easter Egg decorating competition will take place on Easter Sunday.

You are invited to decorate your egg and bring it to church (group entries are also welcome) on Easter morning.

Judging will be by the number of coins placed by each entry and the proceeds will go to JMA.



Spotlight on.....Jane Bennett



Second to feature in this "new" column is Jane. If you want to feature, then let me know. Otherwise, perhaps we should move to a nomination system and those that feature get to select the next person?

Name Jane Bennett

Best invention in your lifetime - Microwave Oven

Best film – The Wizard of Oz

Earliest memory – A train journey from Bedford to Winton (Bournemouth) with my grandfather, aged 2 and a half. (This was because both parents were called up for the 2nd World War)

Previous Occupation – Practice Nurse in Willenhall

Favourite time of the year - summer

Best meal – Lancashire hot pot with broccoli and mashed swede

Did you have any childhood pets? – Cat called Jimmy

Favourite Book of the Bible – Luke

Favourite Hymn – Oh the bitter shame and sorrow

What does your faith mean to you? (In no more than 50 words)

It means I have a clear focus when praying and that I understand the full meaning of Christ's sacrifice for me and his love that supports me as I try to follow his guidance after praying for it. This is not always easy!

Important situations vacant: what do they involve?

You may have seen the insert in the notices flagging our need of volunteers to fill the role of Steward or Treasurer. To help you consider if they might be right for you, here are a few words about the two roles involve:

Stewards

The key visible regular role for Stewards is in making sure our church services work smoothly and in a way that we are all happy with. That means being Duty Steward around one week in two on Sunday, taking care of arrangements and being the point of contact for preachers. But beyond that, the Stewards work with the Minister to oversee the overall functioning of the church, following the various church committees and helping to set direction. That involves meeting one evening a month as Stewards and attending some of the other committees where possible. (The Stewards no longer have to copy the orders of service - although we do have to hand out flowers after the service.) There's a good team atmosphere and a great chance to get your ideas and suggestions heard. There is an agreed list of tasks, and templates for letters to preachers. The Senior Steward offers help and advice to new Stewards.

Ideally Stewards will serve for 4 years, and finish up serving as Senior Steward for a year. But there is a chance to serve to a different pattern if you prefer. There is typically some flexibility in which Sundays you serve. And we want a diverse group of stewards that fully reflects the diversity of our church. So we would welcome Stewards from any background, whether a lifelong New Malden member or a more recent arrival. And we are open to Stewards of all ages - from 16 to 80

Treasurer

The Treasurer is a key role, looking after the Church's finances. It involves:

- Supervising the paying in of Church Collections - 2 hours on Monday
- Then:

- Pay in other received cheques
- Pay suppliers' invoices by cheque (second signature required)
- Pay Church charity donations - some 20 over the year
- Enter all above details in a (Sage Pay) computer programme.
- Reconcile monthly bank statements with computer records.
- Produce annual accounts (Profit & Loss & Balance Sheets).

Time required varies but in most weeks 3 hours is sufficient for the above.

The Treasurer also attends:

- Finance Committee meetings, probably twice a year
- Property Committee meetings
- Church Councils
- Circuit Meetings

The church will provide training and mentoring for the new treasurer, including on the computer system.

If you have any questions about either of these roles, please do not hesitate to talk to Andrew Turner or one of the other Stewards or Tony Chalk about the Treasurer role.



Connecting Disciples is the name of the Methodist Church Lay Workers' Conference which Julia and I attended from Monday 7th to Thursday 10th March at High Leigh Christian Conference Centre in Hoddesden, Hertfordshire.

We have been going to this conference for several years and it is always a highlight in our

year. This year was no exception and in fact was one of the best ones I have been to. The themes for this year's conference were Passion, Prophecy, Prayer and Protest which were reflected in workshops, worship and Bible Studies.

There was an excellent interview on the first day with Gareth Powell, Secretary of Conference which provided interesting insights into the policy making processes of the Methodist Church and something of our response to current challenges. Gareth said we must have confidence and imagination: confidence in our knowledge of the Gospels and the imagination to take them out into the world.

The President of Conference, Steve Wild, gave a keynote speech about his passion for evangelism. He is a lively and passionate speaker who has the gift of being able to have the room laughing uproariously one minute and serious the next without it seeming like a rollercoaster ride. He preached on, amongst other things, Jeremiah 31:3 "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."

Protest was the theme for the Vice President, Jill Barber's, speech where she also spoke passionately about some of the history of the Methodist Church and particular figures who have been instrumental in the advancement of social change throughout its history. Harold Wilson said, "The Trade Union movement owes more to Methodism than it does to Marx".

Jill spoke about the challenges facing the modern world and how we as a Church should be responding. Proverbs 13: 8-9 "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Both the President's and Vice President's speeches were live streamed, a first for this conference, and are both worth a look on YouTube if you are interested. ('Steve Wild at Connecting Disciples 2016' and 'Dr Jill Barber at Connecting Disciples 2016').

Networking is a very important part of the conference and it was again a great opportunity to connect with old friends and new ones and hear stories from up and down the country of people's trials and triumphs and be able to give and receive advice and tips. We are all facing similar problems and it is always good to share!

All in all it was a full-on few days (which is why we both came back ill!) but hugely rewarding. It was an affirmation of the regard that Lay Workers are held in by the Methodist Church and we are grateful to NMMC for the opportunity to attend.

Sarah Moore

Sarah has also provided this poem that was read by the President of the Methodist Church as part of his keynote speech last week. It's very relevant at Easter.

Matthew 25:31-46 v 40 "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Indifference or When Jesus Came to Golgotha

by Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy (1883-1929)

When Jesus came to Golgotha
They hanged Him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet,
And made a Calvary.
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns;
Red were His wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days,
And human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham,
They simply passed Him by;
They never hurt a hair of Him,
They only let Him die.
For men had grown more tender,
And they would not give Him pain;
They only just passed down the street,
And left Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them,
For they know not what they do."
And still it rained the winter rain
That drenched Him through and through.
The crowds went home and left the streets
Without a soul to see;
And Jesus crouched against a wall
And cried for Calvary.

Around the Circuit: April 2016

Training

Training for Children and Youth Workers

Brian Smith, the District Youth and Children's Coordinator, is conducting some Training Sessions for those in the Circuit working with children and young people. The training is entitled "Helping Those Working with Children and Young People Point to Jesus." The first session took place on 20 February, and further sessions are scheduled for 10am to 4pm at Chessington Methodist Church on Saturdays 2 April and 21 May. For more information about the sessions please contact Brian by email (brian@methodistlondon.org.uk) or phone (07951 408379).

Church Events Chessington

Jennifer Coleman (Soprano) will be performing "Songs of Love", an Album Launch Concert, at Chessington Methodist Church on Saturday 7th May at 7 pm. Tickets are £12 (£6 under 16s and students). If you would like a ticket or more information please contact John Harvey (020 8391 0534; gillandjohn@hotmail.com)

Surbiton Hill

Drop in Fellowship takes place on the second Wednesday of each month in the Lower Hall at Surbiton Hill (from 1.45pm for a 2pm start). Please note the following events:

13 April: "**How Did I Get Where I Am Today?**"
Rev Hazel Yu

The next Quiet Days at the House of Prayer, East Molesey will take place on 7 May (led by Steven Talbot) and 8 October (led by Stan Brown). Please note your diaries - further information will be provided nearer the time.

A reminder that Monthly Prayer Fellowship takes place on the first Saturday of each month at Surbiton Hill, from 10 am to 11am, led by Daniel Masillamani.

Next edition

Please send your contributions by Friday 15 April to: circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

Summary of March Notices

Church Family Notices

Please would you pray for **Ching**, who has had a cardiac arrest, and for his family, Venus, Elliot and Isabella. Monday badminton club is suspended until further notice.

We have received word that **Janet Firth** who used to attend here with her husband, died at the end of February.

Wheelchair

We now have a new wheelchair for use by any members of the congregation. It is currently in the Welcome Area by the Bookstall. Please would you let the office know if you borrow it (a note under the door is fine).

The money for the wheelchair was raised last year by the youth of the church so a big thank you to them for their hard work.

Gwen Bryant



Gwen's funeral service included a beautiful "celebration of life" talk from her cousin. It's rather long to include in the newsletter but for those that may have missed it, there is a copy in the Welcome Area.

Your church needs you: nominations open for key roles before the AGM

The **Church AGM** takes place on Sunday 17th April. We are looking for nominations from members for the post of Treasurer; and from those willing to serve as Stewards.

Training/mentoring will be provided, especially for the Treasurer role. The church cannot operate without these roles. If you are at all interested, and wish to learn more please speak to Choi or Andrew ASAP. Nominations need to be received and displayed by 3rd April.

We send huge **congratulations to Doreen and Alan Downey** who celebrated 50 years of marriage on Saturday 12th March.



Ping pong

Until recently, ping pong for me meant the end of the Parliamentary session when the Lords and Commons bat bills back and forth until both Houses settle on a formula that keeps them both happy (sort of). Before you read this and tell me I should get out more, I have! I've been getting out and playing a fair bit of table tennis so imagine my delight to find that the church has a table and a few deft players....

So, we are planning a mini tournament one Sunday after the service. So far "signed" up are me, Rev Choi, Gareth, and Sarah Choi. This is probably news to most of these people but if you would like to volunteer and take part, drop me a line.

Caroline Auty

Message from our Youth Worker

Hi

I hope lots of you entered the Easter Egg decorating competition this year. It really is great fun. If not, do consider it for next year.

For Christians, the Easter egg is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Painting Easter eggs is an especially beloved tradition in the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches where the [eggs are dyed red](#) to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross. Easter eggs are blessed by the priest at the end of the Paschal vigil and distributed to the congregants. The hard shell of the egg represents the sealed Tomb of Christ, and cracking the shell represents Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Moreover, historically Christians would abstain from eating eggs and meat during [Lent](#), and Easter was the first chance to eat eggs after a long period of abstinence. (Orthodox Christians continue to abstain from eggs during Lent.)

Easter egg hunts and egg rolling are two popular egg-related traditions. An egg hunt involves hiding eggs outside for children to run around and find on Easter morning. Eggs are rolled as a symbolic re-enactment of the rolling away of the stone from Christ's tomb. In the United States, the [Easter Egg Roll](#) is an annual event that is held on the White House lawn each Monday after Easter.

As the days grow longer and the weather improves try to spend more time outside finding the natural signs of New Life around us and rejoice in the beauty of our world.

God bless
Julia



Diary Dates for April

Saturday 2nd 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Church Flower Festival – Julia Morton

Sunday 3rd
Annual Report available in Church

Wednesday 6th 8.00pm
Worship Committee

Thursday 7th 7.00pm
Panto: first read through
 8.00pm
Circuit Leadership Meeting

Friday 8th 10.30am
Friday Fellowship

Saturday 9th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – RNLI – Abell Family

Monday 11th 7.00pm
Wives & Friends – ‘Songs we love’ – Alison Bullett

Tuesday 12th 7.00pm
Junior Badminton

Tuesday 12th 7.30pm
Meeting Point – Faith in Sport

Wednesday 13th 2.00pm
Memory Café in the Welcome Area

Thursday 14th 7.00pm
Panto rehearsal

Saturday 16th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Amnesty

Sunday 17th 12.00pm
Church AGM

Monday 18th 7.00pm
Kingston District Chamber Music Society concert

Wednesday 20th 5.00pm
Property Committee

Thursday 21st 7.00pm
Panto rehearsal

Friday 22nd 10.30am
James Berry MP surgery

Saturday 23rd 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Kingston Dementia – Glynis & Courtney Fox

Monday 25th 7.00pm
Wives & Friends – ‘1942 Onwards’ – Mike Brown

Tuesday 26th 7.00pm
Junior Badminton

Wednesday 27th 7.30pm
Pastoral Committee

Thursday 28th 7.00pm
Panto rehearsal

Saturday 30th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Wings of Hope Nursery – Birgit Cowan

Services in April

3rd	10.30am	Ms Rebecca Quaye
10th	10.30am	Mrs Jilly Bridges
17th	10.30am	Revd Sooncheol Choi
24th	10.30am	ACM/Family Revd Elizabeth Osei

Copy deadline for April Newsletter
 9 am 22 **April**, by email to:
carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.