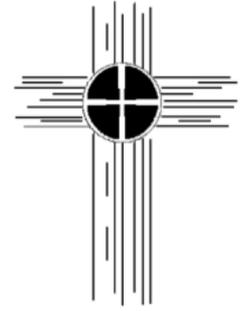


The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church Christmas 2016



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Message from Reverend Choi

“Imagine a complex, multi-cultural society that annually holds an elaborate winter festival, which lasts not simply a few days, but several weeks. This great festival celebrates the birth of the lord and saviour of the world, the prince of peace, a man who is divine. People mark the festival with great abundance – feasting, drinking, gift-giving. Special events, such as song, dance, sporting events, happen almost daily. The economy booms, and the sales of goods flourish as at no other time of the year. The poor are recipients of generous giving by the rich. In all, a great festival, which brings a sense of civic unity while honouring the saviour.”

This is part of an article, written by Richard Horsley, an American theologian. He seems to talk about the current trends of Christmas celebration in details. But, that is not true. He is describing one of the biggest festivals in Roman Empire – the festival of celebration of the Emperor’s divinity. And, this was celebrated at the time of Jesus’

birth. And, Jesus was born into a world in which the Emperor was called ‘the lord and saviour of the world’, ‘the prince of peace’. What’s surprising is that those titles were used exactly the same way, when Jesus was born. What would it mean, then?

It means, through the birth of Jesus Christ, God was offering a very different Saviour to the world, the Saviour, who was born of a peasant girl, in a little town of Bethlehem, with no worldly power background.

Therefore, in those days, it is said that the early Christians were being asked an important question: ‘Who is your Saviour? The Emperor or Jesus Christ?’

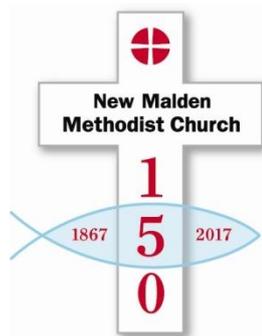
So, we can imagine the tension and conflict between two groups, and the cultural differences they had to cope with. It must have been a spiritual battle they had to face in their everyday lives.

Then, what about the world we live in now? What do we celebrate on Christmas? And, how do we celebrate it?

By the time you read this message, most of you may be in the middle of busyness of the Christmas preparation: buying and spending, eating and partying. But, what we need to remember is it is a time of quiet, a time to discover God’s presence amongst us, and a time to wait for the Christ child. While we are waiting, I hope we may be able to sense his coming with the light, the light of love and truth.

Every blessing on this Christmas and the New Year.
Choi.

150th Anniversary Celebrations



To celebrate that New Malden Methodist Church has borne witness to the glory of God for 150 years, to raise our profile as a force for good in this changing community and to strengthen our fellowship.

Mosaic latest

Here is the proposed design for the mosaic for the High Street to replace the present notice board.



There may be slight alterations as the work progresses.

The really exciting news is that having made the initial deposit the following dates are in the diary to commence this work of art.

Extra dates can be arranged if necessary.

Everyone is invited to join in. This is a gift from the whole church to the local community.

- Friday Fellowship Friday 6th January
- Meeting Point Tuesday 14th February
- The congregation Sunday 23rd April
- Wives and Friends Monday 24th April

The Arts Group, Rainbow, Brownie and Guides and Junior Church TBA

Please join in, no age limit and full guidance given. It will be a real act of all age fellowship.

Stop Press.....! We have the funds for the mosaic after a successful array of fundraising events! Thank you to everyone who has supported any of them in any way.

150th Anniversary Exhibition 6 – 8 July 2017

It's time to start planning our exhibition, and sorting out the exhibits. Photographs, obviously; and perhaps something you made for a previous craft exhibition, that book you received as a Sunday School Prize, maybe your marriage certificate, a poster advertising a long-gone event . . . Anything that's connected with our church over the last century and a half could have a place.

We also need to think about how the exhibition will look – for example, a timeline from 1867 to the present day, or groups of similar exhibits, or a quirky pot pourri or . . .

Quite a few people have already said they will help in one way or another, but as ever we'll need more – people, artefacts, and ideas. So please have a think over the Christmas holidays, and come along to the church for a short meeting on Saturday 21 January at 11am, ready to share. (Please don't actually bring things along at this stage – just yourselves and your ideas.)

Many thanks, Judith Jewell

150 Psalms, Mugs and Invitations

2017

2017 is the year of the 150th Anniversary. As part of the celebrations it has been agreed that the 150 Psalms will be used throughout the year at services, Wednesday communion

& Saturday morning prayers. The steward will keep a list to ensure all 150 are included.

Please do take the invitation slips from the Welcome Area to include in your Christmas cards to friends and family who may wish to join us on Sunday 18th June when Rev Steve Wild will be preaching and afterwards for lunch.

Special mugs are on sale from Jenny Reid either £5 or £7.

Sunday 24th April will include an opportunity to be part of the mosaic making. Do put the date in your diary!

The date of the next meeting is on Thursday 12th January – everyone welcome.

The Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair was another roaring success on Friday Nov 25th November, and a total of just over £2000 was raised for Church projects.

Recently, this day has become known in some circles as 'Black Friday' and has had some unfortunate consequences in terms of traffic, public spending habits and particularly irritating e mails. We in New Malden however have always had it styled rather as 'Lights Friday,' as this is the day when Santa comes to the High Street and switches on our Christmas lights. This year there was a little delay– possibly due to the heavy traffic, but also variously attributed to Santa suffering a sleigh–puncture or having trouble breaking in a new reindeer. However, he did show up, and the crowds inside the church surged out to greet him and then surged back in again for a top- up from the wide range of goodies on offer on our stalls. We were very happy to encourage this kind of Public Spending.

It is quite amazing what is produced for sale, representing a huge amount of effort by a number of people right through the year – the knitting, craft work, preserves-making and gathering together of all the various items does not happen overnight. Some of the cooking inevitably does, however, and we are grateful to all those people who baked, sold and plied their various skills in whatever sphere. Thanks too to those who donated and spent, and of course to the team of people who set up and cleared away. The whole venture was masterminded once again by Julie Haines, who seems to run on Duracell batteries.

Our 'presence 'on the High Street is a great asset in this and many other ventures and it continues to grow. We hope it will continue to do so, particularly throughout next year's 150th anniversary celebrations. Most excitingly, we have now reached our target for the mosaic, which will be produced as a central focus to our celebrations and will be a lasting reminder of our Mission in New Malden.

The Music for our Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

We will again have special choral music for our evening service at Christmas and want to cast the net for singers as widely as possible. The pattern of rehearsals is two Saturday mornings and a rehearsal followed by tea on the afternoon of the service. There will be several new, tuneful carols, as well as favourites and you are very welcome to join us, particularly if for the first time.

Lessons and Carols:

Sunday 18th December 6.30 pm, dress rehearsal 4.30 pm

Rehearsals:

- Saturday 10th December 10.15 – 11.45 am
- Saturday 17th December 10.15 – 11.45 am

Please just speak to or contact me, Peter Bullett (020 8942 0666 p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk) to "sign up" or for further information.

Community Carols on Christmas Eve

24th December 10.45-11.30am



This year, Community Carols falls on Christmas Eve and following our hugely successful session last year, this will take place outside the Church with keyboard accompaniment and under cover to protect us from the worst excesses of any adverse weather. They will be relayed into the Welcome Area where the Music Group will be running the coffee morning in aid of the Mosaic and the Organ Fund.

We will sing a mixture of traditional carols and Christmas songs and everyone is welcome to join us. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Area for a few weeks beforehand so we have an idea of how many sets of words to produce and you can request your favourite carol. If you think you do not have a voice, we will of course need collectors on both sides of the High Street. We made a very "merry noise" last time!

Peter Bullett

Update on the Organ...and a Concert

We will be officially launching the appeal for the restoration and refurbishment of the organ in the New Year. Consultations and details are being discussed to ensure we get exactly the right scheme and team to execute this important project to the highest standards and to our particular need and specification. There have been several generous donations and promises of such so far, and more details of how you can help will be issued in due course.

The first fundraising event will be at 3pm on Sunday January 15th in our concert series 'Music in New Malden.' This concert will consist of choral music by Haydn, with the Harmonie Choir and orchestra directed by Peter Bullett. The (present!) organ will also feature! Please put this in your diaries now – an hour's music followed by tea and cake.

Christmas Tree Festival

Please bring family and friends along to see the trees. It would be lovely for as many people as possible to come and see how beautiful our church looks and raise even more money for the charities.



Opening Times:

- All weekdays from 12th December 10am-2pm
 - Saturday 10th December 10am – 5pm
 - Saturday 17th December 10am - 5pm
 - Saturday 24th December 10am - 2pm (with Community Carols 10.45 – 11.30am)
-

150th Anniversary Christmas Tree



You are invited to bring a homemade or other hanging Christmas decoration to be put onto a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival this year. This is an invitation to everyone, young and old. Please bring it to church (with your name on it if you wish it to be returned) by Thursday 8th December ready to be placed on the tree on Friday 9th December.

It can be any kind or colour. This is a publicity tree to broadcast our celebrations next year.

Please join in!

Unsung Heroes

Every week we have the pleasure of a floral display on the dais, donated by members of the congregation for a variety of reasons, in memory of, or in celebration of. These add to our pleasure in worship. The flowers are arranged by a team of ladies. **Thank you Pam, Doreen, Pam, Julia, Birgit, Julie and Jan**

Throughout the year a team of young people collect money for JMA. The money is collected and payed over to JMA and certificates and medals organised for World Church Sunday in October. He never wants to speak and arranges for the Sunday School Superintendent to hand out the awards.

Thank you Alan

He might not be a plumber or an electrician, a painter or a locksmith but 'He knows a man who is'. We are in a warm and

welcoming building we can be proud of because of his efforts. **Thank you Mick**

Do you know of another hero who needs a mention, send me the details! (Caroline, Ed)

Around the Circuit

AROUND THE CIRCUIT: DECEMBER 2016

CHURCH EVENTS

Kingston

Action for Children Carol Singing

Continuing a tradition going back over 50 years, members of Kingston Methodist Church will be carol singing round the streets of Kingston to raise money for Action for Children. The dates are:

- 15 December: Round the church area
- 20 December: Norbiton Village
- 24 December: Coombe Hill Road

We will start at 7.30pm each evening and finish around 9pm. Please contact Alan Clatworthy (020 8546 7812; alan.clatworthy@blueyonder.co.uk) if you would like to join us. We enjoy bringing the traditional Christmas message to our locality while fundraising at the same time!

New Malden

Christmas Tree Festival

(opening times on page 4)

Sheep Trail

See the leaflets in the Welcome Area



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:

- 14 December: Our Minister and Circuit Superintendent, Rev Dr Stan Brown

January Newsletters

If your church has any news or a forthcoming event you would like to share with the Circuit, please forward details to Michael Axton at the Circuit Office so that it can be included in each Church's newsletter/magazine.

Please send your contributions by Tuesday 13 December to:

circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

Summary of NM Notices November and early December

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We are sorry to announce that **Sheila Philpot** lost her battle with cancer on Monday 5th December. There will be a committal for family and close friends at Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery, Garth Rd, Morden SM4 4JX on **Tuesday 20th December** and then a memorial service here at New Malden at 3.00pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with Micky and the rest of the family.

We have had a message from **John Thomas** who was a steward at NMMC some 25 years ago and moved to Aberystwyth in his run up to retirement. Sadly John's beloved wife Pamela died on Wednesday 9th of November after 2 more recent strokes.

We are sorry to announce that **Gordon Teanby** died on Friday 25th November. His funeral service will be held in Sheffield on the morning of 19th December and there will

be a memorial service for him here on **Tuesday 31st January** at 2.30pm.

The funeral of **Revd David Smith** who was the Minister at Surbiton Hill will be held on Tuesday December 13th at Windsor Methodist Church at 11.30am. A coach will travel from Manor Drive in Surbiton to the funeral, leaving at 10.00am and returning at 2.30pm after refreshments. There will be a charge of between £12 and £16 for the coach. Please call Marina Golding on 020 8241 7355 or 07720 443594 if you have any queries or would like a seat on the coach.

We were delighted to welcome into **membership Isaac & Rebecca Addai and Hoseon Choi & Kyung A Park** on Sunday 6th November. Kyung A was also baptised with her two daughters, **Eunsu & Yeonji Choi**.

Ruth McLeod is now home from hospital after being run over on Friday 11th November. She had wounds on her legs but is in good spirits and had her knitting with her in hospital so that bear production will not be interrupted.

Shirley Stewart would like to thank you all for your prayers and many cards and get well messages she has received during her 5 weeks in hospital. They were much appreciated. She is now home and recovering at her daughter's home with plenty of rest and TLC. Very many congratulations to **Julia and Clive Morton** who celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday 27th November.

We have received a new address for **Peter, Suva and Rebecca Catford**: 43 Station Road, Norton, Stockton on Tees TS20 1NH. Elizabeth and family are now in Bath balancing family life and ministry.

WORLD CHURCH WEEKEND

A big thank you to all helpers & visitors to the coffee bar, Brazilian dinner and Café Church last weekend. We had an enjoyable time with Dr Gary Watt hearing about faith in Brazil and raised the wonderful sum of £220.00. Thank you, *Birgit*

The Methodist Church Fund for World Mission

Thank you to those of you who brought in your Mission Boxes. To date we have raised £81.66 for 2015/16. However, I know that there are some boxes outstanding. Please if you have one can you either give it to me on a Sunday or leave it in the Church office. Also if there is anyone who would like to have a Mission Box, please get in touch.

David Knowles

LOST KEYS

A small bunch of keys on a shoe lace were found outside the green doors on Monday 7th November at about 5.30pm. If they are yours, please see a steward (they were not keys to the church).

CAROL SINGERS NEEDED

We need carol singers! ..at the White House Care Home (Malden Rd, on the corner of Motspur Park) at **10 am on Thurs Dec 8th**. A group of us sing there regularly and this will be our final event of the year. We will sing carols and Christmas songs for just 45 mins and can then have coffee and a mince pie or three...See Alison for more details. All welcome

3Fs

The next meeting will be on **Friday 9th December from 7.30pm** at our home; Calderbank, Coombe Park, Kingston Hill. All members of our Church community are welcome, but we do ask that you let us know if you plan to come. 3Fs meet monthly to share in supper and to have a conversation which focuses on current issues in society and the connections to our values and our faith.

David and Susan Knowles 0208 549 5963
d.knowles2008 @[gmail.com](mailto:d.knowles2008@gmail.com)

MEETING POINT

Meeting Point invites everyone to the Christmas party in the Welcome Area on **Tues Dec 13, 7.30 for 8pm**. Choi and Sarah will give us some insight into life in Korea and this will be followed by music and food from both countries. Please do come! – and please see Alison or Judith if you can bring some finger food.

ARTS GROUP

Thanks for all the work you've put into the meetings, the painting, and finding new areas to explore. It's been fun! The members meeting in November decided that we should meet on **Thursday 15th December**, despite the nearness to Christmas. So we look forward to meeting again then.

In the New Year we shall start on Thursday 19th January, and share ideas for the new sessions. *Best wishes, Eric Murray and Sarah Choi*

DUGGIE DUG DUG CHRISTMAS ANGEL EVENT

This is at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church on Thursday 22nd December 3pm-5pm. (with an interval).

"It's a theatre style Christmas production with lots of songs and it'll feature me, my Harry and Larry puppets and a cast of 3 actors, a tech person and a cool set and lighting. It's a really fun and moving take on the Nativity story with a bunch of slap stick and panto humour thrown in. All of the actors will play multiple roles including the shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph and of course the angels. The story will follow the angels as they deliver the news about Jesus birth including a trainee angel called Eric who keeps getting everything completely wrong in a hilarious way." This is suitable for all the family. The tickets are £3 per child or £5 for 2! Please bring a friend.

Please let Julia know if you would like a ticket asap



Join us for Coffee

Saturday 31st December at New Malden
Methodist Coffee Bar

10am – 12 noon

Cakes will be for sale: any offers to bake
please let us know!

Proceeds will go to the Stroke Association in
memory of Bernard Bedford as part of fund
raising towards Lydia Bedford running the
London Marathon in 2017

Thanks, Lorna and David Bedford

Diary Dates

See separate handout to stick on your
fridge!

Message from our Family Worker

Hi

One of the best things you can do to feel
good is to help someone else. It's a proven
fact that volunteers are happier and could
even live longer! Now this may not be your
prime concern at the moment but a feel
good factor is always worthwhile.

Helping others can be done in so many ways.
For example at the recent Christmas Fair
people of all ages helped by providing items,
setting up the tables, moving the furniture,
manning the stalls, wrapping the prizes,
cooking and baking, telling others about the
event and the all-important putting
everything back after the event. People
worked as a team to make the event take
place and the result was a lovely evening
opening our church to the local community.

It was by not leaving it to someone else that
it was such a success and thanks go to all of
you who helped in any way. Taking part in
any communal occasion leaves a "warm
glow" and feeling of belonging, being part of
the "family". It is also a good way for all
ages to cooperate and interact and for skills
to be shared. There is always something
even the youngest can do so never think
that you cannot help because your offer will
be greeted with open arms. After all saying
that the "church" should do something is no
good to anyone unless it is followed up by
action. Never underestimate what you can
achieve with help from a friend.

[James 2:14-17](#)

What good is it, my brothers, if someone
says he has faith but does not have works?



Here to help

God bless

Julia

Services in January and December

First and foremost the Christmas Morning Service

There has been a change to the plan for the Christmas morning Service. It will now be what is called a 'Local Arrangement,' which means that we as a congregation are responsible for organising the Service ourselves. We are delighted to announce that the Rev Donald Finnan will provide the central focus, with an interactive PowerPoint presentation that promises to illustrate Donald's gift for blending wit with wisdom; gravity with brevity.

Julia will front the 'Show and Tell' session, and the carols will be chosen by YOU (and will include a new version of the 12 days of Christmas and of course O Come all ye Faithful)

There is still time for you to get involved – please speak to Jenny or Alison - but most importantly, please come and fill the church with Joy and Celebration on this most special of Special days. Bring all your friends and relations – there will something for all ages and tastes - and although there will be no coffee after the service, there will be chocolate on your way out.

Services:

4th Dec – Reverend Choi – Holy Communion

11th Dec – Reverend Murray

5pm Nativity!

18th Dec – Reverend Choi

9 Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm

24th Dec – Christingle

11.30pm Revd Choi and Holy Communion

25th Dec – see above

1st Jan – Reverend Brown

8th Jan – Mr Masillamani

15th Jan – Reverend Choi – Holy Communion and Covenant

22nd Jan – Reverend Brown – family

29th Jan – Mr Lee –

Circuit service in the evening

Copy deadline for the February newsletter is Friday 9am 27th January by email to: carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.