

# The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church February 2015



## Message from Reverend Choi

*.... so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. – Ephesians 4. 12-13.*

Two and half years ago when I moved in to the circuit, I was kindly asked to have a professional health check, which I didn't expect and had never done before. It was a District scheme that all the active ministers should have a Health Check in every two years. It is actually a very generous and gracious scheme, practiced only in London District. At that time, I thought I didn't need it as I was feeling reasonably fit and keeping the regular exercises (running and swimming) every day. But, I did take this opportunity and had a health check: blood test, urine test, blood pressure, weight, etc. And, the result came with very normal in most of the areas, apart from the blood pressure, at which I was so surprised. I never thought I would have a high blood pressure. But, it was totally my ignorance as it has no particular symptoms, and that's why it is called 'a silent killer'. I was so fortunate that it was diagnosed at that early stage. How important it is to have a regular health check!

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Then, what about the Church, as it is the body of Christ? How healthy are we? We need to check the health of the church every now and then, as it is 'the spiritual body', not just a human organisation, and find out how we are church and how we could be church better.

In this spring, we are planning to check our church health, and identify our strengths and weaknesses and whether all our parts are functioning well. To do so, however, we need all your participation as you are all part of the body. And your honest, sincere opinion is crucial to get the right result.

If the church is healthy, I believe it grows naturally. I hope and pray that this opportunity may bring us 'HEALTH' so that we may fulfil God's mission in our community according to His will.

Every blessing,  
Choi.

P.S: we are going to form a small group to organise this practice. If you are interested in it, please contact Choi.

**Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition! A rather sobering article by John Kelsey.**

December 2014 saw the release of a report arising from the US Senate Intelligence Committee's five-year review of the use by the Central Intelligence Agency of "enhanced interrogation techniques" – what the rest of us refer to as torture. They concluded that the use of such techniques had not produced any time-critical information about terrorism that saved lives, that the CIA had provided inaccurate information to policymakers and the public, that there were deep flaws in the management of the program as well as the training of those involved and that the techniques used inflicted far more physical and psychological harm on their victims than has been admitted.

So is the CIA composed of sadistic monsters? In an experiment at Yale in 1961, subjects thought they were inflicting suffering on others the (faked) effects of which they could see and hear. A surprising number of subjects continued to inflict suffering in response to the commands of the authority figure even when they themselves wished to stop. Another experiment at Stanford in 1971 created a mini-prison. Subjects were randomly divided into 'guards' and 'prisoners'. A number of the 'guards' started to abuse the 'prisoners' (without physically harming them) and some of the 'prisoners' started to become psychologically distressed. The experiment was abandoned halfway through such were the disturbing effects. (Fortunately current rules on research ethics would not now allow such experiments in the UK.) Observing the trial of the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann (which inspired the Yale experiment) Hannah Arendt referred to "the banality of evil" Hannah

Arendt referred to "the banality of evil" in that Eichmann was not a psychopath but a rather normal person. The psychologists who examined him reached similar conclusions. The experiments also suggest that 'normal' people are capable of torture and abuse.

In 1611 Alonso de Salazar Frías was sent by the Spanish Inquisition to Navarre to review around 2,000 cases where witchcraft was alleged. In nearly all cases admissions made under torture were retracted. (One of their techniques was an early form of simulated drowning similar to modern 'waterboarding'. However our ideas of the overall incidence of Inquisitorial torture are probably exaggerated.) Despite opposition from his fellow judges Salazar concluded that the confessions were false and that torture was ineffective in finding out the truth. He published new rules for inquisitorial conduct in 1614 – in particular revising the rules on the validity of uncorroborated evidence obtained by torture in witchcraft trials. (The Inquisition did continue to be pretty harsh in punishing alleged 'heretics' but this declined after the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.)

Four hundred years later we do not seem to have made much progress. The experiments at Yale and Stanford highlighted the potential psychological damage to the abusers as well as the abused. (Mercifully some who inflict suffering on others can and do repent – ask St Paul.) We might also consider the moral damage to the society in which torture is permitted not least as there is evidence of complicity by the UK government and our intelligence agencies. As Christians we need to ask what should be the morally-based institutions for governing our society. We do not expect the Spanish Inquisition.

On a more uplifting note, Hazel Crossley has gone to South Sudan and is working with orphaned children. She's living in a small village with poor water supplies in a remote area. Hazel returns in early February and I'm hoping she'll write something for the newsletter on her experiences. In the meantime Hazel asks us to keep her in our prayers.

Caroline Auty

### Meeting Point

If you remember, we had a few gaps to fill in the schedule but the rest of the year is taking shape nicely now. Contact Liz Edwards for more info, or just turn up on the night. All Meeting Point events start with tea in the welcome area! 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

10<sup>th</sup> February – school bus for Kenya discipleship with Rev. David Bedford. URC Canterbury.

10<sup>th</sup> March – anti-slavery with Elly Keevil, Member of NM Baptist Church.

14<sup>th</sup> April – Surrey Save credit union with Ted Smith, Community Liaison Officer.

9<sup>th</sup> June – Surrey Wildlife Trust with Graham Manning, Area Countryside Manager.

Events on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> July remain tbc but you can still put the dates in your diary.

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### A call for singers and players

Some members of the music group at Kingston are trying to get a band together, with the idea of becoming good enough to do a few gigs (singing Christian songs) and hopefully raise a bit of money for Kingston's building (either fabric or development) fund. It's short of guitarists, a keyboard or piano player, specifically, and is wondering if there may be people in the other Circuit Churches who might be interested in coming along and have a play in to see if interest is there on both sides. It doesn't need to be the instruments named specifically. Contact Steve Dawson if you are interested  
[stevedawson1957@gmail.com](mailto:stevedawson1957@gmail.com) or on 07773718716.

### Christian Aid Week 2015: 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May

The month of MAY seems a long way off. . .but already I have received all the literature for this year's Christian Aid Week. This has prompted me to think about the little problem of collectors!

Over the years the collectors from the church have done sterling work but now, for many reasons, we are only able to cover 6 of the 11 roads allocated to the Methodist Church. I do understand the reticence in volunteering as door-to-door collectors so I have been wondering if we could make up the income from the lost roads by other forms of fundraising. To start with, I have decided to organize an additional Coffee Morning and this has been booked for Saturday 4th April. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange another event soon.

If anyone could make cakes for both or either of the coffee mornings (4th April and 9th May) I should be really grateful.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Jennifer Townsend

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**Some new reading matter for Methodists - the connexion** is a new print magazine for the Methodist people.

The first issue brings you news of people and projects in these islands as well as North Korea and Sri Lanka, showing how vibrant Methodism can be. It has a primary theme of evangelism (the 'e-word') and ways that Methodists can refocus on an area that many find problematic.

A range of Methodist office holders will soon be receiving three copies in the post (if they come through the letterbox already), with a request to pass two of these on. If you don't get a copy, look out for someone who did!

The magazine has been produced in response to calls from many Methodists for improved communications and more news about what is happening across the Connexion.

Two more issues will be published in 2015 -issue two in April and issue three in September. You can download a pdf of the magazine from News and Events at [Methodist.org.uk](http://Methodist.org.uk).

**Around the Circuit ... Feb 2015 - news from your Circuit Coordinator**

By February our cheerful “Happy New Year” greetings are all but over and hopefully we will continue to greet each other in a cheerful but that shouldn’t put a stop to our cheerful exchanges with one another. This year brings about a big change for me as I will be retiring from my job as Circuit Coordinator in March. (I will bid my farewell to you all in the next newsletter however if you know of any Methodist member who may be interested in applying for the position, please put them in touch with our Superintendent, Bonni-Belle.)

**Circuit News & Event**

**Stationing Update** We are delighted that Rev Dr Stan Brown has accepted the circuit’s invitation to be minister at Surbiton Hill and superintendent of the Kingston upon Thames Circuit from Sept 2015. Stan’s invitation from the circuit is for the usual five-year term, but we anticipate that changes in the circuit staffing from Sept 2016 might mean that Stan’s particular responsibilities within the circuit change after the first year as well.

Stan is already known to us as he and wife Mary and their (now grown) children have lived in the circuit for several years, first when Stan was Chaplain of Kingston University and more recently in his Connexional responsibility of overseeing chaplaincy work across British Methodism. Stan combines a keen intellect with an excellent set of “people skills” and a burning desire to offer our faith to contemporary society. He will certainly be stretching our

congregations to find further ways not just to “bring people in” but to go outside our doors to where people are.

Bonni-Belle and Alfred will be moving to Maidstone in early August where she will be a co-superintendent of the North Kent Circuit, a “super-circuit” that covers a large geographical area overseen by three co-superintendents. She will have pastoral charge for three churches in the Maidstone area: Union Street, Tonbridge Road, and Bearstead.

Kan Yu and her family will also be moving to the North Kent Circuit in her first probationer’s appointment! She will have pastoral charge of a Chinese-speaking congregation as well as an English-speaking congregation in Rochester.

Steve Talbot has regretfully had to withdraw from stationing due to continuing ill health.

Our prayers are with each of these ministers, our own congregations, and all those congregations and circuits affected by these new appointments.

**Methodist Identity** You will by now have experienced some of the Methodist Identity Sunday services. The four topics covered are as follows:

Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard – Organisation and Structure  
Rev Elizabeth Osei – Worship  
Rev Sooncheol Choi – Theology  
Mrs Kan Yu – Social Outreach & Pastoral Care.

This may well have whetted your appetite and if so, you may be interested to know that our Methodist connexion is developing a course to help us all better understand and explore what it means to “be a Methodist” in 21st century Britain. The course has been developed by a group here in London and our circuit will be doing a pilot of the course before it is released to the whole connexion next year. If you’d like to be part of that pilot or even just to learn more about British Methodism, you are most welcome to attend the sessions which will be on Thursday evenings, for six weeks during Lent, beginning on 19 Feb at 8 pm at the Surbiton Hill Church. Let Bonni-Belle know if you would like to attend.

The topics are:

<p>19 Feb – Methodist Worship and Belonging  26 Feb – What Methodists Believe  5 Mar – The History of Methodism in Britain and Beyond  12 Mar – The Organisation of Methodism  19 Mar – Methodist Social Outreach and Pastoral Care  12 Mar – The Organisation of Methodism  26 Mar – Methodism and Me</p> <p>Children Workers Training at Surbiton Hill 8pm on Monday 9 March. Following a visit to our Circuit Meeting in January, Brian Smith the District Youth &amp; Children's Ministry Training Officer is returning to speak to all those involved in children's work around the circuit. Please try to keep the date free.</p> <p>Safeguarding Training Foundation Module – Saturday 21 Feb 10.00am-12.30pm - Wesley's Chapel. London EC1Y 1AU. If you help with children or vulnerable adults in church groups and have not previously attended a required training session, then this is for you, Places are free, but should be booked in advance. Contact the circuit office or speak to your church's safeguarding officer.</p> <p><b>Church Events</b>  Surbiton Hill Wesleyan Wanderers meet for monthly walks and would welcome anyone from the circuit who is interested to join them. The next walk 27 Jan (you may just see this in time) is in Dorking with lunch at the Watermill Inn. Telephone Ken 020 8399 5665 if you would like to go. The next walk (in London) is 24 February.</p>	<p>And finally .... If your church has an event it wishes to share with the circuit, please forward details for inclusion in this section of each church's newsletter/magazine.  Daphne Baker email:  circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk Tel 07510 54893/020 8390 4598  Circuit Office, Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, 39 Ewell Rd., Surbiton KT6 6AF</p> <hr/> <p><b>Summary of December &amp; January November Notices</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH FAMILY NEWS</b>  Our love and prayers go to the Marsden family following the death of <b>Frank Rees</b> on Christmas Day. His funeral will be on 10<sup>th</sup> February. A cremation at Randall's Park at 1.00 will be followed by a memorial here at approximately 3.00. Times to be confirmed.</p> <p><b>Adrian Fox</b> was out of hospital for Christmas. We wish him well for his recovery.</p> <p>We are sad to hear of the death of <b>Roy Bryan</b>, Doug's brother, on Saturday 3rd January. Roy, Anne and their son Michael were returning on Eurostar after a holiday in Germany, when Roy was taken ill at St Pancras Station. He was transferred to UCH Hospital in London but sadly died later that day. Anne and Michael received excellent care from the Transport Police and were driven home by the Police later that evening. It is thought that Roy died from a heart attack.  The funeral will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. There will be a cremation at 2.40 pm at Barham Crematorium, Canterbury Rd, Barham, Canterbury CT4 6QU, followed by a service at 3.30pm at Lyminge Methodist Church, Church Rd, Lyminge, Folkestone CT18 8JA.  Anyone wishing to attend would be most welcome. Anne is bearing up well and is very grateful for all the cards and messages she has received.</p> <p><i>I should add that I had a lovely letter from Roy Bryan in November, reminiscing about his time at Tiffin and picking up on someone John Kelsey had mentioned in his article "the fortunes of war" – the cricketer Hedley Verity. I was touched Roy had taken the time to write and to share his memories. (Caroline)</i></p>
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**Phil Hammond** is in Kennet Ward at Kingston Hospital with a nasty skin complaint. Greta has visited her and Phil would love for us to pray for her.

**Margaret Eccleshall** has moved into Room S8, Heathland Court Care Centre, 56 Parkside, Wimbledon SW19 5NJ (tel 0208 971 2835) and would love to have visitors.

**Hazel Crossley** will be returning early (1<sup>st</sup> Feb) from the Sudan as the situation where she is working has become more volatile. She is grateful for our prayers.

#### **FACTOTUM**

Anyone over 18 is welcome to come and join this group who meet twice a month in the second and fourth week of the month. They don't have a set day as everyone's schedules vary but if you would like to be included please contact Jennifer Morton on [factotum.nmmc@gmail.com](mailto:factotum.nmmc@gmail.com)

#### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who supported the JMA coffee morning last Saturday and to all who provided cakes or made donations. Thank you also Glynis and Doreen who kindly served. £104 was raised for Junior Mission for All - World Church.

*Alan Downey*

#### **SHOE BOXES**

We took our final consignment of 47 shoe boxes, all the ones we had left, to our Rotary contact on 20th November. We were also able to make a donation of £40 towards the cost of transporting the boxes. Thank you to everyone who either filled a box, donated items for the boxes or gave money towards those items or postage over the years. The boxes are greatly appreciated by the recipients in Eastern Europe. Obviously, we can't stop here as there

are always people in need. If you have any ideas of causes we might support in the future, do please let me know. Many thanks *Carol Dadds*. Thank you too to Carol and John for their hard work on this project over the years. *Sarah Moore*

#### **YOUTH CLUB**

Youth Club (for ages 12-18) will now be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month 6.30-8.00pm.

#### **MECHANICS REQUIRED**

We have been contacted about the setting up of 'Community Motors', a social enterprise in Tolworth which will operate as a normal vehicle garage (MOTs, servicing, etc.) but alongside that provide training in motor mechanics to young people and other disadvantaged groups.

They are looking for a number of experienced motor technicians who might be interested in learning new skills, evolving their role, giving something back to the community and operating in a more rounded and wholesome environment than a typical garage. It won't be for everyone, but for technicians who are looking for a decent wage and a bit more from life than just simply doing a job, it should be a very exciting opportunity.

Full details of the role on [www.communitymotors.org/recruit.html](http://www.communitymotors.org/recruit.html) and people can reply to [recruit@communitymotors.org](mailto:recruit@communitymotors.org) with their cv, or for more information or just to chat about it.

#### **CHRISTMAS THANK YOUS**

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas fair last week whether it was manning a stall, setting up, decorating, clearing away or supporting in any way. A magnificent £1464.87 was raised to be split between the Fircroft Trust and ICA. Thank you to Julia for pulling it all together again.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!** To all our wonderful children, plus a few willing extras, who put on such an entertaining Nativity Service one Sunday evening. Thank you all for your time, your talent, and your joy.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL.** A big thank you to anyone who helped with the dismantling of the trees last Sunday. Many hands definitely lightened the

load! Final totals are not known but in excess of £900 was made by the trees for their charities.

Donations to Crisis for putting a card on the Christmas card tree amounted to £84.22.

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### **Diary Dates**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.00pm  
Junior Badminton

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30am  
Friday Fellowship

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Coffee Bar – Women’s World Day of Prayer – Carol Dadds

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  
Wives – More History of New Malden – Amy Graham

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  
Meeting Point – Bus for Kenya Appeal – David Bedford

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 8.30pm  
Service Committee – Julia Morton’s house

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 9.00am  
Coffee Bar – Star & Garter Home – Rita Le Vine

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 10am – 3pm  
Brownie Badge Day

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 10.00am  
Coffee Bar – ABF The Soldiers’ Charity – Birgit Cowan

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm  
Youth Club

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm  
Wives – Handiwork by members

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  
Junior Badminton

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Coffee Bar – Cancer Research- Glynis & Courtney Fox

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### **Children’s Corner**

Hi

Do you have a best friend? Some of you will have more than one. I’ve known mine now for over fifteen years. We have laughed and cried together. We have shared good and bad times, worried over things that made the other anxious and delighted in the joyful moments in both our lives. I value her friendship very much and feel almost neglected if we have not met for a while.

To be a really good friend we need to give and receive the warmth and love that is there within the special relationship. It is no use being the friend who always helps others, you need to accept their help too. It works both ways.

It’s the same with our friendship with God. We read in the bible about all kinds of generous friends. Jesus had his disciples. The lame man had those who took him to see Jesus to be healed, the Samaritan turned out to be a life saving friend to the man on his way to Jericho.

God wants us to have and be friends with one another and with him, in both the good times and the not so good. We often ask God to help us when we are unsure or worried. We need to share the great times too. So, share your joy of life and his love with others and you’ll always have friends. The most special one of all being Jesus.

God Bless  
*Julia*

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### **Just space to list the services for February:**

1<sup>st</sup> – Rev Pickard and Mrs Kan Yu – Holy Communion  
8<sup>th</sup> – Rev Osei – worship  
15<sup>th</sup> – Rev Choi – family  
18<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday – Rev Choi  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Rev Lloyd – worship

Next copy date 9am Friday 20 February 2015 by email to: carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.

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