

The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church February 2016



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Message from Reverend Choi

Dear friends,

By the time you receive this magazine, some of you may realise that this month we are entering into the season of Lent, and feel you are not ready yet as it comes a bit earlier than usual. But, often time comes regardless of our readiness.

As we know, Lent is a time to prepare for Easter, traditionally with prayer and fasting. It is a time to check up our relationship with God through prayer, a time to discipline ourselves through fasting, and a time to think of our neighbours through almsgiving. And, it is a time of challenging in our journey. So, I'd like to introduce a prayer for the beginning of Lent, written by Kate McIlhagga.

***Lent is not for the faint-hearted.
It demands that we, like Thomas,
put our hand into the side of the crucified
Christ.***

***Lent is a journey towards the cross,
a journey of enlightenment:
from wilderness to feast, from desert to
oasis.
It's an attempt to identify with the
powerless
and the suffering of the world.***

Lent is not tidy.

***The days grow longer,
the ground thaws, there's mud and dirt
everywhere
and the windows need cleaning.***

Lent is a journey.

***So at the end of Lent
we should expect to find ourselves
somewhere different from where we
started.***

***Lent can be an opportunity
to explore what is the nature
of the promised kingdom of God on earth
that we long for;
a time to discern
how we are called to work for it.***

No, Lent is not for the faint-hearted!

I pray, therefore, during a 40 days journey of Lent this year, we all may experience and endure new challenges, and be able to rejoice at the end when we celebrate Easter with joy and thankful hearts.

With every
blessing,

Choi.



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Around the Circuit – February 2016

Circuit News & Events

Quarterly Plan

There are some amendments to the current Quarterly Plan. Please note your copies to amend the Main Reading for the following dates to show: 7 February: Luke 9 (28-36); 14 February: Luke 18 (9-14); 21 February (Luke 14 (27-33); 28 February (John 1 (35-51).

Training for Children and Youth Workers

Brian Smith, the District Youth and Children's Coordinator, will be conducting some Training Sessions next year 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", and will take place from 10am to 4pm at Chessington Methodist Church on Saturdays 20 February, 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

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:

10 February "Alan's Miscellany": A Slideshow

9 March "Getting to Know You": Katie McAuslan

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.

Monthly Prayer Fellowship takes place on the first Saturday of each month at Surbiton

Hill, from 10 am to 11am, led by Daniel Masillamani. The next sessions will take place on 6 February and 5 March.

Other News

Ealing Animal Welfare: The 38th Ealing Animal Welfare Bazaar takes place at Hanwell Methodist Church, Church Road, Hanwell, W7 1DJ on Saturday March 5th from 10.30am-4pm. Over 30 charities and societies will be participating in this animal welfare event, and you are welcome to attend.

Walworth Methodist Church is organising a Holy Pilgrimage to Israel from 21 February 2016 to 1 March 2016. Pilgrims will be able to explore the Mount of Transfiguration, Cana in Galilee, Nazareth, Holy Communion in the Garden of Gethsemane and many more Biblical sites. The cost of the tour is £1350 per person. For more information see the website: www.walworthmethodistchurch.org.uk or phone Caroline Osunga on 07960 062686.

Rev John Bell will be at Ruxley Church and Stoneleigh Methodist Church on 13-14 February for a weekend devoted to Celebrating the Church's Song, with singing workshops and worship led by John:

- On Saturday 13 February there will be a day of Singing workshops at Ruxley Church from 10am-4pm. This will include two workshops devoted to the Songs of Lent and Easter, a lunch break, a third workshop on Singing the Psalms, and a final 'Iona' type worship service. The cost for the day is only £15. Places are limited and Pre-registration is required. See the poster in your Church for details of Ruxley Church, re who to call and how to register.
- On Sunday 14 February John will be preaching at Ruxley Church at their 10am Holy Communion service. In the afternoon all are welcome at Stoneleigh Methodist Church from 2-4 pm for a Big Sing. The church contact is Denise Gould (see the poster in your Church for details.) The two-hour Big Sing will focus

on 'God's Gift of Diversity,' a broad look at all the different types of song and how best they can be sung. Registration isn't necessary, but it would be very useful to know how many song sheets to print, so let please let us know in advance.

MHA Later Life Matters: Flourishing in an Ageing Society

A Day Conference will be held at Methodist Central Hall on Monday 29 February 2016, followed by an Evening Service of Celebration. It will be to explore how prepared we are both as a society and as individuals for ongoing lengthening lifespans. Those who are involved in Older People's issues in a Church, Care or Community setting are invited to join, with a welcome to Chaplains, Clergy, Church Pastoral Leaders, and older people themselves.

For more details please phone or email Kate Horton: 01332 221913; kate.horton@mha.org.uk; visit the website: www.mha.org.uk or contact Corinne Foster at KMC

The Epsom Book Fair and Action for Children

In February 2015 the Epsom Book Fair raised the sum of £30,253; after expenses Action for Children received £6000 as did the Scouts, for a working trip to Tanzania. Smaller donations were made to Hope4Malawi, Cheam Methodist, Epsom Foodbank, Phab and Dyscover in proportion to the number of hours help their staff/supporters provided for the sorting of the books prior to the sale. The local Epsom Guides, EMC's Family Worker fund and the EMC general fund (for the use of the premises) also received donations. In 2016 the revenue will be donated to a similar list of charities plus the Rainbow Trust and Rylands MHA Amenity Fund.

Can you help by collecting books, DVDs, CDs and records? For Chessington, Kingston and New Malden by delivering them to Epsom Methodist Church from Wednesday 10th to

Sunday 17th February between 9am and 8pm; and for Surbiton Hill by bringing them to church on Sunday mornings throughout January up to the 7th February.

And can you help:

- by assisting with sorting at Epsom from the 10th February to the morning of the 17th (not Sunday). You don't have to be there all the time, just turn up when you have a few hours to spare between 9am and 8pm as and when as you can and someone will show you what to do;

- by visiting the Fair between 10am and 8pm on Thursday and Friday 18th and 19th and 10am to 4pm on Saturday 20th February and buying lots of books. Entry is 50p and most paperbacks are priced at 70p with hardbacks starting at £1.20; or

- by baking cakes for and serving refreshments during the Fair

For more information please see the Posters or leaflets in your Church or ring Pat Lavers on 8399 1304

Next Edition

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 Friday 12 February to:
circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2016

The **Women's World Day of Prayer Services** will be held on **Friday 4th March** this year. They will be held at:

1.45 pm at St James Church and

8 pm here at New Malden Methodist Church.

Please do your best to support either or both of these services, which have been prepared this year by the women of Cuba.

If you would be interested in taking part in the evening service here, please have a word with one of us.

We shall also be holding a **Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th February**, here in the Welcome Area, to raise funds for the work of the Women's World Day of Prayer movement, which seeks to enable women around the world. Please support us by making cakes, or joining us for a tea or coffee and a cake. We look forward to seeing you there.

Carol and Doreen

Summary of Church Notices CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Gordon Teanby is standing down as Church Treasurer at the end of November and Tony Chalk is taking over (again) the Treasurer's job. Therefore any future payments in either direction should be handed to Tony or left in the Treasurer's pigeon hole. At the last Church Council meeting we recorded our grateful thanks to Gordon for all his detailed hard work looking after the church money over the last 3 or so years.

Gordon left Colborne Way on 11 December and is currently staying with this daughter and son-in-law in Haywards Heath. His mail is being redirected to their address throughout December.

Hopefully by the end of December he will move into his new retirement flat:

Flat 9, The Meadows, Ditchling Common,
Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 0SY
Telephone 01444 214171 (email unchanged
g.teanby@sky.com)

Contrary to expectations, **Doreen Coombs** was NOT discharged from Kingston Hospital last week and is still in Canbury Ward feeling rather weak and poorly. Please remember her in your prayers.

We are sad to report the sudden death of Hilda Keen on 21st January shortly after her 93rd birthday. Hilda moved to a retirement

home in Godalming some years ago. We send love and prayers to her family who hope to have a memorial service in New Malden where Hilda lived for many years.

THANK YOU



Thank you everyone who supported the **JMA coffee morning** on Saturday 9th January and to all who kindly provided cakes or made donations. £122 was raised for Junior Mission for All/World Church. *Alan Downey*

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The magnificent sum of £2005.01 was raised on this wonderful festive occasion. Very many thanks to all who helped or supported in any way and to Alison Bullett and Julie Haines for their organisation. The proceeds will be split between Action for Children and Alzheimer's Research UK.

NATIVITY SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who came along to this joyful celebration of the nativity story and especially to everyone who took part. If you missed it, you missed a treat – as you can see from the photo. Speaking of which, now we have an all singing and dancing colour copier, photos and pictures most welcome in the newsletter!



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the dismantling of the trees and clearing up of the church on 4th January. It made the process much quicker and more enjoyable to have so many people involved.

We had our most successful festival to date with more people coming through the doors, more school groups and more money raised. Final total still to come but in excess of £1200. Apart from the money raised, it was wonderful to see the church looking so beautiful and to have so many people come in and appreciate it. Thank you to all concerned.



SANDYLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

You may remember that the proceeds of the Community Carol singing on 19th December and one of the trees in the Christmas Tree Festival were going to Sandylands Methodist Church in Kendal to help with their flood relief. We sent £140 and have received a letter and update of how they are doing, both of which are on the noticeboard in the Welcome Area. Also in the Welcome Area are copies of the latest edition of The Connexion magazine which also has an article about Sandylands.

SIGN UP, SIGN UP!

It's panto time again (oh yes it is)
The performance will be on Saturday 18th June 2pm and 7pm
Actors required. Please sign the sheet in the welcome area asap so I will know how many and who is available and then I can choose the most appropriate pantomime.
Rehearsals will begin after Easter and be on a Thursday evening.

Editor's note – it looks like we have some singing talent in the church so I hope all these partaking in the community carols have signed up:



ACTION FOR CHILDREN



Please could anyone who has an Action for Children collection box please bring it in next week to be counted. If anyone would like to become a collector for Action for Children please contact me and I will be happy to get a box for you. I am the new Action for Children representative for the church so I will be happy to answer any questions or help with any collections you want some help with. Many Thanks, *Lucy Turner*

3Fs: Faith, Food and Fellowship CHANGE OF MARCH DATE

Our next meeting will be at Guy and Birgit Cowan's house on Friday 5 February. Please do join us: all welcome. If you hope to come, please RSVP to Birgit with an idea of what type of food you will bring by Wednesday 2 February. The meeting after that will be on Friday 4 March (please note change from last week's notice). If you would like to know more about 3Fs, please ask Andrew Turner (Senior Steward), David and Sue Knowles or Birgit.

The Passion in Words and Music
New Malden Methodist Church
Good Friday 25th March at 8 o'clock

This year the ecumenical music for Good Friday in New Malden will be choruses and solos selected from some of the many works we have performed over the past 15 years or so which will complement the Passion story told by readings from scripture.

You would be very welcome to join us on this occasion and the rehearsals are listed below. Few will be able to make all of them, but the ones marked * are pretty essential. There is a subscription of £7 to cover the cost of the vocal and orchestral parts so allowing as many of the proceeds of the retiring collection to go to the charity we support - chosen by the choir.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Saturday 5 th March | 10.15 – 11.45 |
| (scores from 10 am) | |
| Wednesday 9 th March | 19.45 – 21.30 |
| Saturday 12 th March | 10.15 – 11.45 |
| Thursday 17 th March | 19.45 – 21.30 |
| Saturday 19 th March * | 10.15 – 12.00 |
| Wednesday 23 rd March * | 20.30 – 22.00 |

Please register by E-mailing Peter Bullett p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk or if not on-line, by telephoning him (020 8942 0666).

Church Council Report

The church council met on the 20th January. In addition to the usual reports, Choi presented figures about membership and Sunday attendance over the last 10 years. These will be circulated to everyone and we are planning a day to discuss how we can reverse the decline in these figures. On a happier note the planning for the 150th anniversary is going well. The focus of the celebrations will coincide with Malden Fortnight and the home charity for next year will raise money to renovate the organ which is in dire need of attention. Notes will be available in the welcome area soon. Next meeting 29th June 2016

Diary Dates for February

| | |
|--|---------|
| Tuesday 2 nd | 7.00pm |
| Junior Badminton | |
| Friday 5 th | 10.30am |
| Friday Fellowship | |
| Saturday 6 th | 10.00am |
| Coffee Bar – Women's World Day of Prayer – Carol Dadds | |
| Monday 8 th | 7.00pm |
| Wives & Friends – Useful or Useless | |
| Tuesday 9 th | 7.30pm |
| Meeting Point – Pancakes and Praise – Our Shrove Tuesday meeting | |
| Wednesday 10 th | 12.15pm |
| Ash Wednesday Communion Service | |
| Wednesday 10 th | 2.00pm |
| Memory Café in the Welcome Area | |
| Saturday 13 th | 10.00am |
| Coffee Bar – Alzheimer's Society – Glynis & Courtney Fox | |
| Sunday 14 th | 3.00pm |
| Music in Malden – Robert Bridge, piano sonatas by Schubert and Tippett | |
| Monday 15 th | 7.00pm |
| Kingston District Chamber Music Society; 8.00pm Lent Course | |
| Friday 19 th | 9.00am |
| Newsletter contributions deadline | |
| Saturday 20 th | 10.00am |
| Coffee Bar – Amnesty International | |
| Monday 22 nd | 7.00pm |
| Wives & Friends – 'Mary Portas' – Irene Chalk | |
| Tuesday 23 rd | 7.00pm |
| Junior Badminton | |
| Wednesday 24 th | 11.00pm |
| Police Drop-in – Welcome Area | |
| Saturday 27 th | 10.00am |
| Coffee Bar – Inner Wheel; 2.00pm Dads & Doughnuts | |
| Sunday 28 th | |
| Annual Report Deadline | |

Message from our Youth Worker

Hi

I was wondering what to write about this month and thinking about packing for my short holiday when I had the inspiration I needed. (some people like me would attribute this to divine inspiration).

There is a story in the Old Testament about Abraham. He was told by God to leave his home and travel to a land that God was going to show him. He and his family packed up their belongings and travelled miles and miles through lands that had famine, through lands that had conflict and he had his family to deal with too, with Lot choosing Jordon to settle in while Abraham went to Canaan.

Abraham was a very rich man. So he took with him his livestock, silver and gold, flocks, herds and tents. So the packing up for this journey into the unknown must have been quite an undertaking.

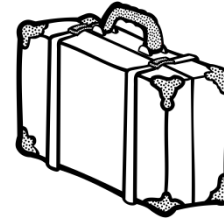
There are similarities here with the refugees we keep hearing about they have had to pack up their belongings and travel to a land they will be shown (or hope to get to) going through areas of conflict, traversing seas and mountains, travelling by foot most of the way.

If you were in a similar situation what would you choose to pack I wonder? A favourite cuddly toy would probably feature, clothing, toothbrush, perhaps a book you would be happy to read more than once. Would you include a picture of your old home or of happier times or a best outfit in case there was the opportunity to rejoice at some stage? It makes you think.

So, packing for my holiday is no longer the worry it may have been. Let us be grateful for the small worries in our lives because there are many with so much more.

Thank God for those we love and who love us and rejoice together for our good fortune.

Love through Jesus
Julia



Services in February

7th February Reverend Choi – HC
10th February, 12:15 pm - Ash Wednesday
Service with Holy Communion
14th February - Mrs Davis
21st February – Family/songs of praise
28th February – Rev Brown
plus Rev Choi and HC at 6.30pm

Next copy date 9am **19 February**, by email to:
carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon
hole.