

The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church December/January



Message from Reverend Choi

Dear friends,

By the time you receive this magazine, you may realise that you are now in the season of Christmas, entering into Advent. And, for one reason or another, we find ourselves getting busier and busier, and getting more excited as if we are looking forward to seeing someone great coming. Yes, it is true that Christmas is the greatest event we ever had in human history, as God himself came to the world in a human form. But, it is interesting that this great story is filled with just ordinary people, even less than ordinary, nobodies.

For example, Mary was a teenage girl from a small town. In those days, women were not important people, and teenagers were even lower. Moreover, she was in her premarital pregnancy, which made her a real nobody. But, as we know, Mary was God's choice. She conceived the baby Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. God considered her somebody important.

What about Joseph? He was a nobody, too. He was just a working man, who was struggling with the unexpected and unacceptable choice. But, we see him humbly say yes to God and become a foster-father to the Son of God.

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Shepherds are not important people, just the opposite. They were almost the outcasts, whose testimony was not recognized in the court. And, watching sheep in the night was a hard work, far from the popular job. Yet they were the first guests invited to the celebration; they saw the skies open and heard the song of heaven. In just one winter night, these nobodies witnessed more of God's glory than anyone else in the world.

What is the secret message in this story, then? It is 'God invites the nobodies, the humble, to the greatest event in his kingdom.' It seems to be a completely counter-cultural message, as the society relentlessly pursues the power, fame, and wealth. But, this Christmas story itself is a clear example of humility that Jesus, being in very nature God, made himself nothing, and came into the world as a baby.

Are you a nobody? Then, rejoice! You are not far from his Kingdom. But, if you are a somebody, think of this: whom shall I invite to this Christmas celebration?

Hope you have a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Every blessing,
Choi.

What's in a name?

A quick update on this. I've had a few people talk to me or write to me about a name for Ubuntu as was. Suggestions include Cross Talk from the Taviners (very clever, I thought) and a vote for Connexion from the Vincents. But there seems to be overwhelming support for the Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church. So I shall stick to that until someone tells me differently! Thanks for all your input
Caroline Auty

No long articles this time around so just a few bits and bobs from around the Church:

The Property Committee...

will be meeting early in January and wants to direct its thinking to Church membership needs in respect of its property. We are asking you to let us know what you think needs to be maintained, improved or changed so we can target the identified needs of our Church and move forward together. Please send an E-mail to micktaviner@blueyonder.co.uk, leave a note in the Property Committee pigeon-hole or speak to me.

Mick Taviner

Graham Child Christmas Carols

in aid of the Mary Preston Holiday will take place in the Church on Wednesday 3rd December at 7.45pm. Carol singing to the Salvation Army band, a children's choir and young dancers.

Do come and join us.

Tickets available from

mary.preston@Hotmail.co.uk, Bobby on 07946 532 846 or see Gloria Taviner.

The Music Group for Our Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

We will again be contributing special choral music to our evening celebration at Christmas. We would like to include some items in parts, so everyone who can hold a part is welcome to join us! 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.

Lessons and Carols:

Sunday 21st December	6.30 pm
Rehearsal at	4.30 pm

More rehearsals:

Saturday 13th December	10.15 – 11.45 am
Saturday 20 December	10.15 – 11.45 am

(Followed by Community Carols)

Please just sign up on the list in the Choir Vestry or contact me (020 8942 0666 p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk) if you would like further information.

Peter Bullett

Chessington Carols by Candlelight

At Chessington Church 8pm on Monday 15th December. Note The date on the preaching plan is wrong. Everyone is welcome. Mince pies and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Music for Advent and Christmas

Handel's Messiah (Part 1)

Advent Sunday, 30th November, at 3.00pm

The Harmonie Choir and Orchestra directed by Peter Bullett.

An hour of music followed by **tea and cake**.

Free admission, retiring collection for charity.

Don't forget...

The Dave Marrion Big Band Christmas Concert on Saturday 6th December, 2014 at the Methodist Church, High Street, New Malden.

7.30pm for 8.00 p.m.

Tickets are £9.

Please contact Laurie Bugeya:-

lawrence.bugeya@btinternet.com

Tel: 020 8942 5933

Around the Circuit ... Dec 2014 & Jan 2015 - news from your Circuit Coordinator

This is the first Christmas I will not spend with my son as he and his fiancée are living in Melbourne Australia. One of the things I am really thankful for is Skype. We can chat to each other for as long as we like and we can show each other items of interest whether using the TV, iPad or iPhone - anytime, anywhere. We can keep alive that special relationship and there is no need to worry about mounting phone bills because it is free.

This causes me to reflect how wonderful it is that we can pray to our Lord anytime, anyplace. I wish you a very peaceful and prayer-filled Christmas and hope that you feel the bond of that special relationship which is freely offered to us all.

Circuit Events

Training Several training events, both at Circuit and District level, have been held during the autumn for Church Stewards, Circuit Stewards, Property Stewards and Treasurers, for those newly working with children or vulnerable adults. These events cannot happen without the hard work of the facilitators and the commitment of volunteers who give up their time to attend. Please watch out for future opportunities.

Local Preachers Meeting Tuesday 20th January 8pm at Kingston Jonathan Mead from the Connexion will be attending to tell everyone about the new Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Training Course. Worship Leaders are invited to this meeting.

Circuit Meeting Wednesday 28th January 8pm at New Malden Brian Smith the District Youth & Children's

Ministry Training Officer is coming to tell us what is happening in the District. All church members are invited.

Church Events

New Malden

Sheep Trail - Collect your entry form from New Malden Methodist Church from Friday 28th November.

There will be a knitted sheep in approximately 30 premises up and down the High Street, either inside the shop or in the window. Each sheep will have a tag around its neck with its name on. Find the sheep and write its name in the space provided on the entry form. Return the finished form to the church on Saturday 20th December 10.00am - 5.00pm or at the Christingle Service at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve. All completed entries will receive a small prize.

Christmas Tree Festival 24 real Christmas trees, decorated by Church and local organisations, will be on display in the Church to raise money for each organisation's chosen charity. You can visit this festive forest in both daylight and in the dark when the twinkling lights create a magical display. Entrance is free and Opening times Saturday 13th December 10.00am-2.00pm, All weekdays from 15th December until Christmas Day 10.00am-2.00pm, Saturday 20th December 10.00am – 5.00pm with Community Carols at 12.00 noon and at all services.

Ebola

In the ongoing weeks and months our thoughts, prayers and help will be for those suffering from, or affected by, the Ebola virus. The Methodist charity 'All We Can' is playing its part. With its world mission partners in Liberia and Sierra Leone, its 4-pronged approach is providing: Awareness-raising activities to help communities understand how Ebola is contracted and prevent infection; Psychosocial support for Ebola survivors, their families, community members, and service providers, to help people cope with very challenging situations; Food for quarantined communities and families of victims of Ebola; Hygiene supplies including soap and chlorine for hand washing to help prevent infection.

The charity made an immediate grant of £10,000 and has launched an appeal All We Can's Ebola Emergency Appeal to which you can donate online or by telephoning 020 7224 4814. If you are still unclear on how Ebola spreads? The United Methodist Church has produced a fantastic animation to dispel the myths. (Please note that you may find some parts of this the video upsetting). www.umc.org (search: ebola animation).

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

Summary of November Notices CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Joan Cox is now out of hospital and at home. She has very limited mobility, so the best means of contact is the phone rather than visits. Please remember her in your thoughts and prayers.

Chris Beasant is now in Derwent Ward in Kingston Hospital while arrangements are being made for her to be cared for at home.

Peter and Suva Catford have become Grandparents! Elizabeth's daughter was born on 27th September (Suva's birthday). She is called Stephanie Sveta, the Macedonian version of Stephanie, and she weighed 7lb 10oz. All are doing well.

Peter and Suva were visiting at the time and Suva took her to hospital as Zorran can't drive here yet and Suva was present at the birth. What a lovely birthday present!

Stephen Edwards has abseiled 120ft down the iconic Hallam's Owen Building in Sheffield for the Red Cross. If you would like to sponsor him at Virgingiving.com there is still a chance. Thank you.

Rebecca Bland gave birth to a baby daughter Elizabeth Lily Bland on Sunday 9th November at 2.52 am. She weighed 8lbs 4 oz. Richard wants to thank everyone at the church who offered help and says "God has blessed us with 2 beautiful daughters and we are very thankful to God that Rebecca also has stayed healthy through the births." Best wishes Richard, Rebecca, Ella-Rose and Elizabeth. We send them our love.

Gordon Teanby sends his thanks for the prayers and get well wishes and hopes to be back with you soon.

Margaret Eccleshall is now in Chestnut Ward, Tolworth Hospital recovering from her recent operation. Visiting hours are between 2.30 and 4.30pm daily.

Baptism. Choi baptised **Macie-Ngozi Bryant Igwe** on Sunday 23rd November and welcomed her into the Church family. Macie-Ngozi was born on 25th May 2014 to Clare Bryant and Obi Igwe.

THANK YOU TO:

Elly Keevil, who gave a passionate talk on Sunday 19th October on the work of 'Hope for Justice', sends a big thank you for your generosity. £256.65 was raised, which was very impressive. She will be coming to our Meeting Point on 10th March 2015 to give us further talk. Choi

...to everyone who supported last **Saturday's coffee bar** which was run by the **Youth of the church**. A magnificent £177.67 was raised towards a new wheelchair for the church.

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

<p>let me know. Many thanks Carol Dadds.</p> <p>Thank you too to Carol and John for their hard work on this project over the years. Sarah.</p> <hr/> <p>Diary Dates for December & January A double whammy as there is no newsletter in December</p> <p>December Tuesday 2nd 7.00pm Junior Badminton</p> <p>Saturday 6th 10.00am Coffee Bar – Help the Heroes – Rita LeVine</p> <p>Monday 8th 7.30pm Wives Passage to India – Donald Finnan</p> <p>Friday 12th 10.00am – 2.00pm Christmas Tree Festival –decorating trees</p> <p>6.00 – 7.00pm Christmas Tree Festival – decorating trees</p> <p>Saturday 13th 9.00am Christmas Tree Sale on forecourt 10.00am Coffee Bar – WI 10.00am – 2.00pm Christmas Tree Festival</p> <p>Monday 15th 7.30pm Wives Christmas Carols & Readings</p> <p>Tuesday 16th 7.00pm Junior Badminton</p> <p>Wednesday 17th 10.00am Abacus Nativity</p> <p>Saturday 20th 10.00am Coffee Bar – LEAH – Judith Jewell 10.00am – 2.00pm Christmas Tree Festival 12.00 Community Carols</p>	<p>Sunday 28th 11.30am Dismantling Christmas trees</p> <p>January Saturday 3rd 10.00am Coffee Bar</p> <p>Monday 5th 7.00pm Property Committee Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 7th 8.00pm Counselling Service Working Group Meeting</p> <p>Friday 9th 10.30am Friday Fellowship</p> <p>Saturday 10th 10.00am Coffee Bar</p> <p>Sunday 11th 3.00pm Music in Malden</p> <p>Monday 12th 7.30pm Wives – Cruising – Anne, Judith & Margaret</p> <p>Tuesday 13th 7.00pm Junior Badminton</p> <p>Tuesday 13th 7.30pm Meeting Point – West Bank – Nikki Ray</p> <p>Saturday 17th 10.00am Coffee Bar</p> <p>Wednesday 21st 8.00pm Church Council Meeting</p> <p>Saturday 24th 10.00am Coffee Bar – British Heart Foundation – Ali Walsh</p> <p>Sunday 25th 6.30pm Youth Club</p> <p>Monday 26th 7.30pm Wives – Meal ‘IN’</p> <p>Tuesday 27th 7.00pm Junior Badminton</p> <p>Saturday 31st 10.00am Coffee Bar – National Needlework Archive – Barbara Cavalier</p>
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Wise words from our Youth Worker

Hi

Although Christmas is an exciting festival. It seems to have a bigger build up every year. The shops try to out- do one another with decorations and window displays. Festive songs are played on a loop system and the "Christmas Bears" return to the Bentalls Centre!

It is so easy to get caught up in it all, I mean have you seen how cute the penguin in the John Lewis advert is? They are sold out despite the price tag.

There is an enormous pressure for everything to be just right, the perfect decorations for your home, the perfect Christmas lunch, the perfect present for him and her for you and me.

However the perfect gift has been given to us all in Jesus, we are being reminded at this time of year about how he was "delivered". The best gift we can give one another this Christmas is a hug. It will work wonders, trust me and the cost? Priceless.

God bless
Julia



As in previous years Surbiton Hill are inviting members to send a greeting card or letter to a **Prisoner of Conscience** over the Christmas period. If you wish to partake in this, please contact Ann Hackman at SHMC who has all the information needed.

Two Pocket Books for Advent

Stephen Cottrell is the Anglican Bishop of Chelmsford and the author of a number of accessible books on the Christian life. Over the last few years he has produced two books for Advent reminding us that this is a season of preparation rather than celebration. I haven't read either of these books, but I do have others which Stephen Cottrell has written in a similar style and am confident to suggest them to anyone who is looking for a little reminder of what Advent is really all about.

Do Nothing... Christmas is Coming: An Advent Calendar with a Difference. (Church House Publishing 2009). Offers a short reflection for each of the 25 days of December leading up to Christmas, with practical help on slowing down and being more aware of God in all the business of preparation. Paperback £4.99, Kindle £4.47 (Amazon.co.uk)

Walking Backwards to Christmas: An Advent Journey from Light to Darkness (SPCK, 2013) takes a rather different approach. Eleven stories are told through the eyes of Biblical characters working backwards in time from the prophet Anna who recognises the infant Jesus when he is brought to the Temple, all the way to the prophet Moses. Paperback £5.59, Kindle £ 4.79 (Amazon.co.uk)

Both books are at affordable prices and genuinely pocket/handbag sized – handy to carry round with you and read in short sections whenever you have the chance.

Stan Brown

Note that the bookstall will have copies very shortly! Also note than I am always very happy to receive book reviews for the newsletter so if you read something that you think others at church would appreciate, please let me know. (Caroline).

Night Shelter...

is being run by the Joel Trust Shelter at St Peter's Norbiton throughout the winter, taking referrals from KCAH and others. They still need volunteers for either a one-off or a regular shift. If you think you can help please contact : Danwheeler@joelcommunitytrust.org.uk or Geraldineham@joelcommunitytrust.org.uk

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home on your doorstep needs your help – a plea from Janet Brewer, regional coordinator at what is a very busy time for Battersea.

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home wants to let people know they have a site at Old Windsor – the beautiful rural setting provides a calm and relaxed Home from home for the dogs and cats they support. Now celebrating its 35th year, the centre cares for and rehomes 130 dogs and 45 cats at any one time.

Battersea aims never to turn away a dog or cat in need of help. It is one of the few animal rescue centres that takes in and cares for any dog or cat, regardless of breed or age, and has no time limit on how long animals can stay. The Home provides food, shelter, medical care and a loving environment for lost and abandoned animals until they are safely reunited with their owners, or happily rehomed.

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home receives no funding from the government, and relies on public donations and the support of the community to continue its vital work. If you feel you can support Battersea and Janet, by either fundraising yourself, or becoming one of our fundraising volunteers, please do contact me on 07590 173458 or email: j.brewer@battersea.org.uk.

From all our dogs and cats, thank you for your support.

Finally, Judith has sent a very fitting and quite powerful poem to see us into the Christmas period.

Come, Immanuel

Come, Immanuel, God with us to be.

Come down from paradise and occupy this dirty stable of humanity.

Come and live rough, as we do: come and die.

Come and be lonely as an orphaned child.

Come to where grief is harvested and stored.

Come to where empty aged minds run wild.

Come to the hospice and the cancer ward.

Come, flee from tyrants as a refugee.

Come, be betrayed by those you counted friends.

Come and be tortured with no amnesty.

Come as the means to justify all ends.

Come and be broken like a Christmas toy.

Come, be completely human—then we'll know your sorrow may bring hope of lasting joy and God above is God with us below.

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Reminder of Christmas services

December

7th Gift service and Holy Communion with Rev. Choi

14th a worship service with Mrs Linda Davis

21st a worship service with Rev Osei
Plus 9 Lessons and Carols in the evening with Choi

24th December Christingle service
11.30pm with Rev Choi

25th a family service with Rev Eric Murray

28th Mr and Mrs Doe with a worship service

January

4th Holy Communion with Rev Choi

11th Mrs Pam Vincent with a worship service

18th a family service with Rev Choi
25th a worship service with Rev Dr Talbot

Next copy date Friday 23 January 2015 by email to: carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole. A very Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

