

New Malden Methodist Church
'The Church in the High Street'



Ubuntu
March 2011

Who's who at New Malden Methodist Church

Minister

Rev.Dr. Angela Shier-Jones

26 Linkside, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4LB
Tel: 020 8942 0333

Church Workers

Julia Morton (Youth and Children's Worker)
Sarah Moore (Administration)

Stewards

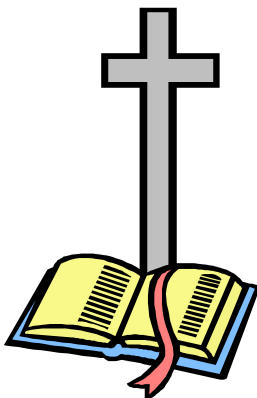
George Alleyne
Jane Bennett
Liz Edwards
Lourdes Gallardo
Janet Jones

Junior Steward

Emily Hampton

Music Co-ordinator and Organist:

Dr. Peter Bullett



"Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen"

1 Peter chapter 4: 8-11

Contents

Minister's Letter	Page 4
Article - Pluralism?	Page 6
Lent	Page 7
Church News and Announcements	Page 8
Circuit News	Page 22
Junior Church Pages	Page 24
Church Services in March	Page 26
Church Services and Activities	Page 27



Ubuntu

Ubuntu is an African word highlighting the importance of our common humanity, the relationships we share and the connections that bind us together. If we want to display Ubuntu to others we will be hospitable and compassionate; willing to share and caring in our attitudes. We welcome you to our Church family here at New Malden Methodist Church and invite you to join us in our fellowship and worship.

The April edition of Ubuntu will be available on Sunday 27th March.

Contributions can either be sent by email to:

rosemarie.a.lester@btinternet.com

Or, they can be left in the Church newsletter pigeonhole by Friday, 18th March. Thank you

Rosemarie

Additional material courtesy of parishpump.co.uk

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Every year as we approach Lent, I become acutely aware of how Christian discipleship has changed from being a determined and deliberate lifestyle shaped by worship and devotion to God to being a matter of personal choice. The Muslims are often praised for the way in which they pray five times a day, and observe the fast of Ramadan, but few people realise that both these practices were essentially borrowed from the early Christian Church (which had largely borrowed them from Judaism). Early Christians, for example, continued the Jewish practice of reciting prayers at certain hours of the day until by the end of the 5th Century they were praying seven times a day. Not content with this, they added one more prayer time in the 6th Century, to create the 8 offices of the divine liturgy.

Similarly, the Lenten fast is one of the oldest Christian observances. Irenaeus of Lyons, wrote in the 2nd Century AD of a period of fasting and reflection which, at that time, lasted just two or three days. The first mention we have of a full 40 day season of fasting dates from 325AD, when the Council of Nicea discussed it, but there was, even then, significant disagreement as to who should observe the fast, and how. In the Eastern Church people only fasted on weekdays. In the West, Lent was one week shorter, but people were expected to fast on Saturdays as well as on weekdays. In both East and West, however, the rules for fasting were essentially the same: Each person was allowed only one meal a day containing no meat or fish or animal products, to be eaten in the evening after sunset.

It was Gregory the Great who decided in the 6th Century that Lent should start on Ash Wednesday, in order to make sure that there were exactly 40 fasting days in Lent. (Sundays don't count as they are always feast days) By the 800s, however, the Church had already begun to slacken in its observance of the fast and Christians were allowed to eat after 3 p.m. By the 1400s, it had become a morning fast only and fish was beginning to appear on the menu (although meat was still frowned upon). By 1966 the Roman Catholic church had restricted the fast to just two days - Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and the majority of protestant Christians had given up fasting altogether, preferring instead to give up chocolate biscuits, cakes or alcohol.

Practices change over time, and what was right for one generation is not

Minister's Letter

necessarily right for another. The early Christians were not troubled by rude interruptions from their mobile phones, or disturbed in their devotions by needing to update their facebook status, or set their TV recording. They did not know the complications of computing and commuting and in many ways had more time than modern life seems able to give to growing families today. It's easier to stop and pray when you are on foot or on a donkey than when you are driving down the A3 or standing cheek to cheek with a stranger on the tube.

Nonetheless, there is something inspiring about the willingness of the early Church to set aside time for God, and to practice self-denial – if only for 40 days, in order to grow closer to God. They showed both a devotion to God and a commitment to discipleship and to following Christ that we sometimes lack.

This Lent there will be many opportunities for you to challenge your own commitment to discipleship and learn what can be gained by sharing in some of these early Church observances. I invite you to create your own Lenten journey of prayer and reflection, study and self-discipline and so experience both the struggle and the reward of self-denial and growth in grace and holiness. You could choose to increase your prayer life throughout Lent for example, by joining the prayer group at 10:15 on a Saturday morning or attending the mid-week service of Holy Communion at 12:15 every Wednesday. You could choose to spend more time in reflection and study throughout Lent by joining with the Bible study group on Wednesday mornings at 10am or Class Meeting at 6:30 or Meeting Point at 8:00pm on Tuesdays or Come as you are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. You might choose to fast one day a week throughout Lent, or donate the cost of one meal to a charity of your choice. The possibilities really are endless...

Lent has always been the time when Christians made a concerted effort to engage with their faith, if only for a short time, to remember that discipleship is so much more than a Sunday habit. This year is no different. This Lent, therefore, I look forward to sharing with you as 21st century disciples, as committed to Christ as the first Christians were, and to learning how best we can follow him in the world today.

Angie

Article

Pluralism?

In last month's Ubuntu, Leslie drew attention to a popular myth about Christianity drawing on the conclusions of a book he had read which stated:

'Christianity (like almost all religions) is essentially spiritual: our attention should be focussed on the next world and our behaviour in this should be governed by such qualities as meekness, humility and love of one's neighbour. However, in the everyday secular world – the social and political world that we actually inhabit – we are expected to value precisely opposite qualities. In order to succeed here we need ambition, greed, self-assertion and so forth.....Some see it as our essential flaw, others as the inner contradiction that draws us'.

He asked should we all give up ambition, greed, self-assertion etc and what would happen if we did.

My answer (but I do not speak for all Christians) is quite simple. I have not eschewed such things, but redirected them. Whereas once I was ambitious for myself, now I am ambitious for God. It is Christ I want to see promoted, not myself, Christ who should be exalted, glorified and enthroned, and I am as committed to working for that goal as I once was to working for myself and my place in the world of I.T. Likewise I am still greedy, but now I am greedy for the truth, for the knowledge of God, for justice and for peace for all. I no longer am content with what I have, I am greedy for more, for my neighbour, so that those who have nothing can have all things. As for self-assertion, I am more likely to assert myself now, on behalf of the gospel, out of love for all creation, than I ever was for the sake of a piece of technology or a political ideal that is here today and gone tomorrow. I stand and fight confidently and determinedly for the truth, for freedom and for love – and yes – that means for progress, for science, for evolution, for society. Eschew these things – God forbid – They are precisely what enables me to say to the whole corrupt money worshiping secular world - bring it on, I'm not scared!

p.s. The meekness of Christ is a romantic myth created and promulgated largely in the 19th Century. And any real Christian worth their salt is so busy loving their neighbour in word and deed here on earth that they really don't have time to be focused on the next world.

Church News and Announcements - Lent

Lenten Studies

This year Meeting point will be participating in the “Biblefresh” Big Read lent course and all are welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm during Lent starting March 15th.

Biblefresh emerged from plans to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible (the most familiar and widely read Bible translation in the world). Biblefresh is a movement of hundreds of churches, agencies, organisations, colleges and festivals, which has a vision to re-ignite and re-enthuse the church in its passion for the Bible. Both Biblefresh and the Methodist Church are already encouraging people to take part in the BigRead2011 over Lent 2011. For those who want a sneak preview – visit <http://bigbible.org.uk/resources/>

Participants will need the book Lent for Everyone: Matthew, either in paper or digital format so please let Angie know if you want to take part so that the appropriate number of books can be ordered.

The themes for each week are:-

Week one: God’s People
Week two: God’s Provision
Week three: God’s Promises
Week four: God’s Parables
Week five: God’s Purpose



The Tuesday Class will be using the Churches together in Britain and Ireland Lent study course ‘the unreconciled’ and again – everyone is welcome to join us at 6:30pm in the servery. The course is designed to explore questions such as:

- How do we bring about reconciliation?
- Who is responsible for bringing about world peace?
- Who should feed the hungry?
- What happens when attempts at reconciliation fail?
- How do we cope with failure?

The themes for each week are:-

Week one: [Self and Other](#)

Church News and Announcements

Week two: [Separation and Unity](#)

Week three: [Speaking and Listening](#)

Week four: [Wounds and Healing](#)

Week five: [Heaven and Hell](#)

Again – sneak previews can be obtained online at <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/520/>

Information and Links to the course material will also be available from the Church web site <http://www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com>

LENT LENT LENT LENT LENT LENT LENT LENT LENT LENT **LENT LENT LENT**

As part of our Lenten fellowship together, we would like to create SIX mixed age groups of no less than EIGHT people who are willing to share 7 meals together.

The meals can be simple suppers, or full blown dinners – that's up to you. They can be continental breakfasts, lunch time sandwiches, or traditional tea and cake, it really doesn't matter. What matters is that you are prepared to HOST one meal for 8 people in total and ATTEND six other meals during the weeks of Lent and discuss the topic set for that week.

If you are willing to participate in our Lenten feast – please sign up in the servery.



Come as you are

Who is it for?

- Have you been a Christian for years and now feel that you would like to share something of your faith experience?
- Are you ready to take the next step in your journey of faith?
- Would you like to increase your confidence in finding your way around the bible?
- Do you sense there is more to Christianity and that you want to discover that 'more' for yourself?
- Or perhaps you feel the desire to enrich your prayer life?
- If you have answered 'Yes!' to some of these questions then 'Come as you are...' is for YOU!!

Church News and Announcements

What is it about?

Come as you are aims to help people think about their faith and what it means in their daily lives to be a follower of Christ. Through fun and games, reading and conversation, participants are encouraged to become a little more familiar with their Bibles and the story of faith and its place in family life and society.

Future sessions include:

- Do I really want this man in my life?: A fresh look at Jesus
- Monstrous Myths?: Biblical truths and Scientific reality
- Gifts, talents and calling: Miracles and the potential of humanity
- Fact finding: Developing Prayer and Bible Study skills
- A heart strangely warmed: Methodism and Methodists past and present

It is not necessary to attend all of the sessions, just *Come as you are* – as and when you are able. All sessions start at 7:30 on a Wednesday with tea and coffee, and end promptly at 9:00pm

Greenbelt 2011 - from Friday 26th-Monday 29th August 2011.

With 21,000 people, music, campers and traders aplenty, Greenbelt might look like any other Festival. But scratch beneath the surface and you find something special... Alongside musicians such as Billy Bragg, Fightstar, Royksopp, Athlete, Dan le Sac vs Scroobius Pip, José Gonzalez, Gilles Peterson, The Proclaimers and Seth Lakeman, each year the Festival hosts a rich programme of visual and performing arts, spirituality, comedy and talks and discussion – recently welcoming the likes of Michael Morpurgo, Tamsin Omond, Anita Roddick, Jasper Fforde and Billy Childish, Union Dance and The Reduced Shakespeare Company. The diversity of content not only demonstrates our commitment to the arts, faith and justice, but also our underlying values of tolerance, dialogue and hope.

Its 37-year history is firmly rooted within a Christian tradition which is world-affirming, politically and culturally engaged. Christianity is a belief that embraces instead of excludes. And, as such, the Festival is family-friendly celebration, inclusive and accepting of all, regardless of ethnicity,

Church News and Announcements

gender, sexuality, background or belief. It has replaced MAYC and Breakout as the main meeting point for Methodist young people, whilst losing none of its appeal to adults. This year we would like to go to Greenbelt as a mixed age group. The young people will be camping, but for those who prefer something a little softer, it is possible to book into the Holiday Inn just 1 mile away from the festival site.

To get the best discount on the festival tickets we need to book by 30th April.

Greenbelt 2011 Weekend Tickets

	Saving on August price	Price until 30 April
Adult Weekend Ticket	£21.00	£99.00
Adult Concession Weekend Ticket	£7.00	£68.00
Under 18s Ticket (Ages 5-17)	£10.00	£55.00
Infant Ticket (Ages 0-4)	£0.00	£0.00
Family Ticket (2 Adults, 2 Under 18s)	£51.00	£259.00
Single Parent Family Ticket (1 Adult, 2 Under 18s)	£35.00	£165.00

If this is just not your scene, but you can see why it might be for the young adults and younger members of the Church, then we invite you to consider if you can join in by sponsoring part or all of a child's ticket. We hope to raise enough funds to be able to pay for all our young people so that they can all have the chance to take part in a great Christian event.

There will be sign up sheets in the Servery area in April, but it will help us to know as early as possible how many people would like to attend, so please, if you suspect you might like to join us, let Angie or Sarah know.

Thanks.

Church News and Announcements

Diary for March



Tuesday 1 st	2.30pm	WAGS: Devotional Afternoon
Tuesday 1 st	8.00pm	Meeting Point: Methodist Hymn Book (1933) David Bennett
Friday 4 th	10.00am	Friday Fellowship
Saturday 5 th	10.00-12.00	Coffee Bar – New Malden WI (Rita Le Vine)
Tuesday 8 th	7.00pm	Junior Badminton
Tuesday 8 th	8.00pm	Meeting Point: Pancakes – stories & readings Members
Friday 11 th	2.00 – 5.00	Create
Saturday 12 th	10.00-12.00	Coffee Bar – Shoe Box Appeal – Julie Haines
Monday 14 th	7.30pm	Wives: AGM
Tuesday 15 th	2.30pm	WAGs: Quiz
Tuesday 15 th	8.00pm	Meeting Point: Lent Studies – Angie Shier- Jones
Saturday 19 th	10.00-12.00	Coffee Bar – Pool Table for Youth Julia Morton
Tuesday 22 nd	2.30pm	WAGS:
Tuesday 22 nd	7.00pm	Junior Badminton
Tuesday 22 nd	8.00pm	Meeting Point: Lent Studies – Angie Shier- Jones
Thursday 24 th	8.00pm	50/50 Sale at Julia Morton’s house
Saturday 26 th	10.00-12.00	Coffee Bar- Guides
Monday 28 th	7.30pm	Wives: Gardening at Wisley – Heather Cooke
Tuesday 29 th	2.30pm	WAGS: Brenda Mathews – Not to be sneezed at

Church News and Announcements

Why and How?

Methodist churches in the United States of America often have a Beautification Committee, whose job it is to keep the worship premises decorated appropriately season by season.

We in New Malden have another system – a Flower Secretary – Pam Wardley – who organises flower donors and flower arrangers, and who would welcome a few more of each! For information for more recent members of our church family, here is a brief outline of the system.

Someone who would like to donate Sunday flowers to mark a special date – perhaps a birth, baptism, graduation, marriage or death, contacts the Flower Secretary. If that someone would also like to arrange the flowers, they agree to that; if not, Pam asks one of her team of “arrangers” to do it. The donor either buys the flowers or gives money to the arranger and suggests any special colours or flowers. We own several pedestals and containers, and Oasis foam is available. We all then enjoy the flowers on Sundays and the donor has given us pleasure while having an occasion remembered. The rota of donors and arrangers is on the side of the letter rack in the Welcome Area.

What happens next? The flowers are made into smaller bunches on Sunday evening and given to friends as a love gift from the church – perhaps in thanks, or to cheer them if unwell, to celebrate a special occasion or simply as a token of love.

This is where YOU become involved! You will have read the note from the Stewards in the weekly notice sheet and it does involve you – please let any Steward know of anyone who should be given some flowers. And if you would like to give any money to Pam towards extra flowers for Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Harvest etc. she will gladly accept it for the Flower Fund. We are all members of New Malden Methodist Church’s “Beautification Committee” – doesn’t that give you a feeling of serving God in some small way? Great!

Jane Bennett



Church News and Announcements

Peter Geoffrey Mills

I would like to express a sincere thank you to all who attended Peter's Thanksgiving Service on January 15th, and for the warm welcome given to us as a family. We are very grateful to Revd. Robert Jones who conducted the Service, to Alison who played the music and to those who arranged the refreshments following the Service. I am delighted to say that donations in Peter's memory amounted to £650 which has been sent to Alzheimer Scotland – action on dementia.

Thank you to all who contributed and helped in any way.

Janet Mills



Thank you from the Counselling Service

The counsellors and committee would like to say thank you to the Church for the support we have received both at the coffee morning on 22nd January and at the Church Council Meeting on 26th January.

The coffee morning raised £131.65 and provided a good opportunity for some of the counsellors to meet with those who come to the coffee bar on Saturdays. We hope to hold another coffee morning later in the year so that counsellors can become better known to the Church community.

The discussion and outcome of the Church Council Meeting, which is outlined in the report from Maurice Chattle, was most encouraging and re-affirmed the Counselling Service as one of the important outreach activities provided by New Malden Methodist Church. We look forward to a closer working relationship between Church members and the counsellors.

If you want to know who the counsellors are you will find their photographs displayed near the photocopying machine.

Jenny Reid

On behalf of the Counsellors and Management Committee

Church News and Announcements

Christian Aid Week - 15th-21st May

Once again I am looking for volunteers to help with the door-to-door collections in Christian Aid Week. If you would like to offer your services but don't relish the idea of knocking on doors on your own, why not "pair up" with someone else and take on a road - or half a road - together? Or perhaps you would prefer to deliver envelopes only?

I am aware that this job seems to get harder each year as stories of corruption within charities make people query how much of their money actually goes to help people in need. Christian Aid has a wealth of information on the recipients of our giving. It does not give money to Governments, it works with "partners" in each country at grass root level on specific projects enabling the people to help themselves to build a better future. Last year, during Christian Aid Week, we heard about the appalling conditions in one of the many settlements of South Africa and how Christian Aid was working with their partner MNU to provide clean water and sanitation. Next month this work will have been completed.

This year, the focus is on poor coffee farmers in Nicaragua. Christian Aid has provided a short film called *Out of Poverty* which is about a group of farmers who dreamt of a better life and have worked their way out of poverty. I hope to show this success story at the **Coffee Morning on Saturday, 14th May** or the **Bread and Cheese Lunch on Sunday, 15th May...** or both!



If you wish to help with the collecting please do get in touch with me. If you would like to know more about the work of Christian Aid, I have some literature; alternatively, you can go on-line at: www.christianaid.org.uk for more information.

Jennifer Townsend

Exam

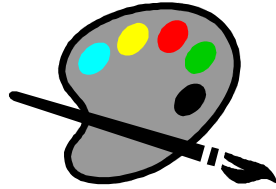
In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student stated that he had prayed for the assistance of God. The professor carefully studied the answer page and said, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

Create

Friday, 11th March
2.00-5.00pm

If you have not yet had the opportunity to experience 'Create', then do join us for our next 'workshop' when the theme will be:

"Fishers of Men"



Come and share with us in art, music and poetry;
Explore new ideas and allow Scripture to stimulate your faith and imagination;

Try your hand at drawing, sketching, calligraphy, painting, collage, clay modelling, cross-stitch, or one of the many other art forms on offer.

You don't have to be an expert to come to 'Create' (none of us are!) just willing to relax, experiment, and enjoy the gift of creative time.

All materials are provided free of charge, though you may bring your own if you prefer.

You will be very welcome!

Heretics Club

What on earth is the world saying about religion through the media and popular culture these days? What image of the church and Christianity is found in films? Come to Heretics Club and find out. Heretics Club is a once a month highly informal get together. *Come and share a DVD and join our friendly discussion group.*

Our next get together will be at Conifers, High Drive on Monday, 7th February, starting at 8.00pm.

Church News and Announcements

Age Concern - Kingston “A Significant Other” Project



Age Concern Kingston is looking for men of retirement age to get involved in an exciting pilot project called “A Significant Other”. They will be working closely with Coombe Boys’ School, over the next 12 months, to provide a team of mentors who can build mutual and important relationships with young adults. The aim is to offer support as these young people develop through their school careers and to help them consider some of the difficult questions that life presents us with, such as “who am I” and “What do I want from life?”

If you are passionate about helping school students with their personal development and education, and would like to learn more about mentoring (or feel that you have helpful ideas or advice to offer) please contact Debbie at: Debbie@ageconcernkingston.org or telephone her on: 07789 794157

Calling all Gardeners Annual Plant Sale

- Our Annual Plant Sale will take place on the church patio on Saturday 21st May 2011 from 9.00am to 12.00 noon.
- We will need plants (flowers or vegetables) for sale so please prepare now and check what you can offer us.
- All proceeds will go to World Church funds.



Robert Edwards & David Willis.

Thank you from Sister Natalie

Stella and Maurice have received a lovely thank you from Sister Natalie at the Wings of Hope School. She wanted to express her gratitude to all the people at New Malden Methodist Church who have been involved in making and sending mittens, scarves and teddy bears to the children.

The letter can be seen in full on the Notice Board in the Welcome Area.



Good Friday Music



22nd April, 2011

8.00 pm

New Malden Methodist Church

The Passion

by

Joseph Haydn

This year we are singing The Passion by Joseph Haydn, a work widely thought to be his best sacred composition during his lifetime. If you would like to sing, please E-mail Peter Bullett p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk from whom further information can be obtained (020 8942 0666) or please come along to listen on the night and experience a wonderfully devotional work as part of ecumenical music in New Malden.

Scores will be available for singers to borrow from the library and there will be a voluntary subscription to cover the incidental expenses of the occasion.

Rehearsals are as follows:

Saturday	2 nd April	10.15 - 11.45 am	(scores from 10.00 am)
Thursday	7 th April	7.45 - 9.15 pm	
Wednesday	13 th April	7.45 - 9.15 pm	
Saturday	16 th April*	10.15 - 12.00 noon	
Monday	18 th April	7.45 - 9.30 pm	PROVISIONAL
Wednesday	20 th April*	7.30 - 10.00 pm	(choir from 8.30 pm)
Good Friday	22 nd April	8.00 pm	

All rehearsals will be in New Malden Methodist Church.

Please attend these * rehearsals if you possibly can.

Church News and Announcements

Notes on Church Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th January 2011

The meeting, chaired by Rev Dr Angela Shier-Jones was attended by 26 council members plus 10 observers.

- It was agreed to confirm Sarah Moore's appointment as the Church Administrator.
- The list of annual donations proposed by the Finance and Property Committee was unanimously agreed.
- It was agreed that the 2 remaining 'old' windows of the Minister's Vestry and Room 9 facing onto Cambridge Road should be replaced by units matching those in the Sanctuary.
- Following complaints from 'Ofsted', an integrated fire alarm system is being installed in the premises.
- It was agreed that in future, the loose cash from the '9 Lessons and Carols' Service is to be donated to the charities sponsored by the Christmas Tree Exhibition, while those taken at the 'Christdingle' and the Christmas Day services will go to 'Action for Children'.
- The annual Declaration of Financial Accruals and the Schedule A forms were signed.
- In a general discussion on the Counselling Service, it was agreed that we should include it amongst those activities for which we annually ask blessings in one of our services. In order that it can continue to offer low cost counselling, we should continue to allow it to use the premises in return for an annual donation, and we should encourage more in-house publicity about its links with the church. A small committee is to be formed to look into ways of strengthening those links.
- Des Hancock reported that our Night Shelter is currently offering accommodation to about 12 homeless people on 6 Thursdays from 20th January to 24th February. He was thanked for his work in organising this activity at New Malden. Des accepted appointment as Social Responsibility Secretary.

Church News and Announcements

- Angela said that all who have contact with children or vulnerable adults must undergo 'Safeguarding' training. This includes all pastoral visitors, coffee bar servery staff, counsellors and key holders. A list of dates of training sessions was announced.
- The importance of attendance at meetings by members of the various committees was stressed.
- Property refurbishment planned for the next year or two includes new blinds and repairs to one of the Welcome Area toilets, repainting of the exterior doors, gutters and pipes, and new furniture for the kitchen of the flat. It was agreed that re-decoration and re-carpeting of the Sanctuary would be necessary in a few year's time. It was proposed (and agreed) that, in future, the Finance/Property committee should be allowed to spend up to £10K without referral to the Church Council.
- Angela announced a number of Mission Outreach activities aimed at making more disciples for Jesus. They include:
 - A 'Come as you are' – a 7 week course starting February 16th - to encourage growth in grace
 - B 'Living the questions' – for 8 weeks starting May 11th - for new class/ house group members
 - C 'Greenbelt' – August 11th - for young adults/ young at heart
 - D 'Taize' – October 2011 – Youth – church music
 - E 'Biblefresh' - June focus – to encourage Bible reading
 - F 'Faith Comes by Hearing' – starting 17th May – Bible reading
 - G 'Exegetes' – starting February – analysing Bible texts
- Outreach activities – these include links with the local community via the Community Police, CAB, Counselling Service, Coffee Bar servery, local MP's surgery, pastoral care, residential care homes, extended communion, Saturday morning prayers, 'Getting to know you' lunches, High street chaplaincy (to be explored), youth work, etc.
- Louise Mount (Circuit Steward) reported on a recent meeting with the minister who hopes to come to Chessington in September, (when Dr Dongwhan Kim moves to Camden Town). She also mentioned the Circuit Holocaust Memorial Service at New Malden

Church News and Announcements

on 30th January, and a discussion with local Jewish people on the Methodist Conference Report 'Justice for Palestine and Israel' on 3 February (also at New Malden).

Service (Family Committee)

At the church council I gave a recommendation from the above committee that more representatives should turn up to the meeting! Having sent out the minutes of the previous meeting (the agenda to be set there) only 2 other people attended with 4 apologies being sent.

Therefore some important issues could not be raised or discussed and therefore be filtered to others in the church. Such as you may be asking.....well Nicky Horton and Gary Tyrell will be giving up Shell Club in July after many years of dedicated service. Sophie Marsden is happy to continue as a helper but a new leader/s will be required for this group in September. Julie Haines could do with more volunteers to lead Activ8 am on a once a month basis. Alan Vincent needs each group to ensure they book the rooms required for meetings to avoid clashes with others. There could have been more but there was little point to repeat items raised at the previous poorly attended meeting.

So here is the list of required personnel, usually the secretary of the group but not necessarily. There just needs to be a person who can feed back and occasionally commit a group to participating in an event such as the harvest weekend or Malden Fortnight:

A steward, JMA, Junior Church, Activ8, Cradle Roll, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Toddler Group, Shell Club, WAGS, Meeting Point, Ubuntu, Malden Fortnight Rep, Churches Together Rep, Fair trade Stall, Counselling Service, Action for Children. Plus any organization or group, that is not represented on any other church committee.

The purpose of the committee is to report successes, raise concerns and plan for the future. This will avoid clashes of dates and will improve communication throughout the church family. So please come to the next one with a diary and a willingness to fully participate. The next one to plan Malden Fortnight amongst other matters is on Thursday, 7th April at 8.00pm. See you there!

Julia

Church News and Announcements

Safeguarding Training Courses

The Methodist Church is committed to ensuring that we provide a safe and secure environment to all users of our premises; children and adults alike. There is a new Safeguarding Policy which will involve training sessions; arranged on the following dates:



Sunday, March 13th, 2.30pm at New Malden
Thursday, March 17th, 7.30pm at Kingston
Monday, March 28th, 8.00pm at Surbiton
Saturday, April 9th, 10.30am at Chessington

Anyone working directly with children or helping with children's activities; together with those who are in contact with vulnerable adults is required to attend one of these sessions. They are also open to anyone who has a more general interest in the issue of safeguarding children and the vulnerable.

Theatre Uncut



As we all know this government has come up with some absurd spending cuts and as well as desperately needed health care and higher education - the arts are getting cut too.

So in response to this madness Meeting Point Productions and Reclaim are putting on an event that showcases 7 brand new plays at Southwark Playhouse from 16th – 19th March. This isn't just a London based fight - this is going nationwide with groups of performers up and down the land. On 19th they will perform their versions of these plays to show local and national government that we won't take these cuts lightly. All the writers, directors, creative teams and production staff are giving their time for free. The money from tickets after covering (minimal) production costs will go to Child Poverty Action Group.

For more info check out the website www.theatreuncut.co.uk or www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

Amy Jewell - Stage Manager for the London run.

Circuit News

Around the Circuit March news from your Circuit Coordinator

Our Superintendent Minister Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard is taking a well-earned sabbatical. she will be away from 1st March and will return on 1st June. Rev Dr Angela Shier-Jones will be taking over as "Acting Super" whilst Bonni-Belle is away. Please continue to direct administrative queries to me in the circuit office and contact Angie on pastoral matters and in her absence contact Rev Dr Steven Talbot and Rev Dr Donghwan Kim. We wish her a very fulfilling and restful break.

Circuit Events

Lent Course 2011 Entitled "Seven Signs", Rev Donghwan Kim will be leading a series of 5 weekly bible studies based on Johns Gospel. They will take place in the Parlour at Chessington on Thursdays starting 17th March at 7.45pm. Everyone is welcome.

"Spirit" Saturday March 19th at 7.30pm There will be a be showing the video replay of the first major musical performed by members and friends in the circuit in 1982 as part of Surbiton Hill's Centenary Celebrations. "Spirit" tells the story of the birth of the early Church and the empowering of the apostles by the Spirit. This also has a powerful message to the Churches today. There will be many faces you will recognise, even though some of us are three decades older! Tea and Coffee will be served afterwards and there will be a retiring collection in aid of Action for Children.

District Events

Methodist Women's Network – Spring Celebration

On Monday 7th March there will be a Spring Celebration in association with the Methodist Women's Network. This event is instead of the Daffodil Day for this year. The afternoon's celebration will be held at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London and begins with some community singing at 1:45pm. The speakers include; Julie Hulme – Women's Network Connexional President, Jo Hibbard – Heritage Secretary, Ian Bell – Fresh Expressions, Mike King – Mission and Rachel Quinland – Youth Participation Strategy. The soloist will be Araba Nunoo. All Welcome.

Hugh Price Hughes lecture - series 2011

Whose translation? "Interpreting Scripture from contemporary perspectives"
The Methodist Church has designated 2011 as the "Year of the Bible." We will be encouraged to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the translation of the Bible into the King James Version. This is the inspiration for this series of lectures. Recognising that translation isn't simply a matter of language, and that we interpret scripture from and for a great variety of contexts, we have invited five recognised authorities who will speak from different perspectives.

8th March - Dr James Dunn: Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University

12th April - Professor Cheryl Exum: Dept of Bible Studies, University of Sheffield

10th May - Professor Archie Lee: Department of Religion, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

14th June – Dr Mukti Batron: The Queens Foundation

All lectures are at 7.30pm. Admission Free at Hinde Street Methodist Church, London W1U 2QJ (Tel: 020 7935 6179 www.hindestreet.org.uk)

Situation Vacant - Heritage Stewards Wanted at Wesley's Chapel and the Museum of Methodism

Would you like to show visitors around one of the most important Methodist sites in the world, including the 18th-century John Wesley House? Or maybe you would rather help behind the scenes and assist with the collections in store?

Wesley's Chapel and The Museum of Methodism are looking for committed and enthusiastic volunteers to support day-to-day operations. This is an excellent opportunity to meet interesting visitors from all over the world, work with staff and the many other volunteers and to learn more about the historic chapel and Methodism more generally.

No previous knowledge about Methodism or experience necessary, as full training will be provided. We pay travelling expenses and also offer a volunteer discount in the museum shop. If you are friendly and enthusiastic and can you commit two days per month we would love to hear from you! For more information please e-mail museum@wesleyschapel.org.uk, or call the chapel office on 020 7253 2262.

Events Elsewhere

'The Cross and the Switchblade' is being performed by the Lantern Arts Theatre at Raynes Park. This promises to be an excellent dramatisation of the well known story, telling of David Wilkerson's ministry to Nicky Cruz, a drug-taking gang member in New York whose life was transformed. Performances are from 23rd – 26th March and if you haven't already got a ticket (£12 / concessions £10) contact the theatre on 020 8944 5794.

And finally if your church has an event it wishes to share with the circuit, please forward details to me for inclusion in this section of each church's newsletter/magazine.

Daphne Baker

email: circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk Tel 07510 548931

Circuit Office, Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, 39 Ewell Rd., Surbiton KT6 6AF

Children's Pages

Hi

Having been away on a conference this week I have met loads of people working around the country for the Methodist Church. Each one was doing a special job within their community, some worked as I do with young people and children, others were administrators, visitors to the old who could not attend church, helpers with the homeless, and drug addicts. It made me feel both humble and proud to be a part of such a wonderful organisation.

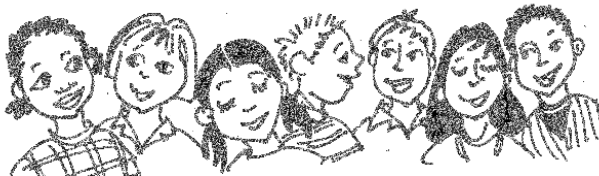
The attitude of everyone was really positive Everyone seemed to have their own story to tell of some things in which they were involved that was going well and if there were some situations that were perhaps not so good never the less we all agreed that God was in charge and so all was not lost!

Sometimes it's tempting to be negative about things, in fact often it is so much easier to see the bad in others rather than the good. It can also be really simple to be sucked in when others around you are being critical and join the condemnation.

So during lent for 40 days I have a challenge for us all. Try to be positive about your life and that of others. Be happy for them! Give at least one compliment a day (it can be as simple as you look pretty in that outfit or you played well in the football game during break). A please or thank you can make such a difference and as for a smile, well that could become infectious! After 40 days it could become automatic. That could be life transforming.

Love through Jesus

Julia



Church Services in March 2011

6th March	10.30am Service (HC) 6.30pm Service (W)	Revd Dr Shier-Jones Rev S-W Jung
13th March	10.30am Service (W) 6.30pm Service (CC)	Rev Dr D Kim Revd Dr Shier-Jones
20th March	10.30am Service (AAW) 6.30pm Service (HC)	Revd. Dr Shier-Jones Rev D Finnan
27th March	10.30am Service (W) 6.30pm Service (W)	Mrs P Vincent Mr D Lloyd



Notes

HC - Holy Communion
CC - Café Church
W - Preaching Service
AAW - All Age Worship

Flower Rota for March 2011

6th March	Mrs D Downey
13th March	Mrs H Kean
20th March	Mr A Chalk & Miss J Arthur
27th March	Mrs S Philp



Church Services and Activities

Sunday	9.30am	Bible Study/Holy Communion (fortnightly)
	10.30am	Junior Church (3-16) & Crèche (0-3)
	10.30am	Morning Worship
	11.30am	Junior Choir
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
	6.30pm	Activ8
Monday	8.00pm	Badminton Club
	7.30pm	Wives and Friends Fellowship (fortnightly*)
Tuesday	8.00pm	Heretics Club (1st Monday in month)
	2.30pm	Women's Afternoon Guild*
	4.15pm	Rainbows (age 5-7)
	5.15pm	Brownies (age 7-10)
	6.30pm	Class Meeting
	7.00pm	Junior Badminton (age 12-16) (fortnightly)
Wednesday	8.00pm	Meeting Point*
	10.30am	Bible Study (term-time)
	12.15pm	Holy Communion in the Church
Thursday	6.30pm	Shell Club (age 7-12)
	9.45am	Toddlers Group (term-time)
Friday	10.00am	Friday Fellowship (once a month)
	2.30pm	Create Art Workshop (once a month)
	7.00pm	Guides (girls, age 10-14)
Saturday	10.30am	Prayers in the Church (15 mins)

* Programme details announced separately. Please ask a Steward.

Coffee is served in the Welcome Area, Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 2.00pm and Saturday, 10.00am to Noon.

Abacus Pre-School (term-time) Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 12.00 noon and Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Housegroups meet on various days. Please ask for details

Church Office telephone number: 020 8942 1288

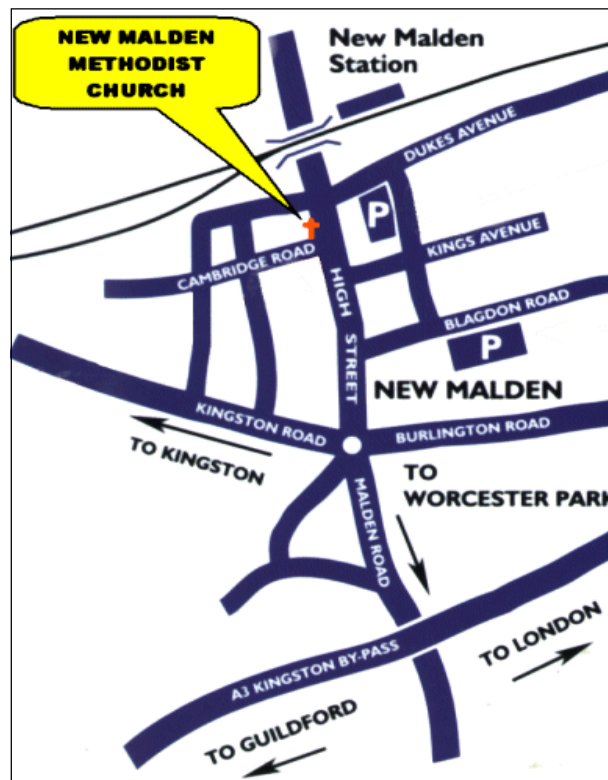
Church Website: www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

Church Admin Email: nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

Travel Directions

New Malden Methodist Church

49 High Street
New Malden
KT3 4BY



Trains

New Malden Station (South West Trains)
2 minutes walk away

Buses

K1 (New Malden to Kingston) and **213** (Kingston to Sutton)
Both pass the door

131 (Kingston to Wimbledon) is a short walk from the roundabout at the Kingston/ Burlington Road junction