

The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church March 2015



Message from Reverend Choi

Dear friends,

This month, as we know, we will be passing through the time of Lent, perhaps trying hard to keep 'Lent Giving up'. Probably many of us will be fasting Chocolate. But, to be honest, I don't know how it became a tradition for this season. Perhaps, people may think, by doing this, they are taking part in a 'Lent ritual', if you like.

But, Lent is not such a time as we give up just one of our favourites. Rather, it would be a time to take in something to nourish our inner being, of which the core is spiritual. Interestingly, some years ago, Tearfund challenged us with the campaign: 'Eat Chocolate, Fast Carbon'. It was a challenge to exercise reducing carbon emission during Lent. It was a very meaningful programme, which reminded us of the issue of the Climate Change.

Christian Aid challenges us again this year with a daily giving programme 'Count your blessings' during Lent, which awakens us to the serious situations of poverty and injustice over the world.

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I am fascinated by these two challenges, because they can make actual changes in our faith journey and help us to grow in faith, not by fasting from chocolates but by feasting on things spiritual. And, for this feast, one of my former ecumenical colleagues suggested this recipe, which I think is very good for our spiritual wellbeing.

- "Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-tempered, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

Lent is a time of challenge, to follow Jesus' example as his disciples, through fasting, praying, and almsgiving. And, it is a time to look forward to and prepare for the new life in Easter.

Hope we all get through this challenging time of Lent and sing together triumphantly 'Thine be the glory' on Easter morning.

Every blessing,
Choi

Hazel Crossley has been in our prayers in recent weeks. Here she shares her thoughts on her eye-opening experiences in an interview.

Hazel, where have you been?

In January I spent 2 weeks in South Sudan and nearly 2 in Uganda in order to accompany, support and supply teaching materials for a Catholic friend from Kingston who lives in an orphanage in Sth. Sudan. I combined it with some teacher training for a "Christians Abroad" project, which is my usual organisation. We travelled north from Kampala to Gulu (one whole day), then a further four hours into Nimule, South Sudan.

What have you been doing?

Whilst in the orphanage I tried to entice as many children as possible to come and read, participate in educational games, draw (which they otherwise do not have a chance to do). The younger ones were very responsive, but the older ones needed "winking out" and had already "switched off". Some had seen their parents shot. Many, even of the age of 10 could not read, despite time at school when the curriculum drives them on inexorably, using rote learning or copying! The teaching available was very poor, the headmistress had just been sacked. Following rumours of further violence in the civil war, half the village had fled with young children over the border to the safety of Uganda, where many are still living in displacement camps. I did see progress made and some actually coming to ask for books and help.

After two weeks, the toddlers returned to the orphanage and suddenly there was no quiet place left to teach in. The pastors "in charge" did not manage to organise any proper timetable for me and general disorder reigned.

At this point 2 American missionaries who went regularly to Kampala offered me a direct lift back across Uganda, 10 hours. This facilitated crossing the border, where soldiers, police, queues and throngs of people gathered. So I took it and returned to the Catholic Sisters in their beautiful gardens, flourishing in the cooler climate. From there, I crossed the chaos of the city each day to teach at Kampala Schl. of Music (featured on BBC Radio 3), which had some excellent, keen students, taking UK boards exams.

What was the best thing about your trip?

Seeing children making progress and enjoying learning. I also walked to the quietness and beauty of the Nile where the birds and their songs were memorable. Passing all the miniature thatched villages, I was always greeted by waves, calls and smiles. Then the intense, relentless heat of the day would set in once more. One consolation was that the intense dry heat, high winds and dust had discouraged the mosquitoes.

And the worst?

I found it quite difficult living in basic "camping" conditions, pumping water from the borehole in the compound, coping with toilet doors which collapsed (once on my head!), walking through endless abandoned litter and plastic and even Gideon Bibles, thrown out because eaten by termites. Lunch was beans and rice every day; breakfast arrived - or didn't - at around 10.30 am

Final thoughts?

I first visited Gulu, Uganda exactly 10 years ago with a Kingston group (COME), so it was weird to find myself in the same hotel in Gulu which is much improved since the Lord's Resistance Army departed. I met many interesting individuals, devoted to improving the life of the Africans and found it, as usual, inspiring. I have visited many different projects during these recent years and would recommend any young person who has time and energy to select a recognised organisation who would direct them to a suitable project and insure them. It is very satisfying to know that you have made a real difference. I am particularly grateful to all who supported me in prayer. A big thank you. I could not have done this in my own strength. I am not rushing to return to South Sudan, but will wait to see what will open next....

<p>Calling all “Crafters” and “Artists”</p> <p>We are hoping to have an exhibition of crafts next Malden Fortnight but cannot do it unless we have items to show off.</p> <p>So now is the time and opportunity to complete that item which has taken years so far to finish! Or perhaps you would like to make something especially for it. What like? Well cross-stitch, tapestry, painting, sculpture, ceramics, pottery, needlework, embroidery, cards, lace, photography, flower arrangement, furniture (are you reading this technology students?) knitting. Anything you have made and of which you are proud.</p> <p>Nearer the time we will collect and display the items to be on show during the middle weekend of Malden Fortnight and throughout that weekend we can add musical items o if you play an instrument and would like to perform whilst people wander around looking at the beautiful things be ready to choose your piece.</p> <p>Perhaps you would be willing to showcase your craft or even offer the chance for a “taster” session. The talent in this church is phenomenal so, let’s take the opportunity to showcase them all.</p> <p>Please contact Julia nmmcyw@hotmail.co.uk or pop a note in the layworker’s pigeonhole if you are intending to exhibit. The more the merrier.</p> <p><i>Hey Julia, if you need a horn player I might be free It’s the least I can offer considering I forgot to put this in last time! Caroline</i></p>	<p>Meeting Point – Carol Dadds has done a write up of the last meeting, hoping to tempt a few more to attend these valuable community talks</p> <p>NEW MEETING POINT 10th February - Revd David Bedford</p> <p>It was a privilege to hear David Bedford speak to Meeting Point on the provision of a minibus to the Dolphin Academy in Kamwaura, Njoro, Kenya (a remote rural area near the Great Rift Valley) to enable children from the surrounding area (30-mile radius) to attend school. The bus was paid for by massive fund-raising at David’s current church in Canterbury, the overseas part of the profits from our Welcome Area and other generous donations. The total monies raised were £12,000. David’s church originally supported Revd Daniel Gitau, the current minister in Kenya, when he was a student in England in the early 1990s and have maintained their contact with him; hence David’s trip to Kenya in February/March 2013 during the Election period.</p> <p>David also told us something of the culture of the Church in Africa and its emphasis on discipleship, which, he felt, is something the Church in Britain seems to have lost. In Kenya the churches are actively involved in planting, moving part of their congregation when a church grows to a reasonable size and setting up another one nearby, thus enabling the little acorns of each individual church to grow into the mighty oak of Christianity across the nation. He stressed that each one of us in the UK also needs to be active in discipleship if our churches are to grow and prosper and, during his recent sabbatical, David wrote a book entitled “From the Acorn of Discipleship”, which is available from Christian Bookshops and Amazon.</p> <p>Carol Dadds</p> <p>The next meeting point is: “Anti-Slavery” Tuesday 10 March 7.30 for 8pm speaker Elly Keevil, Member of NM Baptist church. It would be great to get a bigger audience for our guest speakers. Meetings start with tea and coffee in the Welcome Area - what could be better?</p>
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Women's World Day of Prayer 6th March 2015

This year's service for Women's World Day of Prayer has been prepared by Christian women of **The Bahamas** and is entitled "**Jesus Said to Them: Do You Know What I Have Done for You?**"

The first European settlement on The Bahamas was in 1647 and, since the coming of these Elutheran 'adventurers', The Bahamas has been predominantly Christian. Today more than 90% of the population professes a religion and anecdotal evidence suggests that most attend services regularly. Religious belief reflects the country's diversity: as well as numerous Christian denominations, small Jewish, Baha'I, Muslim and Rastafarian communities are present, all co-existing peacefully together!

Today the churches are impacting on The Bahamas in practical ways, including running drug rehabilitation centres, working with people with HIV and AIDS and coordinating, funding and managing numerous social and street programmes.

Do come along and join us on the 6th of March at our services at 1.45 pm at New Malden Baptist Church, Kingston Road, and at 8 pm at Christchurch, Coombe Road. Light refreshments will be available at both services.
Carol Dadds

Christian Aid Literary Quiz (CALQ by JT)

As an extra fundraising idea I have put together a literary quiz. The answers are all well-known books and their authors but the questions are initials only. Although it may look daunting at first glance, you'll soon get into the swing of it! The suggested donation for the quiz is £1 and copies will be available in March and April and at Christian Aid coffee mornings on 4th April and 9th May.

The closing date for entries is 31st May and there will be a small prize for the winner. Do have a go and encourage friends and family too!
Jennifer Townsend

Around the Circuit – Daphne's last ever after almost 7 years as Circuit Coordinator!

Healthy Church Audits. Many of you already know that each of our churches is undergoing a Healthy Church Audit. Chessington starts the ball rolling on Sunday 8th March followed by Kingston/New Malden/Surbiton Hill on 12/19/26 April respectively. It is hoped that all members of the congregations will try to set aside the time to participate. The events will start with Sunday worship followed by a morning session, lunch, and afternoon session which will finish early afternoon. See the article Choi wrote in NMMC February newsletter for background.

Methodist Identity Course The pilot course mentioned last month is now underway:

26th Feb – what Methodists believe

5th March – the History of Methodism in Britain and beyond

12th March – the Organisation of Methodism

19th March – Methodist Social Outreach and Pastoral Care

26th March- Methodism and Me

Children Workers Training at Surbiton Hill 8pm on Monday 9 March

Brian Smith the District Youth & Children's Ministry Training Officer visited to our Circuit Meeting in January. He had so much to share with us and will be a great support and help to all who work with children and young people in our circuit. That doesn't just mean lay employees, it means helpers from Sunday School/Junior Church, Messy Church, Youth and uniformed groups. Brian will be bringing resources with him, he will present a taster session and will answer any queries. Do make that special effort to attend, it will be worth it!

Safeguarding Training Foundation Module –

Saturday 28th March 1.15pm for 1.35pm - 4.00pm- Wesley's Chapel. 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.

Church Events

Surbiton Hill Wesleyan Wanderers meet for monthly walks and would welcome anyone from the circuit who is interested to join them. The next walk on Thursday 26 March is in Richmond Park and the meeting point is the Sheen Gate at 10.30 a.m. Telephone Ken 020 8399 5665 if you would like to go.

“Journeying with St Patrick” Quiet Day Wednesday 18 March at The House of Prayer This is a great opportunity to draw aside from the activities of daily life and spend the day in quiet fellowship with others. Bonni-Belle will guide our thoughts as we spend time separately and together. The day is open to everyone including friends from around the Circuit. The day starts at 10.00am and culminates with communion from 2.45-3.30 pm which you are welcome to join if you can’t make the whole day. You are asked to bring a packed lunch although hot drinks and light snacks are provided. There is plenty of parking on site. The address is: 35 Seymour Rd East Molesey. KT8 0PB. Contact Jeannette Barwick from Surbiton Hill for further information and to book. Her email is: jbarwick313@btinternet.com / Tel 020 8941 8551.

Kingston Music Group In case you have missed previous adverts – Kingston Church is looking for musicians and singers to form a band with the idea of doing a few gigs (singing Christian songs) with the aim to raise money for the church building fund. I you think you might be interested then email stevedawson1957@gmail.com or telephone him on 07773 718716.

Oasis Adult/Toddler Group This Surbiton Hill Group

will be celebrating 40 years of Oasis over the weekend of 4th/5th July 2015 and they are looking for people who have been involved with the group in some way over the decades. There will be a planning meeting on Monday 16th March at 8.00pm in the Parlour. All who have been associated with the group are invited to join them. They need ideas, memorabilia and information pertaining to the group and also help on the days.

The rough plan is to have a Reunion Supper for the adults on Saturday evening 4th venue to be confirmed. Sunday morning service will include testimonies and contributions from Oasis past and present. Sunday afternoon there will be a party for families at the Tennis Club. If you can offer help or would like to contribute in any way please contact Jeannette Barwick jbarwick313@btinternet.com (020 8941 8551), Marion Thorpe marion.thorpe@btinternet.com (020 8398 1122) or Sharon Lloyd agape@sky.com (07806 559852).

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

Please note that a recruitment campaign is underway for the “new Daphne” and there are details on the noticeboard in the Welcome Area.

I should add that Daphne has thanked many people across the circuit for their help and support over the years (including John Kelsey as Circuit Treasurer!). Her full article can be found in Surbiton Hill’s newsletter – again copies are in the racks in the Welcome Area. We wish Daphne well in her retirement!

Caroline

<p>Diary Dates for March</p> <p>Wednesday 4th 7.30pm Pastoral Committee Meeting</p> <p>Friday 6th 10.30am Friday Fellowship</p> <p>Friday 6th 1.45pm Women's World Day of Prayer Service – NM Baptist Church</p> <p>Friday 6th 8.00pm Women's World Day of Prayer Service – Christchurch NM Church</p> <p>Saturday 7th 10.00am Coffee Bar – Women's Institute – Barbara Cavalier</p> <p>Sunday 8th 3.00pm Music in New Malden</p> <p>Monday 9th 7.30pm Wives – AGM & Quiz</p> <p>Tuesday 10th 7.30pm Meeting Point – Anti Slavery Campaign – Elly Keevil</p> <p>Thursday 12th 7.30pm Choi's Lent Course</p> <p>Friday 13th 2.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Sheila Barradell (Alison Bullett's Mum)</p> <p>Saturday 14th 10.00am Coffee Bar – Guide Dogs for the Blind – Birgit Cowan</p> <p>Saturday 14th 10.00am Good Friday Music rehearsal</p> <p>Wednesday 18th 8.00pm Worship Consultation</p>	<p>Thursday 19th 7.45pm Good Friday Music rehearsal</p> <p>Saturday 21st 10.00am Coffee Bar – Inner Wheel – Gloria Taviner</p> <p>Saturday 21st 10.15am Good Friday Music rehearsal</p> <p>Sunday 22nd 12.00pm Church Council Meeting (5 minutes!)</p> <p>Sunday 22nd 6.30pm Youth Club</p> <p>Monday 23rd 7.30pm Wives – Easter Thoughts</p> <p>Tuesday 24th 7.00pm Junior Badminton</p> <p>Wednesday 25th 7.45pm Good Friday Music rehearsal</p> <p>Thursday 26th 7.30pm Choi's Lent Course</p> <p>Saturday 28th 10.00am Coffee Bar – Preserves Market – Julie Haines & Pam Bugeya</p> <p>Saturday 28th 10.15am Good Friday Music rehearsal</p> <p>Monday 30th Start of week-long Easter Stations of the Cross in Sanctuary</p> <p>Monday 30th 7.45pm Possible Good Friday Music rehearsal</p> <p>Wednesday 1st April 7pm Good Friday Music Rehearsal</p>
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Summary of February Notices Church Family News

Joan Cox has had a very difficult year being constantly in and out of different hospitals. At the moment she is still in hospital. She is very frail, so please remember her in your prayers.

We are sad to announce the death of **Alison Bullett's mother Sheila Barradell** on Tuesday 3rd February. Her thanksgiving service will take place here on Friday March 13th at 2.30. All are welcome. Please come and join the singing and stay for tea afterwards. Alison would like to thank everyone for the many cards and messages she has received.

Also needing our prayers are **David Knowles** and his family following the death of David's mother at the end of January.

Phil Hammond is suffering from an auto immune disease that is expected to last for at least a year. She would like visitors to call as she is not infectious! She also would welcome our continuing prayers.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Many thanks to all of you who supported our coffee morning last week. We raised the grand total of £147.70 to support the work of WWDP which works with women all over the world. Please support the services on 6th March at 1.45pm at New Malden Baptist Church, which we are taking part in, and 8pm at Christchurch. Carol and Doreen

FOOD BANK

The food bank is currently running low on the following items:
Milk (longlife or powdered, full fat and semi skimmed) and pasta sauces.
Birgit has offered to take any donations to the Food Bank at the

Baptist Church on our behalf so there will be a box in the Welcome Area for donations. Any other non-perishable food that is within sell-by date would also be welcome.

Waitrose also have a permanent box for food bank donations by their tills and the food does not have to be bought in Waitrose!

METHODIST IDENTITY

Continuing from our Methodist Identity preaching series, a 6-week course "Going deeper with Methodist Identity" will begin on Thursday, 19 Feb, 8 pm at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church. This is piloting a Methodist Identity course that will be produced for the whole Methodist Connexion next year, and input is needed from long-time Methodists from the UK and abroad, new Methodists, almost-Methodists, and interested non-Methodists!

JAM JARS

We would like to thank all who have brought in jam jars. We have more than we need at present. Come and re-stock your cupboards with jams and preservers on Saturday 28th March.

Julie Haines & Pam Bugeya

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

Thank you to all those who supported the coffee bar on 26th January. £162 was raised for the British Heart Foundation. *Ali Walsh*

LENT COURSE 2015

'Walking and praying with Christians of the Middle East'

Produced by the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

**Thursday evenings 7.30-9pm at the Welcome Area
26th February, 12th March, 26th March**

The course will contain a mixture of information, bible reading, discussion, prayer and praise.

Everyone welcome. Each session is a separate unit so if you can't attend all the sessions please do come to the sessions that you are able to attend. (Some of our Iraqi friends will join us.) Please see the flyers in the Welcome Area for more information.

Rev Choi

THE BIG SLEEPOVER

"I don't know why they call them sleepovers, when sleeping is the last thing that'll happen on a sleepover"

This event is open for all young people in secondary school up to and including sixth form age from across the whole of the London District. Filled with awesome activities including: football, film making, drama workshop, bocci, arts and crafts, movies, volleyball, karaoke, prayer room, badminton, praise & worship and time for Q & A; where we'll try and answer all your questions about life, the universe and Faith.

Where: Trinity @ Bowes Methodist, N22 8RA on Friday 27th March - arrival between 6pm-8pm (finishing around lunch time on the Saturday). See Julia if you are interested in going. We will buy your ticket but you will have to get there under your own steam.

Handel's Brockes Passion New Malden Methodist Church Good Friday 3rd April at 8 o'clock

This year the ecumenical music for Good Friday is an early work by Handel - a vivid setting of the same text as Bach used in his St John Passion, with powerful choruses and reflective arias. We are singing an edition by Denys Darlow in which tells the Passion story, drawing on some of Handel's finest choral music.

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 hiring the vocal and orchestral parts so the proceeds of the retiring collection can go to the charity chosen by the choir. See the list of diary dates for rehearsal times and register your interest by emailing Peter on p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk or if not

on-line, by telephoning him (020 8942 0666) or speaking to him.

Churches launch major credit union – an item of national news that caught my eye and may be of interested to others (Caroline)

Earlier this month Church leaders united to promote access to responsible credit and savings with the launch of the Churches Mutual Credit Union (CMCU). The Archbishop of Canterbury joined the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the President of the Methodist Conference in London, to celebrate their Churches' collaboration in forming the flagship credit union.

The President of the Conference Ken Howcroft said, "Methodists are glad to support the launch of CMCU. The gap between rich and poor seems to be widening and leaving people without the resources to do new things, or even pushing them into crippling debt.

"When we recognise our interdependence we can share our resources to help each of us meet our needs. That is how we can all live life more fully. We wish the CMCU well."

Archbishop Justin said: "My congratulations go to all involved in establishing the Churches Mutual Credit Union as it is launched today.

"Credit unions have the potential to make a transformative contribution to our financial system and I am delighted that it will be possible for clergy, church employees and church trustees to belong to a credit union focused on supporting their particular financial needs.

"As the first supporter to sign CMCU's application to the regulator in 2013 I am looking forward to being one of the first to sign up as a member when registration opens tomorrow.

"It is a notable strength of CMCU that it brings together churches from England, Scotland and Wales in this shared venture.

"I hope and expect that the experience of belonging to CMCU will encourage clergy and church workers

<p>to become increasingly effective advocates for credit unions in their communities."</p> <p>The CMCU, which also includes the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the Church in Wales, will offer a range of savings and loan products. Fairness will be at the heart of the CMCU's values. Initially members will be able to invest in the 'Founder Member's Bond' with ordinary savers accounts and loans becoming available in March. In due course CMCU will offer ISA savings accounts.</p> <p>Find out more about CMCU and how to join by looking at the Methodist Church in Britain website.</p> <p>Children's Corner Hi Over the next few weeks we will be getting ready for Easter. Like Christmas we prepare for the big event. At Christmas we have Advent, before Easter we have Lent. Here are some of the special things which happen in England at this time of year.</p> <p>Palm Sunday The celebration of Easter in England commences a week before the day, to be specific, on Palm Sunday. The name has its origin in the Roman times, when it was a customary to welcome royalty by waving the branches of palm tree. According to the legends, Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and therefore, people welcomed him by laying a carpet of palm branches in the streets and holding one in each of their hands, to wave them to the lord. Even today, people in England go in parades on Palm Sunday, by carrying the palm branches. The palm branches are often made into garlands and crosses, to use them to decorate the church.</p>	<p>Morris Dance In many parts of England, professional troupes of dancers perform Morris Dance on Easter Sunday. These troupes of dancers, almost exclusively male, perform old spring dances to frighten away the veil spirits of winter. The dancers clad themselves in beautiful white shorts, red sashes, black trousers and straw hats, with lots of flowers and streamers. Red and green ribbons and little bells are tied onto the dancers, to complete the look.</p> <p>Easter In Villages English villages, with their quaint charm, provide the perfect backdrop for witnessing traditional Easter traditions of England. During the ceremonious occasion of Easter, the village church would be bedecked with fresh flowers. Traditional Easter egg hunts are organized in the villages, wherein the Easter Bunny hides Easter eggs for the local children to find. The village bakery would offer fragrant hot cross buns, warm from the oven, and Simnel cakes, with homemade 'marzipan' (a paste made with almond and sugar, generally used as icing for cakes and pastries). In the town of Olney, pancake races have been held on Shrove Tuesday, for over 500 years. During Holy Week in the church there will be situated the twelve stations of the cross, take your time to go around to each one, get someone to read the inscription if necessary and take part in the meditation or action. And on Easter Sunday we celebrate the fact that Jesus rises from the dead a when the women go to the tomb it is empty. Hallelujah! He is Risen Indeed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Love through Jesus Julia</i></p> <p>Just space to list the services for March with flower dedications: 1st – Rev Choi – Holy Communion – flowers Mrs Wardley 8th – Mr Masillamani – worship – flowers Mrs Downey 15th – Rev Choi – family – flowers Mr Chalk 22nd – Rev Osei – worship – flowers Miss E J Lee 29th – Mrs Davies – worship – flowers Mrs Knowles</p> <p>Next copy date 9am Friday 20th March 2015 by email to: carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.</p>
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