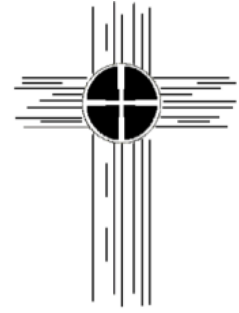


# The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church March 2016



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## Message from Reverend Choi

"I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and die, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12. 24)

Dear friends,

Although I am not a keen gardener and don't know much about planting or gardening, I am always amazed at the great act of faith which is shown by planting a seed. How can you imagine that a tiny seed becomes a harvest of fruits or vegetables, or beautiful flowers? I dare to say, 'Unless you have faith, you cannot plant a seed'.

With great hope and expectation, you place a seed in a small hole, wondering whether anything will happen. And then, you water, fertilise, and weed. In a sense, it is an agonising process, which demands patience

and endurance of the planter. But then, just when you are about to give up, particularly if you are a novice, you see the first blades appear, then the stalks... It is a miracle, the miracle of a single seed, fallen to the ground and buried.

This season of Lent, in the springtime, is very symbolic, as it calls us to such faith that new life can spring up from barrenness, and that there is hope even in the midst of despair. But, what's more important to us is to believe that it is the promise of the risen Lord that the seed we plant will take root and produce a miraculous harvest at the end.

So, it is my prayer to us all, as we journey towards Easter: "Gracious God, giver of all life, plant the seed of your Word in our broken hearts. During this time of Lent, may your Word take root in us, that we may see the greatness of harvest, the harvest of joy, peace, and love, in every season of life. Amen."

Every blessing,  
SC Choi



## NMMC

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## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

**15th - 21st MAY 2016**

Once again, I am asking for volunteers to help with the house-to-house collecting. Please give me a ring on 8942 6867 if you feel you could help. Several roads are no longer covered so even collecting on just one side of a road would be very much appreciated . . . and, if you are apprehensive about knocking on doors, you could always work in pairs!

Dates for your diary:

**Sunday 15th May (after morning service) - Bread and Cheese Lunch**

to be held in the Lower Hall.

**Saturday 21st May (10am -12 noon) - Coffee Morning** in the Welcome Area. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who could make cakes for this event.

I do hope you will be able to attend at least one of these events which support the important ongoing work of Christian Aid throughout the world. To find out more please visit their website [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk)

Jennifer Townsend

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## Pilgrimage

This is the theme of this year's Lent course. At the first session on Monday 15 February, Rev Peter Flint of the URC led us in a reflection on four varied pieces of writing. One in particular really struck a chord with me, and led me to think about journeys I have made, and to what extent I have experienced them – or merely been an observer. How much am I truly living in the present, or am I too often looking back, or wondering about what's over the horizon?

"The road is not a line between places; it is a place between places. You cannot understand the ravishments of the road unless you

overcome the logistical way of looking at things, which is perhaps the most powerful impediment that our hustling way of life puts in the way of experience. Since we cling to a mainly instrumental view of the road, we have forgotten how to be travellers and we are tourists instead, sitting still before the window and watching the world speed past, when in fact we are the ones who are speeding and it is the world that is still, for those who possess the capacity for stillness.

We are too enamoured of destinations. We hunger too much for arrival. We treat the road as an interval between meanings, an interregnum between dispensations, and so we are blinded to the richness of meanings and dispensations in the road itself. If departure is the past and arrival is the future, then the road is the present, and there is nothing more spiritually difficult, or spiritually rewarding, than learning to live significantly in the present. This is accomplished by a schooling in transience, and the road is such a school.

Almost as powerfully as the sea and the sky, the road is an emblem of immensity: the horizon into which it disappears is the promise of a release, which is the promise of a horizon, which is the promise of a release. From the stretch of even the most ordinary road, you may infer a suggestion of infinity."

Leon Wieseltier *The Art of Wandering*

We reflected on these questions:

- What does this passage evoke in you?
- What does it call to mind, or help you to remember?
- What Bible passages come to mind?

As you can see, the Lent Course is a challenging and interesting way to journey through Lent – why not come along for one or both of the remaining sessions, here at our church, on 29 February and 14 March?

**Judith Jewell**

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## Spotlight on.....Sarah Moore



A new feature in which members of the congregation tell us a bit about themselves...in this instance, we betide anyone who offers our Church Administrator, Sarah Moore, a steak that is well done.

**Best invention in your lifetime** - Personal Computer

**Best film** – High Society

**Earliest memory** – Having tonsils out and being allowed to wear new black patent shoes home

**Most interesting occupation** - Secretary to the vice president of Shell Shipping

**Favourite time of the year** - Autumn

**Favourite hymn** – ‘And can it be that I should gain’

**Best meal** – Steak (medium) and Chips

**Did you have any childhood pet** – Fergus the goldfish

**Favourite Book of the Bible** - Luke

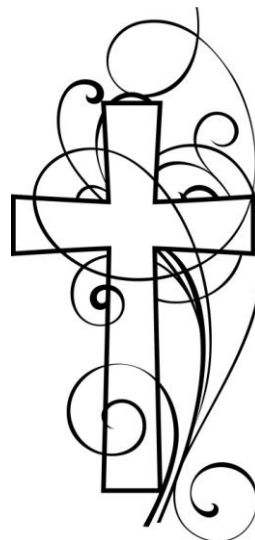
**What does your faith mean to you?** (In no more than 50 words)

“He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart” (Isaiah 40 11).

My faith means that I always feel loved and protected.

## An Invitation to take part in an Easter Contemplation

Come and spend time to quietly reflect upon and interact with the “**Stations of the Cross**”



Open for Holy Week 10 am – 2 pm

(Monday 21<sup>th</sup> March - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March)

**All are welcome**

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## Be Creative!

The annual Easter Egg decorating competition will take place on Easter Sunday.

You are invited to decorate your egg and bring it to church (group entries are also welcome) on Easter morning.

Judging will be by the number of coins placed by each entry and the proceeds will go to JMA.



## **AROUND THE CIRCUIT: MARCH 2016**

### **CIRCUIT NEWS**

#### **From the Superintendent**

Friends, you have already put up with me as your superintendent for 6 months – God bless you for your patience and understanding whilst I find my way into this new role. I thought you might find it helpful to have a bit of a round-up of some of the interesting things which are happening in our group of churches. In particular it is important that everyone feels they know something about the things which are occupying the minds of our Circuit Meeting and our Leadership Team. I hope you will find this summary useful and will draw these themes into your prayers for all our churches.

God bless: Stan

#### **From the Circuit Meeting**

“What does the Circuit Meeting do?” It might not be the most important question on everyone’s lips in our churches but it is worth asking! The Circuit Meeting has a lot of responsibilities for our property, finance and ministers – so much of our business is about giving permissions and allocating resources. More importantly the Circuit Meeting is the place to talk about the mission of the circuit to the local community. At the January Meeting we had two particularly interesting conversations about our work together.

The January Meeting began with a “Swop Shop”. We broke into groups and made two lists from each of our churches – one of things we had in our church that other churches might want to “borrow” and the other list of things we needed in our own church which we thought others might be able to “lend” us. It wasn’t a very scientific way of auditing the resources of our local churches but we had a fun conversation! One thing which came out of the “swop shop” quite clearly was that all our churches are looking for help and leadership in our work with children and young people. We

will take up this theme in our Circuit Leadership Team and begin to think about what we might do better together as a circuit with our young people than we can do separately in our own churches. There have been suggestions before about a circuit youth worker/minister – such things are always possible but resources have to be found and that can be a struggle but not one we should shy away from. We cannot promise an answer to this difficult question but we will give it serious, prayerful and hopefully imaginative attention.

The Meeting was then joined by friends from the Korean Christian Fellowship based at Chessington Methodist Church. John Lee (one of our local preachers) gave a fascinating presentation on the story and the future vision of KCF. We broke into groups – with a friend from KCF (all of them young adults) joining in each conversation. KCF is currently an independent charity which has a partnership with the Circuit based at Chessington. A vision is beginning to emerge within KCF that it might become part of the Methodist Church in Britain - a Korean Speaking Congregation which is fully part of our circuit (though a congregation without its own building). This vision is for KCF to become the Methodist mission to the Korean speaking community in our Circuit and Borough. More than half the Korean speaking people in Britain live around New Malden (about 8% of the population of Royal Borough of Kingston). We have a real opportunity to develop a distinctive Methodist outreach to our Korean friends and neighbours.

This is quite a vision and quite a challenge. It would raise issues about ministry, staffing, finance and organisation as well as integration and diversity. There would be exciting opportunities as well as difficult questions. There will be no rush towards any kind of new formal relationship with KCF. We need more information and better understanding of our own vision and calling before making any firm decisions.

## **From the Circuit Leadership Team**

The Circuit Leadership Team meets regularly to help the Circuit Meeting in guiding the Circuit. Like most Methodist meetings we have lots of “routine business” to do, so we will be spending some time away together in April to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. With pressure on our resources and membership which is declining slowly across the circuit we need to have a longer term vision for the mission of our circuit.

### **New Members at Chessington**

We are happy to receive five members into the Kingston- Upon -Thames Circuit through Chessington Methodist Church. The Kingdom of God continues to grow and we warmly welcome our sisters as they take a step of faith to join the Methodist Church. It was such a happy occasion as the whole Circuit came together to receive them at our Circuit Service on 31st Jan. 2016 in the Chessington Methodist Church. May God bless and continue to work His purpose out in them.

Some of our new members are from the Korean Christian Fellowship and the number of KCF friends who have joint membership with Chessington Methodist Church continues to grow.

### **New Local Preacher**

Jilly Bridges has now completed her local preacher training and is to be admitted as a local preacher with the joyful support of the Local Preachers Meeting and the Circuit Meeting. We have arranged Jilly’s service of recognition for the evening of May 15<sup>th</sup> at Surbiton Hill (her home church). This is Pentecost Sunday and will be a wonderful occasion to celebrate the worship life of our churches and the contribution of all our Local Preachers.

## **OTHER CIRCUIT INFORMATION**

### **Quarterly Plan**

There are some amendments to the March to May Quarterly Plan. Please note your

copies to show “HC” for the evening services at Chessington on 25 March and 17 April; and for the Chessington service at St Paul’s at 7pm on Good Friday, CS stands for Chat Service (on this occasion there will be a performance of Faure’s Requiem).

## **Training for Children and Youth Workers**

Brian Smith, the District Youth and Children’s Coordinator, is conducting some Training Sessions for those in the Circuit working with children and young people. The training is entitled “Helping Those Working with Children and Young People Point to Jesus”, and will take place from 10am to 4pm at Chessington Methodist Church on Saturdays 20 February, 2 April and 21 May. For more information about the sessions please contact Brian by email ([brian@methodistlondon.org.uk](mailto:brian@methodistlondon.org.uk)) or phone (07951 408379)

### **Circuit Service on 31 January**

The collection taken at the Circuit Service on 31 January amounted to £107.67, and this has been sent to All We Can (Methodist Relief & Development).

## **CHURCH EVENTS**

### **Chessington**

A Women’s World Day of Prayer ecumenical service will take place at St. Paul’s, Hook, at 10.15 am on Friday 4 March.

### **New Malden**

Dads & Doughnuts: At New Malden Methodist Church on Saturday 12 March, 2pm to 4pm. This a group for dads, granddads and male carers and their children aged 0-5 years. Just drop in, no need to book, stay for as long as you wish. £2 per child, to include refreshments. Doughnuts for dads and biscuits for children, unless you wish to share! Activities include soft play, art and craft, toys and fun! This is an opportunity to do things together in a secure environment and meet other dads.



## **Surbiton Hill**

Drop In Fellowship takes place on the second Wednesday of each month in the Lower Hall at Surbiton Hill (from 1.45pm for a 2pm start). Please note the following events:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 9 March  | “Getting to Know You”<br>Katie McAuslan           |
| 13 April | “How Did I Get Where I Am<br>Today?” Rev Hazel Yu |

The next Quiet Days at the House of Prayer, East Molesey will take place on 7 May (led by Steven Talbot) and 8 October (led by Stan Brown). Please note your diaries - further information will be provided nearer the time.

Monthly Prayer Fellowship takes place on the first Saturday of each month at Surbiton Hill, from 10 am to 11am, led by Daniel Masillamani. The next session will take place on 5 March.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Ealing Animal Welfare**

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

### **Daffodil Day**

The annual Daffodil Rally at Methodist Central Hall on Monday 7 March. Please arrive by 1.40 pm for Community Singing, which starts at 1.45, followed by Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs.

Speakers include Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, Revd Tony Milese, Pam Rhodes, Revd Steve Wild, Dr Jill Barber, Anne Browse and the Lord Mayor of Westminster. Artists will include Anando Mukerjee, Anna Cochrane, Gerard Brooks and Andrew Furniss.

For more information see the poster in your church; contact Ollie McEwen on 020 7654 3809; or visit the website: [www.methodist-central-hall.org.uk](http://www.methodist-central-hall.org.uk)

## **NEXT EDITION**

If your church has any news or a forthcoming event you would like to share with the Circuit, please forward details to Michael Axton at the Circuit Office so that it can be included in each Church's newsletter/magazine.

*Please send your contributions by Friday 13 March to:*  
[circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk)

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The Circuit Notices say a little about Daffodil Day and we have had a letter from Reverend Dr Martyn Atkins with more details. Below is an abridged version but if you do want to attend and need more logistical info, I can forward the whole letter:

Dear Friends,

### **RE: DAFFODIL DAY**

I hope that we are all eagerly looking forward to this year's Daffodil Day Rally which will take place on **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016**. This will be my first Daffodil Day, so I am looking forward to it!

From **1.40pm**, there will be community singing led by **Revd. Tony Miles**, Deputy Superintendent Minister, Premier Christian Radio & Radio 2 Presenter. The main programme will be from **2pm until 3.45pm**. Our theme this year is **“Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs”**.

We are pleased to welcome the return of **The Revd. Steve Wild**, President of the Methodist Conference, **Dr. Jill Barber**, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference will also be joining us. We are delighted that **Pam Rhodes**, Presenter, Songs of Praise & Premier Christian Radio will be attending. **Anne Browse**, President of Methodist Women in Britain will be also with us, so will the much loved regular artistes **Anando Mukerjee**, Operatic Tenor, and **Anna Cochrane**, Actress who appeared in

Jesus Christ Superstar. **Gerard Brooks**, our Director of Music at Methodist Central Hall & International Organ Virtuoso will be leading the brilliant line-up of music and hymns for the day along with **Andrew Furniss**, our Assistant Director of Music. The Lord Mayor of Westminster has been invited and our Ministerial staff team will also be participating.

To celebrate the day, we invite each member of your group to wear a daffodil.

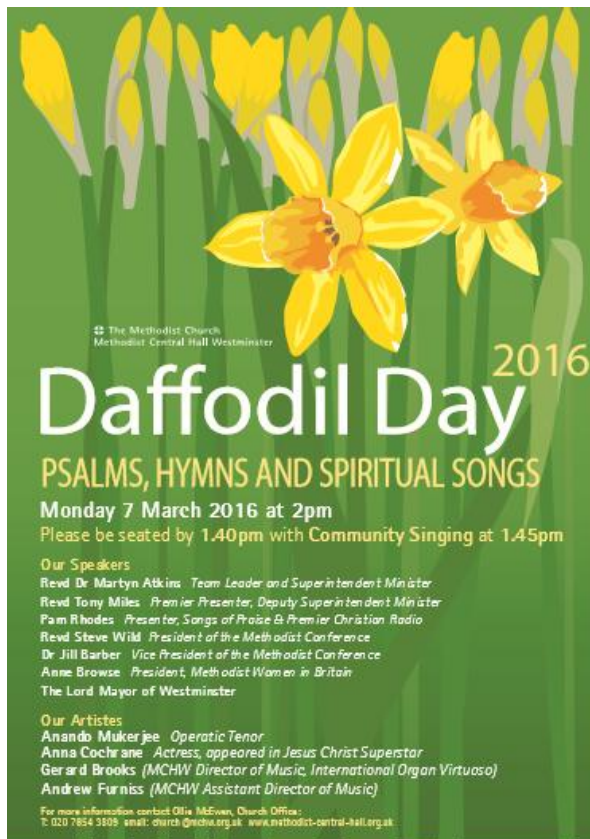
Alternatively, if they prefer, they can buy a Marie Curie daffodil at the entrance, and thus support a very worthy cause. The Great Hall always looks particularly attractive with everybody wearing daffodils and the whole church decorated with them, meaning that we will have a blaze of colour to enrich the whole celebration.

Yours sincerely,

**Rev. Dr. Martyn Atkins**

**Team Leader & Superintendent Minister**

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The Methodist Church  
Methodist Central Hall Westminster

# Daffodil Day 2016

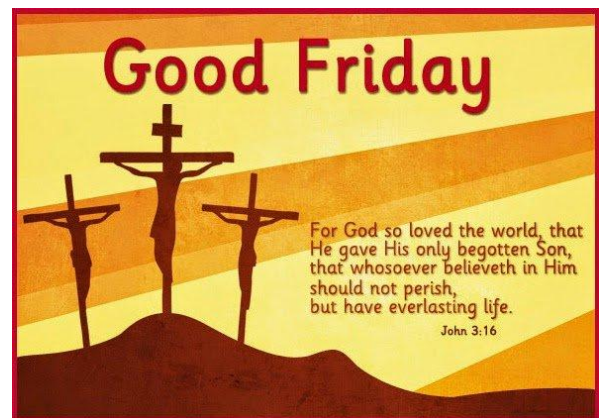
## PSALMS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS

Monday 7 March 2016 at 2pm  
Please be seated by 1.40pm with Community Singing at 1.45pm

**Our Speakers**  
 Revd Dr Martyn Atkins Team Leader and Superintendent Minister  
 Revd Tony Miles Premier Presenter, Deputy Superintendent Minister  
 Pam Rhodes Presenter, Songs of Praise & Premier Christian Radio  
 Revd Steve Wild President of the Methodist Conference  
 Dr Jill Barber Vice President of the Methodist Conference  
 Anne Browne President, Methodist Women in Britain  
 The Lord Mayor of Westminster

**Our Artists**  
 Anando Mukerjee Operatic Tenor  
 Anna Cochrane Actress, appeared in Jesus Christ Superstar  
 Gerard Brooks (MCHW Director of Music, International Organ Virtuoso)  
 Andrew Furniss (MCHW Assistant Director of Music)

For more information contact Ollie McEwen, Church Office:  
 T: 020 7854 3809 email: church@methu.org.uk www.methodist-central-hall.org.uk



## Passion in Words and Music

### New Malden Methodist Church Good Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 8 o'clock

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

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

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

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

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## Summary of February Notices

### CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**Doreen Coombs** is still in Canbury Ward, Kingston Hospital .She is recovering slowly from a series of problems including a fall, but remains cheerful and is happy to receive visitors.

A memorial service for **Hilda Keen** was held here on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Hilda died suddenly on 21<sup>st</sup> January aged 93.

We lost another longstanding member of our family, **Gwen Bryant**, who died on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Gwen particularly requested a 'Celebration of Life' service and this was held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

### COFFEE BAR THANK YOU

Coffee bar in aid of Alzheimer's Society on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February. A big thank you to everyone who came and brought coffee and cakes, and also donated to our charity. We raised £113.21, thank you. *Glynis & Courtney*

### 150<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATORY IDEAS

We would love some input from all ages please. Your ideas on ways to celebrate the church having a 150 years worship history. Think outside the box too! No ideas are too way out, all will be considered by the committee.

**We especially want ideas from those under 18.**

Please email be or drop me a line or just talk to me. *God bless, Julia*

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Copy deadline for April Newsletter  
9 am **18 March**, by email to:  
carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.

## Message from our Youth Worker

Hi

A few years ago there was an advertisement which asked if you loved anyone enough to give them your last sweet from a tube. For some time after that I would look pitiful as my children shared or not their last one with me! (You know the look, big eyes, fluttering eyelashes and quivering lip!) It worked sometimes.

At the "Last Supper" literally the last meal Jesus and his disciples had together, they shared a meal. It was something they had done many times before. He told them to share the bread and wine and to remember him whenever they did it as a group. We do this when we have communion together as a church.

Jesus knew what was going to happen to him and yet he wanted to have a last meal with his friends. He did not run away although he must have been so scared.

God cares for each of us so much that he shared his son with us. What a wonderful way of sharing his love. Would give God your last sweet? He would.

Love through Jesus

Julia



PS. See the back page for 'Last Supper' puzzles

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## Diary Dates for March

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>

10.30am **Friday Fellowship**

8.00pm **Women's World Day of Prayer Service**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Coffee Bar – **Women's Institute – Barbara Cavalier**

10.15am **Good Friday Music Rehearsal**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup>

7.00pm **Wives & Friends AGM**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>

7.00pm **Junior Badminton**

7.30pm **Meeting Point Lent Meeting – Donald Finnan**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>

2.00pm **Memory Café in the Welcome Area**

7.30pm **Finance Committee Meeting**

7.45pm **Good Friday Music Rehearsal**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>

10.00am **Coffee Bar – West Barnes Singers**

10.15am **Good Friday Music Rehearsal**

2.00pm **Dads & Doughnuts**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>

3.00pm **Music in Malden – Ensemble**

DeNOTE

“Musicke Purloin'd” arrangements for recorders, baroque clarinet, bassoon de chalumeau and harpsichord.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>

8.00pm **Churches Together in New Malden**

**Lent Course**

Welcome Area

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>

7.45pm **Good Friday Music Rehearsal**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Coffee Bar – **Preserves Market**

Julie Haines & Pam Bugeya

10.15am **Good Friday Music Rehearsal**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup>

7.00pm **Wives & Friends – Easter Thoughts**

7.00pm **Kingston District Chamber Music Society concert**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

**Stations of the Cross Easter Contemplation**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

7.00pm **Junior Badminton**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

8.30pm **Good Friday Music Rehearsal**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

8.00pm **Maundy Thursday Stop-up – ALL NIGHT**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

**COFFEE BAR CLOSED – GOOD FRIDAY**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

8.00pm **Good Friday Music**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>

10.00am **Coffee Bar – Star & Garter Home**

Rita LeVine

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

8.00am **Holy Communion followed by Easter Breakfast**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup>

**COFFEE BAR CLOSED – EASTER MONDAY**

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## Services in March

6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family/Mothering Sunday Ms Lorraine Webb
13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion Reverend Choi
20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 6.30pm	Reverend Choi Café Church Ms Lorraine Webb
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Walk of Witness
27 <sup>th</sup>	08.00am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion Reverend Choi
	10.30am	Easter Sunday Family Holy Communion Revd Donald Finnan

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