

The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church May 2015



Message from Reverend Choi

Dear friends,

By the time you read this message, most of you may have forgotten what we celebrated on Easter a month ago. But, Easter stories continue and actually will be completed through Ascension, and then we will be celebrating one of the exciting events in the Church history, that is, Pentecost. It is exciting, not only because the disciples experienced the mysterious power of the Holy Spirit, but also, and more importantly, with the help of that power, they started to form a new faith community, so called, the 'Church'. Therefore, it is the church's birthday!

But, as we celebrate Pentecost, I think we need to look back and see how the early church believers lived their lives in that new faith community and committed themselves to the church. As for this matter, first few chapters of the Acts give us some brief pictures of their lives. But, what seems clear is that they were a 'learning community, a praying community, and a sharing community'. They met every day for learning the Scripture, for praying together, and for breaking bread together, which doesn't look quite different from what we've been taught as Christians although we may find it not easy to practise it every day.

In this issue:

- Message from Reverend Choi
- Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May
- Around the Circuit
- Round up of Notices
- Diary Dates
- Regular items

However, what strikes me again is the way of their sharing. In Acts 2. 44, it says, "they had everything in common ... and gave to anyone as he had need".

It seems to me that what matters is not how much we give, but how well we fill the need.

This month, we have another big event coming, that is, 'Christian Aid week'. And, as we know, some of our friends are very much involved in this work, and have supported it in many ways. We know how greatly and wonderfully this campaign has helped and influenced so many people's life over the world, although needs are still there.

So, I hope and pray that at this Christian Aid week, we all may generously give away, not because we have enough, but because their needs are huge.

Every blessing,

Choi.

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May

We are fast approaching Christian Aid Week which, for the New Malden Methodist Church, will commence with a **Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th May** and a **Bread and Cheese Lunch** after the service on Sunday **10th May**. Do come and support both or either of these enjoyable events. The usual list for those wishing to attend the lunch will be available in the reception area.

Over the last seventy years, Christian Aid, working with their local partners around the world, have made a real difference to the quality of so many lives. Running water and proper sanitation have been provided, tools given so villagers can produce their own food and the opportunity for education made possible for the young. All this because people have cared. Let us continue to support Christian Aid in their work with the poorest and most vulnerable in this world.

Thank you to all who came to the Coffee Morning on April 4th. A total of £152.30 was raised – let's hope we can match that on the 9th!

Don't forget the Literary Quiz!
If you have not had a copy and would like to take part, please see me or ring on 0208 942 6867.

Jennifer Townsend

Around the Circuit

Next month this will be from the new Circuit Coordinator - Michael Axton. Note that his usual working hours are slightly different: Mon-Wed, 9am-1pm; Thurs, 2-4 pm.

Membership Class

Anyone interested in becoming a member

of the Methodist church, either by confirmation, (adult) baptism, or transfer from another church denomination, is welcome to attend the Membership Classes that will be meeting during May and June this year. The classes will be held on Sunday afternoons at 3 pm at Surbiton Hill leading up to being received into membership on Sunday, 12 July. For more information, contact Bonni-Belle Pickard 07590 564477.

Circuit Missions Service, 31 May 2015, 10.30 am, Surbiton Hill Methodist Church

Methodists are good at looking out for the needs of all – particularly those who are most vulnerable! Two of the outstanding charities of the UK, **Action for Children and MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged)**, were Methodist-born and continue to be supported by Methodists around the UK! We as Methodists especially delight in supporting these charities which help the “youngest” and “oldest” (often the most vulnerable) of our society – and so we have decided to join together all the churches in our circuit on Sunday morning, 31 May, especially to commemorate the work of Action for Children and MHA.

One of the ways we will be celebrating on 31 May is to recognise those in our congregations who are under-18 and 81-plus. We are encouraging each congregation especially to bring those in the “under-18” and “81-plus” age groups to this special service, and we are preparing special badges for those age groups! (Those over 18 and under 81 are also welcome!)

At the service, we will be hearing more about the current work of Action for Children and MHA, and we will be singing favourite songs of Junior Church/Sunday School children throughout the decades. Afterwards, there will be tea and coffee and cake provided, opportunities to purchase jams and marmalades (proceeds to MHA), and people and displays on hand to help us learn even more about these vital Methodist charities.

Summary of Notices for April

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

On Easter Sunday we welcomed **Megan Walsh, Panashe Mwenye and Kundai Mwenye** into Membership of the Church. Our prayers and congratulations are with them and their families.

Joan Cox is currently in The White House on the corner of Motspur Park.

Congratulations to **Julia** on reaching her **10 year anniversary** (on 1st April) of working for us all. Thank you to her for all her dedicated service.

Please see the **Prayer Request** notice board for details of a monthly prayer meeting led by **Andre Justin** (also in Circuit News).

"My thanks to New Malden church for their prayers for my son Solomon, and please continue to keep him and my family in your prayers.
Love And Prayers, Justin"

THANK YOUs

We have had two thank you letters recently. The first is from **Fircroft Trust** for the donation we sent them of **£742.43** which was half of the proceeds from the **Christmas Fair**.

The second thank you was from the **Kingston Young Carers' Project** who were the 'home' recipient of last year's Coffee Bar profits and received £3500. The card from them details how they will spend the money. Both are on the noticeboard in the Welcome Area.

SNOWDON MIDNIGHT CHALLENGE

On May 15th a friend and I will be taking on the challenge of climbing Snowdon at night to raise money for the **Alzheimer's Society**. This is an amazing charity that

works alongside people and their families and carers who have dementia and Alzheimer's, to help improve their quality of life. Climbing Snowdon at night will be no mean feat but nothing compared to the daily challenges that those living with Alzheimer's and dementia face.

If you would like to support me in my endeavours there are several ways you can help. You can sponsor me via just giving at **www.justgiving.com/Nicky-Horton2** or you can leave a donation at church, please put it into a **labelled envelope** and give it to the person on the coffee bar (or Sarah or Julia) rather than the pigeon holes and I can then collect it from the vestry/church office, or you can give me a **donation directly**.

[Good luck, Nicky, from all of us at NMMC]

CIRCUIT NEWS

Iona – due to a cancellation, we have a vacancy for **one female to go to Iona, August 8-14**. If interested, please contact Bonni-Belle as soon as possible.

Prayer meeting – Andre Justin is leading a prayer group at Chessington Methodist Church on the last Saturday of every month. All are welcome.

Services for May with flower dedications:

3rd – Rev Choi – HC – flowers – Mrs G Curry
10th – Mrs Vincent – worship – flowers – Mrs K Barnes
17th – Rev Choi – annual church meeting - flowers – Miss E-J Lee
24th – Rev Pickard – family
31st May – Circuit Service at Surbiton Hill

Next copy date 9am Friday 22 May 2015 by email to: carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole. Who knows what flavour of government we will have by then!

<p>Diary Dates</p> <p>Friday 1st 10.30am Friday Fellowship</p> <p>Saturday 2nd 10.00am Coffee Bar – Panto Costumes – Julia Morton</p> <p>Thursday 7th ALL DAY Lower Hall & Kitchen will be used as a Polling Station. PS - don't forget to vote!</p> <p>Saturday 9th 10.00am Coffee Bar – Christian Aid – Jennifer Townsend</p> <p>Sunday 10th 12.30pm Christian Aid Bread and Cheese Lunch</p> <p>Tuesday 12th 7.30pm Meeting Point – With Great Pleasure- an evening of member's favourite poetry, prose and music</p> <p>Saturday 16th 10.00am Coffee Bar – Women's Institute Plant Sale – Barbara Cavalier</p> <p>Sunday 17th 12.00 noon Church AGM</p> <p>Saturday 25th 10.00am Coffee Bar – Inner Wheel – Gloria Taviner</p> <p>Sunday 24th 6.30pm Youth Club</p> <p>Saturday 30th 10.00am Coffee Bar – West Barnes Singers</p>	<p>Children's Corner – by Julia</p> <p>Hi</p> <p>Have you ever seen a Swiss army Knife? What makes it different from an ordinary penknife is special all the different tools you find inside it. Each of the tools has a special use that is different from the others. For example there is a bottle opener which is no good for cutting with, but it's great for removing bottle tops. The scissors are good for cutting paper, but they wouldn't be any use for opening a tin. They are all useful, all important, and all different. But the really great thing is that all those tools are joined together in one small device that you can keep in your pocket, to use whenever you need it.</p> <p>In a way, it reminds us of what bible the bible says about a church like ours.</p> <p>A church is composed of believers - people who love the Lord Jesus Christ. They are all different, and each one is able to serve God in a special way, because God has given them all different gifts - different abilities for serving Him and helping others. For example God has given some people the ability to be good teachers, and some may be good at making things. Others may have a completely different ability that God wants them to use. Each person has a different part to play and each one is needed. It wouldn't be any good if I needed to use the bottle opener in my Swiss army knife, but discovered that it was missing. In the same way every member in a church is important.</p> <p>Are you any good at art or crafts? We are having an exhibition in July to show off the talent in our church. Do you have or could you make an exhibit? Would you like to play an instrument while people visit the event? Please let me know if you can help make this a church occasion to remember.</p> <p>Whatever special ability or talent you have, offer it to God and use it wisely. God bless</p>
---	--

A couple of national items that may be of interest.

This issue seems to be short and sweet. It does seem to have followed hot on the heels of the April issue and quite soon after Easter when I know a lot of you have been away. Still I find myself with most of a page to fill (pending any hold the back page type items), so I thought I'd share a few articles from Methodist Church E-News. Here goes:

Election reflections

This week the major political parties have been launching their election manifestos. Starting this week the Joint Public Issues Team has begun to share stories and reflections on their website www.jointpublicissues.org.uk in the run-up to the election. These will be based around the four key themes featured in their election resource: truth, justice, peace and well-being.

Andrew Pratt has also written a hymn, 'If we claim to love our neighbour', reflecting on issues related to the General Election. (reproduced opposite)

People, places, possibilities

The Joint Property Strategy Group (JPSG) is holding road shows in spring/summer 2015 for local church officers, circuit/district property officers and those with an interest in mission within their communities. They are designed to encourage people in the creative use of church buildings, motivate those already engaged or willing to engage in this work, show models for change and also enable a wider discussion in terms of mission within the community.

The venues chosen for these events are church buildings that have been renovated and/or designed with mission

in mind. It is hoped this will provide maximum impact not only in respect of the presentations and discussion on all that can be achieved but provide a visual example also.

You can find more information on the JPSG, road show dates and the venues at www.eventbrite.co.uk, where you can also register to attend. There are limited numbers available so please register as soon as you can.

For further enquiries (including a printed registration form) contact Kim Medford-Vassell at medford-vassellk@methodistchurch.org.uk

=====

If we claim to love our neighbour
while the hungry queue for food,
are we prey to self deception?
Is perception quite so crude?
If we sit beside our neighbours,
begging for the things they need,
we might share their own injustice
in a world that thrives on greed.

If we punish those with nothing,
blaming them for where they stand,
is this love of friend or neighbour,
do we still not understand?
Love of neighbour is not easy,
cuts us till we feel the pain,
sharing hurt that they are feeling
till they find new life again.

Love of neighbour sets us squarely
in the place where they now sit,
till the richness God has given
builds a pearl around the grit;
till each person shares the comfort
of the love of which we preach,
till we live as fact the Gospel:
none can be beyond love's reach.

© Andrew Pratt 28 March 2015 printed by
NMMC under CCL Licence No 4804

