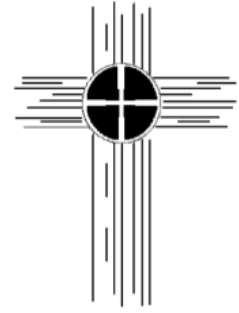


The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church May 2016



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Message from Reverend Choi

"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'"

"I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' (Acts 11: 5-9)

Although we are living in a multi-cultural, diverse society, I think people are still quite stubborn in terms of food and taste. Some are very brave to taste all sorts of foods from different countries, but most of us are quite fussy and reluctant to try a new dish. People often say that the last thing you can convert is your taste. It is very, very hard to change people's taste.

Then, interestingly, in our reading, we see that in his vision, Peter is asked to eat

something he never tried, animals which are not allowed to eat by their law. But, he is asked three times to eat what looks even disgusting.

What would that mean? It means God wants us to break down the old law, and get out of the old box.

But, more importantly, we are to see that what he wants us to do is to accept the people who may have different culture, or different taste, which may even disgust us. It's never easy. We know it's not easy. But, that is what God wants us to do, as His people. He wants to see diversity in the church, the colourful spectrum in our congregation, growing together for His glory.

This story comes after the amazing event of Pentecost, experiencing the unimaginable power of the Holy Spirit, poured out to the apostles. What's interesting is to see Peter still boxed in the old Jewish law and tradition, despite the fact that he was newly created by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, it was not until God showed him through the vision that nothing was impure or unclean, that he decided to go and visit this Gentile.

And, it was not until he saw the Holy Spirit pouring down upon them, that he decided to baptise them.

In May, we are celebrating Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit. How are you going to celebrate it, then? Still boxed in the old tradition, drinking only my cup of tea, with my kind of people? God challenges us to eat even reptiles and wild beasts and go to the Gentiles.

Every blessing, SC Choi.



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150 years of Worship Celebration

Those of you who attended the AGM will know of the fantastic plans to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary **NEXT YEAR in 2017**. That's a long way off, you might think, but to do justice to such a big achievement requires lots of thinking, lots of planning and involvement from everyone.

A small (but perfectly formed) planning group chaired by Liz Edwards has come up with a plan of events, kicking off in July 2017 to coincide with the Malden Fortnight and to really highlight the role the church plays in the community – making a reality of the “the church on the High Street” strapline.

Please look at the dates below, put them in your diaries and, if you have not done so, please sign up to help in some way. There are sign-up sheets in the church for each event, broken down into specific tasks and we think there is something for everyone. If you can't bake a cake for instance, you could help with invites for the celebration service, or supervise the children's party.

Once you've signed up, someone from the organising committee will be in contact soon to confirm your kind offer. Some of the events are such that they will need sub-committees or working groups to plan in more detail so look out for opportunities to partake in these in future months too.

Sunday 18 th June	Launch service Rev Steve Wild followed by Bring & Share Lunch <i>Possible evening event</i>
Saturday 24 th June	Children's Party Youth Event
Sunday 25 th June	Church Family Picnic in Beverley Park <i>Possible evening event</i>
Saturday 1 st July	Malden Fortnight Parade, Hymnathon, Coffee Bar, Mosaic
Sunday 2 nd July	<i>Communion</i> <i>Possible evening event</i>
Wednesday 5 th July	Setting up the exhibition - evening
Thursday 6 th July	Setting up the exhibition
Friday 7 th July	Exhibition 10-2
Saturday 8 th July	Exhibition 10-4 Celebratory meal with entertainer
Sunday 9 th July	<i>Possible evening event</i>
Tuesday 11 th July	Meeting Point
Saturday 15 th July	<i>Malden Fortnight Big Band?</i>
Sunday 16 th July	Junior Church Festival <i>Possible evening event</i>

Aside from all the events listed (this list is just a starter for 10), there will be other activities taking place too like giving away 150 cups of coffee, making 150 cakes to give away in the coffee bar, 150 acts of random kindness. You

may have other ideas, so if you haven't already – let us know what they are! As you can see, there are lots of days in the month of celebration when there is nothing planned...as yet....

As well as organisational skills, these events will require some fundraising **and this has to start this year**. One really major piece of work we are planning is to replace the noticeboard at the front of the church with a mosaic designed by local artist Kim Porrelli who designed the ones you've probably seen at John Lewis and Teddington Hospital.



This would be with input from the whole church (starting in January) from design to execution, as they say on Masterchef. The mosaic could cost around £3500 so some of the proceeds from the panto (Sat 18th June) will go towards this piece of community artwork. We will be asking for individuals or families to “sponsor a tile” (or two) too. Again if you have other ideas for fundraising then please let the organising committee know.

Mosaic Design

We need your ideas for the “frame” around our mosaic to be made for the 150th celebrations. The centre will be a reflection of the Curtain at the front of the church and our stained glass window but it would be lovely to add individual items to form the frame so everyone is invited to design something which can be adapted and incorporated into the final piece of artwork for the High Street.

We will be guided by Kim Porrelli, who will be helping us with the design and making of the mosaic and will endeavour to use as many as possible.

Please submit your ideas to the Church office on an A4 piece of paper by 30th June and we'll take it from there.

There is talk of another auction of promises so start thinking of what you can offer that others might want to buy from you.



Fabric fish required A4 size, eg, knitting, crochet, sewing any pattern or design. To make a ‘fish shoal’ during the celebrations.

Finally, thanks for those who have pledged time, cakes and help already.

Julia, Liz and the rest of the organising committee.

150 years: a logo

We would like to formulate a **common logo** for the celebrations, to be used on all the advertising of all the events and on any merchandise produced (including the mugs that Jenny Reid is organising). A strong and consistent visual identity will really help draw attention to the anniversary and ensure that all events are seen as part of the overall celebrations.

If you have an idea for this logo, please submit your design to the office or leave it in the pigeon hole. The *essence* of the idea will be taken forward and adapted to the various forms it will need to take. Your logo can be in colour or black and white, fully fleshed out or sketched out with explanatory text (if you aren't the world's best artist!). **Entries need to be in by Sunday 24th July**. All ages are welcome to participate.

Here's how a couple of other places have done it:



Or...



Or even



Please watch this space for further developments and the latest news on the 150th celebrations.



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.

Jennifer Townsend

Mary Preston Holidays – do you know someone who needs a break?

The Mary Preston Holiday is a project that was part of Inner Wheel District 14 for nearly fifty years. It is named after its founder, Mary Preston, who was President of Surbiton Inner Wheel in the 1950s. Her aim was to give a holiday to a lady, most likely a carer, who really needed a break but in some way lacked the ability to take one, and we now provide a one week holiday for people who desperately need one, open to both ladies and gentlemen.

The Holiday is now organised by a Committee made up of Inner Wheelers, Rotarians and people who have become associated with the Holiday, although it is still very much an Inner Wheel District project. For the last few years we

have seen the holiday change and evolve. It is an opportunity for people who need to get away for a brief period with no financial costs. Each guest will be brought from home and taken back by a member of Inner Wheel or Rotary. All accommodation costs, food and entry charges are covered. Guests will only need money for personal shopping. Three Committee Members stay at Sunbury Court with the guests during the Holiday, and a varied programme of visits and entertainment is arranged.

Nowadays the guests may be carers, bereaved, lonely, just recovered from illness, or in need of a break any other reason, and the difference the Holiday makes to a guest really has to be seen to be believed. As one guest said recently, "I arrived with the weight of the world on my shoulders, and during this week you have lifted the burden from me".

Surprisingly, it is sometimes difficult to find guests – at this time of the year the Committee is putting out feelers to all sorts of organisations, institutions and other sources of potential guests. If any member of the congregation knows of someone who might become a guest this year (in September), or if anyone would like to know more about the Holiday, please contact Gloria Tavinier.

Thanks to Bobby Child for allowing us to reprint this here – if you want more details from someone in the church, then talk to Gloria Tavinier.



Profile: Liz Edwards

Name: Liz Edwards

Best invention in your lifetime: video recorder

Best film: Letter from an Unknown Woman



Earliest memory: being fobbed off with rusks that weren't Farley's by my uncle when my sister was born.

Previous Occupation: hospital cleaner

Favourite time of the year: Spring

Best meal: Sunday roast cooked by Rob

Did you have any childhood pets: a goldfish - Goldie (original name for a fish, ed)

Favourite Book of the Bible: Ephesians

What does your faith mean to you?

It gives me strength and a sense of purpose.

Summary of April Notices

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Huge congratulations to **Harry and Betty Thorogood** who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 26th March. They would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, and for the church flowers.

We are sorry to report the death of **Stanley Page**, the retired actor who often came into the coffee bar.

Jane Bennett's mother died on Monday 11th April aged 102 having lived a busy and fulfilling life until the last few years of frailty and failing memory.

Please pray for **Rosemary Wraith**, Doug's daughter, who has been diagnosed with cancer. She will be having major surgery on a difficult and aggressive tumour on her hip on Tuesday 26th April, which is also her birthday. Please pray also for Doug, who is very worried about her, and for Gillian, her sister, who is supporting her, and Andrew, her brother.

THANK YOUS

Stations of the Cross

Thank you Factotum and Julia for the Stations of the Cross display. Sometimes the simple is the most effective. Again this year I found the colours and layouts, the symbols that gave opportunity for participation, the subjects for thought and prayer, and especially the suggestions for action that might be taken were both moving and challenging.

Thank you Donald Finnan

Marmalade Market

Pam & Julie thank all who supported the Marmalade Market on Saturday. They raised £260 for their 2 charities, Childline and Debra.

Easter Egg Competition

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Easter Egg competition. This was very well supported and raised a total of £21 which was donated to Junior Mission for All. Alan Downey

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers are wanted as "Heritage Stewards" giving guided tours round Wesley's Chapel and for the collections archive. Also as "learning and outreach assistants" to assist with running children's workshops and engage the local community. Please see the poster on the noticeboard for details or email museum@wesleyschapel.org.uk, telephone 020 7253 2262.

CHURCH PATIO GARDENS

I am sure many of you have noticed the sad state of the patio gardens this spring.

I do not know why the two beds have failed Philip Marsden and I planted 12 dozen Violas in the autumn, the bed at the green door end failed very early on, the plants were all dug up, and I planted another dozen in the bed with no result, now most of the plants in the top bed have failed and I have had to remove them. Maybe we have to do different planting in the future.

If anybody has ideas for the gardens we can talk about it. Remember the gardens are not mine.

Stella Chattle

PANTO REQUEST

Please can anyone loan us a white hobby horse (or 2). Thank you, Julia

BROWNIES

The Brownies are going to take part in the "Clean for the Queen" campaign run by the Keep Britain Tidy Group.

We are intending to clean up the area around the Malden Centre on Friday 20th May and it would be wonderful if we could use some

"litter-pickers/grabbers".

Does anyone have any we can use please, they will be labelled, cleaned and returned after the event. Please contact Julia if you can help.

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW ART GROUP



Some lovely pieces of art were exhibited in the church last year. It aroused a lot of interest, and recently we've been asked whether another Art Group

could be started.

It need not necessarily be on the same lines as before, but will seek to cater for a wide range of interests. For instance one person wanted to explore different techniques of painting, another wanted to explore its spiritual aspects, someone else wanted to know how to paint at all.

How, when and where it will be convenient for us to meet will also need to be looked at. Some suggestions have been "once a month", "once a fortnight", etc.

We will be holding a meeting to discuss this further, on Sunday 1st May, after the morning service.

If you find this proposal interesting, do come. In the meantime, if you find you can't come, then do let us know so that we can keep in touch.

Eric Murray and Sarah Choi

PARADE

Would anyone like to get involved in our entry for the Malden Fortnight parade on Saturday 2nd July? We have last year's winning entry to live up to. Please let me know if you could help in any way, whether taking part or helping to make costumes and props. Thank you. Julia

ROTAS

The Weekday and Sunday rotas for May to July are now in the pigeonholes. There are several

vacancies on the Coffee Bar so please check your diaries!

SAVE THE DATE

... whilst your diary is out, please put in Sunday 3rd July for the **Church Family BBQ** at the home of Birgit and Guy Cowan.

Around the Circuit: May 2016

CIRCUIT NEWS

From the Superintendent

Next time you pick up a copy of the Circuit Plan take a look at the list of ministers on the front. Officially we have 3 ministers stationed in our Circuit (falling to 2.5 next year), but we actually list 13 colleagues on our plan! There are retired ministers living in the Circuit, but there are also ministers who work in specialist posts, or who are engaged in study, or who are colleagues from partner churches. We have colleagues who hail from Africa, from Korea from China and from the UK. We are a mixed bunch in every way.

The ministers are not the Circuit! But I draw your attention to that list because I think it says something very important – the Kingston on Thames Methodist Circuit is a very diverse community. We have ministers from different cultures and with very different ministries because our circuit is diverse and different, and because across London the Methodist Churches

and Circuits which are growing are the ones which are welcoming diversity. As we explore the future to which God is calling us part of that future must surely be to see new and different things grow alongside the old and familiar ones.

God bless
Rev Stan Brown

Circuit Service: Pentecost Sunday 15th May 6.30pm Surbiton Hill

This promises to be a great celebration – Jilly Bridges will be admitted as a fully accredited Local Preacher, we will thank Dennis Doe for 40 years of service as a preacher, and our Easter Offering will be dedicated. All of this, and music from our new worship band at SHMC!

Ordination Service at SHMC 4.30pm July 3rd

SHMC have once again been asked to host one of the ordination services which take place as part of the Methodist Conference, which will be meeting at Central Hall Westminster. The ordination services are all ticket events. Please apply for a ticket on line at the Methodist Church website:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2016/ordinations/book-tickets>

We have been given only 40 general tickets for the local church, and these services are generally over-subscribed.

Farewell to Rev Elizabeth Osei

Elizabeth formally finishes in our Circuit at the end of July, and a Farewell Service has been arranged for her on the evening of 31st July at Chessington. Please come along to celebrate Elizabeth's ministry with us and pray for her as she moves on to the Newham Circuit.

And... Welcome to Rev Andrew Clark

Andy Clark will be welcomed as our new minister working with Chessington Methodist Church in a service at CMC at 6.30pm on Sunday 4th September. Rev Micky Youngson, our Chair of District, will be joining us to share in our welcome to Andy.

News from the Circuit Meeting

Planning Ahead

The Circuit Leadership Team has arranged an Away Day at the end of April to plan ahead. With membership static or declining in all our congregations, pressure on finance, and difficulties in finding enough volunteers for all our key roles in the life of the churches, there are real challenges ahead. The Leadership Team will look at hopes, dreams and visions for our Circuit. They will think and pray about our priorities and ways to release resources for mission.

Finance

Last year (2014-15) our ministerial staffing was 3.2 full time equivalent (fte) ministers and a part time circuit administrator. This has led to a considerable deficit. This year (2015-16) the ministerial staffing has been reduced to 3.0 fte

ministers, but there is still a significant deficit. Next year, however, with the staffing reduced to 2.5 fte ministers, our budget will balance, and we can begin to plan ahead more positively.

Several years of deficit budgeting have gradually eroded our reserves and the Circuit will now develop a policy on reserves (how much money we need to hold) and on grants (what are our mission priorities for using this money). The Circuit Meeting expressed gratitude for the enormous amount of work undertaken by Festus Mensah, our Circuit Treasurer.

Korean Christian Fellowship

Following our fascinating conversation with members of the Korean Christian Fellowship in the January Circuit meeting we have now committed to a prayerful process of exploring the relationship of KCF to Chessington Methodist Church and to the Circuit.

CHURCH EVENTS

Kingston

Saturday 7 May: KMC invites you to our annual Plant and Produce Sale, now in its 40th year! Stalls include wonderful cakes and preserves, handicrafts, cards, toiletries and gifts, books and toys, and of course plants, plants, plants! Proceeds go to the Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness.

Surbiton Hill

The next Quiet Day at the House of Prayer, Seymour Road, East Molesey will take place on 7 May, and will be led by Steven Talbot. The theme is '*Going Gently Amid the Noise*' and will explore the idea of finding sanctuary, using approaches from a range of spiritual and religious sources. This is a great opportunity to spend a day in quiet fellowship with others. It is open to everyone in the Church family and friends around the Circuit, and you are warmly invited to join us. The day will run from 10.00am to 3.30pm. Hot drinks and light snacks will be available, but you are asked to bring a packed lunch. There is plenty of parking on site. Although it is fine to just arrive on the day, it is helpful to have an idea of numbers expected as resources are prepared in advance. Please sign up on attendance lists on the noticeboards in the church vestibule or rear corridor and indicate if transport is required. For more

information contact Jeannette Barwick:
jbarwick313@btinternet.com; 0208 941 8551

A reminder that Monthly Prayer Fellowship takes place on the first Saturday of each month at Surbiton Hill, from 10 am to 11am, led by Daniel Masillamani.

OTHER NEWS

The Prudential Ride London Festival of Cycling will take place on Saturday 30 July in London and Sunday 31 July in London and Surrey, and this is likely to impact on some Church services on 31 July.

The precise routes for the 2016 events will be confirmed soon.

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 10 June to: circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

Diary Dates for May

Thursday 5th
7.00am **Mayoral Elections** (Lower Hall is Polling Station)
7.00pm **Panto rehearsal**

Friday 6th
10.30am **Friday Fellowship**

Saturday 7th
10.00am **Coffee Bar – Inner Wheel**
2.00pm **Dads & Doughnuts**

Monday 9th
7.00pm **Wives & Friends – Visit to Isabella Plantation**

Tuesday 10th
7.00pm **Junior Badminton**
7.30pm **Meeting Point – Faith in Medicine**

Wednesday 11th
2.00pm **Memory Café in the Welcome Area**

Thursday 12th
7.00pm **Panto rehearsal**

Saturday 14th
10.00am **Coffee Bar – World Mission & Plant Sale – Birgit Cowan**

Sunday 15th c 12noon
Christian Aid Lunch

Monday 16th
7.30pm **Kingston District Chamber Music Society concert**

Tuesday 17th
8.00pm **Abacus Committee Meeting**

Thursday 19th
7.00pm **Panto rehearsal**

Friday 20th
11.00am **James Berry MP surgery - Admin office**

Saturday 21st
10.00am **Coffee Bar – Christian Aid – Jennifer Townsend**

Sunday 22nd
12.00 noon **Praise in the Park – Blagdon Road Park** (in Lower Hall & back kitchen here if wet)

Monday 23rd
7.00pm **Wives & Friends**

Tuesday 24th
7.00pm **Junior Badminton**

Thursday 25th
7.00pm **Panto rehearsal**

Saturday 28th
10.00am **Coffee Bar – Richmond & Kingston ME Group**

Services in May

1st May- Rev Choi – HC

8th May - Rev Han

15th May Rev Choi – family
plus circuit service at Surbiton Hill

22nd May – Rev Brown

29th May – Ann Bedford

Rev Lloyd in the evening at 6.30pm

Copy deadline for June Newsletter
9 am **20 May**, by email to:
carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.

Message from our Youth Worker

Hi,

Following on from the church annual meeting, I make no apology to include this again, (from 2009!) **For children of all ages.**

Whenever we have a big event at church like the pantomime or an exhibition or a service when the chairs and things have been moved about, I am aware of how much work and time it has taken to get it all ready. It will have taken weeks of planning, checking details, allocating jobs and then finally the big day arrives and after a few hours the whole thing is over! Then something amazing happens!

As if by magic and without anyone asking the whole thing gets put back, ready for everyday use. The chairs are put into piles or rows, tables

are folded and stacked, the floor is swept all within an hour. Everyone at the event helps and all without any tangible reward.

Now, you may think of course this happens it's how we do things like this in church. You would be right! However this is something we can all add to our everyday lives.

We can show others that we care by doing those kinds of things out of the church too. Doing things for others, being a part of a team without any reward other than a thank you is great. It is living our lives the way Jesus wants us to. So next time we need a volunteer to help, please let it be you who says yes!

Love through Jesus

Julia

Many hands make light work

spreading the load

WANTED	
COULD YOU HELP	
—putting the cups away after church?	
—leaving your church row tidy?	
—saying hello to people after church?	
—opening doors for people?	
—remembering your coat?	
See what you can do!	

Circle the right ones, cross out the rest.

How can we help one another?

talking things over
laughing at someone
offering to help
not turning up after all

laughing together
doing what we promise