

# The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church May



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## Message from Reverend Choi

Dear friends,

I think, after the big celebration of Easter, we seem to live in a somehow awkward time in many ways, not only because of the unsettled weather, but also because of the uncertain future of the world, politically as well as economically. Globally, we see tensions getting more and more serious in the Middle East and in the Korean Peninsular. And, nationally, we see the so-called 'snap general election' coming up and all the parties selling manifestos for their campaigns, which don't seem to be promising but rather coming with more doubts.

In my understanding 'doubt' is an interesting word, which appears a few times in the post-Easter stories of the gospels. We can find one from John 20, where Thomas was told 'Stop doubting and believe'. He is known as 'doubting Thomas', which doesn't sound nice. And, Matthew 28, the last chapter of this gospel gives us another example, where the eleven disciples gathered at Galilee and met the risen Jesus, and there they worshiped him, but some 'doubted'. You may say, "How could they worship the Lord with doubt?" But, according to Matthew, that's what they did. Not all of them, but some, of course. You may blame them of their lack of faith.

On this issue, Paula Gooder argues in her book 'This Risen Existence', that the word 'doubt' is one of those much-abused words in English language. (You must know it much better than me!). For instance, when we say 'I very much doubt that', it often means 'I am confident you are wrong'. But, Paula insists that the word 'doubt' actually doesn't mean anything like that. It is the word that stands precisely between belief and unbelief. Therefore, it simply marks a lack of sureness, she says. And, we can understand how they felt, after witnessing the shocking and distressing death of Jesus. So, it is not that surprising that some of them doubted. And, it seems that it was the reason why Jesus had to stay with them for forty more days until he ascended into heaven. I often think it was a kind of extra lesson to give them confidence in preaching the good news to the world.

In our Church calendar, we celebrate Ascension Day on 25 May, on which some people still have doubt. But, I just want them to be reminded that even some of the disciples worshipped Jesus with doubt. Then, eventually their all doubts were cleared on the day of Pentecost, when they were all mysteriously filled with the Holy Spirit. That was his love. And, his love endures forever.

This month, we have another big event coming, that is, 'Christian Aid week'. And, without doubt, I believe our church must have been involved in this campaign for many years and supported it in various ways. We know how greatly and wonderfully this campaign has helped and influenced so many people's lives over the world. Yet, needs are still there.

So, I hope and pray that at this Christian Aid week, we all may share the love Jesus showed us by either generously giving away or actively being involved, not because we have enough, but because their needs are huge.

With every blessing,

SC Choi.

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations



**To celebrate that New Malden Methodist Church has borne witness to the glory of God for 150 years, to raise our profile as a force for good in this changing community**

### May Update

The celebratory period really gets underway in June and it is hoped that as many people as possible are able to join in some if not all of the special events.

### Diary Dates!

Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 1030am.	Arrive early to meet friends will have travelled back to New Malden for this Launch Service led by Rev Steve Wild. (President of the Methodist Conference 2015-16). After the service the mosaic will be unveiled at a special, short ceremony followed by a Bring and Share Lunch.
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Children's Party – invitations soon to be sent out.  Youth Event
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> June – 10.30am	Service led by Rev Stan Brown  Family Picnic in Beverley Park.

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> July - afternoon	A wonderfully busy and exciting day – New Malden Parade and Hymnathon.
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July – 10.30am  6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev S Choi.  Café Church – interview with Doreen Downey about her memories of church family life.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July - 10am 2pm  Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> July – 10am-4pm	Exhibition open to all.
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> July - Evening	Celebratory Meal with Magic. Tickets now available at £10 each. (If not already sold out.) A Christian entertainer called Steve Price will entertain.
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 10 30am	Service led by Rev Joanne Henderson.
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm	Robin Gill, local historian – Village Voice – will speak at Meeting Point '150 Years of New Malden High Street'.
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> July - Evening	Watch this space!
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> July – 10.30am	Junior Church Festival  Church Barbecue – tickets available soon.

If you would like to be involved in the delivery of any of these events please add your name on the sign-up sheets in the Welcome. Everyone is invited to the next planning meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

Exciting preparations currently taking place include:

- Commemorative mugs are being sold.
- Handmade fish being created in order to involve local businesses who will display the fish in their window. A form will be available to record in which place the numbered fish has been swimming! The fish will be collected in time for the Junior Church Festival Service. Guess the theme!
- Don't forget we're getting through all 150 psalms before the end of the celebrations

Liz Edwards



And.....hot off the press. We are now on Twitter so do follow us. No really do as we only have 5 followers and that includes me and Robert. Re-tweeting the events will help get attendees from the wider church community so do follow us: @NMMC150

Caroline

### Mission Planning: the results are out!



In a Service some weeks ago, Choi presented some audio visual materials which were being shared round the 4 churches in the Circuit, about the ongoing process of Mission Planning.

Members of the Congregation were then asked to fill in a short individual form,

outlining firstly our perceived Strengths as a Church, and secondly the Opportunities we could find in which to grow and expand our Mission. The challenge presented to us was to improve what we do by 1% under four broad headings: Community Engagement, Generations, Discipleship and Worship. We received only about 15 written responses, but in the intervening weeks, the Stewards have also had informal conversations with people about these topics.

We then met with Choi to consider the responses and we can now report back to you both the findings and the proposals for future development.

Under 'Strengths,' our **Community Engagement** was felt to be strong –, people appreciated our comfortable and spacious premises and the body of volunteers willing and able to man, administer and maintain them. We are open 7 days a week and host a variety of activities for all age groups. We use our abilities and resources to raise funds for a variety of causes. The Welcome Area/Coffee Bar was seen to be key in this outreach – it serves a great many people and needs throughout the week; customers and servers alike.

With regard to '**Generations**', we have a small but thriving Junior Church, and our age range, although weighted towards the top end, goes from small babies on the Cradle Roll to regular attendees who are in their eighties and nineties. JMA collections help young and old to meet each other and there are also Church family events such as the pantomime and the barbecue.

Concerning **Discipleship**, it was acknowledged that we are encouraged and helped to find our own Christian pathway, guided by our Ministers and worship leaders. There are Fellowship groups, Housegroups, Prayer groups, Bible study sessions and a Pastoral system which seeks to reach all members and adherents who want this.

Regarding **Worship**, our Church was felt to be warm, caring and welcoming. Our services are quite diverse in style and are inclusive and approachable. Several people mentioned

our rich musical tradition: we are led by a loyal choir and an excellent organist and we have annual ecumenical events involving singers from many other churches. We also have people willing to do prayers, readings and more if required.

This is all very positive, but there is no room for complacency. Under 'Opportunities,' several concerns and suggestions were put forward, and we attempted to address these, as follows:

The congregation and membership is declining steadily, and it is becoming more and more difficult to fill key roles, recruit people to positions on committees and find enough volunteers to man the coffee bar. We are looking at ways to break these roles down so that more people might feel able to take on a small job, on a rota basis.

There have been significant problems with the audio visual system. These are being addressed and rectified with new equipment, and people will be trained in using the new technology. We will ensure that it supports our worship effectively but not intrusively.

Some people felt there should be more Housegroups. In response, it was felt that there are quite a number of groups already, who might be encouraged to welcome new members more actively. Anyone is at liberty to start a new group on or off the Church premises.

There were various suggestions for more diversity in our styles of Worship, but it was acknowledged that to a large extent we are reliant on our various preachers who choose the hymns and influence the general style and tenor of the services. This range can be seen as a strength, but there was also a significant number of people who said that they found some local preachers difficult to understand. This is a sensitive issue, as it goes right back to Training and perhaps beyond, but we will try to mention the problem at a higher level when it occurs. The Stewards will continue to encourage preachers to keep family services short, and to engage people more actively. Recently, we have seen an increase in the number of

young people involved in our services, particularly in the Local Arrangement/Songs of Praise- type services. We want this to continue. The use of instruments other than the piano or organ was suggested... this would be welcome, but we need players to come forward!

Our most successful services - in terms of numbers, at least - are the Christingle and Easter Sunday, where there are many visitors in all age groups.

We need to encourage the 20-40 age group. We must welcome our youngsters back after their University years, however infrequently they are able to be with us. Factotum is an important link here. Parents of the children who come to our weekly activities are encouraged to come on Sundays too, and we always have a crèche available to support this. We must be careful to get the balance right, however, between being sufficiently welcoming, and trying to involve them too much too soon. Just being prepared to talk to people you haven't seen or spoken to before is a good start. There are opportunities before and after the Service. We have recently introduced name labels once a month, to assist with getting to know people.

It was strongly felt that the 150Y celebrations give us a unique and exciting opportunity to capitalise and expand on our position and reputation on the High Street. It is hoped that every member of our Church community- in its widest sense -will get involved in at least some part of the many events being planned: we hope to get the message 'out there' about what it is we do 'in here' inside the glass doors.

The signs outside are looking tired and dated. The mosaic will be a huge improvement, will give us focus, and will be lit, but we will also improve the noticeboards inside and outside to make us look lively and more up to date, and also to give accurate information about all the activities.

Our Coffee Bar has been aptly described as 'The everyday face of Service' and 'The window on the High Street'. This is where we shall focus our energies. We want to expand

its function, usefulness and outreach; for example by perhaps offering it on an occasional basis to various groups of vulnerable or disadvantaged people such as those with Autism or people from Care Homes, in much the same way as it is used once a month for the Memory Cafe. There was also a suggestion that we might give it a name, such as 'Wesley's' and effectively 're-brand' ourselves to raise awareness further.

In conclusion, the Stewards would like to thank everyone who responded to the questions, and for their helpful thoughts and suggestions. If you somehow missed the consultation process, Julie, Jenny, Alison and Megan -are always willing to receive feedback about any aspect of Church life and worship which concerns you. Please feel free to speak to them about anything you particularly like or dislike. We can at least attempt to feed back to the right quarter and hopefully address the issue. In particular, would you please let Alison know if you have read this far, and what you think about these proposals.

Please also think about how you could involve yourself further in the life and work of your Church. We will not turn down any offer of help. Could you read a lesson? It can be done from the pew. Maybe you could do one hour on the coffee bar if 2 is a bit of a stretch? Do you feel able to arrange the flowers once a year, or perhaps to deliver them and /or a few newsletters and visit someone who is ill or housebound?

We hope and pray that things will grow from these various branches extending into the furthest reaches of New Malden and beyond. In celebrating our heritage and past this year, we must also look to the future so that we can hand on a thriving place of Fellowship and Worship to the generations who come after us.

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## PARADE & WORKSHOP



The annual parade down the High Street will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July and we need people of all ages to walk in it as part of the community celebrations.

We will be following a Light house as a flotilla of boats and fish and so we need lots of participants. Age is no barrier! Decorated buggies are also welcome. Please consider this and sign up to take part so we have an idea of how much of a splash we can make in the parade!

We will have a workshop day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 10am-4pm to make the items, please come and support this even if you are unavailable to walk in the parade.



### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14th - 20th MAY 2017

Just a reminder. . .

Coffee Morning Saturday 13th May

Bread and Cheese Lunch - Sunday 21st May  
(A list for signatures will be in the Welcome area at the beginning of May)

The Quiz is now available. Two, this year, with varying degrees of difficulty! At £1.00 a quiz, it is worth 'having a go' and why not get your friends and neighbours interested, too? Please ring me (8942 6867) for copies of the quiz or see me at church.

Jennifer Townsend

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## CHURCH WORK WEEK

The Property Committee are pleased to tell members that the Church Work Week held between 2<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> April was completed with objectives being realised namely; the redecoration of the Extension, Extension Corridor and the Church Kitchen.

Those involved who gave time and much effort were; Peter and Alison Bullet, Julie Haines, Alan and Doreen Downey, David Knowles, Jenny Reid, Julia Morton, Gloria Tavinier, Jane Bennett, Robert Elves, Robert Edwards, John Meredith, Revd Choi and Sarah Choi (refreshments!!).

I would like to place on record the dedication and hard work shown by them all to meet the challenge which was a call above reasonable expectation but nevertheless done in a spirit of fun, enthusiasm and unrelenting effort.

Mick Tavinier  
Chairman – Property Committee

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## Around the Circuit

### Chessington

Chessington Methodist Church Summer Fair:  
Saturday 10 June

From 11.30am to 2.30pm. There will be a barbecue, popular Korean food, plants, cakes, books, toiletries, toys and children's games. Please do come along and support this event.

### Kingston

KMC FAMILY NIGHT OUT at Kingston  
Methodist Church, 7pm on 6 May

Many of you will remember Rebecca Quaye – Becky – one of our Circuit's local preachers and "characters". Becky had visa problems towards the end of last year, but was given leave to make an application to renew her visa. The legal process took several months, and whilst it looked hopeful at one point, her application was ultimately unsuccessful. Whilst Becky opted for voluntary repatriation, her return, initially scheduled for "sometime in March", was brought

forward quite suddenly to February. (It's a long and complicated story). Her legal and court fees now have to be met, which are very significant (and Becky's visa did not allow her to take up employment while in this country.)

In order to raise some funds to offset these costs we have arranged a KMC Family Night Out on 6 May. The evening is free, but donations are invited to help offset the cost of the legal fees incurred in Rebecca's unsuccessful fight to remain in the UK.

We hope you will come and join your KMC friends for an evening of music from our "resident band", Follow the Son, and others. Follow the Son will be playing a variety of songs, from Christian, to rock, to ballads. Come and boogie when you can, join in when you can, or otherwise just sit with your friends and family, listen and enjoy. Light refreshments will be provided.

If there is anyone, or a choir/group, who might like to join in the entertainment, please get in touch with Maggie East (maggie.east@btinternet.com), Ruby Esson (ruby1945@hotmail.co.uk) or Val Hayden (val.hayden@btinternet.com). Similarly, it would be helpful to have some idea of who would like to attend, so please let Maggie, Ruby or Val know if you would like to attend.

Kingston Methodist Church Annual Plant and Produce Sale

This will take place on Saturday 6 May, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. This year all proceeds will go to The Fircroft Trust, which for 50 years has supported adults with mental health issues in our local community.

### New Malden

May 6<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Bar and Plant Sale for World Mission

May 9<sup>th</sup> - 7.30 for 8.00pm: Meeting Point. 'Food from across the world.' World Red Cross and Crescent Day





May 13<sup>th</sup> - Saturday coffee bar in aid of Christian Aid

May 14<sup>th</sup> - 12.30pm - Christian Aid lunch

May 14<sup>th</sup> - 3.00pm - Music in New Malden.  
An hour of music followed by tea and cake.  
Guildhall School Cantata Project directed by James Johnstone.



### **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). Forthcoming meetings will include the following talks:

10 May: Sarah Choi: "My Life and Art"

14 June: Jeanette Barwick: "Curious Incidents in Ministry Travels"

12 July: Anne Hackman: "How Did You Get Where You Are Today"

(August – No meeting)

### Quiet Day ("be.coming") Saturday 17th June

We are delighted that Rev Nadine Wilkinson will be leading our first Quiet Day in 2016. She will help us to explore our faith-filled approaches to being and becoming. This is a great opportunity to draw aside from the activities of daily life and spend the day in quiet fellowship with others. Nadine will guide our thoughts as we spend time separately and together. We meet at the House of Prayer in Seymour Road, East Molesey. They offer their house and grounds to give an opportunity for personal renewal and to find a deepening sense of God.

The day is open to everyone in our Church family and friends around the Circuit. If you have never attended such a day before, you are warmly invited to join us on this occasion and experience the benefits of participating in a Quiet Day.

The day will run from 10.00am to 3.30pm and you are asked to bring a packed lunch. Hot drinks and light snacks will be available throughout the day. 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](mailto:jbarwick313@btinternet.com); 0208 941 8551)

### **OTHER NEWS**

#### **MHA - Methodist Homes: Best Sunday for Ages - 11th June, 2017**

Methodist Homes is a charity providing care, accommodation and support services for older people throughout Britain. Best Sunday for Ages, held at the start of Best Week for Ages, will generally be celebrated on the 11th June but can be held on an alternative date to suit individual churches. The theme of worship is 'Befriending Age' and we are invited to look at ways in which we can help and support older members of our church and society, as well as learn best from them how to plan our own ageing journey.

To enhance and enjoy celebrations, whilst supporting MHA and building bridges in the community, there are many suggested types of events such as quiz nights, afternoon teas, dinner parties and sports events. More ideas are welcome and the website is [BestForAges.com](http://BestForAges.com) and the telephone number is 01332 221 641.

MHA, founded 75 years ago, is one of the largest charities in the U.K., delivering a range of high quality services to 17,000 individuals and is grateful for all your support, especially your prayers.

Please contact Corinne Foster via Kingston Methodist Church if you need more information or have any queries.

### Prudential London & Surrey Cycling Event



This year's event takes place on Sunday 30 July. As in previous years this will involve a number of road closures, and the impact on church services will once again need to be considered.

Please send your contributions for the June Circuit News by Tuesday 9 May to:  
[circuitoffice@kingstonsircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@kingstonsircuit.org.uk)

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### Summary of Recent Notices

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#### CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We are very sorry to have to report that **Doreen Coombs** died peacefully on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, sadly just a week after moving to a Care Home in Sutton Coldfield to be nearer her family. A thanksgiving service for her was held here on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**William Tyrrell** and Beverley Penny were married on Saturday 8th April in Buxton. William is teaching English at a secondary School in Manchester.

**George Alleyne** is still in St George's Hospital with heart and lung problems. George and his family wishes to extend their thanks and appreciation to all those who have sent their prayers and get well wishes.

**Margaret Eccleshall** is back at Speirs House and feeling better following 3 weeks in hospital.

#### JULIE HAINES EMAIL CHANGE

Please delete any and all use of [julie\\_haines53@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julie_haines53@hotmail.co.uk) and replace with [jahaines2@hotmail.com](mailto:jahaines2@hotmail.com)  
thank you *Julie*

#### BADMINTON – All welcome

Good news! Senior Badminton will re-start after Easter. It will run fortnightly on Tuesday evenings alternating with Junior

Badminton. The dates of the May meetings are as follows (all 7.00 – 9.00pm):  
2<sup>nd</sup> May - Junior  
9<sup>th</sup> May – Senior



All abilities welcome. Please come along!

#### SPECIAL REQUEST

Does anyone have a working CD walkman that they no longer need? I use them for my hypnotherapy sessions which keep me sane (no comment!).  
*Birgit Cowan*

#### NEXT MEETING of 3Fs

The next meeting of 3Fs, Faith, Food and Fellowship, will be at Birgit and Guy Cowan's house, 43 Thetford Road KT3 5DP on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**. This is a change from the previously published date. All are welcome: just let Birgit know if you are coming and if you are able to bring some food. Beyond the food and the fellowship, we generally discuss an issue of current interest from the perspective of our faith. If you would like to know more about 3Fs, please feel free to ask Andrew, David Knowles or Birgit Cowan.

#### Exciting travel opportunity!



Revd William Davis, of the London District Ghanaian Fellowship, is leading a mission trip to Ghana for both lay people and clergy from 2 to 13 October 2017. The purpose is to enjoy fellowship, visit projects and places of interest, and to explore faith in the Ghanaian context. The total cost will be very affordable. If you are interested, please contact Revd Davis on [william14da@yahoo.com](mailto:william14da@yahoo.com)



## Diary Dates - May

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.00pm

**Junior Badminton**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 10.00am

**Coffee Bar & Plant Sale – World Mission**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 11.00am

**Kingston Conversation - Quiz the leader of the council and senior councillors**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup>

**Wives & Friends visit to Isabella Plantation**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm

**Senior Badminton**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

**Meeting Point. Food from across the world – World Red Cross and Crescent Day**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm

**Memory Café in the Welcome Area**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm

**Church Council Meeting**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 10.00am

**Coffee Bar – Christian Aid**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 10am – 4pm

**Workshop in Lower Hall to make costumes and props for Malden Fortnight Parade**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 12.00

**Christian Aid Lunch after service**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm

**Music in New Malden. Guildhall School Cantata Project directed by James Johnstone**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm

**Kingston District Chamber Music Society Concert**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm

**Junior Badminton**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 8.30pm

**Stewards' Meeting**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am

**James Berry MP surgery in Admin office**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

**3Fs at home of Birgit and Guy Cowan**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 10.00am

**Coffee Bar – Inner Wheel**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 11.45am

**Annual Church Meeting (after service)**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm

**Wives & Friends – Carpet Bowls & exercises**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.00pm

**Senior Badminton**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 10.00am

**Coffee Bar – RNLI**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> **BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY – COFFEE BAR CLOSED**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

**Praise in the Park, Blagdon Park**



## Message from our Family Worker

At the Children and Youth Assembly of the Methodist Church the following manifesto was put together by those attending aged 8-11 years. They wanted the Church in 2017 to hear this and respond with action. These are the issues they felt were the most important.

### “Wonderful Me”

We want everyone to respect each other in their words and actions.

We experience lots of pressure at school, particularly to perform well.

We ask the church to look for ways to help us, talk to us and support us.

### Wonderful Church

We want the Church to support charities and to enable us along with the whole church to be involved in helping others.

We want to worship and discover more about God and prayer.

We want the church to enable us to do this in ways that engage and challenge us and help us understand.

We can, and want to be involved in and contribute to the worshipping life of the church.

### Wonderful World

We want the church to stand together against racism and injustice.

We want the Church to campaign with us to support people who are homeless, refugees, slaves and in poverty.

### Wonderfully Prophetic

We want guidance and support to know what to do, or what actions to take about difficult situations in the world. We want to be Agents of Change!

The people of the world should be a community that lives in peace.”

Wow! Some of these ideas and demands are amazing, if there are any about which you

feel really passionate, please let me know if I or the church here can help and we'll do our best because by working together **you** can make a difference.

God bless

Julia

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## Services in May

7<sup>th</sup> May – Reverend Choi – Holy Communion

14<sup>th</sup> May – Mrs Bridges

21<sup>st</sup> May – Reverend Choi – AGM and family service

28<sup>th</sup> May – Reverend Brown  
Choi and Café Church in the evening

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Copy deadline for the June newsletter is Friday 9am 26th May by email to: [carolineauty@hotmail.com](mailto:carolineauty@hotmail.com) or in the pigeon hole.