The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church November 2015



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Message from Reverend Choi

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.
 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.
 For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. (Psalm 133)

Last month, I led a Quiet Day at the House of Prayer in East Molesey, which was organised by our friends in the Surbiton Hill Methodist Church. To me, personally, it was good to have a time of quiet, reflection, and prayer in such a nice place which I hadn't known before. On that day, I introduced fifteen Psalms, known as the 'Pilgrim's Psalms', Psalm 120 to Psalm 134, which are titled 'songs of ascents'. Pilgrims sang these psalms again and again on their journey to Jerusalem.

As you see, the one above is just one of those fifteen Psalms, which is talking about 'unity'. It is not a difficult word to understand, but it may not be that easy to live out. And, that is why they sang together this psalm. They did not sing solo, or travel

alone. They did travel together and sing together this psalm of unity.

I think it seems to tell us of something significant in our journey.

We too are pilgrims, we have a destination, our heavenly home, and we are travelling together.

However, you may know how hard it is to travel together with the people who have different backgrounds, ethnically, religiously, or intellectually.

Although we are on the same journey, we may have different pace of move. Some may like to move fast. Others may like to move slow and relaxed.

But, the point is we need to respect each other, as God's unique creations. We are who we are. And, God wants us to appreciate the diversity in His family. That means, we may not think alike, but we should work together, and we can worship together.

Are we on the same pilgrimage? I believe so. Then, let's sing this Psalm together every day.

Every blessing, Choi.

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The Christmas Fair is happening as usual... ... on Friday Nov 27th – the same evening as Father Christmas arrives

in the High Street and turns on the Christmas lights.

The Church will be transformed into an enticing display of festive stalls where you can purchase all manner of bargains and Christmas gifts, as well as relaxing over drinks and hot snacks. Santa's Grotto will be up and running in the Choir vestry, and there will be Games organised in the Lower Hall. This is truly a Grand Night Out for the family, as well as being an important fundraiser and a way of raising our profile in the community. Do put the date in your diaries and remember all the areas in which you can help on the day, before and after:

We need offers of stalls, things to sell on them, people to man them, people to set up and clear away, people to serve refreshments, people to buy. We need you!

There will soon be pieces of paper to fill in to help us muster and organise all the support listed above.

Please help to make this into another successful and enjoyable way to begin the Festive Season, and raise money for good causes.

All enquiries to this year's Co-ordinators, Alison Bullett and Julie Haines

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Always nice to include some "thanks" in the newsletter:

Sarah's Wooden Cross

On behalf of all, we would like to thank Sarah (our Minister's wife) for the wondrous cross she has made and given to us, which now hangs at the front of the Church. Every time we are in Church our eyes are unerringly drawn to it, and apart from its sheer beauty, the message of Christ's hands and arms portraying love, help, support and sacrifice is truly moving.

Sarah's talent is a gift to us, and we are indeed fortunate to have these artistic qualities coupled with her deep faith in Jesus Christ.

So, thank you Sarah.

John & Jacky Tarrant

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Around the Circuit – November 2015 Church Events Chessington

Our **Remembering Service** takes place on Sunday 1 November, at 6.30pm.

The **Chessington Winter Fair** is on Saturday 21 November, from 11.30am to 2.30pm. There will be a variety of activities, including Father Christmas, Korean and English Food, a raffle, tombola, games etc.

New Malden

Our Christmas Fair takes place on Friday 27th November from 4.30 to 7pm, and coincides with Father Christmas turning on the lights in New Malden High Street. There will be crafts, books, food, traditional children's activities & games, toiletries, preserves, refreshments, Father Christmas and much more. Slots with Father Christmas should be booked with Julia Morton: nmmcvw@hotmail.co.uk.

Surbiton Hill

Action For Children: On Saturday 21
November at 4.30pm Pat and Graham Lavers will take us on a photographic journey to Poland including many interesting sights in and around Krakow, Wroclaw and Warsaw. Tea and cakes will be served and Christmas Cards and diaries will be on sale together with other items. There will be a retiring

collection for Action for Children. All welcome.

On Saturday 7 November at 7.30pm the **Surbiton Hill church choir** will be providing an informal evening of music of various styles, entertainment and refreshments. We would be happy for anyone to do a 'turn'! Contact Linda Bridges: lmbridges@btopenworld.com

Drop In Class at Surbiton Hill: 1.45 for 2.00pm – please note the following events:

- 11 November: "**Getting to know** you" Our new minister, Rev Dr Stan Brown introduces himself to us.
- 8 December: **Christmas Celebrations** Members' afternoon. Please bring a story, poem, music or reading which has a meaning for you.

Prayer Fellowship

Monthly Prayer Fellowship will be starting at Surbiton Hill on Saturdays, from 10 am to 11am, led by Daniel Masillamani. The first meeting will be on 7 November, and further meetings will take place on the first Saturday of every month. You are invited to join us for a time of prayer and meditation. Our informal Prayer Fellowship will begin with singing, meditation and prayer, followed by refreshments. We believe that praying for our church, city, and nation is extremely important in the days we are living in, and we will share prayer requests, pray for those in our congregation who have needs, and share testimonies of answered prayer.

Prayer Fellowship also takes place from 10 am to 11 am on the 4th Saturday in the month at Chessington, led by Andre Justin.

Other News

Pianist Needed

Kingston Methodist Church is short of pianists at the moment, and is now missing a pianist one Sunday a month, and is looking for someone who would be willing to help by playing the piano at Kingston occasionally (ideally once a month, but any help would

be appreciated). It will need to be someone willing to play with the music group, and who is happy with the more modern songs which are used in the morning services at Kingston. If anyone might be interested, or would like more information, they can contact Maggie East by email at: maggie.east@btinternet.com

Ladies Badminton

The Ladies Badminton Group which meets at Surbiton Hill Church is actively looking for new lady players. The Group meets at 1.30pm on Wednesdays in the Upper Hall. Anyone who might be interested is welcome to come along and meet the Group. If you would like some more information please phone Margaret Hines on 0208 399 5665.

MHA Later Life Matters: Flourishing in an Ageing Society

A Day Conference will be held at Methodist Central Hall on Monday 29 February 2016, followed by an Evening Service of Celebration. It will be to explore how prepared we are both as a society and as individuals for ongoing lengthening lifespans. Those who are involved in Older People's issues in a Church, Care or Community setting are invited to join, with a welcome to Chaplains, Clergy, Church Pastoral Leaders, and older people themselves.

For more details please phone or email Kate Horton: 01332 221913; kate.horton@mha.org.uk; visit the website: www.mha.org.uk or contact Corinne Foster at KMC

Next edition

Please send your contributions by Friday 13 November to:

<u>circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk</u>

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Some useful advice to note now that the nights are closing in – thanks to Julia for circulating this from the Met Police.

Operation Bumblebee...

Top ten tips on how to prevent your home from being a target for burglars.

- 1) **Shut and lock all windows and doors** when you leave your property, even if it is for a short period of time.
- 2) Don't leave your car keys or front door keys within easy reach of the post box.
- 3) Do not leave the key for your back door in the lock barrel, this makes it easier for a burglar to enter your home. However keep it within close reach in case of a fire.
- 4) Lock garages and sheds so garden tools and ladders can't be used to break into your home.
- 5) **Keep side gates locked** and wheelie bins stored behind them.
- 6) Use **timer switches** linked to lights so it appears that someone is at home at night.
- 7) Invest in **a safe** for valuables/jewellery and securely fix it to a solid surface.
- 8) Install a visible **intruder alarm** system burglars don't want to be seen or heard.
- 9) Install an external PIR **sensor flood light** to increase visibility and deter burglars.
- 10) Photograph and mark valuables/sentimental items with your postcode and house number/name. Then register the items with their serial numbers at: www.immobilise.com

Summary of October Notices

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We are very sad to have to report the death of 'Little' **Doreen Moring** on Thursday 8th October. She was a lovely lady who was always cheerful and smiley despite her many health battles. Her funeral will be held on Thursday 12th November at 12.00pm at

North East Surrey Crematorium followed by a thanksgiving service here at 2.30pm.

Margaret Eccleshall is now resident in Room 1, Speirs House, 1 The Chesters, Traps Lane, New Malden, KT3 4SF. 'phone 020 8949 8501.

JUNIOR CHURCH THEATRE VISIT

Please could you let me know if you are coming to the Cryer Theatre in Carlshalton to see "The Little Matchgirl" on Saturday 12th December at 3.30 pm. It's free to all junior church members under 11. We may be able to arrange transport between us nearer the time. Thank you Julia

happy to announce that Doreen Downey has volunteered to take over the running of the Bookstall so please support her in her new role and see her for any comments, requests or enquiries. Sue Abell will still be running the Books side of the operation and compiling the rota.

I hope that Doreen finds this job as enjoyable and rewarding as I have and I send her all good wishes. Sarah Moore

NOTICES

The life of the church means that sometimes there is news - or a request for help - that we all need to share in person with the rest of congregation. Please do speak to the **Stewards** before the Service if you would like to make an announcement, or would like them to make an announcement; and give them a slip of paper with any wording or details you need to be passed on precisely. That way you'll know we will remember and get it right! Do please let us know as well if you would like to say a prayer or have a prayer said in the service for a particular person (or persons) or event, or want that prayer to mention a particular thing.

WOOL REQUIRED

Wives are busy making crafts to sell at the Christmas Fair and would welcome donations of red, green and white wool. Please give the wool to Glynis. Many thanks

CRECHE ROTA

This is an appeal for more volunteers to man crèche on a Sunday morning. You will have to be prepared to have a DBS check. Please See Julia.

Diary Dates for November

Tuesday 3rd 7.30pm

Junior Badminton

(please note changed time)

Friday 6th 10.30am

Friday Fellowship

Saturday 3rd 10.00am

Coffee Bar – Cancer Research – Glynis & Courtney Fox

Sunday 8th 3.00pm Music in New Malden Duo Regalia – violin and viola

Monday 9th 7.00pm **Wives & Friends – Crafts**

Tuesday 10th 7.30pm

Meeting Point – Jessica Hiscocks from Alzheimer's Research UK

Wednesday 11th 2.00pm

Memory Café in the Welcome Area

Saturday 14th 10.00am

Coffee Bar - Wives

Monday 16th 7.30pm

Kingston District Chamber Music Society concert

Tuesday 17th 7.00pm

Junior Badminton

Saturday 21st 10.00am

Coffee Bar – Dyscover (Aphasia) – Birgit

Cowan

2.00pm **Dads &**

Doughnuts

Monday 23rd 7.00pm

Wives & Friends – 'Journeys on the 213 Bus'

Amy Graham

Wednesday 25th 8.30pm Staff & Stewards' Meeting

Friday 27th 4.30pm

Christmas Fair

Saturday 28th 10.00am

Coffee Bar – **Post Christmas Fair** – Birgit

Cowan

Sunday 29th 2.00pm

Advent Sunday Music – an extra Music in New Malden concert with the Harmonie Choir

6.30pm

Festival of Lights

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A Victoria Cross Story – another sage article from our Youth Worker.



Putting others first

The Victoria Cross was first awarded by Queen Victoria after the Crimean war. It is the highest military decoration and is awarded for "valour in

the face of the enemy" to British and commonwealth servicemen. Since 1856, the Victoria Cross has been awarded 1 356 times. Here is the story of Sergeant Norman Jackson, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for showing considerable bravery and for putting others first.

On the night of 26 - 27 April 1944, when 215 Lancasters and 11 Mosquitoes raided Schweinfurt, strong winds upset the

bombing schedule and enemy fighters attacked the bombers. Sergeant Jackson was the flight engineer in a Lancaster bomber. When his aircraft was attacked, a fire started near a petrol tank on the wing. Sergeant Jackson was thrown to the floor and although he was wounded from the attack, he was determined to put out the fire on the wing. Pushing a hand fire-extinguisher into the top of his life-saving jacket and slipping on his parachute pack, Sergeant Jackson started to climb out of the cockpit and back along the top of the wing. At this point, his parachute pack opened and the whole canopy and rigging lines fell into the cockpit. Undeterred, Sergeant Jackson continued. He slipped, but succeeded in clinging on, although he lost the extinguisher, which was blown away.

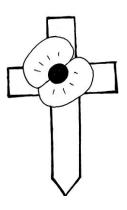
By this time, the fire had spread rapidly and Sergeant Jackson was involved. His face, hands and clothing were severely burnt. Unable to retain his hold, he was swept through the flames and over the trailing edge of the wing, dragging his parachute behind. The parachute was only partly inflated and was burning in a number of places.

The captain gave the order to abandon the aircraft and four of the remaining members of the crew landed safely. Sergeant Jackson was unable to control his descent and landed heavily. He suffered a broken ankle, his right eye was closed through burns and his hands were useless. These injuries, together with the wounds received earlier meant that he suffered considerable pain. At daybreak, he crawled to the nearest village, where he was taken prisoner. After 10 months in hospital, he made a good recovery, although his hands required further treatment.

This airman's attempt to extinguish the fire and save the aircraft and crew from falling into enemy hands was an act of outstanding bravery. To venture outside, when travelling at 200 miles an hour, at a great height and in intense cold, was incredibly courageous. Had he succeeded in subduing the flames, there was little or no chance of him returning to the cockpit. The damage to his parachute reduced his chances of survival to a minimum. By his ready willingness to face these dangers, Sergeant Jackson set an example of self-sacrifice, which will always be remembered.

On Remembrance Sunday we remember this and other brave servicemen and women and all those who have endured hardship through war.

The service at the War Memorial opposite the church will take place at 9.30am on Sunday 8th November.



Services:

1st Nov Rev Choi – HC

8th Nov Mrs Davis - Family/parade

15thth Mrs Vincent

22nd Rev Choi at 10.30am

Rev Murray at 6.30pm

29th Rev Finnan

Next copy date 9am 27th Nov 2015 by email to: carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.