



UBUNTU APRIL 2014

MINISTER

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CHURCH WORKERS

Julia Morton (Youth and Children's Worker) Sarah Moore (Administration) Angela Stagg (Pastoral work)

STEWARDS

Janet Jones - Senior Steward Jane Bennett Tony Chalk Liz Edwards Andrew Turner

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I hope that I will not have a single bit of talent left and could say "I used everything you gave me.""



Message from Reverend Choi	
(Reflecting on my Sabbatical)	Page 4
Church News and Announcements	Page 5
Visit to the Houses of Parliament	Page 12
Food for Thought	Page 13
Christ Arose	Page 14
Footsteps	Page 16
Circuit News	Page 17
Junior Church Pages	Page 20
Church Services in April 2014	Page 22
Church Services and Activities	Page 23



UBUNTU

Ubuntu is an African word highlighting the importance of our common humanity, the relationships we share and the connections that bind us together. If we want to display Ubuntu to others we will be hospitable and compassionate; willing to share and caring in our attitudes. We welcome you to our Church family here at New Malden Methodist Church and invite you to join us in our fellowship and worship.

The May edition of *Ubuntu* will be available on Sunday 27th April. Contributions can either be sent by email to: rosemarie.a.lester@btinternet.com Or, they can be left in the church newsletter pigeonhole no later than **Friday, 18th April** *Thank you Rosemarie* (Additional material courtesy of parishpump.co.uk) Dear friends,

It was a great privilege to take a sabbatical for three months, which not many people can enjoy. Of course, it's not a holiday but a time for reflection, refreshing, recharging, and relaxing as well. As Christians, it sounds biblically correct. But, I wonder whether Jesus had ever taken a sabbatical during his public ministry. In my understanding he didn't. (Some of you may argue that he had just finished his public ministry in three years! Therefore, he was not entitled for a sabbatical which comes every seven years!). My question is, if it is something we should keep, why is it not applied to everyone, whether lay or ordained, volunteers or paid workers? I was feeling it was a bit unfair and even guilty that only ministers take this opportunity.

However, I had a great time during my sabbatical, half of which I spent in Korea, visiting family members, meeting friends, and of course spending precious time with our son, and also hosting our daughter's engagement party, which was not initially included in my sabbatical plan. It was such a busy schedule, and I found it not easy to handle all those occasions even though I didn't have any language problems, unlike here in England. What made things difficult for me was following 'the technology' which is far advanced in every corner of daily life. Particularly 'smart phones' seemed to be an essential part of life, not only for communicating, but also for buying, paying, banking, and even ID checking. I was feeling awkwardly alienated in my home land, as if I came from the world of a few decades past.

Although I was struggling to catch up with the modern hi-technology, I enjoyed and appreciated a lot the opportunity of doing my research project about North Korea, which actually gave me an amazing eye-opening experience. Even though it was just brief, not deep academic research, I was getting to realise the seriousness of division, the seriousness of the biased education and distorted history, and the serious influence of unbalanced mass media, and the consequences of these. I was almost shocked to become aware of how limited and controlled the information and education I have had all through my life was, which has prevented me from the actual facts.

But, don't get me wrong. I don't mean that all the information we have is wrong, but that is not all. There must be another story on the other side. What saddened me was that I have been half-blinded. My left eye was always closed.

But, what matters may not be that I am now trying to see with two eyes, but that I need to learn how to see as God sees and how to find the way forward to make reconciliation as He wants us to do. This seems to be my next task.

And, I really, really give thanks to you all for praying for us and covering all the work during my absence.

Every blessing, *Choi.*

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DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

Thursday 3 rd Friday 4 th Saturday 5 th Monday 7 th	7.00pm 10.30am 10.00am 7.30pm	Youth Club Friday Fellowship Coffee Bar – Preserves – Pam Bugeya Wives & Friends – 'Scams' Metropolitan Police
Tuesday 8 th	7.00pm	Junior Badminton
Saturday 12 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Church Gardens – Stella Chattle
Monday 14 th	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Easter Thoughts
Thursday 17 th	8.00pm	Youth Club Stop Up until Good Friday morning
Friday 18 th	11.00am	Hot Cross Bun making in back kitchen. You bring the ingredients and a baking tray and we'll provide the yeast.
Saturday 19 th Saturday 26 th	10.00am 10.00am	Coffee Bar – WI – Barbara Cavalier Coffee Bar – Night Shelter – Stella Chattle

RECENT CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Those of you who remember **John and Christine Lucas** will be sad to know that Christine died a few weeks ago.

Donations in memory of **Bernard Bedford** to the Stroke Association and Cure Parkinson's amounted to £1425.00. Jean Bedford writes:

My family join me in thanking everyone who supported me with their prayers and care over the last 9 months of Bernard's life. A dear friend who supported me and visited Bernard regularly even though it upset her. Letters of suggestions and encouragement from "the Wirral" and a pastoral visitor who demonstrated his care and concern. Friends who visited Bernard both in the hospitals and the nursing home, and those who gave me lifts to various places; especially the dear friend who turned out just after 7.00am on the day Bernard died to take me to the hospital. Thank you all from me and my family; you are true Christians.

MALDEN FORTNIGHT PARADE – 5th July

We have the opportunity of entering a float into the Malden Fortnight parade again this year. However, this requires people to help decorate the float and then to be on it (the usual people are not available!!). This year's theme is 'Carnival'. Please let Sarah or Julia know if you would like to be involved.

RATS REQUIRED !!!!!!!!!!!!

Would anyone aged between 7 and 14 years like to be a 'rat' in the panto? Some singing and movement required! Contact Julia on <u>nmmcyw@hotmail.co.uk</u>, 8942 1288 or pigeonhole.

Also, are you able to lend the following?

Three-cornered hats Bermuda shorts (the more colourful the better!) Inflatable fish



Church News and Announcements

Ali Baba basket Fez hats Blue 'draping' material for backdrops Sari-type material Swimming arm bands



EASTER EGG DECORATING COMPETITION

You are once again challenged to decorate an egg for Easter morning.

Bring your beautiful egg in an eggcup on Easter morning by 10.25am before the morning service and place it on the table. I will put a small receptacle in front of the eggs and the congregation will vote for the best as we did last year by placing a coin in front of your favourite. These will be counted and the one with the most coins will win. There are 2 categories, under and over 18. The money will be donated to JMA.

Julia

MEETING POINT



We begin our evenings with coffee in the Welcome Area from 7.30 pm before moving into the church. Everyone is welcome to ioin us!

The programme is as follows:

8 April	Is the NHS in Crisis? - Professor David Knowles, Vice Chair Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group
13 May	Community Policing
10 June	ТВА
8 July	Praise Evening - Peter Bullett - Music Co-ordinator and Organist New Malden Methodist Church

GOOD FRIDAY MUSIC New Malden Methodist Church "The Crucifixion" by Sir John Stainer 18th April, 2014 at 8.00 pm

This year we are singing perhaps the most famous English 19th Century Passiontide work in an arrangement with string orchestra.

A chorus drawn from New Malden and District will rehearse over the previous three weeks on a mixture of Saturday mornings and mid-week evenings. It is understood that not everyone will be able to make every rehearsal, but the two asterisked below are particularly important.

If you would like to sing, please register with Peter Bullett <u>p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk</u> or landline 8942 0666, so that enough vocal scores will be available. A voluntary donation of £5 to cover expenses allows as much of the money collected on the night to be given to a charity which the chorus chooses.

7.45 – 9.30 pm
7.45 – 9.30 pm
10.15 – 11.45 am
7.45 – 9.30 pm (provisional)
7.30 – 10.00 pm (choir from 8.30)



WISE WORDS!

- The proof of spiritual maturity is not how 'pure' you are, but your awareness of your impurity. That very awareness opens the door to God's grace. *Philip Yancy*
- It is the person who most knows himself liable to fall that will be most ready to overlook any offences from his fellow men. *Alexander Auld*
- When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves, God takes most notice of them. *Matthew Henry*

Family, friends and acquaintances of cast and crew are invited to Dick Whittington 0n Saturday ^{3rd} May 2pm and 7pm Tickets £5, Concession £4 Children £3 Tickets available from Sunday 6th April

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11TH - 17TH MAY 2014

Please don't forget...

Saturday 10th May (10.00am - 12 noon) Coffee Morning in the Welcome Area.

Sunday 11th May (after morning service) Bread and Cheese Lunch to be held in the Lower Hall. A board for signatures will be in the Welcome Area two weeks before 11th.

I do hope you will be able to attend at least one of these events which will support the ongoing work of Christian Aid.

The following article from Christian Aid explains what this year's appeal is all about.

Jennifer Townsend



War tears lives apart

Love can help piece them back together

[']The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer... in whom I take refuge.' (2 Samuel 22:2-3)

For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is a part of daily life.

Right now, fuelled by the devastating violence in both Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the numbers of people driven from their homes by war is on the rise.

It stands at 42 million people – an appalling statistic and a stain on the conscience of humanity. We can't turn our backs. We must act now.

The good news is that your church can make a real difference.

Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise over £12m for Christian Aid Week.

This Christian Aid Week (11–17 May 2014) we want to go even further. We want every church in Britain and Ireland to get involved – whether by giving, acting or praying.

Together we can send people living in fear this message: you are not alone. We're with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace.

Imagine what such an expression of love would mean to people searching for the strength to cope with the devastation of war, and how it could help to drive out their fear.

Demonstrate God's love for those living in poverty and show how much good the church is doing in the world this Christian Aid Week.

Together we can reach the 42 million people caught up in conflict and help them live a life free from fear.

Could you provide the gift of hope?

£15 could provide blankets for refugee children to protect them from bitter night-time temperatures.

£40 could provide enough good quality and nutritious food for two refugee children for a month.

£150 could help us provide specialist emotional support for a child deeply traumatised by the horror of war that they've witnessed or experienced.

Be an instrument of God's peace. Give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week. caweek.org

VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY KITTY GOMES

When my Brownie Pack 2nd New Malden went on a trip to the Houses Of Parliament, it was amazing. We walked the route the Queen takes when she attends the State Opening of Parliament.

First, we visited the room where she puts her robe and gown on. Second, we entered some rooms where the Lords would work. They had special red chairs for them to sit on.

Then we went into The House of Lords where we saw where the Queen would sit.

The tour guide took us through the main lobby which parts the House Of Commons from the House Of Lords. She explained to us that the Queen is forbidden from approaching the House Of Commons. So when it's the State Opening Of Parliament the Black Rod, who is one of the Queen's special servants, knocks on the door of the House Of Commons with his stick and calls for them to come to the House Of Lords.

We were not allowed to sit in either of the Houses because we are not Members Of Parliament or Lords.

We then walked back to Westminster Hall where the Queen Mother's body had been laid.

I went to the gift shop and bought a magnet and notebook. We made our way to the café where I drank eight cups of tea!!!

Over all our visit to The Houses Of Parliament was an awesome experience.

Julia writes that one of the "Brownie Birthday Challenges" was to have a cup of tea somewhere unusual and this was where we went for our half term trip!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

People are going hungry as a result of cuts in welfare for the most vulnerable in our society by the Coalition. The pressure on Food Banks is enormous.

The campaign against those receiving benefits by the Coalition has been so successful that many people support it. Most people on benefits are in employment which simply does not pay enough.

Housing benefit cuts for the under 25's within 7 years will result in 150,000 young people unable to rent according to a survey by the charity Centrepoint and Cambridge University. I despair at the lack of concern for the disadvantaged under the present system of wealth distribution.

As Methodists, we are called to speak up and campaign on behalf of the vulnerable in our society and I hope that we will.

Des Hancock

Readers may be interested in looking at The Methodist Church website (www.methodist.org.uk) to find out more about action being taken by several churches, including the Methodist Church, to challenge recent Government changes. For example:

19 February 2014 - Four major British Churches have criticised David Cameron for neither understanding his Government's own figures nor recognising the reality of more and more people facing destitution.

The Church of Scotland, Baptist Union of Great Britain, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church and charity Housing Justice, which collectively represent more than a million people, have responded to an article by the Prime Minister in today's Daily Telegraph. In the piece, Mr Cameron claims that the number of workless households doubled over the last decade, when ONS data shows that they increased from 3.7 million in 1997 to 3.9 million in 2010, not 7.4 million as his claim would suggest.

27 February 2014 - Three major British Churches have attacked the Government's Child Poverty Strategy, saying that it fails to provide a credible plan to tackle child poverty.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain, Methodist and United Reformed Churches welcome the Government's pledge to eradicate child poverty by 2020, but argue that the strategy fails to provide a credible plan to achieve this aim.

You may also remember articles in Ubuntu in April and June 2013 which gave details of a Church Report entitled "Truths and Lies about Poverty" (March 2013). The report used some words of John Wesley who said in 1753,

"So wickedly, devilishly false is that common objection, 'They are poor, only because they are idle'." Yet today church-goers and the general public alike are willing to believe that the key factors driving poverty in the UK are the personal failings of the poor – especially idleness'.

The full report can still be downloaded from the Methodist Church website and the articles in Ubuntu can be accessed on the New Malden Methodist Church website: www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

In addition to this campaigning by the Church as a whole, we can all do what we can as individuals to support the vulnerable. The Night Shelter project has been a wonderful example of this.

Rosemarie

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CHRIST AROSE

The story behind the hymn

This Easter marks the 140th birthday of this much-loved hymn, sung each year by millions of Christians worldwide. It all began on a little pump organ in the living room of a college professor in Pennsylvania, back in 1874.

Robert Lowry was professor of literature at Bucknell University, and pastor of a nearby church. He had a passion for poetry and music, and explained his 'muse' this way: "I watch my moods and when anything strikes me, whether words or music, no matter where I am, at home, on the street, I jot it down. My brain is a sort of spinning machine, for there is music running through it all the time. Sometimes the words come and the music follows."

Easter 1874 was approaching, and on this particular day, Robert Lowry had been meditating on the gospel narratives of the Passion and Resurrection. The angel's words at the empty tomb, 'He is not here, but is risen' kept running through his mind. There was something there... Lowry moved to the little pump organ in his living room and gave himself up to the moment. Soon the words and the music for this joyous Easter hymn just fell into place.

Christ Arose

Low in the grave He lay Jesus my Saviour! Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o'er His foes; He arose a Victor from the dark domain, And He lives forever with His saints to reign, He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Saviour! Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Saviour! He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

By Robert Lowry (1826-1899)



FOOTSTEPS

The Lord will always walk with you,

along life's blessed beach;

his footprints there beside your own,

always within his reach.

Two sets of footprints, side by side,

from dawn to setting sun;

yet there may come a day, my child,

when you'll see only one.

But do not think the Lord has left you;

nothing could be more wrong.

It's just that he has picked you up, to carry you along.

This poem was read by Andre Justin at the Church Service on Sunday 16th March 2014

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SMILE LINES

- A minister trained his horse to go when he said: 'Praise the Lord', and to stop when he said; 'Amen'. One day he was out for a gallop when he saw a deep gorge ahead. He kept shouting 'Amen!', and finally the horse stopped. The minister was so relieved that he looked up to heaven and said a heartfelt: "Praise the Lord!"
- The evangelist Billy Graham told of a time early in his career when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to post a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, Billy Graham thanked him and said: "If you'll come to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven." The boy looked surprised, and finally stammered: "But you don't even know your way to the post office."

Around the Circuit ... April 2014 - news from your Circuit Coordinator

There is a flurry of activity as the lengthening days and strengthening light reveal the dark corners in our homes where cobwebs lurk and the areas needing attention in our gardens. This activity spills over into our work and church lives, where directories need updating, schedules completed and vacant positions filled. Our spiritual lives are under the spotlight too as we examine our own walk of faith through the Lent courses. But nothing compares to the revelation of our risen Lord which we celebrate at Easter.

Church News/Events

Chessington

The church held a gift/pledge day in February to raise funds to improve the church sanctuary. The response was amazing and together with a much appreciated grant from the circuit, the church is only a few thousand short of its target. The church will continue to fundraise and plans to carry out the work in the autumn. Grateful thanks is extended to the circuit for its support.

Surbiton Hill

'Key Witness' Lantern Arts Drama at Surbiton Hill Saturday 19 April 2.45 for 3pm start. A dramatization of the Easter story from the perspective of key people around at the time, suitable for all ages. There will be no charge for this event as it is being funded by the circuit but donations would be welcome. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone in the circuit to see this exciting production. If you are interested contact Sharon – 07806 559853 / <u>agape@sky.com</u> or the circuit office.

Easter Sunrise Service 6am Sunday 20 April at the Tennis Club A warm invitation from Surbiton Hill is extended to anyone in the circuit who would like to attend this open air service. Bring and share buffet breakfast will follow.

Anyone for Tennis? A Unique Opportunity

Surbiton Hill is in the unique position of being the only church within the UK to have its own tennis club. With 6 excellent hard courts, well equipped

pavilion and large grounds with children's play equipment - it is a fantastic facility and one we would like to invite you, your families and friends to join.

We cater for all standards of play from those just starting to those who are more competitive and provide fun and friendship in a club where we all mix in together. Our adult age range is from 18-84 years so don't let that be a barrier!

What do we offer?

- Our main club afternoon is Saturday when from 1.30pm, until we get tired, we all mix in together. A committee member is on duty to make sure that we all get the chance to play tennis and get to know each other. To revive you in the middle of the afternoon we serve tea and cake in the summer months and tea and biscuits when winter. Any children are more than welcome to come and play in the sand pit, the play-house and the football goals or on the table tennis table.

Every Tuesday evening in the summer we have our club evenings from 6.30pm. Here also we all join in together and there is free professional coaching for those who want it.

On Wednesday mornings our men play from 9.30am until 11.30am. There is play, conversation and of course refreshments.

On Thursday mornings our ladies have their club morning from 9.30am, where once again all standards mix in for fun and the opportunity of getting to know each other better.

From May through to September the club grounds are host to our junior club. From 6.30pm onwards the young players (8 years upwards) can play tennis, have fun in other games and enjoy the tuck shop. They will also receive free professional tennis coaching.

You can arrange to play your own tennis with other members and visitors every day of the year except Easter and Christmas Days and Sunday mornings.

Your membership fee (which is exceptionally reasonable) includes

the provision of all tennis balls and the opportunity to be part of an exciting and lively club.

Also what better place to have your children's birthday parties!

So all you have to do is come and visit us on a Saturday afternoon or arrange for any other time that best suits you. We are located between numbers 11 and 13 Manor Drive Surbiton and would love to see you.

Circuit News/Events

Circuit Meeting Wed 2nd April 8pm at Chessington All welcome.

Safeguarding – Foundation Training Saturday 5th April at Kingston (Harwood Room) This is another opportunity for anyone who has yet to attend a basic training session for safeguarding. If you are in any doubt as to whether you are required to attend, speak with your safeguarding officer whose name should be displayed on your church notice board.

District Events

District Testimony Service 18 May 6pm at Wesley's Chapel. Many of you will want to note your diaries that Suva Catford is being ordained this summer and she will be sharing her testimony at this service.

And finally If your church has an event it wishes to share with the circuit, please forward details to me for inclusion in this section of each church's newsletter/magazine. **Please contact:**

Daphne Baker email: <u>circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk</u> Tel 07510 548931 Circuit Office, Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, 39 Ewell Rd., Surbiton KT6 6AF



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 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





	Ondren Services		
6th April	10.30am (W)	Mrs P Vincent	
	6.30pm (CC/HC)	Rev S Choi	
13th April			
Palm Sunday	10.30am (HC) Rev S Choi		
20th April			
Easter Sunday	8.00am (HC)	Rev S Choi	
	10.30am (HC/AAW)	Rev R Jones	
	6.30pm (W)	Rev D Finnan	
27th April	10.30am (W)	Mr D & Mrs C Doe	
	6.30pm (Circuit @ NM)	Rev S Choi	

Church Services

<u>Notes</u>

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AAW	All Age Worship
CC	Café Church
НС	Holy Communion
W	Preaching Service



FLOWER ROTA FOR APRIL 2014

Date

Donated by

6th April 13th April 20th April 27th April Mrs B Cowan Mrs J Haines Mr & Mrs M Taviner Mrs J Bedford Arranged by

Birgit Julie Sheila Doreen

	Ond	
Sunday	10.30am	Junior Church (3-16) & Crèche (0-3)
	10.30am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
	6.30pm	Activ8
Monday	7.30pm	Wives and Friends Fellowship
		(fortnightly*)
	8.00pm	Badminton Club
Tuesday	4.15pm	Rainbows (age 5-7, term-time)
	5.15pm	Brownies (age 7-10, term-time)
	7.00pm	Junior Badminton (fortnightly)
	8.00pm	Meeting Point*
		(2nd Tuesday in month)
Wednesday	10.30am	Fellowship
	12.15pm	Holy Communion in the Church
Thursday	9.45am	Toddlers Group (term-time)
	6.30pm	Youth Club
		(age 12+, 1st Thursday in month)
Friday	10.00am	Friday Fellowship (1st Friday in month)
	5.15pm	Brownies (age 7-10, term-time)
	7.00pm	Guides (girls age 10-14, term-time)
Saturday	10.00am	Coffee Bar and Cake Sale
	10.30am	Prayers in the Church (15mins)

Church Activities

* Programme details announced separately. Please ask a Steward.

Coffee is served in the Welcome Area, Monday to Friday,10.00am to 2.00pm and Saturday,10.00am to Noon.

Abacus Pre-School (term-time) Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 12.00 noon and Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am to12.30pm **Housegroups** meet on various days - please ask for details.

Church Office telephone number: 020 8942 1288 Church Website: www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com Church Admin Email: nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

New Malden Methodist Church

49 High Street New Malden KT3 4BY



TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

<u>Trains</u>

New Malden Station (South West Trains) 2 minutes walk away

<u>Buses</u>

K1 (New Malden to Kingston) and **213** (Kingston to Sutton) Both pass the door

131 (Kingston to Wimbledon) is a short walk from the roundabout at the Kingston/ Burlington Road junction