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| C:\Users\carol_000\Documents\Ubuntu\Picture1.png**The Newsletter of****New Malden Methodist Church****Christmas 2015** |

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**Message from Reverend Choi**

In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1. 4-5)

Dear friends,

By the time you receive this magazine, you will be in the middle of Advent, the season when we are getting ready for Christmas. And, it is a time when we think of the coming of Christ in humility and also the second coming of Christ in glory. In this sense, Advent is the time for us to show our faith of hope, the Christian optimism. And, it is to declare that our God is involved in this world. So, we are to celebrate this amazing news, the good news that he has come into the world to engage with his people.

Then, how can we/should we celebrate this unique festival in our tradition, especially when we hear the terrible news of the terrorists’ attacks in various places around the world and the news about the imminent air strikes and military actions in return? We may find it not easy to spend time in kind of

false comfort, disconnected from the world’s suffering.

But, on the other hand, we may need to realise that the world Jesus came into 2000 years ago

was not that different from the one we live now and that is why he came. And, he himself had to escape from massacre and became a refugee in Egypt, and eventually he was terrorised by the cruel punishment – the death on the cross. Therefore, what we should remember is he came into the darkness, and we wait in the darkness, believing that in all those places of darkness, God is still present.

Christ is with us at this time of Advent, in the darkness, and Christ is coming with his Light, not the light of the High Street, but the Light of love.

Every blessing on this Christmas and a New Year,

Choi.

Reprinted below **is a letter from Andre Justin to Prayer Web about his son Solomon**, plus an update from later in the month. The words are beautiful and inspirational. We keep Solomon and his family in our prayers at this time.

**My Brothers and Sister in Christ,**

Most of you if not all, are aware of Solomon my seven year old son, and his recent diagnosis of Adrenoleuko - Dystrophy. (A. L. D.) I felt as my Christian family, it would be nice to give you an update on Solomon, and the storm which myself and the family are going through at this time. Solomon's care is managed by various O.T., salt and paediatric consults. His condition is degenerative, however at this time, he is happy, and not in any distress, and finds ways to express his feelings to those around him. The professionals around Solomon are working to ensure Solomon's independence can be to be promoted for as long as possible, that any symptoms and/or pain are managed and that Solomon gets correct care in a timely manner.

Solomon is awaiting support from the home and community team so that he can have support hours to assist with his care needs. He has support from O.T. to help with posture and equipment, and they have put in place, equipment such as bath and toilet chairs, hospital bed etc. He also has support from Evelina hospital paediatric team, which he visits when necessary, and the physiotherapy department helps keep movements in joints and muscles. Speech and Language therapy are working with Solomon to ensure he can eat and maximize his eating for as long as possible. Solomon still has purposeful movements in his arms, and if prompted, will try and point to things he wants. He finds ways to express his wishes and feelings.

Solomon's care, while well managed, is changing. He requires help with re-positioning when in bed, and may call out different times during the night. He requires a high level of care and support. At present I am coping by the grace of God, but like all carers, there is always a risk that I may become injured under the strain of lifting Solomon. We have several flights of stairs up to our flat on top floor, and sadly they’re no lift. Solomon also has to be lifted into and out of our car, and wheelchair. As Solomon becomes weaker due to his deteriorating condition, he may well become more fatigued, and due to his limited physical abilities need to rest after school.

Solomon has difficulty to stand due to muscle weakness and his extended leg posture. He has pronated feet and his left foot also internally rotates. He has tight TA's and hamstrings and has been to appointments for cast to support his feet and enable him to stand with increased weight bearing, and requires physical support from an adult to stand. He finds it difficult to support his weight and balance, to remain upright, and to make a step. This is due to his hip, which has now become fixed, it goes without saying, and he can’t make a step up or down stairs.

Solomon's grip although quite strong, finds it difficult to do some simple task, which he used to do before, such as drawing with a pen etc. As parents we try to provide a loving and nurturing environment for our son to thrive in. Solomon is unable to vocalize words, but can say yes or no at times, and finds other way to communicate. His eyes and loving smile which may be familiar to some of you, says so much. Solomon is still a social able little boy, despite his health needs, and enjoys tipping things over and throwing things on the floor so that we have to continually pick them up. He has maintained his fantastic sense of humour, and understands everything, which goes on around him, remembering everything.

Solomon has settled in at his new school, and is achieving and completing small incremental steps. He will need a higher level of support meeting his physical needs as his condition progresses. Solomon at present can still swallow food, however some of it has to be liquidized and his fluids have to be thickened. His muscle deterioration has meant that Solomon finds chewing and many foods at the back of his mouth, very difficult to swallow at times. He manages, however changes have had to be implemented to make his solid food soft. Appointments will soon be made for him to see a surgeon, as he will need a gastronomy tube for feeding soon.

Solomon can be selective with where and with whom he will communicate depending on his familiarity with the person talking with him. There is a good level of multi-agency working and communication with Solomon, however there is a lot I have to do, as my son’s main carer, carrying out main caring duties. I rely on my God for he has given us his spirit, to guide, comfort and strengthen us during times like this. Our provider knows when our burdens become too much to bear, and then he carries us. While I have concerns for others and often put other people before myself, I have to be aware of the possibility of suffering ill effects of caring for my son, while my wife is working full time and assisting as best she can. My Grandmother recently passed away, and I am also assisting my Grandfather as his main carer who is in his nineties with various medical problems. (PERSONAL CARE, MEALS ETC.)

Solomon continues to receive support from the Disabled Children's Team. We as a family, have had to come to terms with the fact that our son who was healthy running around, and no different to any other child, is now disabled, and requires specialist education and health provision in order to meet his full potential. Jeom and myself will always need to be supported in our role and provided with respite from caring. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have offered support in one way or another, like Jacqui Boulton, Re. Elizabeth Osei, Linda Davis, Chessington Methodist prayer group, Kingston, Surbiton Hill, New Malden and Chessington Methodist Church. I thank you all for your prayers and support during another storm in my life and the lives of my family and those close to us. Please let the congregations in your church know that we have been very grateful for their prayers, including all prayer groups within the circuit. We would be grateful if everyone would continue to include Solomon, myself and family in your prayers, at this time. Bonni-Belle often spoke of the support and various ways in which Surbiton Hill could help including herself, which was a comforting thought. I will always be grateful to her and the circuit on the whole for their offers of support and concern.

Gusandra my daughter that many of you have come to know is fine, and Jeom at present is also ok under the circumstances. As for myself, as I recently told Rev. Dr. Stan Brown, “I am fair to fine like the British whether.” God always knows what we are facing at present, and just when we feel like we can’t take anymore, he carries us. Thanks again to all. Keep smiling everyone, “we are Methodist.”

Love and Prayers,

Andre Justin

Update on 18th November: A quick update on a couple of changes. I spoke of our Lord knowing when our load becomes too heavy, he never gives us more than we can bear. I felt that I was at that point physically. We have now got a mobility car which makes life much easier with transporting Solomon and getting him into a car. We may also be moving to ground floor accommodation before Christmas by the grace of God, which will be in New Malden (TO BE CONFIRMED). This will relieve me of all physical strain, with other equipment etc. put into place by O.T. assisting Solomon. Will also mean I will be seen a lot more often in coffee bar at New Malden. While typing this email, been notified by phone that we can view property tomorrow. Little things like this happen often in my life.

**And now a letter from Dr Stephen Price to Rev Choi – Dr Price is Director of NAFEC UK, one of the charities supported by the coffee bar this year**:

What a blessing!

Dear Pastor Choi, and Christ’s family at The Methodist Church, New Malden,

My heart rejoiced this morning as I opened my mail to find your love-gift for the work of the Gospel in North Korea.

I returned from Pyongyang a week ago, and I have witnessed how the Holy Spirit is opening hearts there, amongst the ordinary people, to the ‘warmth of the Gospel”.

Although there are always difficulties (e.g., I had to rebook my air fare 3 times as the visa was held back)…… BUT, the blessings that the Holy Spirit provides can overwhelm!!

The door has opened to reach those who are “shamed & shunned” in North Korea……the Disabled. (Just as it was when I grew up in Wales 60 + years ago those with physical handicap. or genetic disorders, were “hidden away”)

In June I had the privilege of taking a team of 5 caring persons to North Korea to establish links with Korea Federation for the Protection of the Disabled (KFPD). As a result of this time there are several projects ongoing;

1. In early October I arranged for a Professor from Leeds University to go to KFPD to set up teaching of Physiotherapy for the ‘Disabled’ ( Physically Challenged is a more appropriate term).

2. We are arranging for 2 Paralympian swimmers from North Korea (one has no legs, and the other just one leg) to come to Wales to train at our National Pool in Swansea, prior to the Brazil Paralympics in Septmber2016.

3. Building of a greenhouse to grow vegetables for bartering to support the work of KFPD.

4. To assist Rev. Seok Hee Lee of New Malden in his work to build a bread factory to make vitamin-fortified bread, …which will help to prevent spina bifida and neural tube defects in the newborn.

5. Continuing to support the ministry of PUST, and the building of a Medical School and Hospital care at Kim Manyu Hospital in Pyongyang

Thank you for your being part of this call to service for our Lord!!

I will keep you informed as to the progress of these projects.

Yours in His Gospel,

Dr. Steve Price

**How volunteering at church can foster life-long friendship**

The first time I ever came to this church I took Ellie, aged 18 months, into Crèche where Nicky was on duty. I spent about a year in crèche as Ellie wouldn’t be left, and during that time made some good friends and got to know a lot of people. Nineteen years later Nicky is one of my closest friends and we still do crèche duty together.

Crèche not only offers a vital opportunity for parents to enjoy a service without their children, but it is a valuable fellowship tool and way of connecting with parents. It is necessary for two people to be on duty together and depending on the children, the duty can be spent sitting on the floor and playing trains (or making the tea while your duty partner does that!), or snuggled up with a sleeping baby on your lap listening to the service through the speakers.

Even if no children come through the helpers can have a quiet coffee and a time of fellowship themselves. It is NEVER a waste of time and the benefits can be enormous to children, parents and helpers alike. Please consider adding your name to the list of volunteers. Speak to Julia or myself.

Sarah Moore

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New Malden

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020 8942 1288

newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

**Meeting Point: 8th December – note the early start time!**

There is a special event this month when Ian Hunter, recently returned from one of his regular trips to Nepal, will speak and show slides of this beautiful country, with particular reference to the devastation caused to one particular school by the recent earthquakes. It will be a slightly longer presentation than usual so we will **Start AT 7.30,** and there will be a Bring and Share finger buffet during the short interval.  Remember all these meetings are open to all, so do please bring your friends and some food and come and Share!



**Christmas Tree Festival**

25 real Christmas trees, decorated by Church and local organisations, will be on display in the Church to raise money for each organisation’s chosen charity.

Please come and see this festive forest in both daylight and in the dark when the twinkling lights create a magical display.

Opening times

**Saturday 12th December**

10.00am-5.00pm

**All weekdays from 14th December** until Christmas Day

10.00am-2.00pm

**Saturday 19th December**

10.00am – 5.00pm with

Community Carols at 12.00 noon

and at all services

**Free Entry**

**Nine Lessons and Carols**

We will again be contributing special choral music to our evening celebration at Christmas and are hoping to cast the net as widely as possible for singers. The pattern of rehearsals is two Saturday mornings and a rehearsal followed by tea on the afternoon of the service. There will be several new, tuneful carols, so do join us.

Lessons and Carols: Sunday 20th December 6.30 pm, rehearsal at 4.30 pm

Rehearsals:

Saturday 12th December 10.15 – 11.45 am

Saturday 19th December 10.00 – 11.45 am

Please just speak to or contact me, Peter Bullett (020 8942 0666 p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk) to "sign up" or for further information.

**Around the Circuit – December 2015**

**Circuit News & Events**

**Quarterly Plan:** There are a couple of amendments to the latest Quarterly Plan: The heading should show the period December to February (not January to March); and the evening service at New Malden on 20 December is Lessons & Carols, and the symbol should be “L&C”.

**Training for Children and Youth Workers:** Brian Smith, the District Youth and Children’s Coordinator, will be conducting some Training Sessions next year for those in the Circuit working with children and young people. The training is entitled “Helping Those Working with Children and Young People Point to Jesus”, and will take place at Chessington Methodist Church on Saturdays 20 February, 2 April and 21 May. For more information about the sessions please contact Brian by email (brian@methodistlondon.org.uk) or phone (07951 408379)

**Church Events
Chessington**

Our Carols by Candlelight service takes place on Monday 14 December at 8pm – everyone is welcome to attend.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Midnight Communion Service at 11.15; and on Christmas Day there is a Family Service at 10.00am.

**Kingston**

**Action for Children**: Kingston is continuing its long tradition of fund raising through carol singing this year. Dates have still to be finalised but will probably 18th December around the Fairfield area, 21st December in Norbiton village, and 24 December in Coombe Hill Park, all starting at 7.30pm. If you would like to join us as a singer (words provided) or collector, please contact Alan Clatworthy 0208 546 7812. You will be very welcome.

**Surbiton Hill**

**Drop In Classes at Surbiton Hill: 1.45 for 2.00pm** – please note the following event:

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 started at Surbiton Hill on Saturdays, from 10 am to 11am, led by Daniel Masillamani. The first meeting was on 7 November, and further meetings will take place on the first Saturday of every month. You are invited to come along for a time of prayer and meditation. Informal Prayer Fellowship begins with singing, meditation and prayer, followed by refreshments.

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**

**Supporting Princess Alice Hospice**: The Royal Parks Half Marathon took place on 11 October, and included a team running in aid of Princess Alice Hospice. Corinne Foster’s daughter Amy was part of that team, and it was a momentous and joyful occasion. Having twice been on the edge of life in the last two years Amy has shown that she is not just alive, but can celebrate and enjoy life. Hoping she could do run under 2 hours 15 minutes, Amy completed the run in 2 hours 3 minutes and 34 seconds. Although her thoughts in the main were of her dad and her teenage friend Daniel (who was 17 when he died), Amy knows many others who have experienced care of loved ones at Princess Alice. Amy has been greatly touched by the response to her efforts. It is very much appreciated and she gives the warmest thanks to all those have given support. If you want more information, or if you would like to add to the sponsorship, you can do so online at: www.justgiving.com/amesf or by phoning Corinne: 020 8549 5206.

**Walworth Methodist Church is organising a Holy Pilgrimage to Israel** from 21 February 2016 to 1 March 2016. Pilgrims will be able to explore the Mount of Transfiguration, Cana in Galilee, Nazareth, Holy Communion in the Garden of Gethsemane and many more Biblical sites. The cost of the tour is £1350 per person. For more information see the website: www.walworthmethodistchurch.org.uk or phone Caroline Osunga on 07960 062686.

**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**

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.

Please send your contributions by Friday 11 December to: circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

**Summary of November Notices**

**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

**Reverend Gordon Barritt**, father of Gillian Gillman died on Wednesday 11th November. He was Principal of the National Children’s Home for many years. His funeral will be held on 2nd December.

We have also heard of the death of **Mary Bennison** who used to attend this church. She died about a year ago and was buried in her native North Wales.

Extra prayers please for **Tendai Mwenye** who has broken her ankle and for **Gwen Bryan**t who is in Kingston Hospital.

**WORLD MISSION**

The sum raised for the Methodist Church Fund for World Missions form the collection boxes in 2014/15, was £231.72. Thanks to all in our Church community who contributed. Collection boxes for 2015/16 have been distributed to our regular collectors. If you do not have a box currently and would like to have one, please let me know.    *David Knowles*

**THE CHURCH TREASURER**

**Gordon Teanby** is standing down at the end of November **and Tony Chalk** is taking over (again) the Treasurer’s job.

Therefore any future payments in either direction should be handed to Tony or left in the Treasurer’s pigeon hole.

At the last Church Council meeting we recorded our grateful thanks to Gordon for all his detailed hard work looking after the church money over the last 3 or so years.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – Help please**

Our 8th Christmas Tree Festival will start on Saturday 12th December. This year we are opening from 10.00am – 5.00pm on both Saturday 12th and 19th December in the hope of getting more people through the doors.

I would like to put together a rota of people to help steward the event. Please would you let me know if you are able to help for any time at all? Ideally I would like to have two people in church for the duration of both Saturdays so bring a friend for a couple of hours and have a break from the Christmas rush (maybe right your cards!) or only offer an hour if that’s all you can spare! The duties are not onerous, mainly just be a presence in the church which will be warm and very pretty! Thank you, *Sarah Moore*

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

Brian Smith, the District Youth and Children’s Coordinator, is to conduct some Training Sessions next year for those in the Circuit working with children and young people.  The training is entitled “Helping Those Working with Children and Young People Point to Jesus”, and will take place at Chessington Methodist Church on Saturdays 20 February, 2 April and 21 May.

If you are interested in attending, please would you let Julia know.

And briefly – **Lucy Turner is now Secretary to Action for Children**, she has taken over from Danielle Mensah. Good luck to Lucy!

**Diary Dates**

As there are 2 months’ of diary dates and there isn’t another newsletter until the end of January, we’ve done the diary dates on a separate insert. Feel free to stick this on your fridge and recycle the rest of the newsletter (after you’ve read it, of course!).

Thanks to **Pam Bugeya** for finding this delightful poem just in time for Christmas.

**Hugging**

 Feels Good

 Dispels Loneliness

 Overcomes fears

 Builds self-esteem – wow someone actually wants to hug me!

 Slows down aging, huggers stay younger longer

 Eases tension

 Fights insomnia

 Keeps arm and shoulder muscles in condition

 Is ecologically sound, does not upset the environment

 Is democratic, anyone is eligible for a hug is portable

 Affirms physical being

 Is energy efficient, saves heat

 Makes impossible days possible

 Makes happy days happier



**Services:**

6th Dec Rev Brown/Lee – HC

13th Dec Rev Choi

Nativity at 5pm

20thDec Mrs Bridges

 9 Lessons and Carols 6.30pm

24th Dec Christingle at 5pm

 Rev Choi - HC at 11.30pm
25th DecRev Choi - Family

Rev Murray at 6.30pm

27th Dec Rev Talbot

3rd Jan Rev Choi – HC

10th Jan Rev Osei

17th Jan Rev Choi – Covenant and HC

24th Jan Mr Lloyd

Mrs Vincent Café Church at 6.30pm

31st January Rev Osei

Next copy date 9am **22 January 2016,** can you believe it, by email to: carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.

**Message from our Family Worker**

Do you enjoy singing or listening to beautiful music? Perhaps you are learning to play an instrument? For that you will need to practice which requires time and dedication. If you do keep it up, a little every day will reap rewards and a great feeling of achievement.

Some of you will be singing special carols and songs in school for Christmas. Your family will come to see and hear these joyful sounds. Many will re-tell the story of the birth of Jesus which after all is the reason we celebrate Christmas. As you do, you will reflect the sound of the angels as they sang to the shepherds over 2000 years ago.

Take a moment over these coming weeks to hear the sounds for yourselves too. The radio will be swamped soon with jingle-type festive songs but among those the odd one will tell the message from on high. So listen carefully and you may hear the angels sing.

May you all be blessed this Christmas. *Julia*