

# The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church June 2015



## Message from Reverend Choi

**“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10. 43-45).**

Dear friends,

In this ‘Me-first’ culture of our society, I think this must be another hard teaching Jesus gave us. No one wants to be a servant or slave. And, most businesses or secular organisations measure greatness by high personal achievement. But, what Jesus said is that in his kingdom service is the way to get on. And, we do serve in our church life as much as we can, and as far as we can enjoy. Actually, it is amazing that the whole church is run and managed by our humble service and sharing and volunteering. And, I deeply appreciate the commitments and contributions made by all the church family.

However, what challenges us in his teaching is that this service is more than volunteering as Jesus showed it by willingly washing his disciples’ feet. I think this act of service gives us a full picture of what servant-hood is all about. It is about

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humbling, self-denying, forgiving, reconciling, loving, and so on.

Sometimes, I hear people saying ‘That is not for me. Or, that is not my call’. I can understand what it means. I agree that we are all given different gifts and called for different tasks. But, we must notice that in the Bible God often calls a person who seems to be a misfit. For example, Abraham was old, and Moses was not good at speech. They all must have thought God’s call was not for them. But, we hear that God used each of them in his service.

Real servants make themselves available to serve without making excuses. They do what is needed, even when it is inconvenient. If that is the case, you may think it is so demanding and far beyond your ability. But, what we shouldn’t forget is that we were saved to serve God. In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul says, “It is he who has saved us and called us to a holy work – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace”.

It’s a big commitment. But, its reward cannot be compared to anything in this world, I dare to say. Every blessing,

Choi.

\*Currently we are looking for a new steward, who should have been appointed in AGM last month. If you have sensed God’s call in this service, please let me know.

**Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

We collected £1,683.64 for Christian Aid this year, details of which are as follows:

House-to-house collections  
£ 632.09  
Methodist Church donation  
£ 312.00  
Easter Sunday Breakfast  
£ 50.00  
Coffee Mornings  
£ 274.30  
Bread and Cheese Lunch  
£ 239.45  
Literary Quiz  
£ 63.00  
Other donations  
£ 112.80

Making a grand total of...  
**£ 1,683.64**

I would like to thank our house-to-house collectors, Alan Downey, Robert Elves, Keith Hampton, John Meredith, Pam and Alan Vincent and Jenny Reid for their continued support; all who made cakes for the coffee mornings and Mary Brown and the young people who prepared the tables for the Bread and Cheese lunch so beautifully. I could not do this without your help and I am so grateful to you all. Thank you, also, to Pam for such an inspiring Christian Aid Week Service. And, lastly, thank you to all who gave so generously.

Jennifer Townsend.



**Another Big Thank You!**

Thank you to everyone for their support and donations towards my epic Welsh adventure up Mount Snowdon at Midnight.

So the plan had been a beautiful clear night, the moon and stars in all their glory, lighting our way making a magical trek.

**How wrong could we be....?**

In reality it was very dark, very windy (around 40mph we were told) foggy (we were in thick cloud and at times found it difficult to see the floor) Sideways rain and sleet (due to the wind) and a very long way up and back down.

But we made it.

Three hours to the top, arriving at about 2 am huddling like penguins to keep warm while we savoured the moment and two hours back down again walking through the pain barrier of aching joints and muscles.

It was tough, mainly due to the weather, but also the dark and the lack of sleep making it even more difficult. But, as I struggled to get to the top, when I really wanted to give up as I was so tired physically and mentally, I remembered all of you that have sponsored and supported me, thank you, you really helped me get to the top.

As a group of walkers (about 240 people) we have raised over £100,000 for the Alzheimer's Society which is amazing. Personally I have raised over £1000 for this fantastic charity, thank you everyone, it has made it all worthwhile.

I am still able to take donations so if you haven't already and would like to support me then you can by visiting

<https://www.justgiving.com/Nicky-Horton2> or signing the sponsor form in the church welcome area and giving me the money directly.

Many thanks, Nicky Horton

**‘For there is good news yet to hear, and fine things to be seen Before we go to Paradise, by way of Kensal Green ‘ (GK Chesterton)**

**Meeting Point** held a very successful evening on May 12 under the heading ‘With Great Pleasure’.

The well-known radio format was expanded to include poetry, prose and music selected by volunteers, or in some cases, slightly pressed men.

Over 20 of us gathered in the Welcome Area, enjoying a coffee as the evening sun faded over the High Street. A wide variety of personal choices were presented, and we enjoyed poetry ranging from Robert Browning, DH Lawrence and Gerard Manley Hopkins at one end of the spectrum, to Wendy Cope at the other. Prose readings were similarly wide-ranging: an extract from one of Churchill’s stirring war-time speeches sitting comfortably beside a virtuoso rendition of the children’s classic ‘Where’s My Teddy?’ performed from memory by Sarah Moore.

On the musical front, Elgar’s ‘Nimrod’ was perhaps the most well-known and most-loved choice, but the proceedings began with the atmospheric sounds from the Australian outback featuring the didgeridoo, and ended with the rousing strains of Strauss’s first horn concerto, by way of an excerpt from The Gondoliers. I think there was something for everyone in that mix, and most

people went away with something new to explore. It was interesting how often schooldays were mentioned in connection with half-forgotten poetry. I wonder how many other people took down a dusty tome or two from their shelves later in the week. Anyhow, it was good to meet with friends and talk to them about things you never knew they liked, and there are already plans afoot for another evening along similar lines.

We meet generally on the second Tuesday of each month for a range of different activities, some serious, some not so serious. **The next meeting is on June 12** when we welcome Graham Manning from the **Surrey Wildlife Trust**. Following that, on **July 21st** (NB the THIRD Tuesday,) we wind up the season with a light – hearted **Quiz and Bring and Share supper**.

Everyone is welcome to attend all meetings; 7.30 for 8pm. Do come and give us a try. And just in case you thought this group was only for Old People, the ages of the audience for this meeting ranged over 35 years!

Alison Bullett

(Good to hear that some horn music was played at this, someone has very good taste [Caroline])

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And in this intermission between articles by Alison, something from Julia

**Malden fortnight parade needs you!**

The theme this year is Christmas so we, as a church would like to enter a group in the parade reminding the spectators of the reason Christmas exists. We will walk this year dressed as the nativity story so we need ADULTS as well as children to take part. We have the costumes and a donkey being constructed! Please let Julia know if you can be part of this outreach into the community so the costumes etc can be assigned in advance. The parade is Saturday 4th July, meeting at the church at about 1 pm ready to parade at 2 pm. It's fun and brings joy to an enormous amount of people so please join in.

### Thoughts on Ethiopia

On Sunday May 3rd, Pam Vincent led our service for the beginning of Christian Aid Week, which this year focused on Ethiopia. With the help of Jennifer Townsend, who works tirelessly for Christian Aid throughout the year, she brought home to the congregation some stark and startling facts about the country, made vivid and personal by video clips of the actual life-histories of two Ethiopian women. One could not fail to be moved by the bleakness of these women's lives. Their abject poverty means that their families rely completely on their being able to walk for eight hours to collect firewood, in the hope of being able to sell it for a pitiful sum that might or might not enable their children to eat once a day. They pray for strength to continue do this, day after gruelling day, and dream of one day being able to own a cow, as that will give them not only a means of livelihood, but also status in the community. We have all seen shocking pictures in the press of children drinking filthy water. They are doomed either way... drink it and die of disease; don't drink it and die of dehydration. I'm sure we all gave what we could on May 3rd and during Christian Aid Week; perhaps even all through the year as well, maybe with mixed feelings of guilt and thankfulness, but perhaps with a degree of hopelessness too. How can we possibly make a difference to such widespread desperation and misery?

The following information comes from World Vision, the Christian sponsorship organisation:

*Ethiopia is a beautiful and historic country in the Horn of East Africa with a population of 76.5 million. It is mountainous with a mixed population of Muslims and Ethiopian Orthodox Christians. 85% are subsistence farmers, growing cereals and pulses or keeping sheep, goats and cattle. Coffee is grown for export, but low world prices and recurrent droughts have contributed to Ethiopia remaining one of the poorest countries in the world, prone to famine and food shortages. 44% live under the poverty line and 46% are under nourished. Life expectancy is 48 (compared to 78 in the UK) and 164 children per 1000 die before their 5th birthday. In addition, 78% do not have access to safe water and 64% cannot read or write.*

Many years ago, our family began to sponsor a child in Uganda through World Vision. We felt it was important that our own children appreciated how lucky they were, and understood that life was a lottery and was very different in many regions of the world. Sponsorship means giving a sum each month, and in return receiving regular updates and photographs about the progress of 'your' child and the work of the project working in his area. At birthdays and at Christmas, World Vision sends sponsors a card in which to write a personal message and perhaps send a very small flat gift such as a postcard or a balloon. Of course one can also write in between these biennial updates, and the messages are translated by the project workers. World Vision guarantees that these small tokens will get through to each individual child, and I believe they can even arrange visits on occasion by special request. Although globally speaking it is less than a drop in the ocean, somehow it helps to know that there is a direct and personal link which will make an appreciable difference at least to one child.

In time our sponsorship was no longer needed in that particular area, and we were given Abdela, a young boy in Ethiopia. We have followed his growth and progress over the years, and the day before Pam's service, we received a letter from his project leader, thanking us for changing Abdela's life 'for good'. He is now a young man in his early twenties who, thanks to having had access to education, has now found a job that will enable him to earn money and be independent.

With this wonderful news came information about another little boy who desperately needs our help to secure his future. Temesgen is just five years old, but already there is an older and more knowing look in his eyes, for all that his western- style clothes make him otherwise indistinguishable from children in our local streets. He lives with his mother in a rural area of North Ethiopia where most families rely on farming to scrape a living. His father is not mentioned, but Temesgen is comparatively lucky – his family has a few animals and it is his job to look after them. He also has a chance to go to school. But his future and that of his community is still fundamentally dependent on sufficient rainfall. Who can forget the terrible pictures that emerged from that region during the drought and consequent famine that killed a million people thirty years ago, when Michael Buerk stood 'knee-deep in death' and surveyed the 'closest thing to hell on earth?'

Things have improved since then, and as you may read below, the region has even become something of a tourist attraction, but there is the ever- present fear that climate conditions could easily cause widespread devastation again.

World Vision started a programme in 2003 to help 360 000 people in this part of Ethiopia. It is just one of many such projects working all over the third world, and is scheduled to run for fifteen years. They work with local government in the area by providing education, healthcare and, crucially, by building a sustainable clean water supply. The hope is that after 2018 the community will be able to continue their own development on their journey out of poverty, but it will be a long and arduous process.

Finally, the following is taken from a travel article in the April 18th issue of 'The Week '. Advertising an Indiana Jones-style adventure in Tigray province , Northern Ethiopia , it first warns that the infra- structure is a little basic, with few places to stay , and that you will need to be pretty fit , with a good head for heights. What is the attraction? Apparently in the ancient Christian kingdom of Aksum there are 123 rock-hewn churches dating back as far as the eighth century, most of which are still in use. In one of these churches, 25 hand-hewn pillars support a vast ceiling, beyond which is a replica of the Ark of the Covenant. Incredible to consider that this was all hollowed out by hand from solid rock. It is recommended that by hiring a guide to tour some of these ancient and almost inaccessible sites, visitors can actually meet the people whose faith 'keeps the churches open and the priests fed'. At another holy site, worshippers start 'zigzagging silently up the cliff at 4am for a Mass that goes on until midday'. Clearly the extraordinary strength, determination, resilience and devout faith of their ancestors lives on in the present generation.

It is surely a paradoxical sign of our times that rich Westerners can travel thousands of miles to discover the rich heritage and deep spirituality of one of the world's poorest nations. But maybe it is also a sign of hope that these tourists can now view Ethiopia and its people for their intrinsic worth and their faithfully-held values in the face of so much adversity and uncertainty. Perhaps it is time to replace our TV-fed image of Ethiopia as a dustbowl of disaster, where a woman needs to own a cow before she can be taken seriously and hold her head up high, even amongst her companions-in-need at the well.

Alison Bullett

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### **Dads and Doughnuts**

New Toddler Group Launch coming soon!

Dads and their toddlers are invited to a brand new group starting at (New Malden Methodist Church) on (Saturday 11th July) from (2-4 pm). The group, called 'Dads and Doughnuts' as part of the "Who let the dad's out?" umbrella is run along the same lines as traditional parent and toddler groups, but is specifically for fathers, granddads or male carers and their children. It's an opportunity for dads to have quality time with their child and to socialise with other fathers. It's also a chance for mums to have some well-deserved time off".

"The session will be very relaxed, there will be lots of toys available for the children to play with, a craft

activity so dads can help their little one create a masterpiece, plus tea/coffee, doughnuts and biscuits for the children. It's our very first session, so everyone will be in the same boat. I'd really recommend any dads with a spare afternoon to come along and check us out. Your children will thank you for it!"

Julia

Please note that male help in particular is needed to meet and greet and generally help (they do not need a child to assist). Please contact Julia if you can help out. Just look how happy the children will be:



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### **Around the Circuit**

First, I would like to say hello. I am a member of the East Molesey Methodist Church, where I play the piano regularly, and I started work as the new Circuit Coordinator on 13 April, following Daphne's retirement. I know that Daphne had been in post for a number of years and, of course, was very well known to everyone. So she will be a hard act to follow – but I will do my best! I have enjoyed the work very much so far, and Bonni-Belle has been very helpful and patient as I get to grips with my new role. Everyone I have met so far has been very welcoming, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming weeks.

Michael Axton

(and we at New Malden wish Michael the best of luck with his new role)

### **Circuit News and Events**

Bonni-Belle's Circuit Farewell Service will take place on 19 July, 6.30 pm at Surbiton Hill. All are invited, and we hope that you will be able to attend.

## Church Events

### Chessington

The Summer Fair at Chessington is on Saturday 20 June from 11.30am to 2.00pm. There will be an excellent BBQ and other refreshments, and lots of stalls. Friends from around the Circuit are warmly invited.

**Kingston** - A reminder that Messy Church takes place on 11 June (and on the second Thursday of every month) from 3.30-5.30pm. There will be games, crafts, praise-time and food. Everyone is welcome – young and old alike. Entrance is free, but donations would be welcome.

### Surbiton Hill

A further reminder about the Ritz Tea Party at the Tennis Club on Sunday 21 June from 3pm to 5pm. The weather in 2014 was marvellous, and the Tennis Club was well decorated with bunting, flowers & beautifully laid out tables, as it will be again this year. So do come along and experience the Ritz-style tea party atmosphere. Musical accompaniment will be provided by pianists and a violinist, and we hope some people may be prepared to dance ... a waltz, quickstep etc? Donation of £10 per person or £25 per family would be appreciated. Please contact Kathryn Ingham on 8399 8294 if you would like to book a place, as this helps with the catering arrangements. But feel free to come along on the day otherwise. All monies raised will help in what has been a difficult year for the people of Sierra Leone.

The **Tennis Club** at Surbiton Hill church always welcomes new members, especially members of the Methodist church or congregation. We have 6 courts at 11-13 Manor Drive available on Saturdays from 1:30pm onwards. Everyone is put into a 4 for a set, and then changed for the next one. Men also play on Wednesday mornings, ladies also on Thursday mornings. On Wednesday evenings during the summer there is free coaching. Juniors meet on a Friday evening, again with coaching included. Please do feel free to come and have a look at the club to see if you might like to join. Best of all: bring suitable shoes, and a racket if you have one, and have a set or two with us. Enquiries to David Fullbrook, or Terry Ingham.

### District /Other Events

The 2015 **Methodist Conference** will take place at the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre from Thursday 25 June - Thursday 2 July. More information is available online at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2015>

Pilgrims on a Journey: Forthcoming Edition of the Methodist Prayer Handbook: The next edition of the Handbook will be published in August. It looks at God's call to pilgrimage and the everyday realities of the road to heaven. The price is £3.75, but is reduced to £3.35 for bulk orders. If you would like to have a copy included in the Circuit's bulk order please email Michael Axton – see below for details.

### Next edition

If your church has any news or a forthcoming event you would like to share with the Circuit, please forward details to me for inclusion in this section of each Church's newsletter/magazine. Please send your contributions by Friday 19 June to: [circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk). Or you can contact me by phone: 020 8390 4598 or 07763 781933 (mobile)  
Michael Axton, Circuit Coordinator



## Summary of May Notices

### Earthquake in Nepal

On Sunday 17th May there was a retiring collection for the Leprosy Mission Anandaban Hospital in Nepal which is dealing with the impact of the recent earthquake.

Julia's coffee bar on 2nd May raised enough money to cover the **panto costumes** and the surplus £68 was donated to the earthquake appeal.

In addition to that, we have received this message from Rachel who holds yoga classes in our halls and held a fundraising class on Bank Holiday Monday for which her hire charge was waived. "A huge thank you to NMMC for letting us have the room on Monday evening for the fundraising yoga class in aid of the **DEC Nepal Earthquake Appeal**. It has been a huge success and we have raised just under £500!!"

### Prayer pastors needed

To join the Kingston Street Pastors team.

Many people do not feel able to commit walking round the streets at night for six hours but they might consider staying indoors in the church to pray. Prayer Pastors do not constantly pray for the six hours the team are out. They may chat, enjoy fellowship, but they do pray on and off for the team during that time. The team out on patrol phone in if there are needs for specific prayer which is often the case.

We recognise there is no one way for prayer and we embrace all traditions, so people can feel at ease and pray in the way in which they feel most comfortable. The team coming back share during the break what they have experienced and give pointers for prayer.

If anyone would like to explore this they are welcome to come for one night to see if it is something they could commit to. We only ask people to do one rota per month and Prayer Pastors are always paired up with someone. Some people have been with us for many years and will tell you that it is very rewarding and satisfying to share in this prayer ministry. Those who go out on patrol will tell you they really value knowing people are back at base praying for them. Please contact Sue Shaw if you want to find out more.

Sue Shaw | Street Pastors Kingston | 07506 760562

[kingston@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:kingston@streetpastors.org.uk)

### Diary Dates for June

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am

Friday Fellowship

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

Coffee Bar – RNLI – Rita LeVine

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

Meeting Point – Surrey Wildlife Trust – Katy Gower

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

Church Council Meeting

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

Coffee Bar – Wives & Friends

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm

Meeting for Coffee Bar Volunteers

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

Coffee Bar – Hands of Hope – Birgit Cowan

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm

Worship Committee



Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Coffee Bar – Richmond & Kingston  
ME Group

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  
Youth Club

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Hi

How do you like to learn new things? Some people read and follow instructions, some prefer to have a demonstration and others would rather have a go and learn from their mistakes. That was why I loved teaching science in an infant school, you were allowed to get it wrong! Here's an example.

We were designing a rain hat, having talked about the different types of material available, paper, card, fabric, plastic etc and the variety of ways to join these e.g. Pritt stick, sellotape, masking tape, pva glue, staples, split pins, paperclips. The children chose their preferred materials.

As an adult it was very tempting to interfere with the ideas which were clearly going to be disastrous. One decided that if the hat was blue, then no matter which paper was used it would be waterproof. The choice of tissue paper would not have been mine but I remained silent. It was only when, wearing our rainhats outside in the rain that the truth was revealed. Some were more successful than others, the final result was less significant than the willingness to review the situation and try again. As younger children they were far more prepared to do this than a group of adults.

Yet there are scientists who "fail" every day to get the result they are hoping for, especially in medical

science. Yet they try, try and try again refining their work bit by bit.

Just as God does with us! We are not the finished article that he has in mind, it must be so tempting for him to interfere and not let us make mistakes, but by watching over us carefully we learn for ourselves and have the potential to achieve so much more.

*Love through Jesus*  
*Julia*

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Just space to list the services for June with flower dedications:

7<sup>th</sup> – Rev Choi – HC – flowers – Mrs P Vincent

14<sup>th</sup> – Rev Vernon – worship – flowers – Mrs J Clarke

21<sup>st</sup> – Rev Choi – JCF - flowers – Mrs A Bedford

28<sup>th</sup> – La – worship – Mrs J Reid

And a brief update on the Annual Church Meeting

In next month's newsletter there will be a report on the ACM together with new appointments made and thanks offered to those standing down. This month I will report on the charities chosen to support with proceeds from the welcome area. Last year we chose to use the money to refurbish the welcome area. Due to a generous donation only a small sum was spent. It was agreed to spend more on cleaning and repairing bits in need of attention whilst also donating money to NAFEC UK – supporting North Korean Christians. The charities chosen to support from September are Medicins Sans Frontier that provides medical support in some of the most troubled parts of the globe, and Headcase Cancer Trust that seeks to find a cure for the most common and most deadly form of brain tumour.

Robert Elves, Church Council Secretary

Thanks so much to everyone who has made this a bumper issue with lots of original and heartfelt content. Next copy date 9am Friday xx June 2015 by email to: carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.

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