

UBUNTU
MARCH 2014

MINISTER

Rev Sooncheol Choi

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Reverend Choi will be on sabbatical until March 14th. In his absence please contact the Circuit Superintendent Reverend Bonni-Belle Pickard on 07590 564477 or superintendent@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

CHURCH WORKERS

Julia Morton (Youth and Children's Worker)

Sarah Moore (Administration)

Angela Stagg (Pastoral work)

STEWARDS

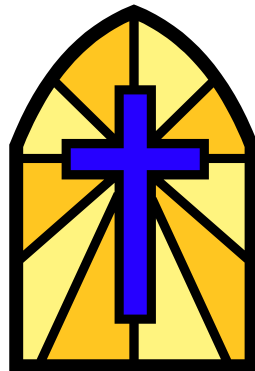
Janet Jones - Senior Steward

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.""

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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 March edition of *Ubuntu* will be available on Sunday 30th March.

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, 21st March Thank you

Rosemarie

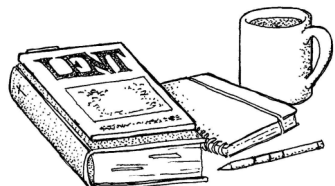
(Additional material courtesy of parishpump.co.uk)

Lent is upon us! Thank goodness. I need to lose some weight so no more chocolate, biscuits, cake (except on Sundays) until Easter Day when I can gorge myself again! I need to get fitter so I will walk round the block three times a week and then I will really feel good about myself! Is that what it really is all about? Of course we all know it is not!

Traditionally Lent has been a time of fasting, praying and reflection so that we can understand and renew our relationship with God and each other. So what can we do to help this? Firstly we could add a spiritual dimension to the next six weeks. There are three evening sessions being organised by Churches Together in New Malden; 3 hours in 6 weeks is not much to dedicate to our Christian faith journey. If you don't want to go out, read a gospel through Lent, setting aside a realistic amount of time each day. There is a wealth of resource out there. We can use this time to do something slightly different such as search out the truth behind the headlines, whatever our political prejudices might be. We could discover what the real effect of the bedroom tax is on those affected or what is the reality for those trying to find a job; for those living on the margins of society. You don't need me to suggest what we might do; the important thing is that we all do something. Make it relevant for you and your situation.

The only thing I can offer you is this poem written by Jan Sutch Pickard, one time Warden of the Iona Community called *A Time of Turning Around*

*Truly dust we are, and to dust we shall return
And truly yours we are, and to you we shall return.
Help this to be a time of turning round and beginning again.
Through the forty days of Lent, help us to follow you
and to find you: in the discipline of praying
and in the drudgery of caring-
in whatever we deny ourselves,
and whatever we set ourselves to learn or do.
Help us to discover you
in our loneliness and in community,
In our emptiness and our fulfilment,*



in our sadness and our laughter.

Help us to find you when we ourselves are lost.

Help us to follow you on the journey to Jerusalem

to the waving palms of the people's hope,

to their rejection, to the cross and empty tomb.

Help us to perceive new growth amid the ashes of the old.

Help us, carrying your cross, to be signs of your Kingdom.

AMEN

Janet

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RECENT CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

THE POWER OF PRAYER

John and Carol Dadds would like to thank everyone for their prayers and loving support over the past few very stressful weeks. Your prayers have been answered and, after a successful operation, John is now well on the road to recovery. Thank you all.

John Kelsey 's Mum died peacefully on Wednesday 29th January . Please remember John and his family in your prayers.

Our **Pastoral Visitors** were rededicated at the service on 2nd February. We thank them for their service and hold them in our prayers.

Angela Stagg wishes to thank everybody for their kind thoughts, prayers and concerns during her recent illness.

Hazel Crossley wishes to thank everyone who prayed for her during her January work in Ghana and the two February eye operations. With sincere gratitude for successful outcomes.

Jean, Maureen, David and Jackie announce with great sadness the passing of a beloved husband and father, **Bernard Arthur Bedford** on 17th February 2014. A private cremation will be followed by a Thanksgiving Service at New Malden Methodist Church on Monday 3rd March at 2.30pm. Please join us afterwards for a light tea. We would ask, that in lieu of

flowers, donations are made in memory of Bernard to the Stroke Association or Cure Parkinson's. This can be done at the thanksgiving service or via Garners Funeral Services 0208 549 3329. *Your thoughts, kind words and shared memories are greatly appreciated.*

We remember Jean and all her family in our prayers

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN NEW MALDEN LENT COURSE

Please see the noticeboard for details of this year's course which will run on 3 Monday evenings – 17, 24 and 31 March.

WINGS OF HOPE NURSERY

To all those who knit for the Wings of Hope Nursery School. The red and white wool is now in the usual place! You are now knitting for the class of January 2015! Thank you, Stella.

DRIVERS and COFFEE BAR HELPERS STILL NEEDED!

Please come and have a word if you think you might be able to bring someone to Church on a Sunday morning, or help out on the Coffee Bar. Many thanks *Sarah Moore*

COUNSELLING COORDINATOR NEEDED AT NEW MALDEN COUNSELLING SERVICE

The counselling service at New Malden has been part of the Church's mission outreach for nearly 20 years and has a good reputation within the local community. The present Coordinators will be moving on in July 2015 and we want to start making plans for the future of the service well in advance of that date. The Coordinator is responsible for all aspects of running the service and is supported by a Management Committee. A qualification in counselling is essential together with Accreditation/Registration with BACP or UKCP. For more details please contact Eric Murray 8399 8740 or Jenny Reid 8949 5700.

WORLD CHURCH (OVERSEAS MISSION) BOXES

It is time once again for these boxes to be brought in and the proceeds sent to the Methodist Church Fund for World Missions. Please hand your box in as soon as possible to Gordon Teanby. We are very grateful for your continuing help in supporting this work. For various reasons the

Church News and Announcements

number of collectors continue to decline, therefore new collectors would be very welcome. If you would like a box to put in your home for this worthwhile cause please ask Gordon. Thank You

PANTO PROPS / COSTUMES REQUIRED

If anyone has any of the following we would love to have them on loan for the pantomime Dick Whittington, thank you:

Cat costume/onsie (adult size); Chain of Office for the Mayor; Telescope; Police whistle; Hand bell; Flippers and snorkel; Police Helmets.

ALSO, **Chorus members** still required. Ability to sing an advantage!

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DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

Saturday 1 st	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Air Ambulance – Rita LeVine
Monday 3 rd	2.30pm	Memorial Service for Bernard Bedford
Monday 3 rd	1.40pm	Daffodil Day service at Westminster Central Hall (<i>See church noticeboard & Circuit News, page 22</i>)
Thursday 6 th	7.00pm	Youth Club
Friday 7 th	10.30am	Friday Fellowship
Friday 7 th		Women's World Day of Prayer (<i>See page 8</i>)
Saturday 8 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar – WI – Barbara Cavalier
Monday 10 th	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – AGM – Our Careers
Tuesday 11 th	7.00pm	Junior Badminton
Tuesday 11 th	7.30pm	Meeting Point (<i>See page 8</i>)
Saturday 15 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Cancer Research – Glynis & Courtney Cox
Saturday 22 nd	10.00am	Coffee Bar – JMA – Alan Downey
Monday 24 th	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Good Days Out - Members
Tuesday 25 th	7.00pm	Junior Badminton
Wednesday 26 th	9.30am	"Surprised by Age" - MHA - Epsom Methodist Church (<i>See church noticeboard & Circuit News page 22</i>)
Saturday 29 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Pam Wardley

Ash Wednesday Service - 5 March - 8 pm at New Malden. The start of

the service is **8pm** (not 7pm as originally planned). It is hoped that members from Kingston and Surbiton Hill will also attend whilst Chessington folk are invited to the ecumenical service at St Mary's at 7.45pm.

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WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 7TH MARCH 2014

This year's service for Women's World Day of Prayer has been prepared by Christian women of Egypt and is entitled **Streams in the Desert**. Egypt played an important role in the history of the early Church St Mark organised the first Egyptian church and founded the first school of theology, from which came many of the great Christian thinkers. The Church in Egypt is still strong today and many families there will be sharing this World Day of Prayer with us.

Do come along and join us at our services at 1.45 pm at St Joseph's Church, Kingston Road and at 8 pm at the United Reformed Church, Malden Road. Light refreshments will be available at both services.

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MEETING POINT - 11 MARCH 2014

Have you ever wondered why John Lewis stores are referred to as the 'John Lewis Partnership'? Well – why not come to the next meeting of Meeting Point on 11 March when Carol Sadler and a colleague from Waitrose New Malden will enlighten you about the unique way in which John Lewis and Waitrose run their company.

Waitrose New Malden will enlighten you about the unique way in which John Lewis and Waitrose run their company.

Our church has built up a co-operative relationship with them over the years (some of their staff even joined some of us in our bell ringing on the High Street at the start of the 2012 Olympics) so we hope our speakers will have a good audience to hear about 'The Waitrose Way'.

We shall begin our evening with coffee in the Welcome Area from 7.30 pm

before moving into the church. Everyone is welcome to join us and we hope you will.

Future Meeting Point topics include the following:

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

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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 p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk 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.

Saturday 29 th March	10.15 – 11.45 am (scores from 10.00)
Thursday 3 rd April	7.45 – 9.30 pm
Monday 7 th April	7.45 – 9.30 pm
Saturday 12 th April*	10.15 – 11.45 am
Monday 14 th April	7.45 – 9.30 pm (provisional)
Wednesday 16 th April *	7.30 – 10.00 pm (choir from 8.30)



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11TH - 17TH MAY 2014

Once again, I am asking for volunteers to help with the house-to-house collecting. Please give me a ring on 020 8942 6867 if you feel you could help. Several roads are no longer covered so even collecting on just one side of a road would be very much appreciated...and if you are apprehensive about knocking on doors, you could always work in pairs!

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 10th May (10.00am - 12 noon) Coffee Morning in the Welcome Area. I would be pleased to hear of anyone who could make cakes for this event.

Sunday 11th May (after morning service) Bread and Cheese Lunch to be held in the Lower Hall.

I do hope you will be able to attend at least one of these events which support the important on-going work of Christian Aid throughout the world. This year's theme is **FEARLESS - War tears lives apart...love can help piece them back together**. To find out more about Christian Aid's work please visit their website christianaid.org.uk

Jennifer Townsend

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MUSIC IN NEW MALDEN - SERIES SIX

Sunday afternoons at New Malden Methodist Church

Concerts start at 3pm - An hour of music followed by tea and cake

Entrance is free (Proceeds to a range of charities)

Next Concert is on 9th March - Do come and join us!

Malcolm Edmonstone – jazz piano and guest!

Charity - Jessie's Fund (www.jessiesfund.org.uk)

For more information about Music in New Malden and the full Programme for Series Six, please visit the website at:
<https://sites.google.com/site/musicinnewmalden/>



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - THANK YOU!

Those of you who attended the last Church Council Meeting will have heard Julia Morton's report on the variety of special events that have been offered and taken up by the children and youth (including the uniformed organisations) of the church over recent months. These included:

- * Background preparation for the World Church lunch
- * A very wet visit to London to see the Lord Mayor's Parade
- * Participating in the Christmas Fair
- * The mixing, baking and decorating of a Gingerbread Nativity
- * A Youth Café Church
- * A visit to Manuel's to see behind the scenes of a local bakery
- * Many decorations made for a number of Christmas Trees at the Festival
- * A visit to Aladdin at the Lantern Arts Theatre
- * A Youth party after the Nativity Service
- * A visit from 2 schools (Christ Church and Corpus Christi) to the Tree Festival with a short talk on the history of Christmas Trees
- * A visit by Abacus also to the Festival

Future events planned:

- * A visit to the Houses of Parliament to have tea - Brownies
- * The "Stop Up" on Maundy Thursday by the youth
- * The Pantomime Dick Whittington on May 3rd
- * A float will be booked for the Malden Parade - July 5th

Julia commented, "The usual weekly programmes continue with the dedication of a much valued team of volunteers with whom it is a privilege to work."

Some lovely letters of thanks have been received from Corpus Christi Primary School; both from the Head Teacher and from some of the pupils who visited the Tree Festival. Their comments included the following:

"The children really enjoyed being part of the wider church community"

"Thank you for letting us have a Xmas tree in your church. We hope to

have one next year.”

“Thank you for having us. I really enjoyed looking at the Christmas trees, I had an amazing time with you... I love your church.”

“I really enjoyed seeing the 25 Christmas trees. I appreciated the juice and biscuits”

“We really had a great time looking at the Christmas trees that are decorated beautifully. Thank you for the biscuits and the juice; it was delicious.”

A huge thank you to Julia and her fantastic team of volunteers!

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MORE THANK YOU LETTERS

The New Malden Methodist Church Christmas Fair raised £1,463.85 and this money was donated to two charities. We have received the following thank you letters from them. The first is from International Community Assist and the second is from The Fircroft Trust.

“I am writing to say how extremely grateful we are to have received your generous donation of £703.06 from the proceeds of your Christmas Fair. Your donation will be shared between several of our many projects helping the most disadvantaged people in Albania. These range from those who are physically and mentally disabled to poor families who struggle to feed their families along with those from ethnic minorities who are severely marginalised by the State and society.

One of our recent projects has been in the area of health awareness and we have made significant progress. In the last 3 years we have trained 450 doctors to work in detecting cancer, STD's and HIV amongst the poorest communities and over 20,000 people have been briefed on improving health. This has meant making great inroads into helping health issues amongst the very poor particularly in the rural north of the country.

I am also pleased to report that a further 100 wheelchairs have been provided by our charity to disabled adults and children in need throughout Albania.

This year we have also managed to assist 15 destitute students into university. This offers them a much needed chance in life.

Our sewing projects have produced a very satisfying result in that 50 people from the marginalised Roma or Egyptian communities have been helped into a job in a shoe factory. They would otherwise face a life of begging on the streets or going through rubbish bins for survival.

Our autumn appeal has enable us to assist the most deserving students and continue the successful sewing courses.

We have continued running tours to Albania (see www.albanianwalking.com for further details) to help fund English language training, hospitality and conservation education programmes for the community. For the participant, the tours offer the opportunity to experience the unspoilt beauty of Albania, including wildlife watching (Voskopoja tour), fascinating archaeological sites (Culture tour) and to see our work a local level (Development tour).

I would like to thank you again for the very valuable support you have given us this year which enables us to keep our important work going. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress through our newsletters."

David James - Director International Community Assist

"Thank you so much for the generous donation of £703.05 towards the work of the Fircroft Trust. We are thrilled that you chose to donate half the proceeds of your Christmas Fair to us again. Please pass on our thanks to everyone in the church for their generosity.

A group of service users enjoyed a short holiday in a sport & activity hotel in Devon towards the end of last year. These vulnerable adults would not have been able to go away independently. So it is thanks to gifts such as yours that we could offer this to them. Some had not been away at all for many years. This spring we continue to offer popular activities such as computer skills, photography, exercise and yoga, and also a new money management course. With thanks again."

Hilary Orton - The Fircroft Trust



BOOK REVIEW

**Nadia Bolz-Weber (2012), *Cranky, Beautiful Faith*, Canterbury Press
Available on Amazon and at Christian bookstores: paperback or
kindle.**

Nadia Bolz-Weber is a recovering stand up comic, sober alcoholic and collector of religious tattoos. She is also a pioneer minister, blogger, Lutheran pastor and internationally known preacher. This is an autobiographical book but it does not follow a straight time line as Nadia tells her story and that of the foundation of the “House of All Sinners and Saints” congregation. Direct, challenging, vivid and very real, don’t read this if you can’t cope with occasional “unparliamentary language”.

Nadia’s story speaks uncompromisingly of grace. Leaving behind the very ungracious and unforgiving Christianity of her parents, her life dissolved into a smog of vodka, drugs, squats and very unreliable boyfriends. She was kept going by the company of recovering alcoholics, stand up comics, new age goddess worshippers and gay clergy. In this alternative community of unfinished people she discovered the radical uncompromising nature of God’s grace. Grace emerges as God’s offensive and immoral stance of refusing to treat anyone as an enemy, and Nadia has experienced that in radical ways. Grace is not an abstract idea for theology books, it’s “about how God continues to reach into the graves we dig for ourselves and pull us out, giving us new life, in ways both dramatic and small”.

The book goes on to tell of Nadia’s great surprise to find herself first in seminary, then ordained as a Lutheran pastor and finally leading an alternative congregation that everyone now wants to know about.

I can’t recommend this book highly enough to anyone who wants to read a refreshing challenging and unflinchingly honest account of what it means to follow, doubt and cling to Jesus in the twenty first century. Yet I have two reservations. Firstly the book’s sub title says it is “Cranky, Beautiful Faith for... *Regular and Irregular people*”. Nadia admits she is one of those irregular people whose life is naturally chaotic, whilst I am one of those she professes not to understand – the people who balance their accounts at

the end of the month and always seem to be on an even keel. How do dramatic “conversion stories” (even unsentimental ones like this) speak to the majority of us who don’t need to be rescued from chaos – just from what Nadia calls “the graves we dig for ourselves”?

Secondly this is one of a crop of stories from the USA about new and refreshing congregations. The key to their growth has been simple – making faith relevant to contemporary life and getting away from the monstrous vengeful God preached by so many fundamentalists. Many of Nadia’s congregation are clearly outcasts and refugees from less accepting churches. Thankfully this monstrous God is almost unknown in the mainstream Churches of the UK, but in our far more secularised culture people will not flock to a church just because it has got its act together. Making new disciples here is more like carving granite than moulding clay. But Jesus never said that the hardness of the soil was an excuse for not sowing (or that we can’t mix our metaphors).

(You can find Nadia Bolz-Weber’s blog “Sarcastical Lutheran – the cranky spirituality of a post-modern gal” at: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/nadiabolzweber/>. She will be speaking at Greenbelt Festival this summer)

You will be able to purchase a copy of this book from the church book stall very soon!

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THE MOTHER OF ALL BATTLERS
Joyce Marjorie May Kelsey (née Mackay)

Although Joyce Mackay was born in Watford, three of her grandparents were Scottish and one French making her an embodiment of the “auld alliance” of enemies of English governments up to the middle of the 18th century. Mum too was a fighter against both business and government when it came to waste, poor local services or poor quality goods. She certainly proved that the typewriter is mightier than the sword and she must have written hundreds of letters to try and put wrong things right. She had I suspect a better success rate than most. I think Jesus had Mum in mind when he told the parable of the Unjust Judge.

Sadly her parents' marriage was not a happy one and she found herself with her brother Don as children in a one-parent family from which she learned the housekeeping thrift and economy she so ably demonstrated in later years. She always had a mischievous streak, which was not always appreciated when she attended Old Palace School in Croydon from which she was nearly expelled. Like many young women of her era she trained in secretarial skills and went to work in the City. She took advantage of her presence there to take singing lessons at the Guildhall School of Music and she sang at local Festivals.

She continued to work throughout the war. One day in 1940 she was walking down Thornton Heath High Street and she heard aircraft overhead. She looked up and thought "I've never seen planes like that before" before looking back down again to a now empty street as everyone else had dived for cover. It was one of the first air raids and the strange planes were on their way to bomb Croydon Airfield. She often had to hitch lifts and improvise according to which parts of the transport system were working. A train, tube or bus strike would have represented a challenge to her rather than an opportunity to take a day off work. Often she had to walk down streets with buildings burning on either side. In her spare time she corresponded with her brother Don serving with the Royal Sussex Regiment. Mercifully she was not aware of the danger to which he was exposed in September 1944 when he was one of the relatively few British soldiers not to be killed, wounded or captured at Arnhem during operation "Market Garden".

Mum's religious life must have come from her school since there was not much religious about her father and her mother's religion seemed to be the Football Pools – certainly in later life. Anyway she attended Church of England services, Crusader meetings and later the local Methodist Guild. At one Guild meeting during the War a quiet young man appeared who had a battered raincoat, a strange hairstyle with a centre parting and a small moustache. She thought he looked very odd but he seemed to be alone and so she thought she ought to talk to him and eventually invited him to afternoon tea the following Sunday. Of such encounters were wartime romances made. He was on leave from service in the Medical Corps in

Italy during which time he witnessed the Fourth and last Battle of Monte Cassino which, no doubt, deeply affected him.

Mum had two previous engagements which had not worked out. The first was to a piano-playing Methodist minister and the second to a keen gardener. With Arthur Kelsey she got a package deal as he was a piano-playing Methodist Local Preacher who was also a keen gardener. Mum always had an eye for a bargain. They were married in September 1946 in Parchmore Road Methodist Church, Thornton Heath. For the generation born in the decade after the Second World War we can reflect that our combination of parents was, in part, determined by the actions of another man with a strange hairstyle and a small moustache.

As was the custom Mum gave up work and settled into the role of housewife at a time of rationing which only ended in 1954. Mary was born in 1948, myself in 1951 and Ruth in 1954. She was a wonderful support for Dad as he went through first his Institute of Bankers exams then his Local Preachers exams while also acting as Sunday School Superintendent at Norbury Methodist Church where he often had 150 children to look after each Sunday. He also preached or played the organ for evening services but Mum would always have something for him whenever he returned.

Shortly after their marriage they arranged to meet one evening in the City. Dad had to lock up the bank branch where he was working and turn out the lights. Mum arrived and was let in. Before Dad turned out the lights he and Mum embraced forgetting that there was a window above the main door. Afterwards they looked up and realized with horror that their embrace was being watched by passengers on the top deck of a bus which had stopped outside – no doubt with their imaginations running riot.

In 1958 we moved to Shirley not far from here to a bungalow with a long garden and an orchard. With Dad's gardening and three children at school vast piles of washing were processed each week. Many garments were knitted. Drawers full of socks were darned. Starched collars were boxed and sent off for cleaning. Huge quantities of blackberries and apples picked by my father were stewed and frozen on an industrial scale. Chickens were acquired and a chicken run established at the bottom of

the garden. Feeding chickens and collecting eggs were regular household activities. Lord Woolton would have been proud of her.

Mum had some medical problems with one of her legs and she lost a lot of school time in her youth receiving medical attention. Undeterred by a degree of restricted mobility she made an art form of shopping and Surrey Street market in Croydon supplemented whatever was not produced at home. Regular goods were bought at lowest cost and we were occasionally surprised by the one-off bargain which was acquired we were told because “a little voice” in her head told her to go into a particular shop she was passing. We also had a budgerigar called Binky to whom Mum regularly talked and many a visitor to the bungalow was startled when a cry of “Praise the Lord Binky” came from a cage in the corner of the dining room. In more modern times, hearing voices and talking to a budgie might have qualified Mum for other forms of medical attention.

We discovered kindred spirits in the neighbours whose garden adjoined the end of ours. A door was put through the adjoining fence and the Barnes and Kelsey families became regular visitors to each other’s homes. One of the particular features of the end of the garden next to the chicken run was a tennis court with proper net and white lining. All the children plus a number of visitors played tennis at some time on the court – I think Dad occasionally played as well. Mum kept the court lined and, of course, it also had to be mowed. Although Dad did the gardening and fruit picking, mowing grass was Mum’s speciality. Bernie Ecclestone never developed Formula One for motor mowers but if he had some team would have signed Mum up. Such was her determination and speed when mowing that it was best to stay out of the garden for fear of being run down.

Mum also developed friendships and, more importantly, an information exchange network with the parents of my fellow Whitgift School pupils Clive Gilliam and Chris Babbs. We could not afford to be badly behaved as this was bound to come to the attention of at least one member of the Kelsey-Gilliam-Babbs network or, as we called it, the KGB. In later years Mum used to visit Marion Gilliam who introduced her to knitting small woollen jackets for Rumanian orphans. As Clive said at Marion’s funeral, such was their prodigious joint output that if we were ever to visit Rumania

it would only be a short time before we met someone who was wearing or had worn one of their garments.

After Dad retired in 1970, they sold part of their land for development and bought a house in Herne Bay. Dad tended to stay there most of the time whereas Mum commuted weekly between the two properties. She thought that some time apart during the week was a good idea. As she put it in her own inimitable way “it keeps you from being on top of one another all the time”. Quite so.

Mum’s letter writing was legendary. There were letters to friends far and near, letters to local councils, letters to the local MP, letters to businesses which had made the mistake of selling her a dud product or service and, above all, letters to London Transport. The poor performance of the 54 bus service, the behavior of bus crews and the lack of a bus service in our own very long road were particular preoccupations. London Transport must have had a thick file just for her. Various typewriters were pounded into submission – the pieces of paper in them migrating swiftly across the table as words were typed onto them at a prodigious rate. Wherever you were in the bungalow it sounded as if a machine gun battle was raging. Pitman training was applied with Pit Bull ferocity.

In 1988 they sold both their properties and bought a bungalow in West Wickham. Apart from spending time helping in various ways at the local Methodist Church Mum worked actively for the West Wickham Residents Association making sure in particular that streets were properly cleaned, rubbish removed and that neither shop signs nor vehicles were present on the pavement. She would go out on early morning or late night sorties armed with secateurs, shears, long handled pruners and a four-wheeled shopper to cut down and cart away illegal posters – particularly those for Croydon night clubs featuring as she put it “scantily clad women”. The moral tone of West Wickham was thus preserved. Also it must have had some effect on the crime rate as potential burglars must have been scared off by the sudden appearance of a local enforcer armed to the teeth with sharp-edged weapons.

People certainly took notice of her and around 1969 I was surprised to

answer the door and find myself face to face with our local MP Bernard Weatherill who had come to visit Mum. Much later on Bromley Council recognized her work with an award for Civic service which stood proudly on her bedside table.

Although in possession of much common sense, Mum, because of health reasons, did miss out on quite a lot of education which resulted in a number of interesting statements. She sometimes used to tell us to “lock the door and put it on the mantelpiece”. She would refer to Church sales as “bizarres”. She once referred to someone having bought some poor quality furniture from M15 (rather than MFI). She used to refer to a well-known Russian composer as “Surge Provocative” and described someone with eye trouble as suffering from Immaculate Degeneration – a concept which, no doubt, would greatly interest the Roman Catholic Church.

Mum generally had simple tastes. She loved pre-1850 classical music – particularly Mozart. She would often break into song while Hoovering. She liked a glass of sherry each evening before bed – purely for medicinal purposes you understand. She was not into sport but did like Show Jumping. She is certainly the only person I have ever met who could listen to a Mozart Piano Concerto, watch Show Jumping on the TV with the sound turned down, knit a pullover and hold a conversation at the same time. She was someone for whom multi-tasking was a way of life.

Neither Mum nor Dad drove a car. After Dad died in 2001 Mum did experiment with driving a mobility scooter. However she did not get on particularly well with it and one day she managed to crash it and dent the railings marking the boundary of the Bethlem Royal which is a psychiatric hospital. It must be one of the very few occasions when someone has actually tried to break *into* that particular institution.

Mum was also a wonderful hostess although her idea of entertainment could be a little idiosyncratic particularly at Christmas. Games with dried peas, straws, marbles in old jam jars, paper clips and rubber guns firing ping pong balls were all regularly featured. The rules for such games were often not explicitly and certainly not consistently stated. To complicate things further they were often subject to change during the game.

Friends from school, pen pals, relatives from Australia and elsewhere were all welcomed into the home at different times and for different durations. Our longest stay guests were Bill and Peggy Rutledge – relatives from Australia who lodged with us during 1953-5. Bill was a wonderful professional musician – organist, pianist, cellist, conductor and composer. On the occasion of his birthday, Mum gave him a box of paints. He developed his talent in that direction and became well-known as an artist. It must have been one of Mum's little voices. Peggy wrote a very appreciative letter to Mum and Dad on the occasion of their Golden Wedding in 1996. Peggy's son Nick wrote to us "What a beautiful couple they were – and now are once more. Your Mum always got everything that was going from life... and gave back even more – to everyone."

Mum's end was very peaceful and, as far as we can tell, without pain. I reflected that just as she held her children soon after they were ejected into the world uncomprehending and unable to express themselves, two of her children were there holding her hand as she had lost the means to express herself and gradually slipped away from earthly life.

I shall leave the last word to Gail, Peggy's elder daughter. "It feels like the end of an era... Your dear Mum was such a wonderful person. One thing is certain: from now on Heaven will never be the same again."

John Kelsey



Her children arise up, and call her blessed.

Proverbs 31:28

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

At the time of writing, the waters of the Thames get higher and higher and flooded fields and properties become more of a reality in our own Circuit. When we see the distress of others at times of adversity, we are prompted to examine the fragility of our own security and that of our neighbours. This comes at a time when many of us are about to commit to a series of Lent studies and we will no doubt focus more sharply on the plight of others and how we can support them.

Circuit News/Events

The Circuit Learning Day Worship Workshop held on Saturday 8th February was very productive for those that attended. It is hoped that another such workshop will be planned for later in the year.

Circuit service 30 Mar 6.30pm at Kingston will be focusing on the work of the Night Shelter and an invitation is extended to all churches who were involved.

District Events

Safeguarding Conference Saturday 1st March – William Sangster room Westminster Central Hall SW1H 9NH 10.30am – 4pm for all those involved or interested in safeguarding within their church or circuit. Further details to be confirmed but please note the date. There are a choice of seminars:

'Mary Cox - Safeguarding Advisor Age UK

'A positive approach to safeguarding adults'

Donald Finlater - Director of Research and Development Lucy Faithful Foundation

'What churches need to know about preventing child sexual abuse'

Sandy Youngson - London District Safeguarding Group

'Making the most of your Local Safeguarding Children Board –Who, What, Where and Why'

The day includes lunch and refreshments. To book your place, or for further enquiries, please contact Sandra Oborski by email:

sfmoborski@gmail.com

Daffodil Day Monday 3 March at Westminster Central Hall. Be seated by 1.40pm for community singing at 1.45pm followed at 2pm by a variety of speakers and performers.

Events Elsewhere

Surprised by Age? Wednesday 26 March 9.30 -1pm at Epsom Methodist Church in Ashley Road. A chance to explore how ageing, spirituality and faith are at the heart of the Church's mission, based around the story of Methodist Homes (MHA). Contact Rachel on 0113 272 8471 for information and to register.

... and a request concerning The Star and Garter Home in Surbiton each Sunday a service is held at the home - 3.30pm- 4.00pm. The 8 - 10 residents who usually attend - in wheelchairs, enjoy the short, devotional time. The services are run by the same 4 different denominations each month, the Methodist service is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Within the service are, of course hymns, so a pianist is needed. Kathryn Ingham very happily plays each month, but at times she cannot play due to prior commitments. Is there anyone else, pianist or instrumentalist, from within the circuit who would be prepared to fill in, if and when they can. This would not be a 'dreaded rota', just an occasional commitment when needed. Incidentally the people at the Star and Garter have said they would be very happy to have people coming to these short services - both to swell the singing and to chat to the residents. Please give this your prayerful consideration. Thank you. Contact Kathryn Ingham 8399 8294 / email: inghamkathryn@hotmail.com

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: circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk Tel 07510 548931

Circuit Office, Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, 39 Ewell Rd., Surbiton KT6 6AF

Hi,

Lent, before Easter, is like Advent before Christmas, a time of preparation. Lent is when we remember that Jesus prepared himself for starting his ministry by going away by himself for 40 days of fasting and prayer. You can read about it in your Bible: Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1-11; Mark, chapter 1, verses 12-13 and Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13.

Jesus went into the wilderness – a quiet lonely place away from people – where he could think things out. He knew that his work would be hard, that many people would not listen to him, or if they listened, they would not believe him. During these 40 days Jesus made his choice: to work in God's way however hard that might be.

This year Lent starts on 5th March and goes through half of April - have you thought about how YOU are going to prepare yourself to follow Jesus this Lent?

Some people give things up like biscuits or chocolate, others do the opposite. They start doing something like praying more or making a real effort to read their bible. I know a minister who didn't listen to the radio in his car during lent and spent that time noticing the world around him and prayed for those he passed and generally talked to God.

Whatever you decide to do it only needs to be something small, perhaps say please and thank you more or smile more often or pick up the wet towel from the floor! If you forget one day - don't give up - just try again. The important thing is to do it well and with love.

Love through Jesus

Julia



SPRING COLOURS

There are colours which are mentioned with these things in the Bible.
Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Pastures, herbs and olives are all?
2. A sea, tents and wine are?
3. Hangings in the Temple, pomegranates and doors of tents were all?
4. A horse, robes and teeth were all?
5. Kings' raiment (clothing), Jesus' robe and the dye that Lydia sold were all?
6. One of the gifts to the baby Jesus, candlesticks and spoons were?
7. A raven, clouds and chariot horses were?
8. Lips, a thread tied to a window and robes are?

What's blue, V-shaped and flies?

The Red Arrows in disguise.



What do you say to a hitch-hiking frog?

Hop-in

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert?

Lost.

When did medicine first appear in the Bible?

When God gave Moses the tablets.



What do you do with a green monster?

Wait till he's ripe.



Answers: 1.green 2.red 3.blue 4.white 5.purple 6.gold 7.black 8.scarlet

Church Services

2nd March	10.30am (HC)	Rev Dr S Brown
	6.30pm (CC)	Rev D Finnan
9th March	10.30am (W)	Mr D & Mrs C Doe
16th March	10.30am (AAW & LC)	Mr A Justin
	6.30pm (HC)	Rev R Jones
23rd March	10.30am (W)	Rev E Murray
30th March	Mothering Sunday	
	10.30am (P/AAW)	Rev Dr S Brown
	6.30pm (Circuit/Kingston)	Rev B Pickard*

Notes

AAW	<i>All Age Worship</i>
CC	<i>Café Church</i>
HC	<i>Holy Communion</i>
LC	<i>London Course (Videoed Service)</i>
P	<i>Parade</i>
W	<i>Preaching Service</i>

**The Circuit Service at Kingston will focus on the work of the Night Shelter
(See Circuit News - page 22)*

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FLOWER ROTA FOR MARCH 2014

Date	Donated by	Arranged by
2nd March	Mrs D Downey	Doreen
9th March		Pam W
16th March	Mr A Chalk	Sheila
23rd March	Miss E J Lee	Jan
30th March	Mrs S Knowles	Julia

Church Activities

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)

* 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 to 12.30pm

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

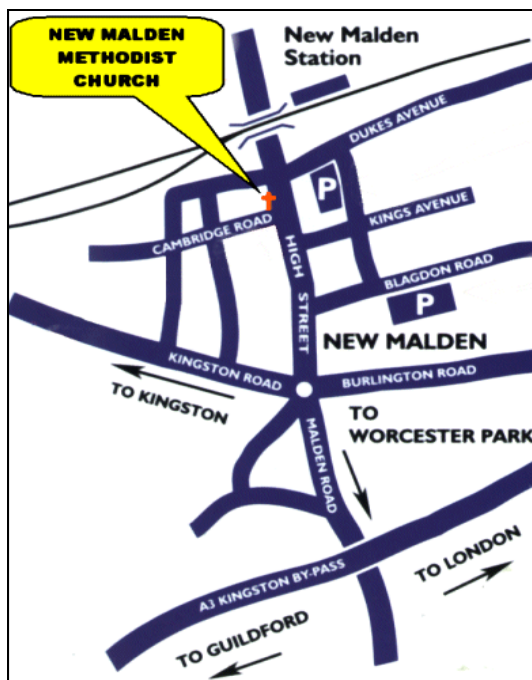
New Malden Methodist Church

49 High Street

New Malden

KT3 4BY

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS



Trains

New Malden Station (South West Trains)

2 minutes walk away

Buses

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