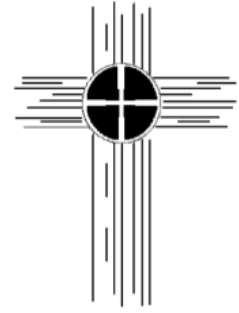


The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church Summer 2016



In this issue:

- Message from Reverend Choi
- Christian Aid Week
- Garden Party and Cream Tea
- Profile on Jenny Reid
- Abacus Pre School
- 150th Anniversary Update
- Around the Circuit
- Reverend Paul Han's sermon
- Summary of Notices
- Services in July and August
- Cinderella
- Puzzle page

Message from Reverend Choi

Dear friends,

Having lived in this country over twenty years, one of the areas I find still difficult is 'Holiday'. I do have holidays (the annual leave, more correctly), and take a time of rest, away from home and work. But, I am not used to planning it in advance, some months before, or even some years before. I remember, when I started the Circuit ministry, the first thing I was asked to do was submitting a holiday plan for the coming year. It was almost impossible for me to do, because I had never done it before in my life. It could be a personal matter, but on the other hand, it is a cultural matter, in which we usually do not make a holiday plan that far in advance. I think, although nowadays quite a lot of Koreans spend time and money on their leisure and holidays, travelling around the world, planning holidays in advance may be still a challenge to many, at least to me.

As Christians, you may like to know how Jesus would spend his 'holiday'. But, it seems not easy to get the picture of holiday

from the gospels, apart from the occasion of the family travelling up to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover at his age of twelve. In this sense, the term 'holiday' may not be a right word for Jesus.

'Resting time' may be more appropriate. And, the story of meeting Samaritan woman at the well could be one of the examples. Here, we see, Jesus came to the well to get some rest, having some food and drinking water. But, we know how the story goes, that he got involved in a talk with a woman, and eventually made her believe in God and Jesus himself. Actually, she was the first convert from Gentiles. Jesus never stopped working for God, whether he was at work, or on "holiday". Later in this story (John 4:34), we see him saying, 'my food (spiritual nourishment or rest) is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work'.

What do you do on your holiday? I hope you do enjoy your holidays this summer and do the will of God, wherever you go.

With every blessing, SC Choi



NMMC

49 High Street
New Malden
KT3 4BY
020 8942 1288

nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

The **Prudential Bike Ride** on Sunday 31 July in London and Surrey will involve some road closures which are likely to impact on some Church services on that day.



Christian Aid Week



Another successful Christian Aid Week has been completed and here are the details of our collections:

House to house	£601.56
Methodist church	£312.00
Coffee morning/plant sale	£178.80
Bread and cheese lunch and Easter breakfast	£231.00
Other donation	£10.00
TOTAL	<u>£1333.36</u>

Thank you so much to all who helped deliver and collect the envelopes, baked cakes for the coffee morning or gave so generously. A special thank you to Andrew Turner who has gallantly joined our "merry band" of collectors! I really appreciate the time and effort given so freely by so many people – thank you.

Jennifer Townsend

Garden Party and Cream Tea

Tuesday 2 August



We are looking forward to welcoming the Church Family once again to a Garden Party (weather permitting – otherwise indoors) on Tuesday 2 August at Conifers, High Drive from 3 pm onwards. Please make a note of the date – more details and a list will be available later.

We will have homemade raspberry jam and scones as usual but would welcome offers of cakes and also of garden chairs from those of you who come by car.

As in previous years some people may need drivers to bring them to our home.

Pam and Alan Vincent 020 8942 3752

(Remember, it's jam first and then the cream – Caroline).



Profile on Jenny Reid

Name Jenny Reid

Best invention in your lifetime – the Internet

Best film – Dr Zhivago

Earliest memory – being pushed in my big pram by my Grandfather

Previous Occupations- Market Researcher; Social Worker – Child Care Officer; Pre-school Playgroup Leader; Counsellor

Favourite hymn – O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder.....

Favourite time of the year - Spring

Best meal – moussaka followed by baklava

Did you have any childhood pets – a dog called Patsy and a cat called Tigger

Favourite Book of the Bible – Romans

What does your faith mean to you? (In no more than 50 words)

Having been called to be a disciple of Jesus, imperfect as I am, my faith in him gives me a sense of direction, meaning to my life and the challenge to love people whether I like them or not; and when I fail I know there is forgiveness.

Abacus Pre School

Abacus has been part of the life of New Malden Methodist Church since 1992 and whilst they are not directly affiliated with the church any more they are the single biggest user of our premises apart from the church and have a close partnership with us. They take part in the Christmas Tree Festival and bring all the children to visit the festival where Julia tells them about the history of the Christmas Tree. They also hold their nativity play in the church and this year Julia went along to a session to explain Easter to the children.

Abacus has recently been inspected by Ofsted and received an excellent report and a 'Good' rating which is second only to 'Outstanding'. The report is available to view online (at www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk using the Unique Reference Number 131802, or I have a copy). The Summary of Key Findings for Parents is below.

- The manager uses a well-established programme for continued professional development. This helps staff to continually improve their knowledge and practice.
- Staff effectively consider and support children and their families who speak English as an additional language. This helps them to make good progress.
- Staff promote children's early literacy skills and mathematical development well. This contributes towards children being ready for school.
- Effective partnerships with parents help to ensure that they remain well informed about their children's progress.
- Staff are enthusiastic and show a genuine passion for supporting the children in their learning and development. They provide a stimulating environment, indoors and outdoors, that helps to keep children motivated and interested in a broad range of activities.
- The key-person system is effective and helps the children to form secure attachments and promotes their well-being and independence. Children learn to respect and celebrate each other's differences.

Such a glowing report is a significant achievement and a testament to the excellent team of staff.

Liz Baty, who set Abacus up and has run it since the beginning, is taking her well-deserved retirement this summer and the new Manager is Sarah Collins (who was the Fairy Godmother in the pantomime!). Myself and Sue Knowles still serve on the Abacus Management Committee and there is always room for more should anyone be interested. The AGM is on Tuesday 11th October in the Choir Vestry and you

are very welcome to come along or speak to myself or Sue for any more information. Sarah Moore



Don't forget – Sunday 3rd July the **Church BBQ**. Tickets available on a Sunday morning, £5 adults, £3 for children, £13 for a family ticket. Any offers to cook food, provide salads etc gratefully received. Talk to Birgit or one of the Stewards.

150th Anniversary Update

Everyone should have had a note in their pigeonhole acknowledging their offer of help. There is still time to offer help but it is helpful for us to know sooner rather than later in order to have a good idea of where manpower is required.

Please send any requests for the **Hymnathon** to Peter Bullett so we can begin to compile the running order and words via the pigeonhole only.

Please send any **photographs** for the display with your name on the back and any information about the event they are showing to Andrew Turner. We are aware that this may seem six months too soon, however the more things we can organise in advance the better it will be for everyone concerned. These things take time.

There will be an **Auction of Promises** at the **Harvest Supper on Saturday 1st October 2016**. Please send your offers of gifts and talents to the office asap.

Would you like to sponsor a tile for the **mosaic**? There will be an opportunity to do so soon. In addition, we invite you to send in your ideas for pictures to go on a border around the main design which will be based on the embroidered hanging at the front of the Sanctuary.

Closing date for **logo competition** is 24th July.

Keep your cuddly toys for a stall at the Christmas Fair (but please don't bring them in just yet – we'll let you know when we need them!)

Thursday 7th July Service Committee 8.00pm Welcome Area

Please will all organisations send a representative with a mandate to commit to at least one date to help with the fundraising for the celebrations.

Date of next 150th Anniversary meeting – 23rd August 7.30pm Welcome Area. All welcome!!

Around the Circuit: July 2016

CIRCUIT NEWS

Farewell and Welcome Services

Elizabeth Osei moves on to Newham Circuit at the end of July. A Circuit Farewell Service has been arranged on the evening of 31st July at Chessington, and we hope you will come along to say goodbye and to celebrate Elizabeth's ministry.

A Circuit Welcome Service has also been arranged to **welcome Andy Clark**, the new minister at Chessington. This will take place at Chessington at 6.30pm on Sunday 4th September, and you are invited to welcome Andy to Chessington, and the Circuit.

Refreshments will be served after both services.

Methodist Prayer Handbook for 2016/17

"Freedoms to Share", the Methodist Prayer Handbook for 2016/17, will be published on 1 August, but it can be pre-ordered now. The cost is £3.95, but for orders of 10 or more the cost is reduced to £3.50 per copy.

If you would like to have a copy included in the Circuit's bulk order please e-mail Michael Axton by 15 July at: circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

Quarterly Plan

There are some amendments to the current (June to August) Quarterly Plan. Please note your copies to amend the 7 August services at Chessington to show "Murray" for the morning service, and "Webb" for the evening service.

CHURCH EVENTS

Surbiton Hill

A reminder that **Monthly Prayer Fellowship** takes place on the first Saturday of each month at Surbiton Hill, from 10 am to 11am, led by Daniel Masillamani.

NEXT EDITION

Please send details of any church news or a forthcoming event to Michael Axton at the Circuit Office so that it can be included in each Church's newsletter/magazine.

Please send your contributions by Tuesday 12 July to: circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

Reverend Paul Han's sermon on 12th June has been printed here by popular demand

Mark 14:51~52

We may have run away

Like most of us, I grew up reading various autobiographies and memoirs, generally by famous people. I found that rarely do they write about their wrongdoings or injustice towards others; extensive passages about their pride and achievements, but never a confession of a bad deed. Truthfully, I find it difficult to be touched by these sorts of books, and I'm sure you'll agree. Why is this the case? If you were to release such a book, recording your failures as they were gives the readers something to ponder about. In reality, we learn more from failures than successes, this prevents others making the same mistakes – a strong message in itself. On the other hand, conveying a success story in the wrong way can have an adverse effect, giving people frustration or planting false hope.

Today's reading is a bible passage, yet at no point does it seem that we can relate or say 'Amen' to. A young man was following Jesus, but ran away naked as soon as he was spotted by the crowds. From what can we identify or receive God's message of grace? However, once we discover the author and how this event came to be recounted, we find humble grace and a moving story, which I will share with you today.

The main character of today's reading is a man named Mark (John Mark to be precise). Mark, at the time, was what we would call a 'golden boy' – favoured and especially gifted – the 'golden boy' of the Early Church. First of all, he came from a rich background, owning a large estate. We don't know whether he made his own fortunes, or grew a business from his parents' possessions, but he later becomes a very wealthy merchant through trade. In the New Testament, we see countless appearances of places related to Mark. On arrival to Jerusalem, the disciples ask where they should hold the Passover meal. Jesus gives them instructions and the house they are directed to was Mark's house. Later, this house becomes a lodging for the disciples. One thing to note is the bible's mention of an attic. With this translation, it is easy for us to imagine the attics in our homes, but in reality, we should think of it as a large upstairs hall in a mansion. As Mark's parents were from Rome, he was naturally born a Roman citizen. Hence, his family had succeeded in Rome and returned to their home country Israel. Mark was 2 fluent in Hebrew, Greek was his mother language, and the bible suggests that he could use one or two other languages.

Therefore, Mark's house was unlike the mud houses of the average Hebrew, but a large estate like those in Rome. Also, do you recall when Jesus rose and as he was ascending into heaven, promised to send the Holy Spirit and told the disciples to gather and wait in prayer? The attic where the 120 disciples gathered and prayed was also Mark's attic. It is that very place where the Early Church naturally forms. So we can somewhat assume how Mark was brought up. The people he saw every day and night were Peter, John and James.

Furthermore, Barnabas, who had as much influence in the Early Church as the twelve disciples – the great preacher who sought St. Paul and pledged to become an apostle for the gentiles – was Mark's uncle. He would have grown up seeing and listening to the faith of these great spiritual figures. His house became the spiritual base from which the gospel spread in every direction, after the formation of the Early Church.

However, even Mark could not escape the boundaries of a rich son. Despite having the best background and surroundings, his actions recounted in the bible were not desirable. A representative example was during St. Paul's first missionary journey with Barnabas. Mark went with them as their assistant, but causes a commotion. I reviewed the route map, and it seems that he somewhat followed them well to Perga, known as Cyprus today, but things kicked off after arriving at inland Asia Minor, today's Turkey, which is a harshly mountainous area. Even there, Paul and Barnabas continue their rigorous journey. On arrival at Antioch of Pisidia, Mark is bound by his 'rich boy' limitations, exclaiming "I can't go on!" before leaving mid-journey. He returns to Jerusalem, not the Antioch Church, who sent him on this journey. What is at Jerusalem? His house, the large estate. He returns to the comfort of his own home.

Fluent in Greek, fluent in Hebrew, and hence was a necessary member of the missionary journey but on arrival in the field, defeated by tiring journey, became a useless man.

Later, during the second missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas argue over Mark before breaking off and going their separate ways. Basically, someone who was expected to achieve great things was a troublemaker on the field, a useless rookie.

With this background knowledge, we return to today's reading. Today's passage is about Jesus' arrest on the day before Passover, arrested by soldiers while praying on Mount Gethsemane. Upon hearing this news, the disciples, who were at Mark's house, all run away.

Verse 51 talks about a young man dressed only in a linen cloth who once caught by the crowds, ran away naked, leaving the cloth behind. This is not recounted in any of the other gospels, only in Mark. Reading what happens before and after, there is no need to include this part of the story. We do not know why the story of a young man running away naked is important. It does not even say who he is. It's difficult to understand.

Who, then, do you think this man is? Yes, it is Mark himself. Mark is recounting his own story. Just because Mark wrote it does not make this gospel an autobiography. But as he wrote it himself, it wouldn't have been difficult to include at least one good story about himself.

Now there was one man who did this. As Saint Paul was very old and could not see very well, he did not write his own letters in the bible, he dictated them to a man named Tertius, who wrote it on his behalf. He even managed to sneak his name into the closing remarks of Paul's letter.

Romans 16:22 says 'I, Tertius, the writer of this letter, send you Christian greetings.'

It is a mystery whether Paul told him to write this. Even when Paul asked him to read it out, he probably would have glossed over this line. Perhaps Paul would not have minded, but in this case, Mark has rather bought trouble for himself. Following Jesus at a large national event such as the Passover, before being identified by the crowds and running away naked, leaving his cloth behind – how embarrassing! If, on the same night, Peter's denial of Jesus was a tragedy, Mark's naked escape is a funny story.

What does this tell us about Mark? It is a form of 'coming out'. He is confessing that his spiritual level was not at the standard where he could follow Jesus in his persecution and bear his cross. He is acknowledging that he was a 'golden boy', but at a decisive moment, a coward and a troublemaker. But perhaps he hoped that through the account of his failure, he hoped his spiritual juniors would learn a lesson and do better.

Why would Mark have nothing else to write? In reality, out of the people who built the Early Church, there was no one else with as much importance as Mark. If Mark were to write an autobiography for the public there is more than enough he could shout about.

'At our house, the Last Supper occurred as well as Jesus' farewell sermon. Jesus and his disciples usually stayed at our house, eating my mother's

cooking and most of the security was paid for by our family. I met with the twelve disciples day and night, which continued after Jesus' death. Even after the ascension, 120 people received the gift of the Holy Spirit in our attic, the starting place for the Early Church. I of course, did all the work behind the scenes. When Peter was arrested for preaching, people gathered in our house to pray, and the first place Peter came after escaping prison helped by an angel, was our house. When Jesus rose and showed Thomas his nail marks and told him that those who believe without seeing are blessed – that was at our house also. During the whole of Jesus' ministry, and of course his persecution, resurrection, and ascension, at any point, the story can't continue without mentioning our house. Do you understand? Although I was too young to become one of Jesus' disciples, I was the first person to write the New Testament. If it wasn't for my book, it would have probably been difficult for Luke or Matthew to write the bible so easily. I was Peter's translator and storyteller. From the beginning to the end, he thought of me as a son. Even St Paul who I disappointed at first, later told me that I was a faithful partner. Barnabas, who saw Saul before he became Paul, and realised he was a rough diamond, is my uncle. Who was it who founded and supported a school in Alexandria which played a crucial role in establishing the theological system in the Early Church. Does this give you a rough idea about who I am?

Loving members of the congregation! Often, when we receive even the slightest inspiration from God, we brag as if we have received the whole revelation of heaven. Whenever we do something small for Jesus, we regard it as a great achievement. But whatever we may do, it is nothing in front of Jesus. We must never forget that we were sinners, were saved by Jesus' blood, and that we would not be alive now were it not for Jesus' grace. However great or honourable our work may be, we must always remember that it is small in comparison to our sins. When we realise the lack and weakness, we come to truly understand Mark's short account.

It's true. After listening to a sermon and entering prayer, we feel as if we are ready to bear the cross, ready to become a martyr. However not even this can be done with our own willpower. The spiritual level which led Mark to run away naked when questioned – that level is where we are at. Through this embarrassing account, Mark is pledging not to say "I will follow you Jesus. I will also bear the cross" so easily. Rather, he is not forgetting his weakness and foolishness, just like his weak-self going on to do these great things when the time came.

Perhaps when you hear stories about great spiritual figures, such as Moses and David, rather than gaining strength and encouragement, you think to yourself "I can never become like them. I can't do what they did!" But they too, started on our level. Humbly admitting and praying about their weakness and lacking, they would have slowly built their spiritual towers through their everyday actions.

Of course, God filled Mark's weakness and he became a path for God to descend on. We too, when we confess that we are merely at this level, God will wholeheartedly help us. But, just as Mark's confession became a stepping stone for his development, we must not leave our confessions as a confession, rather, regarding it as an opportunity.

Mark later becomes a martyr in Alexandria. For almost two days his neck is tied to a horse by rope and flailed to a horrible death. His body is collected by an unexpected party, Venetian merchants, who move his body to Venice. They then build a Church in the most beautiful square in Venice, which looks over the sea, and commemorate him. If you ever get a chance to visit Venice, at the centre there is the Cathedral of Saint Mark – I want you to visit and remember Mark.

Loving sisters and brothers, we may have run away, but that can't be the end. Like Mark, we need to stand on our failures and use it as an opportunity to soar high into the sky.

Thinking about Mark's one and only account of himself, his one-lined confession, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, that both me and you will go forth this week and lead a simple and humble life that is pleasing to God's eyes.

Reverend Paul Han

Summary of June Notices

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Many of you will be saddened to hear of the death of **Vera Miller** on Tuesday 31st May. Vera would have been 102 years old in August. Her funeral service was held here on Wednesday 22nd June.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Are you not a member, yet? Then, this will be an opportunity to explore what it is about and what it involves.

This Membership Class will take place on three Sundays (19th June, 17th July, & 7th August), just after the morning service for about half an hour or so. If you are interested, please talk to Choi, stewards, or your pastoral visitor.

ELIZABETH OSEI'S FAREWELL

The farewell service for Elizabeth will be held on Sunday 31 July at 6.30pm at Chessington Methodist Church. A card for her is in the Welcome Area for you to sign if you wish and if you would like to contribute to her leaving gift, please would you give the money to a steward.

After the service on 31st July there will be refreshments and donations of sweet or savoury finger food would be much appreciated. Please contact Judith Cowley if you can help. 020 8397 5701 judithccowley@gmail.com

PILLOWSLIPS NEEDED

Spare, ideally colourful, pillowslips need to home the teddy bears for the Wings of Hope nursery. Kindly give to Birgit Cowan, thank you.

A new and exciting opportunity for 18 – 36 year olds

Sacred activists: Leadership & spirituality in action

This programme speaks to the most urgent needs of our time. It brings together young people who want to create a more beautiful world and empowers them to bring it into being. It calls those with the spark of the future in their hearts, with committed spiritual lives and the impulse to lead to rise to the challenge of initiating dynamic and sustainable social change from a place of living faith.

Based in London, this 9 month programme will have different strands:

- Workshops with teaching input from leaders in the field
- Fieldtrips to inspiring communities where faith and action are combined in innovative ways
- 1:1 mentoring from leaders at the cutting edge of faith-based social change
- Building community through shared devotional practice, inner work and celebration

- Ongoing support to develop youth-led projects
- A week volunteering at a refugee camp in Europe
- A closing retreat and vision quest.

For further information (there is lots) and an application form please contact Julia nmmcyw@hotmail.co.uk and I'll email you the whole document.

Diary Dates

September Diary Dates will appear in the September issue of the Newsletter.

Services in July and August

3rd July – Reverend Choi – HC and baptism

10th July – Reverend Eric Murray

17th July – Reverend Choi – family service

24th July – Reverend Stan Brown – family service plus Reverend Choi and Café Church and HC in the evening.

31st July – Mr Andre Justin – family service. Don't forget Reverend Osei's farewell service at 6.30pm at Chessington too.

7th August – Reverend Choi – HC and family service

14th August – Revd Nadine Wilkinson – family service

21st August – Mr Duncan Lloyd – family service

28th August – Mrs Jilly Bridges – family service

Copy deadline for September Newsletter

9 am Friday 26th August by email to:

carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.

This is slightly later than usual due to people taking well-earned breaks over the summer.

Why panto?

People may wonder why the Church put on a pantomime

On Saturday 18th June over 200 people came to watch an afternoon or evening performance of Cinderella in the Upper Hall, all of whom had some connection with the people involved in the production. All of these people left with a positive impression of 'Church' (the people, not the building).

As can be seen from the programme, over 50 people contributed to the show, whether a leading light or making props and costumes. Cast members came from many different groups who meet on the premises from Brownies to the new Manager of Abacus.

Some of the back stage people are not regular church goers, however, they have an affiliation with the production and enjoy working as a team and do it willingly.

It gives an opportunity for the children and youth on the fringe of the church to be part of something bigger thus bringing in their families via 'the back route'. Some of the regular performers have started as a mouse and worked up to a principle boy. It has appeared on many a CV in the past and shows commitment, reliability and teamwork.

The current Factotum group started because some cast members wanted to continue meeting and explore their faith together. In the manic 5 minutes before the performance, this group made sure that we shared a prayer before we started.

The generations have an opportunity to work together and get to know each other in a fun environment which is reflected on the day in the obvious enjoyment of the whole cast. So be ready to sign up for the next one!

In addition to these benefits, the two performances raised in the region of £700 which will be split between the mosaic for the 150th Anniversary and the youth of the church.

So here are some quotes from those who have been participating over the last 20 plus years:

It brings us all together to make you feel part of the church family. It has made me bond and form friendships, old and young, with those I wouldn't have met before. It shows how much love and commitment there is in the church and makes me proud to be part of that in any way I can.

It has brought new people to the church and if the pantomime has managed to do that, it says a lot about the people who take part. It's something fun for all generations to be involved in and I feel honoured to be in it.

Jennie Morton

Panto is important to me as it's a chance to hang out with my church family.

It's a chance for people to get involved in something different and show off their hidden talents.

We have audience members who may never have stepped into church and with this it's unthreatening space where they can see how silly and loving and supportive we can be. And it's always a good laugh whether you are cast, crew or audience...!!!

Amy Jewell



Identical Twin Sisters Gareth Morton and Festus Mensah



The Final Curtain Call for the evening performance.



Our afternoon pumpkin, Ethan Morton next to the bear, Grace Mensah



The pumpkin for the evening, Isabel Elves and her buddy the bear

Jesus
wants us to welcome
EVERYONE as we would
welcome him!

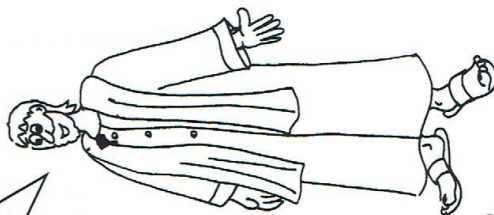
Follow the instructions to find the words of Jesus

P X K F R B X K

B R Z Q K G R G R

B R Z Q K G R P X R K D R

B X K F R D P G R



1. Change the letter X to H
2. Change the letter K to O
3. Change the letter R to E
4. Change the letter P to T
5. Change the letter G to M
6. Change the letter B to W
7. Change the letter D to N
8. Change the letter F to S
9. Change the letter Z to L
10. Change the letter Q to C


Matthew 10:40

Make Jesus
welcome

If Jesus came
to your house today how
would you make him
feel welcome?

Write what you could DO and SAY

DO



SAY

