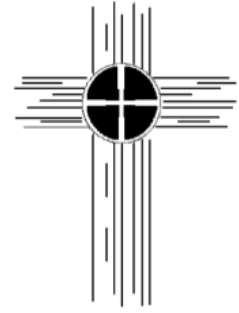


The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church April 2018



In this issue:

- Message from Reverend Karl
 - Christian Aid
 - Around the Circuit
 - Summary of Notices
 - Diary Dates
 - Services in April
 - Aladdin
-

Message from Karl

Happy Easter!

Well, we've finally made it. The pantomime has taken place – playing a northern Genie in Aladdin certainly proves that circuit ministry is full of new experiences! – and our journeys through Lent and the drama of Holy Week are complete. We're now in the season of Easter, which runs through until we mark the birth of the Church at Pentecost, and to show that we've moved into celebratory mode, the colours in the sanctuary have changed from purple to white.

In these seven weeks, we'll hear some of the most astounding and world-changing passages in the whole of Scripture, as we recall the appearances of the risen Jesus to his startled disciples. Two of these encounters in particular stand out: the first person to recognise the risen Christ, in the garden on Easter morning, was Mary Magdalene, and the first to proclaim him as their Lord and God was Thomas. Both have been given a hard time down the years, with Pope Gregory the Great branding Mary a

prostitute, and Thomas being labelled 'doubting Thomas', yet both have much to teach us.

In a society where women weren't allowed to give testimony in court, as they weren't considered to be reliable witnesses, it's remarkable that it was Mary who was the 'Apostle to the Apostles', as the first person to meet with the risen Lord. It's a very intimate scene, which reflects the deep bonds of love between the two of them (John 20:1 – 18), depicted movingly in the recent film. Her faithfulness in those turbulent days far outstripped many of the male followers of Jesus.

Thomas, we're told, was the last of Jesus' close friends to encounter him post-resurrection, and he has been much criticised down the centuries, for refusing to believe the claims of the others without first seeing things for himself. However, doubt isn't the opposite of faith; certainty holds that title. In the end, when Thomas saw Jesus, he didn't need to place his fingers in the holes in Jesus' hands and side; instead, he declared Jesus to be his Lord and God – a powerful statement of a deep faith.

Combined with the evidence of the empty tomb, these stories and others in the Gospels demonstrate that God has done what common sense tells us should be impossible, and raised Jesus up from the dead. It's important that Jesus' resurrection body, while able to do things we cannot, like enter locked rooms, bears the scars of

crucifixion. Christ is forever the crucified God, by whose wounds we are healed. That continuity reminds us that what we do in the here-and-now matters, because the new creation follows on in some sense from the old, rather than erasing it completely.

So, in this Easter season, we need both to prepare to be amazed as those first Apostles – witnesses to the resurrection – were, and to look ahead to the inbreaking life of the new creation, of which the resurrection is the guarantee and promise. This is a time in which we're called to look out for God's Kingdom breaking through in unexpected ways, and to roll up our sleeves and join in this redeeming work. Are you ready, along with Mary and Thomas, to be amazed by what God can do?

Blessings,

Karl

Christian Aid Week 13th-19th May



Here are two dates for your diaries:

Bread and Cheese Lunch -
Sunday 13th May

Coffee Morning and cake sale -
Saturday 19th May

As we no longer have so many house-to-house collections (one road, this year) it was decided we should repeat last year's extra fundraising by having two additional coffee mornings. These were held in February and March and brought in over £200 - so a big thank you to all involved. Once again we will be producing two quizzes and these will be available sometime in April at £2 and £1 a

sheet. Please look out for the poster giving further details!

This year we are going to try something new. . . a static collection outside the church just for 2 hours during the coffee morning on the 19th May. If we can find 4 volunteers it will mean only a half hour stint! If anyone is willing to undertake this please let me know.

The work of Christian Aid continues throughout the year and across several continents. The following is just one example of the way Christian Aid is helping people to improve lives.

Jennifer Townsend

If you're wondering exactly where your donations go, then have a look at the Christian Aid website. Here is a snippet:

Jocelyne's story

Jocelyne lost everything when Hurricane Matthew tore through Haiti – her home, her animals and her hope. She now lives under a tarpaulin sheet and is scared she won't survive the next hurricane season. Will you help build disaster-proof homes for vulnerable people like Jocelyne in Haiti?

Take a look at:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week>

Lunchtime Concerts at the URC

Thanks to Mick T for spotting these

New Malden URC (at the Fountain) is holding a series of free lunchtime concerts in the church performed by music students who mostly come from the Royal Academy of Music. Dates are as follows:-

18th April - accordion

25th April - piano

2nd May - viola

16th May- flute, viola and harp trio

6th June - trumpet
20th June - piano
4th July - classical guitar and flute

Concerts are from 1.10 to 1.50. Coffee is served beforehand and there is a retiring collection. It is well worth a visit to hear these talented youngsters perform.

Around the Circuit

Circuit Service: 6.30pm 29th April - Surbiton Hill Methodist Church

Tell me the Old, Old Story

Root around in cupboards, drawers and piano stools at any older Methodist Church and you are sure to find a copy of Ira D. Sankey's "*Sacred Songs & Solos*". You may not know the book or the name of its compiler but you do know some of the hymns which it made popular:

- Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine
- What a Friend we Have in Jesus
- O for a Closer Walk with God
- Tell me the Old, Old Story

Our circuit service celebrates this gospel music and tells the remarkable story of the first American Evangelists to become household names in Britain.

Dwight Moody was the Billy Graham of his day – indeed without the pioneering work of Moody and his friend the musician Ira Sankey, there may never have been any Billy Graham Crusades in the UK, or *Mission Praise* and its many successors. Moody and Sankey toured Britain many times, preaching and singing in packed venues. Moody's inspired preaching and Sankey's inspirational singing touched the hearts of a whole generation, and left a legacy of popular Christian song books which supplemented the official hymn books of the day.

Many of the songs grew out of real life stories and testimonies. As well as singing some old time favourites we will learn where the expression "Hold the Fort" comes from, and what it means to "Pull for the Shore". Above all the songs tell us something about the gospel, mission, the call of Jesus and its impact on our lives.

Some of these hymns fairly rattle along – if you like a good sing you will enjoy the tunes. Sankey's arrangements are very easy for choirs with simple 4 part harmonies. If you'd like to join the choir and help lead our music please get in touch with Linda Bridges lmbridges@btopenworld.com there will be a short rehearsal at 4.30pm with a refreshments break before the service.

If you've still no idea what this is all about go to **youtube** and search for "David Willets – Medley of Moody and Sankey Hymns"!

See you there

God bless: Stan

Moving Stories Conference: 20-22 July

The London District has arranged a conference under its "Moving Stories" initiative at which attendees will share stories, learn about migration, and be equipped to make a difference in their community. The conference will take place from 20-22 July in Hoddesdon, and the cost will be £60 for adults, £40 for children (under 16) and students, and it is free for under 5's. The Circuit has agreed to meet these costs for anyone who wants to attend, and it would be helpful if anyone who plans to attend could let the Circuit Office know.

People can register online at www.movingstorieslondon.com/conference. For more information call 020 7654 3850

Quiet Days for 2018 at the House of Prayer, East Molesey.

The next Quiet Days are:

June 23rd led by Rev Andrew Pakes

November 24th led by Rev Denis Vernon

If you have any news or a forthcoming event you would like to share with the Circuit, please forward details to Michael Axton at the Circuit Office *by Tuesday 10 April to:* circuitoffice@kingstonsircuit.org.uk

Summary of March Notices

Please pray for **Betty and Harry Thorogood** following Harry's severe stroke at the beginning of March. Harry has now been transferred from St George's to St Helier Hospital but is still very poorly. If you are able to spend any time with Betty, that would be much appreciated. Please keep Harry, Betty and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Jane Bennett is still in Bronte ward of Kingston Hospital making steady progress.

Barbara Finnan's funeral will be on Friday 13th April 11.00am Kingston Crematorium, 12.30pm New Malden United Reformed Church Malden Rd. KT3 6DN.

FLOWER ROTA

Sadly over the past 2 years we have lost a number of Sunday flower arrangement sponsors and there are a number of vacant slots for flowers in the church on Sunday. The cost is £20 and can be shared between 2 people if requested. Please see Pam Wardley or a steward and she can arrange a date with you, either as a one-off or annually. Please consider a dedication that can be put in the Notices, eg, in memory of ..., or to celebrate an anniversary, etc.

3Fs: Faith, food and Fellowship.

The next 3Fs is at Liz and Rob Edwards' house, on Friday 13th April. This is an 'everyone welcome' event where we share food (maybe with a glass of something suitable for a Friday night) and fellowship, and discuss a current issue with our faith in mind. So they can make sure they have

enough chairs and plates on hand, please let Liz and Rob if you plan to come and what food you hope to bring. (Please do not be put off if you have not been to 3Fs before – anyone is welcome and no pre-qualification necessary. Do ask Liz, Rob, or alternatively David or Sue Knowles or Andrew and Angie Turner if you have any questions.)

MARSDEN MARCH



Thank you to everyone who has donated towards my 14 mile walk for the Royal Marsden hospitals last Sunday (4th March). Every penny makes a difference. It's not too late to add to the total, you can do this either via my just giving page www.justgiving.co.uk/blenheimscience2018 or you can give me a donation directly when you see me. I will let you know the grand total once I have collected all the money.

Nicky Horton

FAREWELL TO THE ORGAN 7/8TH APRIL



As you will have read elsewhere, we are about to embark on the refurbishment of the organ. Most of the existing instrument will be removed from the church in the week beginning April 9th, and we are designating the previous weekend, 7/8th, as Organ Weekend. There will be opportunities to boost the Fund in the form of a coffee morning and a coin trail on 7th, as well as a

special Songs of Praise service on 8th, following which Peter will give a mini 'closing' recital of about 20 mins in length. Put your bids in now to have your favourite hymn played at the final service!

THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who supported the Marmalade Market last Saturday 17th March. The magnificent sums of £170 for Childline and £170 for the Organ Fund were raised. There is still a small selection for sale in the coffee bar if you missed out last week.

ALL SAINTS KINGSTON TOPICAL LUNCH

Thursday 12 April. **Mark Sturge**, Christian Aid's Head of London Office will talk about **'Why you can support Christian Aid with confidence'**. Following the problems at Oxfam and Save the Children, Mark will talk about how Christian Aid ensures the highest standards of integrity and effective results, with your questions and comments. Lunch at the East End Cafe from 12:00 pm, or bring your own sandwiches. Presentation 1:00 pm; finishes 1:45 pm prompt.

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

At Manor Drive, Surbiton (between nos 11 & 13) the church has six all-weather tennis courts and a pavilion. Membership of the club is particularly welcomed to members of the Methodist Church, and its congregation, it is a family club with play equipment for children, and we have players of all standards.

The club meets on Saturday afternoons, when doubles sets are arranged (so no need to have a partner), and teas are served, and on some evenings. Sets solely for men and ladies are arranged on Wednesday mornings and Thursday mornings respectively.

The club runs on a "self help" basis, such that we all chip in. Please do not hesitate to have a chat with our captain Terry Ingham on 0208 399 8294 inghamkathryn@hotmail.com - or just come along.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 3rd 7.00pm
Senior Badminton

Friday 6th 10.30am
Friday Fellowship

Saturday 7th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – NMMC Organ Fund

Monday 9th 7.30pm
Wives & Friends – Early History of New Malden - Pam Vincent

Tuesday 10th 7.00pm
Junior Badminton

Wednesday 11th 2.00pm
Home Instead Memory Café in the Welcome Area

Thursday 12th 7.30pm
Pastoral Committee Meeting (Choir Vestry)

Friday 13th 11.00am
Barbara Finnan's Cremation at Kingston Crematorium followed by 12.30pm Memorial Service for 3 Fs at the Edwards'

Saturday 14th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – TBA

Monday 16th 7.30pm
Kingston District Chamber Music Society Concert

Tuesday 17th 7.00pm
Senior Badminton

Thursday 19th 2.00pm
Arts Group

Saturday 21st 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Women's Institute

Sunday 22nd
Deadline for submissions to Annual Report

Monday 23rd
Wives – Songs for England – Alison Bullett

Tuesday 24th 7.00pm
Junior Badminton

Saturday 28th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – TBA

Sunday 29th 3.00pm
Music in New Malden
Guildhall School Cantata Project directed by
James Johnstone

Monday 30th 6.30pm (TBC)
Wives & Friends visit to Isabella Plantation

Services in April

1st April (Easter Day) – Extended Holy
Communion at 8am with Rev Rutledge.
Family service with Holy Communion at
10.30am with Rev Cowgill.

8th April – local arrangement aka farewell to
the organ – see the Notices for more info.

15th April – Rev Lloyd at 10.30am, Café
Church in the evening with Rev Rutledge.

22nd April – Revs Rutledge and Murray for
Holy Communion.

29th April – Rev Rutledge at 10.30am. Circuit
service at Surbiton Hill in the evening.

Deadline for the next issue is 27th April.
Please leave contributions in the editor's
pigeon hole or email
carolineauty@hotmail.com by 9am on 27th.



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nmmc@hotmail.co.uk
newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

Spring is on the way!



Thanks to Hilary W for snapping this photo
of the church flowers beds in the snow.
Don't they look pretty? Thanks to Stella for
planting and maintaining the beds.

Always happy to put photos in, Caroline.

Aladdin

On Saturday 24th March there was a
wondrous and magical performance of
Aladdin – oh yes there was! If you didn't
come to see it then you missed out on lots of
fun and laughter.

The cast and crew of church members and
many friends old and new worked together
from the beginning of January to bring the
performance to a church hall near you!
Through dedication and teamwork, it
resulted in a show which the audience will
never forget.

The lights, costumes, make-up and music
culminated in memorable moments like a
blue genie with a strong 'foreign' accent
(sermons may never be the same), exotic
dancing, superb dragon scenery, magic
carpets, working washing machines and
songs which remain in the memory, longer
than one might expect.

The sight of 20+ Rainbows and Brownies, dressed as pandas was wonderful. They were so enthusiastic and deserved their encore. The dragon and Egyptian dancers wove a magic element into an already mysterious adventure.

By the time the pantomime was performed over 50 people had been involved one way or another. Props were made, costumes sewn, staging improved, items were lent. Help was given to serve refreshments, man the doors, sell the programmes, make up the children, move the scenery, play the piano, find the sound effects, put up and remove the black-out and lights. My thanks to each and every one.

There was of course the odd word missed (thank you to the Prompt!) or costume malfunction and cast giggling, but it all added to the fun.

The audiences were transported for 2 hours to another world, one full of joy. Which was just what we all needed. Julia Morton

A Note from the Cast: This whole production would not take place without the creative talent, boundless enthusiasm and sense of fun of our Director, Julia, so many thanks to you from the rest of us!

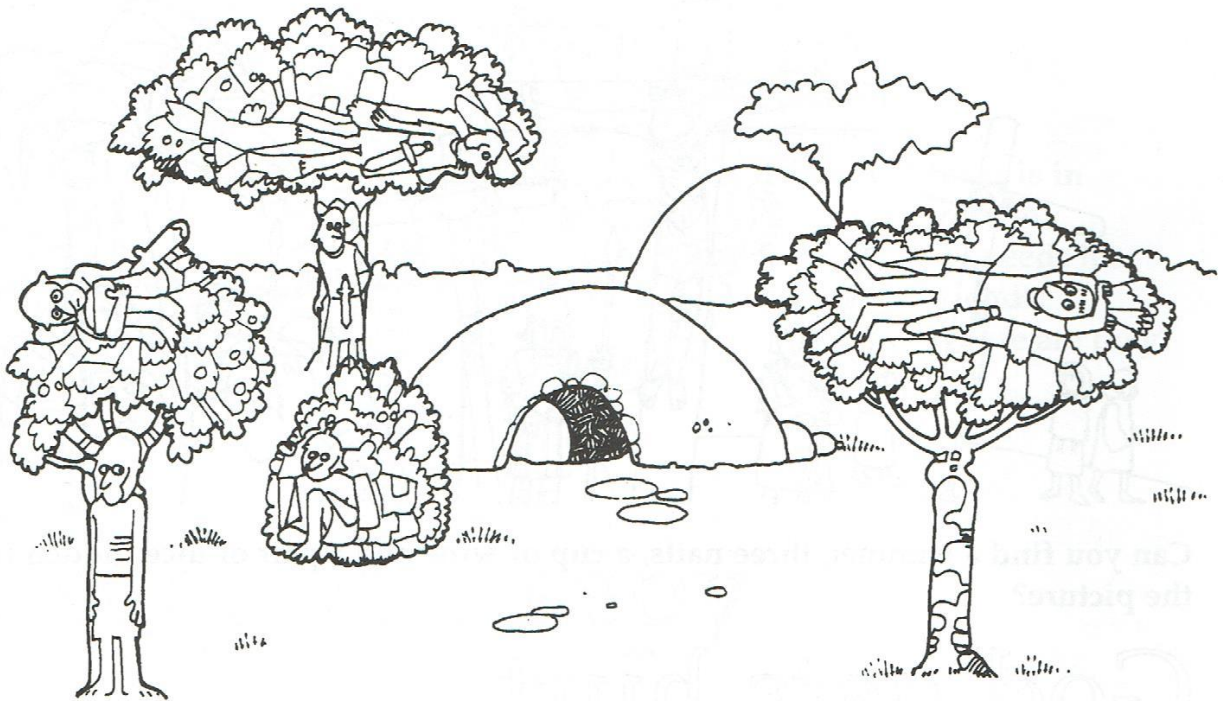
The fantastic sum of £1,000 was raised to be split between the Organ Fund and the local Girl Guiding expedition to Malawi.



Karl as the
Genie of the
Lamp
& Gareth
Morton as
Widow
Twankey



Read Matthew 28:1-10



The six frightened soldiers are hiding.
Can you find them?

God gives life

Help the women find the tomb.

