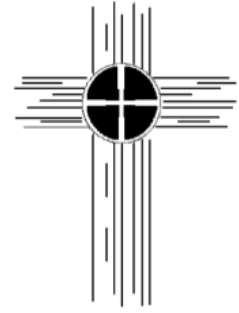


The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church December 2017



In this issue:

- Message from Reverend Karl
- Some safety advice
- View from the Pew
- Around the Circuit
- Summary of Notices
- Message from the Family Worker
- Diary Dates
- Services in December and January

Message from Karl

Greetings!

When I was growing up, I remember dreading December because it felt like the waiting period which is Advent went on forever, and all I wanted to do was get my hands on the new toys I'd chosen from the Argos catalogue, but which for some mysterious reason needed to be delivered by an old man with a beard in red suit on a specific night. However, in adult life, I've come to the conclusion that it is my favourite time of the Christian year, because what we're waiting for is nothing less than God's love embodied in human form, showing up in our neighbourhood and transforming the world forever.

What can feel strange, however, is the gap between the Church's understanding of Advent as a time for reflection and slowing down, and the mad rush which goes on in the world beyond its doors, that seem to start earlier each year. It can be hard work to make time for God when we're told Christmas is already here, Noddy Holder's dulcet tones can be heard in (far too many) shops, and there seems to be so much to do. Things are even harder if, for whatever reason, it's difficult for you to embrace the

mood of joy that almost seems to be compulsory in December, reinforced by advertising and the pressure for the 'big day' to be perfect.

This year, a new addition to our regular pattern of events and services is Blue Christmas, which will take place on the 21st of December in the evening. Blue Christmas is a special service for everyone who, for whatever reason, finds Advent and Christmas difficult. In poetry, music, silence and prayer, it offers a space to bring those things that are painful to God, so they can be held and acknowledged, without having to put on a smile and pretend to be happy. It's a significant service for me, because since my mum had her stroke at the beginning of 2015, Christmas comes with mixed emotions.

Whatever our feelings about Christmas, Advent affords us an opportunity to take a deep breath, and to reflect on how things are in terms of our relationship with God. We're invited to ask what might happen if we allowed Jesus into our lives that bit more fully, that bit more radically, and to experience the difference that might make. It won't necessarily be easy, because stepping out of the darkness into God's light may well show us things about ourselves we rather wish weren't there, but we do so safe in the knowledge that we are loved without any conditions attached. The truth of Advent is the faithfulness of God in the midst of our messes and muddles.

I'd like to encourage you, therefore, to take a few minutes each day to ponder these things, and to read for yourselves those great prophecies of Isaiah and others that point forward to the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. Writing to a people struggling in exile, they brought Israel promises of

hope and new beginnings, which crystallised hundreds of years later as God's initiative and Mary's 'yes' came together to change everything. God's love now has a human face, because God showed up, and took the risk of entering into this broken world, loving us to the end. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

Karl

Some Safety Advice



Join the wolf pack stop burglary in your area

There has been a spate of burglaries around New Malden so we thought it would be useful to pass on this advice from the police.

The evenings are drawing in and Christmas is coming. This time of year burglaries will increase, please see our tips below and be vigilante. Protect your property and look out for your neighbours, working together this time of year is vital in the fight against burglary.

Burglars are always going to burgle; you need to make your house the least desirable one in the street. Here's my don't burgle my house checklist;

1. Burglar alarms – Even a dummy one – you can get dummy ones from B&Q/DIY places. Mr Burglar isn't going to know. The Police RARELY attend houses with burglar alarms.

2. CCTV - again great and even dummy cameras are a deterrent. The new RING doorbells are fantastic, if they're trying their luck to see if you're in you can intercom them and just say "Sorry just in the bath, leave a note." Etc they then don't know if you're in or not.

3. Make sure you lock with a key. THE BIGGEST mistake people make – pulling the front door handle up and assuming the door is secure. It is not, very not – they're actually very easy to break into if you know how.

4. Keep keys AWAY and out of eyesight from the door.

5. Flood lights, light that front and back garden up.

6. Padlock your gates.

7. Do not leave things for them to climb on, or use to smash your windows. Lock your shed.

8. Window alarms – cheap as chips, ebay "Window alarms" and they are about £6 for a set which just stick on.

9. Lighting timers, plug your light into a timer switch so they go on and off at different times.

10. Leave a radio on. If you're out all day, set the radio to a talk channel and leave it on.

11. Social Media. Don't post photos of all your expensive goodies all over Facebook or check in on Facebook to other locations, advertising that you're not home. Although most burglars are opportunists.

12. Dog signs – Let people know if you have a dog. Even if you don't! (Don't leave your dog treats in obvious places – people's dogs get plied with their own treats)

13. Get a safe, bolt it to the floor and use it

Prevention is best but also

14. Complete an inventory of your belongings and upload serial numbers etc to <https://www.immobilise.com/>

15. Take photos of valuables and then email yourself those photo's – Very useful for us if we need to try and circulate at a later date

16. Check your home insurance policy – some actually state in small print you have

to have a working burglar alarm. If you don't you might not actually be covered if you get broken into.

Beverley Team PC Luke McCusker
 PC Dan Graham
 PC Mike Brown
 PCSO Laura Rhone

How and when to contact the Police

999 IN AN EMERGENCY

(response as soon as possible). Call when:

- A crime is in progress
- Someone suspected of a crime is nearby
- When there is danger to life
- When violence is being used or threatened.

101 NON URGENT POLICE ASSISTANCE

(response within an hour). Call to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. For example, if:

- Your car has been stolen
- Your property has been damaged
- 'You suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood
- Report a minor traffic collision
- Give the police information about crime in your area
- Speak to the police about a general enquiry

020 8721 2750 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Speak directly to Neighbourhood Policing Team officers when they are on duty (diverts to answerphone when off duty)

0800 555 111 CRIMESTOPPERS

Call anonymously with information on crime

Email: Beverley.snt@met.police.uk

Contact the Neighbourhood Policing Team who will reply when they are next on duty

Twitter @MPSBeverley

Follow updates from the team

Facebook: [Beverley Police](#)



View from the Pew

In many Methodist churches only the rearmost two thirds of seats are mainly occupied regularly! Is this because worshippers prefer the long view or don't want to be too visible to the preacher or service leader? Or maybe the front third is being left for children or young people to occupy?

In a Sikh gurdwara or Hindu mandir everyone wants to sit barefoot on the floor near the front so as not to miss anything! (Seats are provided for disabled worshippers and frail elderly people).

In Zimbabwean churches of all denominations all people try to arrive early to be near the front too – they are nearer the drums or other instruments that way!

When attending worship here in New Malden myself, I tend to sit in a different place every time – that way I am not inflicting my voice on the same people, and also have different neighbours to chat with.

I have been absent from morning worship lately – holiday, family birthdays – some people noticed my absence and enquired of friends. Thank you for that. I am back now, moving around again!

By Jane Bennett.

Have you got a view from the pew for next time?

Around the Circuit

CIRCUIT NEWS

The Bible Course

Hopefully you will have seen information about this course, which began on 24 November, on the poster in your church. Whether you are just looking or a long way into the Christian faith, this course provides the tools and skills that will help you to read the Bible for yourself. An interactive journey through the whole Bible, with DVD teaching, small group discussion and a Course Manual packed with notes, quotes and visuals.

The course is running on Fridays at 12 noon in the Parlour at Surbiton Hill and started on 24 November, with further sessions scheduled for 1st, 8th & 15th December. There will be four further sessions in the New Year.

Drinks will be provided, but please bring your own lunch.

For more information contact Rev Stan Brown on 07341 846601

Circuit Directory: In the recently updated Directory, Linda Davis was omitted from the list of Local Preachers on page 2 (although her contact details are included at the back). If you have a copy, please note it accordingly.

CHURCH EVENTS

NEW MALDEN

Blue Christmas

At New Malden on 21st December at 8pm, we'll be holding a Blue Christmas service. Blue Christmas, or Longest Night, is a service for those who find Christmas difficult, perhaps because of bereavement, being separated from family, losing a job and so on, and those who wish to be alongside people in these situations. In the midst of a season where the pressure to appear to be 'happy' can be overwhelming, it offers time for reflection and space to breathe, in which

these things can be held before God. All are welcome.

Sheep Trail: Sheep lost in New Malden. Can ewe help find them?



Around 40 sheep have gone astray in the High Street and we need young detectives to seek them out and record their whereabouts. The (knitted) sheep come in a variety of styles and sizes (they are ewe-nique) but all are hiding in premises in and around the High Street. They might be in the window or you may have to search further. Each sheep has a name tag around its neck so you have to enter their names on the entry form.

Please collect an entry form from the New Malden Church from Friday 24th November at the Church Christmas Fair and after that on any weekday between 10am and 2pm and start noting down names of sheep. The sheep will be in the shops until Monday 18th December, and then return to the fold for the Christingle service on Christmas Eve at 5pm.

Please return your finished form to the church at that service or on Saturday 23rd December 10am-2pm during our Christmas Tree Festival. All completed forms will receive a small prize.

The Popular Christmas Tree Festival returns to New Malden Methodist Church starting on Saturday 16th December.



Around 24 local organisations will be showing their artistic flair by decorating trees for their favourite charities. Last year saw entries from a host of local organisations including Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Tudor Williams, Rotary, Princess Alice Hospice, Groves Residential, Corpus Christi School and various church groups. In excess of one thousand pounds was made for the charities so it would be great to top that this year.

Entry is free so you can save your money to put in the box of your favourite tree, or there is a general collection box if you can't decide. Please come and see this festive forest in both daylight and in the dark (on the Saturday afternoon 16th December) when the twinkling lights create a magical display. Opening times are:

Saturday 16th December: 10am-5pm

Weekdays 18th December until Christmas

Day: 10am-2pm, when the coffee shop is

open Saturday 23rd December: 10am-2pm (including Community Carols at 11.30)

January Newsletters

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 so that it can be included in each Church's January newsletter or magazine.

Please send contributions by Tuesday 12 December to:

circuitoffice@kingstonsccircuit.org.uk

Summary of Notices

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Joy and Alan Clarke will be moving after 57 years in this church and it will be quite a wrench. We will miss all our friends. Our new address from 15th December will be Grange Wood, 4 Upper Drive, Angmering-on-Sea, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 1QN.

We will be sad to see Alan and Joy go but wish them all the very best in their new home. We wish to thank them for the huge contribution they have both made to the life of our church.

A memorial service for **Fred Bradley** was held here on Thursday 16th November at 3.00pm following a family burial in the morning. Donations, in lieu of flowers, were requested for the NMMC Organ Fund and these raised a magnificent £426.00. Fred would have been very pleased!

JUNIOR CHURCH

After many years of faithful and dedicated service, Emily Hampton and Ali Walsh are both stepping down from their roles with the Junior Church. Please think about whether you are able to help out with this vital role. Ali and Emily are happy to show someone new the ropes, and are happy to support them in a period of transition.

THANK YOU



Thank you very much to everyone who very kindly contributed to the Wrap Up London campaign, we got 113 coats in total in the campaign, in large part due to the generous donations made by people at the church. Thank you to everyone who contributed, your charitable donations will make a significant difference in people's lives. Many Thanks, Lucy Turner

CHRISTMAS FAIR

A very big thank you to all who made the event such a success. From those who moved the furniture on Thursday, through those who baked cakes, worked on the stalls, to those who cleared up and put the furniture back. We raised just over £2000. 'Crisis at Christmas' and the 'Organ fund' will benefit 50/50. The hidden benefit is being part of a public event in New Malden, increasing our profile as the 'Church in the High Street'.

Again well done all, and thank you.

Alison and Julie

As you can see everyone and everything looked festive at the fair. Good effort across the board but especially at the cakes stall. Eat your heart out Great British Bake-Off.



3 F's

The next meeting of 3 F's will be at our home (Calderbank, Coombe Park, Kingston Hill) on Friday, 8th December. On this occasion, instead of making a contribution to the food for dinner, we will provide it, and

ask instead for a contribution to the Organ Fund. Please let us know if you plan to come David and Susan

d.knowles2008@gmail.com 020 8539 5963

CONCERT IN AID OF THE ORGAN APPEAL

A poster for a Mendelssohn Concert. It features a portrait of Felix Mendelssohn on the left. The text on the right reads: "The Harmonie Choir and Orchestra", "A Mendelssohn Concert", "Sunday 10th December at 3pm", "New Malden Methodist Church KT3 4BY". Below this, it lists the program: "Overture Heimkehr aus der Fremde Op.89", "Hear my Prayer", "Trauerlied Op.116", "Duets for Soprano and Baritone Op.63", "Christmas Pieces Op.72", "Cantata: Vom Himmel Hoch". At the bottom, it lists the performers: "Mirjam Mesak Soprano", "Alexander Jones Baritone", "Peter Bullett Director". At the very bottom, it says: "Free entry, retiring collection in aid of the Organ Refurbishment", "An hour of music, followed by tea and cake".

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – MAKE LUNCH TRAINING



The postponed training for the Make Lunch scheme where a hot lunch is provided in the holidays to children who usually receive a free lunch at school, will now take place on Saturday 27th January. The training will be here. Times to be confirmed but expected to be around 9am – 4pm.

PANTO: there's going to be another one. Oh no there isn't, oh yes there is ☺

Good news! The date for the panto next year has been set for Saturday 24th March. Please let me know asap if you would like to contribute in any way and what you would like to do if not acting!

Rehearsals will be Thursday evenings and we will begin on Jan 4th with a read through. That will give us 12 rehearsals before the real thing! It will be fun I promise! Oh yes it will!! Many thanks Julia.

The Music for our Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

We will have special choral music for our evening service at Christmas and want once again to cast the net for singers as widely as possible. This could include friends who sing, but may not otherwise have the opportunity to join in a carol service or it is on a different evening. The pattern of rehearsals is two Saturday mornings and a rehearsal followed by tea on the afternoon of the service. There will be several new, tuneful carols, as well as favourites and you are very welcome to join us, particularly if for the first time.

Lessons and Carols:

Sunday 17th December 6.30 pm

Rehearsal 4.30 pm

Rehearsals:

Saturday 9th December 10.15 – 11.45 am

Saturday 16th December 10.15 – 11.45 am

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

Community Carols on Saturday 23rd December 11.30 – 12.15

Following our very successful sessions for the last two years, Community Carols is on the Saturday before Christmas, outside the Church with keyboard accompaniment and under cover to protect us from the worst excesses of any adverse weather. They will be relayed into the Welcome Area where the Music Group will be running the coffee morning in aid of the Organ Appeal.

We will sing a mixture of traditional carols and Christmas songs and everyone is welcome to join us. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Area for a couple of Sundays beforehand so we have an idea of how many sets of words to produce and you can also request your favourite carol or song. If you think you do not have a voice, we will of course need collectors on both sides of the High Street. We made a deep impression last time and were generously rewarded!

Peter Bullett

Message from our Family Worker

Hello,

As this is a bumper edition of the newsletter, I need to wish you Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. These greetings are the same all over the world. Where ever there are Christians. Just think when you wake up on Christmas morning millions of other children will be celebrating the birthday of Jesus just like you.

It is really important to remember that the real reason for our celebrating is just that. It is the celebration of the birth of a baby in a stable to two very young parents. Imagine how joyful and yet frightened they must have been. A new baby to look after, miles away from home behind an inn in the middle of a strange town. Even the arrival of the shepherds must have been rather disturbing before the tale of the angels was fully told.

There they were, happy with the safe birth of the baby and yet exhausted from the long journey. Relieved that the innkeeper took pity on them and they found somewhere to rest. Then a group of shepherds appear, straight from their fields, hot, sweaty and dirty speaking of seeing and hearing angels! It was a good job that both Mary and Joseph had previously met angels too or the shock of these "crazy" shepherds may have been most upsetting.

So Christmas morning before anything is unwrapped, here is the challenge. Remember to sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus, and then celebrate fully with your special family whether they are shepherds or not.

Love through Jesus

Julia



Diary

Dates for December and January

Friday 8th 7.30pm
3 Fs at the home of David and Sue Knowles

Saturday 9th 0900am
Christmas Tree Sale on forecourt

Saturday 9th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Women’s Institute

Sunday 10th 3.00pm
Music in New Malden
(see page 10 for details)

5.30pm **Church Nativity**

Monday 11th 7.30pm
Wives & Friends – Cruising with Angy

Tuesday 12th 2.15pm
Trinity Homecare Memory Café in the Welcome Area

Tuesday 12th 7.00pm
Junior Badminton

Wednesday 13th 10.30am
Abacus Nativity

Wednesday 13th 2.00pm
Home Instead Memory Café in the Welcome Area

Friday 15th 10.00 – 7.00pm
Christmas Tree Decorating

Saturday 16th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Action for Children – Lucy Turner
10.00am – 5.00pm
Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 17th 6.30pm
Festival of Lights

Monday 18th 7.30pm
Wives & Friends – Christmas Carols & Readings

Tuesday 19th 7.00pm
Senior Badminton (last one until January)

Thursday 21st 8.00pm
Blue Christmas Service

Saturday 23rd 10.30am
Coffee Bar – Organ Fund – NMMC Music Group

10.30am – 2.00pm
Christmas Tree Festival
11.30am
Community Carols

Sunday 24th 5.00pm
Christingle Service
11.30pm
Christmas Eve Communion

Monday 25th 10.30am
Christmas Morning Family Service

Saturday 30th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – VACANT

Sunday 31st 11.30am
Dismantle Christmas Tree Festival after service

Diary Dates in January 2018 (those that are known)

Tuesday 2nd 5.00pm
Property Committee Meeting

Tuesday 2nd 7.00pm
Junior Badminton

Wednesday 3rd 8.00pm
Circuit Leadership Team Meeting

Thursday 4th 7.00pm
Panto Read through

Friday 5th 10.30am
Friday Fellowship

Saturday 6th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Amnesty International

Sunday 7th 3.00pm
Music in New Malden – B H Crusell – an Officer and a Gentleman. Jane Booth (CI) with Ensemble DeNOTE Quartets for clarinet and strings

Monday 8th 7.30pm
Wives & Friends – Room 101

Tuesday 9th 7.00pm

Senior Badminton

7.30pm

Meeting Point

Wednesday 10th 4.00pm

Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday 11th 7.00pm

Panto rehearsal

Saturday 13th 10.00am

Coffee Bar – Princess Alice Hospice – Amy Jewell

Monday 15th 7.00pm

Kingston District Chamber Music Society Concert

Wednesday 17th 8.00pm

Church Council Meeting

Thursday 18th 7.00pm

Panto rehearsal

Saturday 20th 10.00am

Coffee Bar - Women's World Day of Prayer – Carol Dadds

Monday 22nd 7.30pm

Wives & Friends – Meal 'IN'

Thursday 25th 7.00pm

Panto rehearsal

Saturday 27th 10.00am

Coffee Bar – Soroptomist International Make Lunch Training

24th December – Rev Brown (Communion) at 10.30am, Christingle at 5pm and then Extended Communion at 11.30pm.

25th December – Rev Rutlidge and a family service at 10.30am.

31st December – Rev Clark at 10.30am.

7th January – Rev Rutlidge and Covenant service at 10.30am.

14th January – songs of praise service 10.30am.

21st January – Mr and Mrs Doe at 10.30am, Café Church with Karl in the evening.

28th January – Mrs Bridges at 10.30am.

The deadline for the next issue is 9am 26th January 2018 (!) to carolineauty@hotmail.com or in the pigeon hole.



Services in December and January

3rd December – Rev Vernon at 10.30am, Rev Rutlidge and the Festival of Lights at 6.30pm.

10th December – Rev Rutlidge at 10.30am and then the Nativity at 5.30pm

17th December – Rev Rutlidge at 10.30am then 9 lessons and carols at 6.30pm.

21st December – Blue Christmas at 8pm.

NMMC	49 High Street, New Malden
	KT3 4BY 020
8942 1288	
nmmc@hotmail.co.uk	
newmaldenmethodistchurch.com	