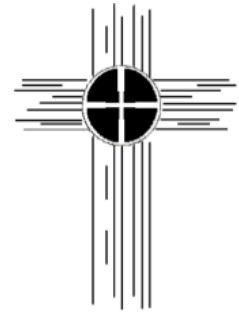


# **The Newsletter of**

## **New Malden Methodist Church**

### **February 2019**



#### **In this issue:**

Message from Reverend Karl

A round up of Advent Events

Pancake Party

African Palms

Christian Aid Week

World Day of Prayer

Around the Circuit

Summary of Notices

Diary Dates

Children's Page

Services in February

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#### **Message from Karl**

February is a big month for me personally, partly because I'll turn thirty-five (and therefore will have had half of my biblical three-score and ten) on the thirteenth, and partly because on that same day, I go before the District Probationers' Committee. The latter will decide whether the Church considers that I am ready to be ordained during the Methodist Conference, at the end of June. For me, all this represents the

culmination of a long journey which began many years before I actually candidated, and that has enabled me to grow in my relationship with God in Christ.

When we talk about vocation, we often refer to ministers and ordinations, and thus I suspect that we sometimes forget how every Christian has a vocation. The God who has known each and every one of us from before we were born calls us and equips us to make our own unique contributions to the Body of Christ, without which we are all impoverished (1 Corinthians 12:26). This means we all have gifts to offer, even if we find that hard to accept – I remember being told once that I'm not so special that I'm the only person God hasn't given gifts to, when I was struggling with this idea!

One of the tasks of the Church, then, is to help people recognise their own gifts and use them well, to the betterment of us all. There are theological pitfalls to avoid, of course. To talk about vocations is not to suggest that we each need to discover a map which leads us along one inescapable route, as God honours our choices. Nor is it to say that the end goal of this is greater usefulness, which is one of the traps it's very easy to fall into with a capitalist mindset forming the backdrop to our thinking; the

Covenant Prayer reminds us that faithfulness to God may mean being laid aside for a season.

However, it is to say that each of us has a contribution to make to the whole, and that when we put barriers in the way of some because of ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality and so forth, we harm not just the person or people in question, but ourselves and the rest of the Body of Christ, too. Thus, as I reflect on my own experiences in recent years, and my time here as your minister in particular, I am grateful to those who have affirmed and encouraged me, although I do not fit the stereotype of a minister in various ways (not least because I'm indifferent about steam railways!).

There's always more to do, though, if we're to be a truly inclusive Church, not least recognising how even talking of inclusion raises questions of power – who gets to decide who's 'in', and who's 'out'? As we seek to develop our ministry and mission in this place, and hence what it means to be at the heart of the High Street, we need to wrestle with these questions. One of the key challenges will be, I think, the perennial task of filling key roles in the life of the congregation, and supporting those who do step forward. However, if we begin with openness to the gifts of others, we're off to a good start.

So, I suppose this is a long-winded way of saying that as we move forward together, seeing the fruit of the Rebranding Project and the new Bereavement Café beginning as just two examples of God's work among us, may we be open to recognising and liberating the gifts of others, for the betterment of us all. Oh, and I'd appreciate your prayers for February 13<sup>th</sup>!

Every blessing, Karl

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## A Round Up of Advent Events

There were many events in and around the church throughout Advent and thanks go to those who organised, stewarded, sang, played or took part in any way. Here is a brief photo montage of some of the highlights.

First up the church fair which raised a magnificent £1920 split equally between Melanoma UK and Kingston Refugee Community Sponsorship.

Here's a selection of stall holders all dressed up festively and peddling their seasonal wares to the good folk of New Malden:





Again a whopping amount £1900 (at least!) was raised and split between the charities represented.



December's Music in New Malden concert featured the Harmonie Choir and orchestra playing some less well-known (by me at least) repertoire by Schutz and Vaughan-Williams. The concert was exceptionally well attended and a delight to listen to:

Next up, the Christmas Tree Festival which this year showcased over 20 trees and charities.





Later that same day followed the DIY nativity in which the regulars of the well- rehearsed cast were supplemented by some “willing” volunteers from the audience. Some of these extras really threw themselves into it, perhaps ruing missed opportunities and wondering if they could have made it big in Hollywood, or at least on The Bill.



Community carols followed on the Saturday before Christmas with the usual enthusiastic bunch of singers both inside and outside the church, plus a much bigger music group this year:



There was particular drama at the Christingle service as only 2 of the wise men could be found. And the lights went out, but that was at least planned:



So thanks again to all those who made the above events (and others) happen. It might sometimes seem that effort goes unrecognised but someone who attended Christingle took the time to email Julia with her thoughts:

“We attended the Christmas Eve Christingle service at your church with our visiting family and we all simply loved it! Never having been before, we were uncertain as to whether it'd be suitable for the children, but the wording on your website seemed to indicate it was fine to bring all ages and that it was a family affair.

We were warmly greeted as we entered and other people already at the church were so very welcoming and friendly. Even though the church is not our home church, we felt "at home" and really enjoyed the entire service. All 3 grandchildren happily took part and as parents and grandparents, we just wanted to thank everyone who was involved in the service. We are thankful that here in New Malden, we can tell the next generation the true meaning of Christmas and have fun celebrating the good news with people of all ages and backgrounds.

The little hand-knit characters were special and must have taken those who made them hours and hours! Too, we think everyone truly appreciated being able to have REAL candles flickering safely up on the walls and being given one to hold, having been given our Christingle to assemble. And, as instructed, we all discussed the Christingle and its meaning on Christmas morning at breakfast.

Please thank everyone involved as it truly added to our family's celebration of Christmas and God with us!"

This kind of feedback definitely makes all the effort over the Advent period worthwhile.

Caroline

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### Pancake Party



On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 12-30pm – 2pm we will be holding a "Pancake Party".

This will involve pancake making and eating with various fillings and fun and games on a similar theme.

We will be inviting our families who come to our "Make Lunch" initiative to join us with the food and fun.

Please book your places now so we have an idea of quantities of fillings (sweet and savoury)

Donations to "Church Urban Fund" will be collected on the day.

Julia

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### African Palms



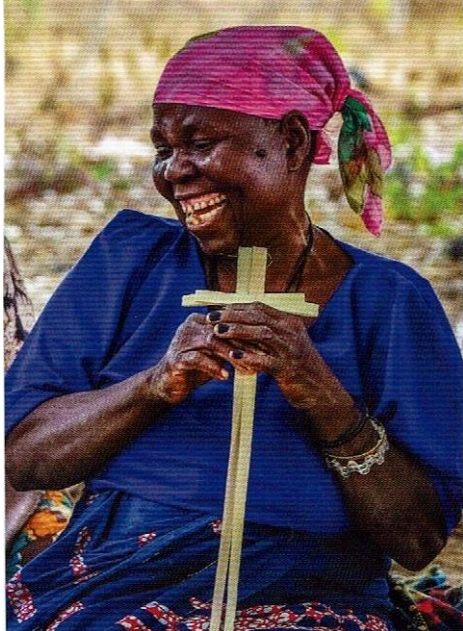
The African Palms project was started in 1965 by Fr Alan Talbot, an Anglican priest who served for 6 years as a missionary in the diocese of Masasi Tanzania. His aim was to give really poor villagers the means to earn some extra money to supplement their meagre income.

The Palm Crosses are made from dried branches of the dwarf palm *Hyphaena coriacea*. These grow wild in the Masasi area, so are not cultivated, furthermore no trees are cut down in the work of collecting



the Palm Leaves for plaiting the Palm Crosses.

The work of making the Palm Crosses does not interfere with the villagers' normal work of producing the food they need to live, it provides some additional income.



The crosses are sent once a year to the UK where they are sorted and packed.

Over the years the number of Palm Crosses sold has increased and now 3 million are sold worldwide each year. In 1986 African Palms Ltd was formed, which is a company owned by the African Palms Association, a charitable trust formed at the same time.

Any profit made by the company is transferred to the trust and used for health and education projects in the Masasi area.

At present the trust is working on a project to get clean water supplied available in all eight of the villages where the Palm Crosses are made. This is an exciting project! On a recent visit, villagers who make the Palm Crosses without exception told us how this would make a huge difference to their lives. Past projects have included other water projects, hostels and safehouses, work on clinics (dispensaries), books and desks for

schools, and working to improve special needs schools.

African Palms Ltd, 46 Brandon Street,  
London SE17 1NL

[enquiries@africanpalms.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@africanpalms.co.uk)

Website: [africanpalms.co.uk](http://africanpalms.co.uk)

**Reverend Alan John Talbot**

**27<sup>th</sup> January 1923 – 30th August 2018**

The Reverend Alan Talbot died peacefully at home at the age of 95.



## Christian Aid Week



As you know, we no longer collect door to door in Christian Aid Week so, in order to supplement our giving to Christian Aid, we now have extra Coffee Mornings and the dates are as follows:

Saturday 9th February 10 am – 12 noon

Saturday 16th March “ “

Saturday 11th May “ “

Please support Christian Aid by coming along, buying cakes and coffee and enjoying the additional benefit of a happy time with friends and family. AND, an extra plea . . . I really, really would be pleased to hear from anybody willing to make a cake or savoury for this event.

Also, why not join us for the **Bread and Cheese Lunch** on **Sunday 12th May** after the church service? The meal is simple but tasty and everyone is welcome. Added bonus ..... no cooking that day?!

Jennifer Townsend (020 8942 6867)

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## World Day of Prayer

**(Formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)**  
**1<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

This year's services are being held on Friday 1st March at:

1.45 here at NMMC and at

8 pm at New Malden Baptist Church.

As you probably know by now, WDP is organised and run by women across the world and **this year's service has been**

**arranged by the women of Slovenia.**

Working on these services is a great joy and honour for the women of each country and gives women a sense of empowerment in countries where they have little say on what goes on around them.

**Do please come along and support one or both services. All are welcome – men, women and children.**

Carol and Doreen

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## Around the Circuit

### CHURCH EVENTS

#### **SURBITON HILL**

#### **Quiet Days at the House of Prayer, East Molesey**

A reminder that the next Quiet Day takes place on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019**, at the House of Prayer, Seymour Rd, East Molesey, KT8 0PB, led by Rev Canon David Overington.

The day is open to everyone around the Circuit. It will run from 10.00 to 3.30pm and you are asked to bring a packed lunch. Hot drinks and light snacks will be available throughout the day. There is plenty of parking on site.

Please sign on the attendance lists on the church noticeboards and indicate if transport is required. For more information contact Jeannette Barwick [jbarwick313@btinternet.com](mailto:jbarwick313@btinternet.com); 20 8941 8551

### **Next 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 next newsletter or magazine.

**Please send contributions by Monday 11 February to:**

**circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk**

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## Summary of December & January Notices

### FAMILY NEWS

Hi Church,

We just want to say a massive thank you for all the kind words, cards, flowers and gifts that we have received in the past few weeks for our new bundle of joy. What an overwhelming love from the church and it really means a lot to us.

Rose is still trying to catch up with as much as sleeps as possible and she shall be back to the church once a proper night time routine is established with baby Edward. We will be grateful for plenty of prayers.

**Rose, Sean, Serena and baby Edward Yeow**

Those of you that remember the **Thompson family** (Sandy, Neil, Jennifer and Angela) will be delighted to congratulate Angela on qualifying with British Rafting to represent Great Britain in GB2 Open Women R6. Julia ran the Coffee Bar on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January to raise funds for her training and there is a thank you on the noticeboard from Angela for the £100 that was raised.

We were sad to report the death of **Madan Amole** shortly before Christmas. He was a regular and much loved customer of our coffee bar and will be greatly missed. His funeral was held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 11am at the Sikh Gurdwara South London, 142 Merton Road SW18 5SP and 1pm at Kingston Crematorium, Bonner Hill Road KT1 3EZ. The coffee bar clientele were well represented.

We have since been given a generous donation to the two church projects in memory of Madan and “to give thanks for

the Café and its opportunities for friendships and relaxation”.

Congratulations to **Wives & Friends** who celebrated their Diamond Anniversary with a meal on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

A big thank you from Alison Bullett and Julie Haines for all the work done by everyone last Friday, setting up, running stalls and clearing up afterwards. Over £1920 was raised – a magnificent total to be split between Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship and Melanoma UK.

### JUNIOR CHURCH NATIVITY

Thank you so much to all the children that took part in last Sunday's nativity, as well as the last minute 'extras'. A great time was had by all. Many thanks to the Junior Church leaders for coordinating the service and for the time and dedication that they give to the youth of the church. Thank you also to those members of the congregation who came to support the children. If you weren't there, you missed a treat!

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Many thanks for your support during the festival and for help with the dismantling.

The proceeds were up on last year, boosted by more money in the communal jar in addition to the proceeds from the coffee bar and the carol singing in the High Street on Saturday 22nd December and collections from the 10.30am service and Lessons and Carols on Sunday 23rd December and the Christingle service. In excess of £1900 was



raised. This was helped in no small part by the donation of most of the to us by the people who held a Christmas tree sale on the Church patio on Saturdays 1st and 10th December.

### **WINGS OF HOPE NURSERY**

A big thank you to all who have knitted for the Wings of Hope Nursery school in Johannesburg .

As you read this, I will be in Joburg and making arrangements to take the 50 Teddie Bears, 50 hats, scarves and pairs of mittens to the school. Hopefully I will bring back some photographs.

With love Stella

### **YOUTH EVENT**

London Generate are holding a fantastic event for the young people (aged 11-23) of London to come together to share life, learn some new skills, have fun and fellowship together and have their voices heard on the 3Generate manifestos.

Happening on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2019 at Fulham Broadway Methodist Church (right outside Fulham Broadway underground station) for 10am-4pm (pizza and drinks will be provided). Please see Julia if you wish to join her so that she can book places.

### **NEW MALDEN PASSION PLAY Blagdon Park Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

People are needed for crowd scenes and to be Roman soldiers. This is an opportunity to affirm the Christian faith. Please contact Peter Flint 07436 119626 or see [nmpassionplay.com](http://nmpassionplay.com) Des Hancock

### **REV ANDY CLARK**

Rev Andy Clark has been directed to take a long over-due sabbatical by the 'Stationing Advisory Committee'. He and his wife Liz, want to explore their future and possible ministry together, so this is an opportunity for Andy to reflect and find out what is God's will for his future. It is possible that Andy could leave the Kingston Circuit a year early, in 2020.

Following discussion within the Circuit leadership team and the staff, the sabbatical will begin towards the end of February and last for three months. This is short notice but is the best option within the Circuit and gives Andy and Liz the maximum time to consider their future. The Circuit will be exploring future options.

Arrangements are being put into place for a 'Sabbatical support group'. The preaching plan will be a challenge, but Stan is asking for ministers and preachers (possibly from outside the Circuit) to be supportive during this time.

For the 3 months, Rev Dr Karl Rutledge will have pastoral care of New Malden and Kingston churches, with Rev Dr Stan Brown pastoral care for Surbiton and Chessington.

You are asked to pray for all elements mentioned here and especially Andy, as he discovers God's purpose for his future.

*Margaret Turner Circuit Steward*

**SURBITON HILL METHODSIT CHURCH** (39 Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 6AF) is seeking a

Part-time Caretaker

for basic maintenance of extensive Church premises

12½ hours per week at £13 per hour.

Part-time Caretaker (Night Security)

to secure the Church premises 5 nights a week

2½ hours per week at £13 per hour.

These roles could be combined by someone working 15 hours per week on a split-shift basis. Full details are available from the Church Administrator by Email on [SHMC.office@kingstoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:SHMC.office@kingstoncircuit.org.uk) or by phoning 020 8390 4598. Applications deadline: Thursday 7 February.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**

This year's services are being held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 1.45 here at NMMC and at 8 pm at New Malden Baptist Church. We do hope you will be able to come along and support one or both services.

Carol and Doreen

### **CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING – 9TH FEBRUARY**

The first of our three Coffee Mornings will be on Saturday 9th February - do come along and support Christian Aid.

If anyone would be willing to make a cake, biscuits or savoury for this event please let me know.

Many thanks. Jennifer Townsend (020 8942 6867)

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## **Children's Page**

Happy New Year!

I know it is now February but pretend.

At the beginning of the year many people make New Year Resolutions, you may have done so too. Are you keeping to them or have you already given up?

It is important to keep going and restart the process if necessary and to make the whole venture achievable.

I have decided to try out at least one new recipe a month. This may not seem like much, but it will mean that I don't therefore buy too many strange ingredients which I never use again and I might just achieve it. I hope my family appreciates the idea.

I suggest that perhaps if you haven't already, try something new as a challenge, it doesn't have to be anything too hard or spectacular. Who knows? You may find you have a previously hidden talent which, in time will become a gift you could share with others.

God bless

Julia



## Diary Dates

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Friday Fellowship
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Women’s World Day of Prayer – Carol Dadds & Doreen Downey
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Junior Badminton
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Memory Café
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Christian Aid
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Music in New Malden – Mary Mundy (Vc) and Henry Roche (Pn)

The central work will be Prokofiev’s hauntingly lyrical cello sonata

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Julie Haines on New Zealand
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Senior Badminton
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Toilet Twinning – Judith Jewell
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Kingston District Chamber Music Society Concert
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup>	11.30pm	Make Lunch
	7.00pm	Malden
Fortnight meeting		
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Earthquake Relief trip to Kathmandu – Sally & Tess Fairburn
TUESDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Jenny Reid on Cathedrals (NOT Monday!)

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## Services in February

3<sup>rd</sup> February Reverend Rutledge and All Age Worship

10<sup>th</sup> February Reverend Vernon

17<sup>th</sup> February local arrangement

24<sup>th</sup> February Reverend Brown and Holy Communion. Café Church at 3pm.

Deadline for the next issue is 23<sup>rd</sup> February . Please leave contributions in the editor’s pigeon hole or email

[carolineauty@hotmail.com](mailto:carolineauty@hotmail.com) by 9am.



**NMMC**

49 High Street, New Malden

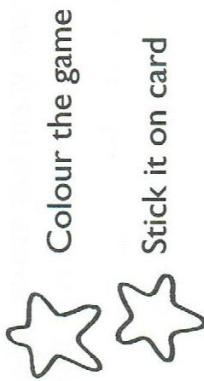
KT3 4BY

020 8942 1288

[nmmc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nmmc@hotmail.co.uk)

[newmaldenmethodistchurch.com](http://newmaldenmethodistchurch.com)





Colour the game

Stick it on card

## TODDLER TRAVEL

Jesus did a lot of travelling when he was a toddler. In this game you can travel with him and Mary and Joseph, using counters and a dice. Joseph looked after his family and kept them safe. God looked after all of them!

See Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23  
To pray this week

Lord, keep us safe  
as we travel through life.  
Help us to love  
what is good  
and hate  
what is evil.  
— Amen —

