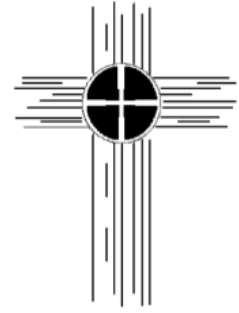


# The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church February 2018



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## Message from Karl

Greetings!

One of the quirks of our calendar system is that the date of Easter moves around every year, as it's set in relation to the lunar calendar. This year is something of a gift for preachers: Easter Day falls on April Fool's Day, and Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day; in addition, my birthday is on Shrove Tuesday, which is a perfect excuse for a pancake party! Now, I don't want to pre-empt Easter Day's sermon illustration, so instead I'd like to invite you to think about the contrasts between the two types of love that will be visible on 14th February.

Television shows such as First Dates and The Undateables show people in search of romantic and sexual love, which is the focus of Valentine's Day. It's that time of year in which people send cards, buy overpriced red roses and enjoy romantic meals for two; it's also the most popular date on which to

propose marriage. For some couples, however, the pressure to have a 'perfect' day can be tough to cope with, and for those on their own it can be a very lonely time indeed; despite being contentedly single most of the time, a friend of mine once said Valentine's Day made her feel like a failure.

Set against all this, and the idolisation of romantic love that's arguably prevalent across our society, is the apparent gloominess of Ash Wednesday. At first glance, being invited to recognise that we're dust and to dust we shall return, and receiving the sign of the cross in ash on our foreheads, mightn't seem like it's about love at all, reminding us as it does of both our mortality and fallible human nature. Yet, Ash Wednesday has far more to say about love than meets the eye.

At the beginning of Lent, the season of self-examination in which we adopt blues and purples within services to mark our being in this reflective mode, we're called to be honest with God about who we are, in both the best of ourselves and our faults and failings. Ash Wednesday reminds us of the fact that we're recipients of the unearned and irrepressible love of God, which is encouraging and scary in equal measure: encouraging, because God loves us just as we are; scary, because God loves us far too much to leave us where we are, and that means change.

Though much maligned as a notion these days, sin isn't about 'naughty' acts but that which damages and distorts our relationships with God, others and the

creation. In turn, salvation's all about restored relationships, between us and God as per classic evangelical theology, but also with others and with our beautiful yet fragile world. We're each invited, therefore, to open up to God with a view to allowing God's love to reshape and remake us into more integrated people, so that through us the world may experience the wholeness of God's Kingdom.

So, Ash Wednesday is all about wholeness, reconciliation and love, a love that's freely available to all people, and at work in our lives even before we know it. Unlike the hype around Valentine's Day, God doesn't draw distinctions between people based upon whether they're in a romantic relationship or not, as if to be single for whatever reason is a sign of failure. God's in the business of relationship with anyone willing to embrace Jesus Christ as the One who reveals the love at the heart of creation, in his living and teaching, but most clearly, with his arms outstretched upon the cross.

I pray, therefore, that you'll experience Lent as both a time of growth and renewal in and by the love of God.

Every blessing,  
Karl

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## 150 Psalms Achieved



The challenge we set ourselves at a meeting of the 150th Anniversary planning group to read all of the 150 Psalms was successfully achieved. During 2017 at least a few, if not all, verses of each Psalm were read or sung. Some were joyful and some were dark yet all spoke of God's glory and power.

This is how we did it:

Donald Finnan's Wednesday Fellowship,  
John Kings House Group  
and the Friday Fellowship  
covered in total 67

Saturday Prayers 44

Sunday Worship 38

Meeting Point 3

On Good Friday sung  
in John Rutter's *Requiem* 2

Café Church 1

Property Committee 1

Read in the Coffee Bar 1

After Music in New Malden 1

The total shows that some were covered more than once, while sections of Ps. 119 occurred on three different occasions enabling us to read 39 of the 176 verses.

If you would like to know more details please look at the blue file on the Book Stall, which shows when, how and where each Psalm was read or sung, or ask me to send you a copy by email  
[jennyreid@goodinreid.co.uk](mailto:jennyreid@goodinreid.co.uk)

Many thanks to everyone who helped to achieve this great celebration during our 150<sup>th</sup> year.

Jenny Reid

[And many thanks to Jenny for organising the Psalmathon and keeping on track throughout the year!]

## Christian Aid Coffee Morning



There will be a Christian Aid Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th February 2018, 10am-12noon, in the church coffee bar. Please come and support us.

If anyone could bake a cake or savouries to help make this event a success, I would be very grateful.

Many thanks

Jennifer Townsend

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## Remembering Rita LeVine

This was the elegy given at Rita Le Vine's funeral on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 by Colin, the husband of Rita's niece Laurie White.

Rita was born on March 21<sup>st</sup> 1937 – she had one older brother, Bryan, who was some 6½ years older than her and they were brought up in Mitcham where she lived until she married.

With the advent of war, she was “evaporated” as she called it with two of her cousins, Philip and Val to Evercreech in Somerset, and it was there that she probably developed her love of cider after the three of them found the farm workers' cider jar in the hay field. Phil, being the eldest, was in charge of tipping the jar whilst Val and Rita lay on the ground swigging away. However, this wasn't the last time that she and Val got into trouble. There was an infamous incident in the cemetery in Mitcham when they both decided that it wasn't fair that some people had lots of flowers and others had none – so they shared them around between the graves. Although this seemed a good idea to them it earned them a good hiding when they got home and being sent to bed early!

Rita returned from Somerset with a broad West Country accent which meant that her mum

couldn't understand her and Bryan had to act as interpreter. After being educated locally in Mitcham, her first job was in the accounts office at Peter Jones before joining the Chartered Bank in 1954.

Rita met Denis in 1957 at a friend's wedding and they went on to become engaged in 1960 and married in 1963. There were three bridesmaids – two cousins Gill and Vera and a very young niece – Laurie.

Rita first met her good friend Carol Winsor in 1973. Carol worked for Standard Bank and, after the banks merged, they discovered that not only were they doing the same job for their respective banks but they both lived in New Malden. After this they became firm friends and would lunch and commute together for many years.

During her time at the bank, Rita trained lots of “her boys” before they went abroad to further their careers. She kept in touch with many of them, meeting up at the annual pensioners' lunches and she even became godmother to Pete Turner's daughter Michelle. One of her other trainees went on to higher office as she taught John Major everything she knew which might have come in handy when he became Prime Minister – just don't blame her for Black Wednesday!

Eventually Rita became head of cash and foreign exchange but following a reorganisation she took early retirement at the age of 50. She and Denis had a plan to retire to a thatched cottage in Dorset, but this was unfortunately not to be after Denis had a severe stroke a year later and, due to other illness within the family, she finished up looking after Denis and her mother who were both wheelchair for the next 12 years. To say this was character building is an understatement!

I first got to know Rita well from 1993 when Laurie and I became an item. We always got on well and somewhere along the line she sent me a birthday card to her “adopted nephew”. I played along with this and she became “Auntie”, although her only actual nephew is Adrian. Rita came on several holidays with Laurie and I over

the years. She had a unique and refreshingly down to earth sense of humour. One very good and topical example of this was just over four years ago when her brother Bryan died. During the detailed discussions about funeral arrangements, on seeing the cost of the planned funeral, she let out a sigh and exclaimed "When I go you can just bung me in a skip for all I care!". To which I replied "Have you seen the price of skips lately Auntie?". Sorry Auntie – we couldn't bring ourselves to use the skip option.

Rita enjoyed many other holidays with Carol over the years including travelling on the Orient Express to Venice for a cruise around Italy. They also went to Norway, Iceland, Luxembourg, Holland, Germany, France and all around the UK and Ireland. She enjoyed them all and brought back fridge magnets from all the places she visited. In fact, she had so many that we had to paint half the walls in her new kitchen with magnetic paint so she could put them all up!

Rita and Carol also attended various events at the Women's Guild, WI, and local churches including New Malden Methodist Church where she made more friends. She and Carol went shopping together and even to the chiropodist and chiropractor together!

Rita raised money for many charities including

the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability, Star and Garter, Air Ambulance, RNLI and more recently

Help for Heroes. She would make marmalade, bake cakes for the coffee mornings which she and Carol ran and, as she put it "sell her services" (just knitting I should point out) to make cardigans and jumpers to order. A jumper knitted by Rita was a popular lot at the church Promises Auction, causing a bidding war until she offered to knit two jumpers. There can't be many children in New Malden who don't have a Christmas pudding hat to wear at this time of year. Rita also used to decorate a tree for the church Christmas Tree Festival in aid of Help the Heroes and invariably raised the most. We would like to thank the church for decorating the tree this year in her memory.

But it wasn't just her knitting that kept her busy. Rita enjoyed all sorts of things including her cross-stitch pictures and cards, often working from photos including one of Indian Blaze, the horse that John owned. She also enjoyed pottering about in the garden and was a wealth of knowledge about plants. However, woe betide anyone who came between her and the secateurs when she was giving her shrubs "a haircut". Nobody was safe.



Rita will be sadly missed but, more importantly in my opinion, fondly remembered by family, friends, neighbours and acquaintances.

[Rita's friends made this tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in her memory and with proceeds to Help for Heroes]

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## View from the Pew

I do realise that 'View from the Pew' does not have to be taken literally, and I hope in future issues we might share some other sorts of 'views' and feedback – controversial or not! But where one sits in Church is something which has exercised me on and off for a while, ever since I 'crossed the House' as it were, and went to join the Music Group many years ago. I suppose there is a certain sense of comfort and familiarity in going to the same area or seat every time, just as I expect most of us tend to sit in the same chairs in the various rooms in our houses. In the old days, there were Family pews, and you could see at a glance whether or not there was a full turnout. I think this is still an important consideration: from my vantage point at the front, especially since the Music Group became angled to the left to see the monitor, I often do a mental 'roll call' '... see who's In and who's Not. Of course we haven't had actual

pews in the church for a long time, and this allows for all sorts of activities from concerts to fashion shows to sit-down meals and of course the Christmas Fair. Some years ago, our Minister Angie Shier Jones often had the chairs moved around into interesting shapes and formations for services. We had circles, cross-shapes, and once we even turned the seats round and faced out towards the High Street. Some people liked it, others did not, as is always the way. One or two were confused as to where 'their' seat had gone....

In our church there seems to be a definite trend for people to sit towards the back. There may be any number of reasons for this ... the need to slip out quietly perhaps, or the fear of being asked a question or being dragged up to the front ,(please note: this is Not stand- up comedy; it Never happens!) but I have often felt it might be more encouraging for the preacher if the front few pews were more full of faces eagerly smiling up at him or her. Perhaps some of you could try it... the new screen is much clearer and lower, so you might find it doesn't require you to stretch your neck up too far if you do sit closer. What about moving forward one pew at a time? It might cause consternation, but you might be surprised by the change of perspective. Maybe the singing is better somewhere else, like warm and cold patches in the sea. Look at the back of someone else's head for a change. Maybe even speak to someone you don't know!

I once sang in a choir where the conductor (Ivor Keys) had a policy that you could have a 'friend' on one side of you but were not allowed to surround yourself with cronies. Everyone had to sit next to someone new each time. We were encouraged to bring spare pencils to lend to our new 'friends' ... I wonder what a useful alternative might be in church? A sucky sweet to offer for the sermon? Perhaps that's going too far. But a friendly smile to someone new would be a nod in the right direction, and who knows where it might lead. If you get right to the front you could always join the Music Group!

Alison Bullett

## Around the Circuit

### CHURCH EVENTS

New Malden will be performing a pantomime (oh yes we will) on Saturday 24th March. There will be two performances of Aladdin at 2pm and 7pm so save the date!

*The Pantomime Company of  
New Malden Methodist Church  
proudly invite friends, family and associates to  
their production of*



**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

**2.00pm and 7.00pm**

*Tickets available from the Welcome Area  
from 1<sup>st</sup> March*

**Adults £6    Concessions £5  
Children (under 12) £3**

### **SURBITON HILL**

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

June 23<sup>rd</sup> led by Rev Andrew Pakes

November 24<sup>th</sup> led by Rev Denis Vernon

### **March 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 13 February to:  
[circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk)



## Lent and Easter

Lots of things going on, as you might imagine. Here are some flyers, more events to follow no doubt.



# What is the Church for?

**Lent Lunchtime talks 2018: Thursdays 1.10-2.00pm**  
All Saints Church, Marketplace, Kingston, KT1 1JP.

**22 February:** *The Church as a place of faith*  
Rt Revd Martin Wharton, former Bishop of Kingston.

**1 March:** *The Church as a creator of community*  
Ann Morisy, Community Theologian

**8 March:** *The Church as a product of history*  
Dr David Robinson, Honorary Borough Archivist

**15 March:** *The Church as an engine of culture*  
Simon Toyne, Executive Director of Music, David Ross Education Trust

**22 March:** *The Church as a stumbling block for the world*  
Revd Dr Stan Brown, Superintendent, Kingston Methodist Circuit

The talks are free and un-ticketed. All are welcome.  
[www.allsaintskingston.co.uk](http://www.allsaintskingston.co.uk) | 020 8546 5964

**STUDENT SERVICES**  
Faith and Spirituality | [faith@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:faith@kingston.ac.uk) | 020 8417 2540

**STUDENT WELLBEING**

## Meeting Point

Some things go together really well: horse and carriage; love and marriage; Dempsey and Makepeace (they are married, who knew??) and...er...poetry and pancakes...This from Alison:

Everyone is welcome at the Pancakes and Poetry evening on Tue Feb 13 from 7.30. All food and soft drinks provided, but please bring your own poem, even if you do not wish to read it yourself.



Churches Together in Malden

## New Malden Passion Play 2019

Churches Together in Malden invite you to take part in a community Passion Play in April 2019

Would you like to be involved in a creative, dynamic, exciting, community performance?

Everyone is welcome (all ages, all experiences). We want the whole community involved.

Be involved: Anyone interested (no commitment) meet with us to explore how we create a Passion Play that is unique to New Malden.

Place: The Space, New Malden United Reformed Church, Malden Road.

Time: Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> 15.00-17.00

To let us know you're coming and ask any questions email [plflint2@gmail.com](mailto:plflint2@gmail.com) or text 07436119626



Churches Together in Malden

Invite you to a 2018 Lent Bible Study on Tuesday evenings, 8.00pm at The Space, New Malden United Reformed Church KT3 6DR



The stories within the course and book give a unique insight into prison life and point to the hope we can find as followers of Jesus. The group studies provide the whole Church – inside and outside prison – with the opportunity to walk with Jesus through Lent, learning from Mark's Gospel and from the lessons prisoners, ex-prisoners and chaplains have learned. Whether we take this spiritual journey through Lent, alone or in company, there is much to draw on to refresh and encourage our faith.

February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Fresh Start	March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Decision time
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Authority established	March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Actions speak
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Identity revealed	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Death defeated

Books available from CWR or Peter Flint at [plflint2@gmail.com](mailto:plflint2@gmail.com) Tel:07436119626

## Summary of Notices

### CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Thank you to all our friends who wished us well on Sunday, we were very touched by the kind words we received. Thank you too to Karl for his prayers to send us on our way.

We have attended New Malden Methodist Church for 57 years and both of us have felt privileged to serve the Church in many ways. We shall be going to Rustington Church, a Church which we have visited over the years. We shall miss you all very much, thank you for your friendship. God bless you, with love **Joy and Alan Clarke.**

**Monica Shaffer-Fehre** has moved into Speirs House for respite care and would welcome visitors.

We are very sad to announce that **Rita LeVine** died suddenly on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December after being taken ill at home. Her funeral took place on 4<sup>th</sup> January where a retiring collection was made for Help for Heroes, one of Rita's favourite charities. Please see page 4 for the elegy given by her niece's husband.

We have sadly lost some other current and ex-members recently.

**Barbara Clarke** died on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**Gladys Hammond** died on Boxing Day. She was a long-standing member of NMMC until moving up to Northampton a few years ago to be nearer her daughter.

**Joyce Heath** passed away quietly in her sleep on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 1.00pm at Putney Vale Crematorium followed by a memorial service here at 2.30pm.

### **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 at the end of January. 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.

### **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. The collection taken at the service for Action for Children amounted to £104.06.



### **PANTO props required please**

Large duck for bath- inflatable ideal

Aladdin lamp

Large "African animals"-stuffed!

Parasols

Large fans

Chinese lanterns

Probably more to follow.

Thank you

Julia

### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**



Thank you to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning on 20<sup>th</sup> January. We raised approximately £120 for the WWDP charities. This year's services will be held on **Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March** at

**1.45pm at Christchurch** and

**8pm here at New Malden Methodist Church**

These services are prepared each year by women of different countries and this year's services have been prepared by the women of Suriname in the northeast of South America. Do try to come along to one or both of these services. **All are welcome – men, women and children!**

### **STREET PASTORS**

Kingston Street Pastors are trained Christian volunteers from over 25 different local

churches of all denominations. They go out every Friday and Saturday night in Kingston Town Centre with a mission to *care, listen* and *help*. It is a great way to meet new people, make new friends, and we have loads of fun! Kingston Street Pastors are always looking for new volunteers to go out or to pray for our work. To find out more about what it's like to be a Street Pastor, contact the local Coordinator, Charlie Bamford on 07908815352 or [kingston@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:kingston@streetpastors.org.uk)"

### **All Saints Kingston Topical Lunch, Thursday 15 February**

*'Kingston Food Bank – The organisation I wish we didn't need'*. Hear how the bank works, from Organiser Paul Pickhaver. Ask questions - share your views – take part in the discussion. Lunch at the ASK East End Café from 12:00 pm – or bring your own sandwiches. Talk starts at 1:00 pm. Finishes 1:45 pm.

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### **Diary Dates for February**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> 7.00pm  
Panto Rehearsal

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am  
Friday Fellowship

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am  
Coffee Bar – Inner Wheel

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  
Senior Badminton

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  
Panto Rehearsal

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Coffee Bar – Christian Aid

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm  
Music in New Malden presents Beethoven the Arranger. John Irving (Fp) with Ensemble De NOTE Ft Symphony No2 arranged for piano

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

Wives & Friends – Pancakes

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm  
Memorial service for Joyce Heath following cremation at 1.00pm at Putney

7.30pm  
Meeting Point

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm  
Home Instead Memory Café in the Welcome Area

7.30pm  
Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm  
Arts Group

7.00pm  
Panto Rehearsal

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Coffee Bar – NMMC Organ Fund – Doreen Downey

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  
Kingston District Chamber Music Society Concert

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  
Junior Badminton

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> 7.00pm  
Panto Rehearsal

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30am  
Coffee Bar – Alzheimer's Society – Glynis Fox

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  
Wives – St David

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 7.00pm  
Panto Rehearsal

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 1.45pm  
World Women's Day of Prayer Service at Christchurch

8.00pm  
World Women's Day of Prayer Service here at NMMC

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am  
Coffee Bar – West Barnes Singers



## Message from our Family Worker

I found this and thought it might be something we could adopt. This can also apply to slightly older children in All Age Worship and in the absence of people to take on Junior Church – As shared in the last newsletter Ali and Emily completed their leadership roles at the end of January. Our thanks to them both for their love and dedication over many years is more than deserved.

This means we will as a congregation have to be more flexible in our services. We will in the future be trying out new ideas and constructive feedback will be most welcome.



### To parents of young children:

**Relax!** God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.

- ▶ Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.

- ▶ Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastors, musicians and leaders.

- ▶ Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.

- ▶ If you have to leave the Sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

So, what do I want you to do? It's this. I want you to make the world a better and brighter place, just the way God made it by keeping it tidy.

So often when there is clearing up to do, I have seen and heard that "I didn't make the mess" or some just stand by while others do the clearing up. If everyone does this then the task becomes a burden to a few or the pile of rubbish becomes larger. When working with others as a team we can all make that difference.

You may well have seen the result of the wrong disposal of plastic on the seas in "The Blue Planet" programme. So, recycling as much as possible is most important.

The sweet paper carelessly dropped in the street instead of being put into the bin or taken home in your pocket can soon be added to and the local environment soon looks uncared for and tatty.

The room used for an activity left with an overflowing bin and un-swept floor is more likely to be ignored by the next people who use it and so they not only work amid the mess but they may well add the problem.

You can make that difference. Even if you didn't make the "mess" this time help the ones who did and with luck they will help when your activity produced extra litter. It can be fun to sweep up! Outside you can pick up the paper that missed the litter bin or the windswept can that rolled into the garden. Every bit helps and if you all do it who knows this attitude could be life and world changing.

Make the world the way God made it – beautiful.

Love through Jesus *Julia*



## Another Message from our Youth Worker

Hi and Happy New Year!

I know January 1<sup>st</sup> seems a long time ago now but I'm hoping you will still be open to the idea of making a resolution to help the world. Well there's a challenge! I bet you didn't think I was going to ask you to do something so BIG did you? But I am if you are up for it we can change the world this year and who knows maybe for ever.

## Services in February

4<sup>th</sup> Feb – Rev Rutlidge

11<sup>th</sup> Feb – Mr Lloyd

18<sup>th</sup> Feb – Mr Lee, Rev Rutlidge and Café Church in the evening.

25<sup>th</sup> Feb – Revs Brown and Rutlidge Holy Communion

The deadline for the next issue is 9am 23<sup>rd</sup> February to [carolineauty@hotmail.com](mailto:carolineauty@hotmail.com) or in the pigeon hole.



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