



New Malden Methodist Church

At the heart of the High Street

The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church

February 2020

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Message from Reverend Karl

The month of February is punctuated by one of those events which, in recent decades, has become increasingly commercialised – Valentine’s Day. Its focus is romantic love, which has been somewhat idolised in our culture in a way that can make things very difficult for single people. One of my mates once told me about how Valentine’s Day made them feel they were a failure, although being on their own was very much their choice. How we talk about relationships, and what’s important within them, really matters – and not just when it comes to romantic and/or sexual love – which is why the recent Conference report *God in Love Unites Us* explores the qualities of good relating in some depth.

This year, there’s no escaping the big political news that Britain has now entered the transition period and thus has taken a significant step upon the way to leaving the European Union (though, as many commentators have reminded us, there is a long way to go with negotiating what our future relations will look like). More than any other issue I can recall within my lifetime, there has been precious little love

lost between the two opposite ‘sides’, between Leavers and Remainers. This begs the question: what might good relating look like in this context of passionate disagreement and polarisation?

Well, I don’t have all the answers, but there is wisdom to be found within one of the biblical passages often quoted in the context of romantic love – 1 Corinthians, 13. A popular text at weddings (and, as I’ve learnt since starting in circuit ministry, funerals) because of its exploration of the nature of love, its original context wasn’t reflecting on a rite of passage. Instead, Paul was writing to an early church community who were busily arguing amongst themselves, seemingly about anything and everything. This is a description for them of what good relating might look like in their community’s life.

Paul picks up where he had left off in the previous chapter, by pointing out that it doesn’t matter how many amazing gifts someone has, or great deeds they do, if they don’t have love. Even seeking out martyrdom is pointless, he argues, if we do not also have love. In other words, love needs to be right at the heart of all we do, because serving God is not about bigging ourselves up, but pointing towards Jesus, who embodied what God’s love looks like. Paul goes on to list the qualities of love: it is patient and kind, not envious or boastful or rude. It does not insist upon getting its own way, and isn’t grumpy or resentful. Finally, he says, love isn’t about wrongdoing, but is

about the truth, and bears, believes, hopes and endures all things.

This passage therefore reminds us of at least three important truths. Firstly, having love is not about bigging up our own egos, and always claiming to be right. Secondly, the attitudes which shape much of the way people across the Brexit divide seem to regard those with a different viewpoint, especially on social media, need to change. Leavers telling Remainers 'be quiet, you lost' can hardly be viewed as not boastful; Remainers calling Leavers stupid/ignorant may hardly be described as not resentful. Finally, wrongdoing needs to be called out; there is no room in this country for racism, and any other forms of bigotry towards and hatred of minority groups.

Jesus faced conflict in his ministry, and on occasion had extremely challenging things to say to those who assumed they formed God's 'in crowd', but he also shared meals with Pharisees, and entered into dialogue with folks he passionately disagreed with. If the deep divisions in this country are really to be healed in the coming years (and this will not be a quick process), then we need to seek ways to engage in genuine dialogue, shaped by the qualities Paul identified: patience, kindness, respect, openness, truthfulness and the ability to disagree well. Good relating in this context will not be easy, any more than it is sometimes in the Church when we try to talk about sexuality, but it is vital.

So, I pray that in the coming days and weeks, we might be people who are able, however falteringly, to model this kind of good relating here in New Malden, so that love and not fear may shine through.

Every blessing,

Karl.

Around the Circuit

There are no announcements for this month.

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 by Tuesday 11 February: circuitoffice@kingstonscc.org.uk

Summary of December and January Notices

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We are sorry to report that Des Hancock passed away just before Christmas. He sang in the choir at the Nine Lessons & Carols service on the evening of Sunday 22nd December and did not wake up on Monday morning. A memorial service for him will be held here at NMMC on Friday 7th February at 11.00am followed by a light lunch before committal at North East Surrey Crematorium.

We were very happy to welcome **Eleanor Roberts** and **Molly Simmonds** into membership of our church family on Sunday 26th January.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in **any way at all** to make our Christmas Fair such a success and to Alison and Julie for their organisation.

It was fantastic as ever to see the church so full of people and the magnificent sum of £2,117.45 was raised. This will be split between our Christian Aid Project and Kingston Young Carers.

Kingston Young Carers had been offered some reduced price tickets to take a group of young carers to see the West End musical "Wicked". Due to the money we raised at the Fair they are very happy to be able to fund the theatre trip with all expenses paid and including an ice cream!

NEW MINISTER FOR CHESSINGTON

The Circuit is pleased to announce that Rev Dr Mark Wakelin will be joining us as Minister of Chessington Methodist Church on 1st September 2020.

WINGS OF HOPE KNITTERS

All of your knitting was in my two cases as I left for South Africa on Friday 24th January. I will endeavour to take better photographs this time! I will buy the red wool again when I return, which will be on the 9th February. A big thank you to all the knitters and also thank you to Birgit Cowan who made the 50 shoe bags for the Teddy Bears to sleep in.

Stella Chattle

SITUATIONS VACANT

Hurray! We have found a pianist for the panto. Put the date in your diary!

Saturday 4th April.

But, if anyone is able to help with Make Lunch in half term, *Wednesday 19th February*, that would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Julia for more information.

DE-CLUTTERING

Following invaluable advice given by Judith Jewell to the Property Committee we have decided to have a major de-clutter of the church premises. Please can all church organisations/departments take note that we intend to hire a skip to take away all unwanted clutter from Good Friday which is Friday 10th April. The skip will remain in situ for a week. In the meantime will all organisations/departments inspect their equipment/property, paperwork etc. stored on church premises and carefully consider what is unwanted and can be thrown away. We badly need to free up space and cultivate tidy minds.

Mick Tavinor, Chair of Property Committee

MARMALADE SEASON

Paddington Bear is getting excited... Seville oranges are in the shops and marmalade season is upon us! You can find a selection of delicious homemade marmalades on sale in Wesley's at the coffee mornings on Saturday the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd of

February – *yes, four weeks in a row* – along with the usual cakes and sausage rolls. Not a fan of marmalade? No problem – we have 16 different types of jam too.

Hilary Warner

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The London District of the Methodist Church is looking for people to help at Synod on Saturday 25th April 2020.



They need general assistants and stewards/ scrutineers. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact the London District Office admin team on admin@methodistlondon.org.uk or call 020 7654 3850.

ART GROUP

It has been decided to rename the group 'Creative Arts' to place it under the umbrella of ArtServe.

So what is ArtServe? It was started around 10 years ago as an initiative of the Methodist Church Music Society and whilst it has very strong Methodist links, is now an independent ecumenical charity. ArtServe is 'a movement of people discovering and reflecting God's creative gifts shared among us, so that God is known more fully and lives transformed'. It includes Music, Dance and Drama, Visual arts (i.e. banners, flower arranging, paintings, sculpture, photography and creative writing).

As a Church we were members of the Methodist Church Music Society for very many years and the membership was transferred to ArtServe to continue our support. We receive a very interesting magazine 4 times a year through myself as the Church representative and as a personal member, so if you see it around pick it up and have a look. It enables members to share ideas and experiences with others, and provides encouragement and advice.

An ArtServe Festival weekend is also held every year in October and a review can be read in the current Autumn magazine.



So our renamed group 'Creative Arts' is now not just for those interested in art but for anybody who would like to bring along their hobby and enjoy a leisurely two hours together (and a cup of tea!) on the *third Thursday of the month at 2.30-4.30pm*. The next meeting is on **Thursday, 19th March** so do come along, as and when.

Doreen Downey

JOEL COMMUNITY NIGHT SHELTER

Joel is supporting vulnerable people in 3 new ways this winter:

- **'The Pathway'** - new morning day shelter held at Joel on weekdays and Saturdays.
- **The Haven** winter night shelter - hosted at Joel on Wednesday evenings
- Providing **severe weather emergency accommodation**

The Joel Centre has opened its doors to a new daytime project called 'The Pathway,' run by KCAH (Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness). It's designed to provide a warm and welcoming place for people facing homelessness to **shelter from the cold on weekdays and Saturday mornings from 7.45am - 11am until the end of March.**

Joel will also be hosting 'The Haven' (KCAH's **winter night shelter**) on **Wednesday nights until the end of March**. For more details please email: winternightshelter@kcah.org.uk.

Additionally, **The Joel Centre will be made available as severe weather emergency accommodation this winter, as part of Kingston council's SWEP protocol.**

Please contact KCAH directly (winternightshelter@kcah.org.uk) if you have any questions regarding 'The Pathway' or The Haven winter night shelter. If you have any questions for The Joel Community

Services team please contact us on chair@joelcommunity.org

COFFEE BAR VACANCIES IN FEBRUARY

The following slots are free if you can help at all. Many thanks, Hilary & Rosie

Tuesday 4th at 10.00
 Thursday 13th at 12.00
 Wednesday 19th at 12.00 (both slots)
 Thursday 20th at 10.00
 Tuesday 25th at 12.00
 Thursday 27th at 10.00 (both slots) and 12.00

Services in February

2nd 10.30am All Age Worship led by Ms Sally Rush

9th 10.30am Pastoral Workers' Re-dedication Service led by Revd Dr Karl Rutledge

16th 10.30am Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Davis

23rd 10.30am Family Holy Communion service led by Revd Stan Brown

23rd 3.00pm Afternoon Tea & Chat led by Revd Dr Karl Rutledge

The deadline for the next (March) issue is Friday 21st February. Please email contributions to john.cronin@unix.net or leave them in the editor's pigeon hole

Thanks, John C



**New Malden
Methodist Church**
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Diary Dates for February 2020

Saturday 1 st	10.00am	Coffee Bar – World Day of Prayer – Carol Dadds & Doreen Downey
Tuesday 4 th	7.00pm	Badminton
Thursday 6 th	7.00pm	Panto Rehearsal
Friday 7 th	11.00am	Memorial Service for Des Hancock
	2.10pm	Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton
Saturday 8 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar – NMMC Christian Aid Project – Julie Haines
Sunday 9 th	3.00pm	Music in New Malden – New Malden Community Choir – music for all ages. Director Jane Wilkinson
Monday 10 th	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Lighthouses – Julie Haines
Tuesday 11 th	2.30pm	Bereavement Café
	7.00pm	Badminton
Wednesday 12 th	2.00pm	Memory Café
Thursday 13 th	7.00pm	Panto Rehearsal
Friday 14 th	2.10pm	Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton
Saturday 15 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Australian Red Cross – Julia Morton
Monday 17 th	7.30pm	Kingston District Chamber Music Concert
Tuesday 18 th	1.10pm	Lunchtime Concert – Music for two pianos, eight hands by Debussy, Dvorak, Grieg and Schubert
	7.00pm	Badminton
Wednesday 19 th	11.30pm	Make Lunch
Thursday 20 th	2.30pm	Creative Arts
	7.00pm	Panto Rehearsal
Friday 21 st	2.10pm	Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton
Saturday 22 nd	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Christian Aid – Jennifer Townsend
Monday 24 th	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – My Trip to South Africa – Judith McCarthy
Tuesday 25 th	7.00pm	Badminton
Thursday 27 th	7.00pm	Panto Rehearsal
Friday 28 th	2.10pm	Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton
Saturday 29 th	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Inner Wheel



Are you worried about what to feed your kids in the school holidays?
Nor sure how to keep your children busy without spending money?

This is an invitation to join us!

Bring them to have a fun time and a hot lunch

Absolutely free!

All Primary aged children welcome

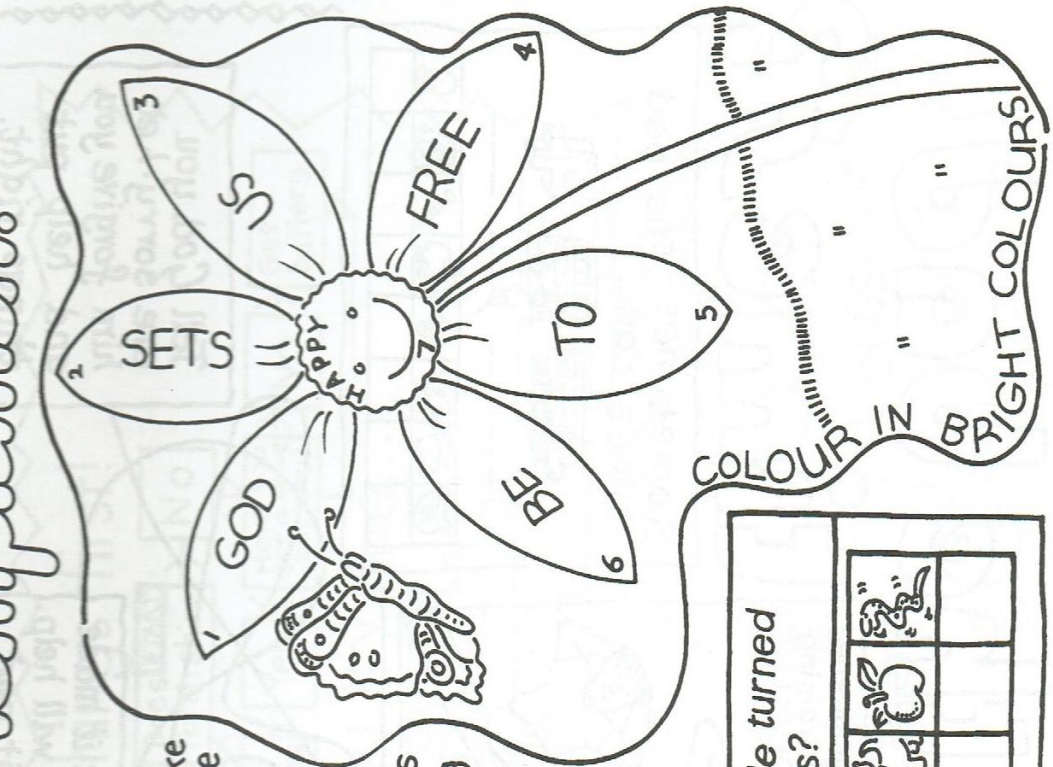
Next lunch is Wednesday 19th February

Pre booking advisable

nmmcyw@hotmail.co.uk or 020 8942 1288

Lead us not into temptation.

Matthew 6:13



We are all tempted to grumble.
Sometimes it gets to be a habit.
But grumbling makes us, and
those we are with,

