



# The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church June 2017



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*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.....All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need..... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2: 42-47)*

Dear friends,

We begin this month with an exciting celebration of Pentecost, remembering the day when Jesus' disciples experienced the mysterious power of the Holy Spirit and with that power they started to form a new faith community, so called, the 'Church'. Therefore, it is the church's birthday!

And then, we are to celebrate our special birthday, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this month. It is a double blessing and great joy we want to share with all people in this community. As they come

together, I think it gives us an opportunity to look back and see how the early church believers lived their lives in that new faith community and committed themselves to the church.

As we see from the passage above, what seems clear is that they were a 'learning community, a praying community, and a sharing community'. They met every day for learning the Scripture, for praying together, and for breaking bread together. That was such a huge commitment which no one can make easily. And, what strikes me most is the way of their sharing. It says, "they had everything in common, .... and gave to anyone as he had need". It may sound like living in an ideal communist society. But, the point is their selflessness and caring hearts to help one another in any possible way.

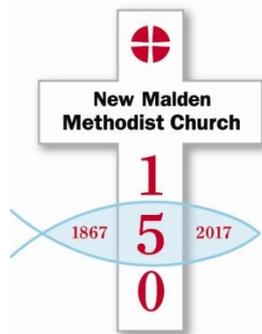
What's amazing is that through these very basic, profound activities, their church was growing and growing everyday, and people wanted to join in their community.

I find this very challenging, because often we are concerned about the declining of the church membership. But, we need to notice that the answer is there, the basic activities of learning, sharing and praying in love and mutual support. Whatever plan we make, I am sure this must be something we need to put in the first place. Then, I believe we can see a difference in the life of the church, not only in numbers, but also in relationships with each other and with God. I hope and pray that in our special celebration this month we may remember these basics and with them we may continue our mission in this place for another 150 years and further.

With every blessing,

SC Choi

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations



**To celebrate that New Malden Methodist Church has borne witness to the glory of God for 150 years, to raise our profile as a force for good in this changing community**

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It all starts soon! At last those events you have in your diary are going to happen. In celebration of 150 years of worship in this place we invite friends old and new to several events including:

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 10.30 am**

A special morning service led by Rev Steve Wild whom Sarah and I heard speak at the Layworkers' conference last year when he was president of conference, followed by the revelling and dedication of the new mosaic on the front wall, made by the various groups of the church, young and old and a bring and share lunch when invited guests will join with us all to reminisce and share joys together.

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 10.30 am**

Following the morning service led by Rev Stan Brown, starting at approximately 1pm you are invited to join us for the **Church Family Picnic** in Beverley Park. Bring your own food and join in the rounders, cricket, races etc which will commence about 2pm. Meet by the playground, bring seating/rugs.



Equipment for the activities will be provided. Drop in and out as you wish.

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

**Coffee Bar** open 10 am onwards. We will participate in the **Malden Fortnight Parade** so please join in or come along to cheer wildly as we pass!



This will be followed at approximately 2.45pm by a chance to SING as we attempt to make music together and "perform" a verse and chorus of 150 hymns at our **Hymnathon**, pop in and sing your favourite.

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 10.30 am**

Service led by Rev Choi with Holy Communion.

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 6.30 pm**

Café Church including an interview with one of our longstanding members with her memories of the church.

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Sat 8<sup>th</sup> July**

"The Church in the High Street – An exhibition of 150 years of Methodist Memories". Come along and find yourself saying "Oh yes I remember that! Free Entry

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 7pm**

**A Meal and Magic** with Steve Price. Tickets now available £10 per person.



Come to be astounded by the sleight of hand and illusion before your very eyes whilst feasting on good homemade food and jolly company.

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 am**

Service led by Rev Jo Henderson who grew up in our church community and was the first woman in Abu Dhabi to be ordained.

### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 for 8pm**

**A Talk by Robin Gill** – History of the Local Area with reference to 150 years. (refreshments available before the talk)

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 am**

Led by the Junior Church an interactive service for all based on the phrase "Fishers of Men" this will include the bringing in of the **Prayer Net** which will have been placed outside the church for yarn to be added to the net as assign of a prayer for someone. The fish from the High Street and beyond will have returned to the harbour to feature in this service too.

During the Malden Fortnight, there will be fish to



spot in New Malden made by the congregation of the church – just for fun and a Prayer Net outside our premises. (see separate notice)

## More 150<sup>th</sup>

Everyone likes a souvenir and accordingly it has been agreed that there will be a souvenir issue of the newsletter looking back over the 150<sup>th</sup> events listed above. For this to be a success I will need photos and maybe a little write-up from each event so, event organisers, please start to identify someone who can snap a few photos and write a few lines that will go down in history and be a nice memento of our anniversary.

And.....hot off the press. We are now on



Facebook so please "like" the page and "share" posts about our events to help spread the word and get attendees from the wider church

community. Find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/NMMC150/>

Caroline

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## Jesus Fish

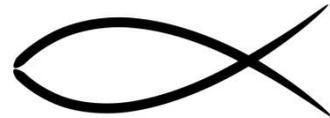
### What are the origins?

The Jesus fish is perhaps the earliest symbol for Christianity. Some reports of its use date back to the end of the 1st Century AD and it is believed to predate the symbol of the cross. The fish is reported to have given Christians a simple means by which to identify themselves as believers in a time of persecution. This was a time when Christians began to come against pagan emperors and others who called themselves gods. As Christians proclaimed the sin of idol worship and false saviours, it was important to boldly stand on and state their beliefs even though it placed them in danger.

Fish are talked about many times throughout the New Testament Gospels. The symbol probably came about because of those references. One of the most notable is found in Matthew 4:19. Many of Jesus original disciples were fishermen by profession. He told them that if they would follow Him, He would make them *fishers of men*. The symbolism to these fishermen represented their commission to bring souls

into the knowledge and recognition of Jesus as the Saviour. Spreading the good news of Jesus is at the very heart of the calling of all Christians still today.

There are other biblical scriptures that include fish such as the miracle Jesus performed by feeding five thousand listeners when He multiplied a young boy's five small loaves and two fishes. This story is told in all four Gospels, Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9 and John 6. The Jesus fish is a symbol that says, with Jesus the Saviour, all things are possible.



### New Malden Methodist Church Fish Spotting

To help our 150 celebrations you are invited to participate in the great fish hunt, June 18<sup>th</sup> – July 13th

New Malden has been invaded by fish of various shapes and sizes. They are hiding around the town in shops between Elm Road and Shannon Corner, All along the High Street to the Triangle. How many can you find?



This is just for fun

Happy Spotting!

## 150 random Acts of Kindness

During our celebrations we are hoping to do 150 acts of random kindness each! That breaks down to 5 a day roughly, just like your fruit and veg.

So here are some ideas, this is for the adults too, the children hopefully started some time ago.

### At Work

Compliment 3 people

Offer your seat up to someone



Buy a coffee for someone, do any of your local shops do a pay it forward scheme?

Organise a work lunch

Praise your co-workers

Sit with someone who is sitting alone

### At Home

Send flowers to someone for no reason



Bring your other half a coffee in bed

Bake someone a cake

Get to know your neighbours

Take part in a fun run

Say good morning to 5 different people in a day

Get off your phone for an hour and be present for your family

### Environment

Plant a tree or plant

Recycle something



Adopt an animal

Use a reusable cup or water bottle

Go a week without

buying a plastic bag

Shop locally

Pick your own fruit or veg

### Community

Volunteer for a coffee bar duty



Donate to a foodbank

Sing in a nursing home

Give your loose change to charity

Collect old postage stamps and give them to Nicky!

### Random!

Leave the £1 in the supermarket trolley

Sign up to be an organ donor

Sponsor a child in a developing country



Smile all day!

Donate blood

Leave a generous

tip for good service

Tell a busker how good they are.

Let a car in before you from a side turning

Let someone at the supermarket go before you if they only have couple of items.

And then...anything you can think of yourself, let's make our world a better place by the end of our celebrations!

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## 1867 and all that

I thought it might be an idea for someone to write an article about the historical context into which our church was born 150 years ago - not so much the local context as I suspect Robin Gill will more than cover that on 11<sup>th</sup> July, but from a

more national and international perspective. So here I am writing said article....

It will come as no surprise that almost at the mid-point of the Victorian age, it was Queen Victoria on the throne. You might be more surprised that the Prime Minister was not one of the 19<sup>th</sup> century heavyweights but the Earl of Derby – nominal head of a Tory minority government in fact. Across the pond in the US, Andrew Johnson was President and – quiz aficionados pay attention – he had no vice POTUS.

In politics 1867 was a seminal year with the second extension of the franchise passed in what became known imaginatively as the Second



Reform Act. This one doubled the electorate by adding many urban working men to the franchise. Interestingly, an amendment from John Stuart Mill to

extend the vote to women was defeated in the House of Commons. Most historians are pretty cynical about Benjamin Disraeli's motivation behind the Act (he was the power behind Derby), but whatever the case the electorate gave him a bloody nose and rewarded him by voting for arch-rival Gladstone in at the 1868 General Election.

In other political news at home, there was a failed Fenian Rising in February. With hindsight, neither this issue nor the question of votes for women or even a few more men would go away any time soon.

Abroad, some aspects of the world map were slowly taking their modern form. So, it's happy 150<sup>th</sup> birthday to Canada this year as the British North America Act received Royal Assent in 1867, forming the Dominion of Canada. Ottawa became the capital, and John A. Macdonald the first prime minister.



In the Strait Settlement, Singapore became a Crown Colony under the jurisdiction of the Colonial Office in London. The Suez Canal opened to shipping traffic and the US purchased Alaska from the Russians for the bargain price of 2 cents per acre. Lots more quiz trivia here for you.

In Europe, the seeds of pre-1914 tensions and conflicts were clearly being sown. The Constitution of the North German Confederation with Prussia at the helm and Bismarck as Minister President marked the embryonic beginnings of the unified German state. Not far away, the Austro Hungarian dual monarchy was established by the Compromise agreement. It's almost ironic that barbed wire was also patented this year.



In medicine, a wise person named Lister wrote about his research on antiseptics in surgery and a reduction in hospital mortality rates. This rightly earned him the epithet "father of modern surgery". Marie Curie was born this year though the world of science lost two titans in the form of William Marsden and Michael Faraday. Latterly, according to Wikipedia "his main discoveries include the principles underlying electromagnetic induction, diamagnetism and electrolysis." And if you want to know what this means, ask Peter Bullett!

In economics, Britain was still on a relative high following the industrial revolution; trade was still massively important and we still had Colonies to trade with. Just around the corner though, the depression of the 1870's lurked so it won't be a total surprise to learn that Marx wrote Das Kapital in 1867. Sure as eggs is eggs, bust follows boom.



In wider society, there were lots of firsts in 1867:

- The first blue plaque - at Lord Byron's birthplace Holles Street.
- The first Lambeth Conference
- The first test of Dynamite – at Redhill! Of all places
- The first performance of Johann Strauss II's waltz "The Blue Danube" – just imagine if you'd never heard the Blue Danube....
- The foundation stone of the Royal Albert Hall was laid
- QPR and Wasps were formed
- Matthew Arnold's lyric poem Dover Beach was published
- Walter Bagehot's treatise The English Constitution was released in book form – this is a thrilling and entertaining read, I can tell you.

The world welcomed: Stanley Baldwin, John Galsworthy, Toscanini, Frank Lloyd Wright and Mary of Teck. It bid farewell to Baudelaire, Emperor Komei of Japan, and King Otto of Greece.

It would be nice to end this whistle-stop tour of 1867 with something specific to Methodism so how's this – for once I'm hoping Wikipedia is wrong:

“The Reverend Thomas Baker, a Wesleyan Methodist missionary was cooked and eaten by Navatusila tribespeople at Nabutautau on Fiji, together with eight of his local followers, the last missionary in that country to suffer cannibalism.” Some claim to fame!

That's all folks.

Caroline

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## Church Annual General Meeting

The annual church meeting took place on Sunday 21st May after the morning service. It was attended by 32 members and others from the congregation. The main purpose of the ACM is to elect stewards and representatives to the church council. Julie Haines, Alison Bullett and Jenny Reid will be continuing as stewards next year but we are still looking for one or two people to join the team. Megan Walsh is stepping down as she will be off to university after the summer. She was thanked for her hard work. To support the stewards four vestry stewards were appointed to help before and after services. They will be Jennifer Townsend, Lynn Reddy, Michelle Lee and Ho Seon Choi. Peter Bullett was given a position on church council as music co-ordinator and Tony Chalk and Ho Seon Choi were elected to join the church council. Greta Curry and Birgit Cowan are stepping down and were thanked for their contributions.

The church projects for 2017-18 were agreed and as last year will be split three ways. They will be Literacy in a Box (a project providing school equipment in sub Sharan Africa), Home Start (which provides volunteers to work with families experiencing difficulties) and the organ fund.

There were also updates on the mission plan and the 150th anniversary which have both been reported in the newsletter.

The next ACM will be on Sunday 20th May 2018.

Robert Elves, Church council secretary

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**Two cultural events that might take your fancy – do you have a coat of many colours?**

**1. Meeting Point Tue June 13:** 'With Great Pleasure'. Everyone is invited to come and share a favourite piece of music or poem. See Alison with your suggestions.

AND

2. Advance warning of an Informal Concert to be held on Sat **15 July**, to round off our 150Y celebrations. The idea is to have an 'In House' first half of Party Pieces, along the lines of the very successful event 2 years ago, followed by a Bring it and Sing it



performance of **Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat**. Please mark this in your diaries now, and see Alison to volunteer....

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## Church Garden Party with Cream Tea

Tuesday 8 August

We are looking forward to welcoming the Church Family once again to a Garden Party on Tuesday 8 August at Conifers, High Drive from 3 pm onwards. Should the weather be bad we can always stay indoors. Please make a note of the date – more details and a list will be available later.

We will have homemade raspberry jam and scones as usual but would welcome offers of cakes. We would also appreciate garden chairs from those who come by car. As in previous years some people may need drivers to bring them to our home.

Pam and Alan Vincent 020 8942 3752



Ps – I said this last year but some people still got it wrong – remember, it's jam first THEN the cream. See op. Please try harder, it's very important ;-)  
[ed]

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## Around the Circuit

### CIRCUIT NEWS

**Working Together with a Probationer - Open Meeting at 8pm on Thursday 8 June at Kingston Methodist Church**

We look forward to welcoming Rev Dr Karl Rutledge as a probationer minister in our circuit from September. Working with a probationer is an exciting opportunity, but one for which we need to prepare. When we were first asked to consider a probationer appointment one of my responses was "We are only going to do this if we can do it well". Being prepared is often the key to doing things well!

We have arranged a preparation meeting with the District Probationer Secretary - Rev Hazel Forecast - to help us think about what it means to have a probationer minister in our circuit, how we can be supportive churches for someone who is at the very beginning of their ministry, and how much we can gain from having a new minister working with us. Hazel is a very experienced minister who has spent a lot of time supporting those entering the Methodist ministry. I think we will find it really helpful to draw on that depth of experience.

The meeting is open to everyone but we are particularly encouraging those in leadership roles at NMMC and KMC to attend along with members of the circuit meeting.

I hope you will be able to join us and believe you will find it an interesting evening - we fixed the date before the snap election was called so I hope you will still find plenty of time to vote!

### **Quarterly Plan**

The Quarterly Preaching Plan for June to August has been printed, and should now be available in your church. Unfortunately, the main readings noted on the plan are incorrect. If you want to note the correct readings they are as follows:

04 June	Matthew 7: 21-29
11 June	Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26
18 June	Matthew 9:35 - 10:8
25 June	Matthew 10: 24-39
02 July	Matthew 10: 40-42
09 July	Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30
16 July	Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23
23 July	Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
30 July	Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52
06 August	Matthew 14: 13-21
13 August	Matthew 14: 22-33
20 August	Matthew 15: 21-28
27 August	Matthew 16: 13-20

## **CHURCH EVENTS**

### **Chessington Methodist Church Summer Fair: Saturday 10 June**

From 11.30am to 2.30pm. There will be a barbecue, popular Korean food, plants, cakes, books, toiletries, toys and children's games. Please do come along and support this event.

### **New Malden – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events See page 2**

#### **Surbiton Hill**

Drop In Fellowship takes place on the second Wednesday of each month in the Lower Hall at Surbiton Hill (from 1.45pm for a 2pm start). Forthcoming meetings will include the following talks:

14 June: Jeanette Barwick: "Curious Incidents in Ministry Travels"

12 July: Anne Hackman: "How Did You Get Where You Are Today"

August – No meeting.

#### **Quiet Day ("be.coming") Saturday 17th June 2017**

We are delighted that Rev Nadine Wilkinson will be leading our first Quiet Day in 2016. She will help us to explore our faith-filled approaches to being and becoming. This is a great opportunity to draw aside from the activities of daily life and spend the day in quiet fellowship with others. Nadine will guide our thoughts as we spend time separately and together. We meet at the House of Prayer in Seymour Road, East Molesey. They offer their house and grounds to give an opportunity for personal renewal and to find a deepening sense of God.

The day is open to everyone in our Church family and friends around the Circuit. If you have never attended such a day before, you are warmly invited to join us on this occasion and experience the benefits of participating in a Quiet Day.

The day will run from 10.00am 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.

Although it is fine to just arrive on the day, it is helpful to have an idea of numbers expected as resources are prepared in advance. Please sign up on attendance lists on the noticeboards in the church vestibule or rear corridor and indicate if transport is required.

For more information contact Jeannette Barwick ([jbarwick313@btinternet.com](mailto:jbarwick313@btinternet.com); 0208 941 8551)

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **MHA - Methodist Homes: Best Sunday for Ages - 11th June, 2017**

Methodist Homes is a charity providing care, accommodation and support services for older people throughout Britain. Best Sunday for Ages, held at the start of Best Week for Ages, will generally be celebrated on the 11th June but can be held on an alternative date to suit individual churches. The theme of worship is 'Befriending Age' and we are invited to look at ways in which we can help and support older members of our church and society, as well as learn best from them how to plan our own ageing journey.

To enhance and enjoy celebrations, whilst supporting MHA and building bridges in the community, there are many suggested types of events such as quiz nights, afternoon teas, dinner parties and sports events. More ideas are welcome and the website is [BestForAges.com](http://BestForAges.com) and the telephone number is 01332 221 641.

MHA, founded 75 years ago, is one of the largest charities in the U.K., delivering a range of high quality services to 17,000 individuals and is grateful for all your support, especially your prayers.

Please contact Corinne Foster via Kingston Methodist Church if you need more information or have any queries.

### **Prudential London & Surrey Cycling Event**

This year's event takes place on Sunday 30 July. As in previous years this will involve a number of road closures, and the impact on church services will once again need to be considered.

### **July Newsletters**

*Please send your contributions by Tuesday 16 June to: [circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk)*

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## Summary of Recent Notices

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### Summary of May Notices

#### CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**George Alleyne** is at home now and has to do his exercises.

We are very happy to welcome **Elvis, Albert and Kevin Addai** into the Church family with their Baptisms on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

#### MEETING POINT

Our penultimate meeting of the season is on **Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup>** (there is a misprint on the rack card).

This will be our popular “With Great Pleasure” evening, when you are invited to share a favourite piece of music, a poem or prose reading. This meeting is particularly open to all, as it will be an eclectic mix of genres and tastes – some familiar items, some new, but definitely something for everyone. Please let Alison Bullett know if you will be contributing an item, but do come anyway. We meet for refreshments from 7.30pm and start at 8.

#### **Music in New Malden**

**Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm**

John Irving Piano, Ursula Monberg Horn  
*Virtuoso works by Schubert and Czerny*  
An hour of music, followed by tea and cake.



3 of my favourite things – tea, cake and horn music [ed]

#### **All Saints Kingston Topical Lunch, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

Tiffin School young musicians present *Kingston's very own Promenade Concert*. One and only performance. Lunch at the ASK East End Café from 12:00 pm – or bring your own sandwiches. Prom at 1:00 pm. Finishes 1:45 pm.

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## Refugee Tales

A Walk in Solidarity with Refugees and Detainees

Runnymede to Westminster 1-5 July 2017

Come and walk with Refugee Tales on 2 July from Walton on Thames to Kingston or on 3 July from Kingston to Brentford.

Walkers can join for a day, a weekend of the full five days. Details and online bookings from [www.refugeetales.org](http://www.refugeetales.org).

Each evening on the walk celebrated writers read new tales of the refugee and detainees experience.

The evening event on 2 July is hosted by Maurice Wren at the All Saints Church with tales by Vahni Capildeo and Helen Macdonald with music from Amadou Diagne and also St Michael & All Angels Steel Orchestra

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## Message from our Family Worker

Hi

The 150 anniversary celebrations are upon us this month and I hope you are excited about them all. You are invited to join in lots of things and we need you to come with your family to make them a great success.

There is the “unveiling” of the mosaic which you all had a hand in making can you find a piece you put in?

If you in Year 6 or under there is the party on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June** with fun and games and food, invitations are being issued soon.



If you are older there is an opportunity to go down the orbit and visit the Olympic Park.



On **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June** we will be having a bring your own Church Family Picnic when we will meet in the park and have games and races all ages are

welcome. The swings are nearby too.

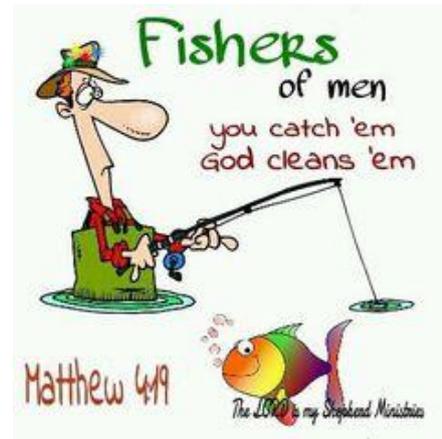
**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> July** is the Malden Parade, some of you have already made your outfits but it's not too late to make your own at home and join in! The theme is the sea so we need fish and boats! Then there is a big Hymn sing in the church, come along and join in your favourite.

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July

An evening meal with entertainment by a magician, come with your family!



The main event is **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 10.30** when you will be leading the morning service! This will involve all of you and we need your enthusiasm and talent!



## Services in June

**4<sup>th</sup> June** – Reverend Choi – Holy Communion

**4<sup>th</sup> June** – Churches Together Praise in the Park

**11<sup>th</sup> June** – Reverend Vernon

**18<sup>th</sup> June** – **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary launch service with Steve Wild**

**25<sup>th</sup> June** – Reverend Brown

Copy deadline for the June newsletter is Friday 9am 23<sup>rd</sup> June by email to: [carolineauty@hotmail.com](mailto:carolineauty@hotmail.com) or in the pigeon hole.