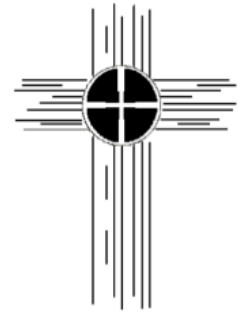


The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church March 2019



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Message from Karl

March is one of the turning points of the year, as it witnesses two changes of season. The arrival of Spring brings with it longer, warmer and lighter days, and gardens and parks begin to show signs of new life emerging from the bleakness of Winter. Accompanying the shift in the weather this year – due to the

date of Easter – is the start of Lent on 6th March, with Ash Wednesday.

Lent is probably the most challenging season of the Christian year, which began back in December with Advent and the anticipation

of the birth of Jesus, and culminates in June with the celebration of the birth of the Church at Pentecost. These six weeks of Lent form a time of self-examination and reflection, in which we're encouraged to invite God to ask us some hard questions. This may mean making changes in how we use our time, money and skills. It

could require saying sorry and seeking to make amends, or it might mean working for peace or challenging injustice. Either way, Lent isn't a season that leaves us unchanged.

Asking hard questions has been something of a theme of 2019 thus far, as the deadline for leaving the European Union on March 29th fast approaches. Whichever way you voted in the Referendum, and whatever your opinion on the way forward, what's inarguable is that the whole debate has raised contentious questions about the nature of British life. What kind of country are we, and where are we going? How we answer them will have a profound impact upon how things go for many years to come, and so it's a serious business.

Now, although we might not be sure how all this will pan out, what we do know is that there's a real need to bring people together and break down those things which divide us, one from another. The Church has a particular role to play, as we live as people

reconciled to God in Christ Jesus, and are charged with furthering God's work of bringing life in all its fullness to not just all people, but to all of creation. Being rooted and grounded in love (Ephesians 3:17) gives us a firm foundation from which to undertake this kingdom-building work.

I would argue, therefore, that the season of Lent brings with it a greater urgency in 2019 than it has in some previous years. If we're to be a loving and non-anxious presence in the midst of a potentially very bumpy period, we will need to be sufficiently self-aware to be able to recognise our own trigger points, prejudices and shortcomings. When we can do this, we're far more likely to be able to bring people together, and to make a positive difference in our community. Just as Jesus had to honestly face up to his own sore spots and temptations in the wilderness, so we each need to allow God to take us on our equivalent journeys.

So, as we rejoice in the early signs of Spring breaking through, and begin this testing period of Lent, my prayer is that we might have the courage to stand honestly before God, so that in the presence of others, we might bring hope, peace and blessing here in New Malden.

Karl

A Spring Clean for the Church



Can Tidying Up really bring joy? Find out on 5 March!

It's certainly become A Thing in popular culture – with lots of books and TV programmes telling us how to find pleasure (and even joy) in clearing out our clutter. We react to these exhortations in differing ways; some of us scoff at these “gurus”, others start organising their socks with military precision, and others look on enviously, wishing they could find a way out from under their clutter.

Of course, most of us are familiar with the notion of Spring Cleaning – in times past, before automatic washing machines and good lighting, the longer, finer days of spring were the signal to air the blankets outside and sweep out the corners. And it wasn't just cleaning - I remember my mum also sorting and tidying the kitchen cupboards and checking which clothes needed mending and patching (but rarely throwing away – no charity shops then!) In those days we all had much less “stuff” anyway.

The Property Committee has decided that it would be a good idea to do a bit of de-cluttering around the church. What's actually lurking at the back of that drawer? How long has that pile of bits and pieces been accumulating in that corner? What is in that box on top of the cupboard?

Some friends may know that I run De-Cluttering training, which helps to dispel some of the myths about it, with tips and techniques to break the task down into manageable steps. Mick Taviner has asked me to run a short session for leaders of church groups and activities, and anyone else who would like to help. It will be in the Welcome Area at 7.30, for an hour, on Tuesday 5 March.

Judith Jewell

A Diamond Anniversary for Wives and Friends



The Lower Hall looked spectacular when many guests were welcomed to a celebratory meal. The happy occasion, in January, was hosted by Wives and Friends Fellowship to mark 60 years of the group. The tables were attractively decorated, the food carefully prepared, the cake expertly iced and Doreen's speech excellently delivered. Doreen Downey is the current Leader and thanks must be given to her alongside all previous Leaders for this group which has demonstrated loving, serving, learning and growing at this church throughout 6 decades.

An interesting display of memorabilia including photographs, letters of thanks from charities and annual programmes prompted reminiscences about events, fund raising and regular meetings. Conversation and laughter were encouraged as all guests moved tables renewing friendships between courses and as with many Wives and Friends' recent events men were included.

Life has changed much in the last 60 years but the fellowship and friendship that was there 60 years ago remains the same and the group continues to meet twice every month.

Liz Edwards



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 16th March 10am-noon

Saturday 11th May 10am-noon

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)

Around the Circuit

CIRCUIT NEWS

Rev Dr Karl Rutledge's Testimony service and Ordination

Karl will be taking part in the **Testimony service** at Wesley's Chapel, London, on Sunday 19th May at 6.30 as part of the process before his ordination. You are invited to attend.

It has been confirmed that **Karl will be ordained** in Darlington Street, Methodist Church, Wolverhampton on 30 June at 4pm.

If you would like to go, apply for a ticket from www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2019/ordinations.

There is a limit of 4 tickets per personal application. Applications can be made on-line from 1 April. The circuit cannot get a bundle of tickets.

Please let the circuit office know if you would like to get there by coach organised by the Circuit. More information about this will be advised in due course.

Circuit Safeguarding Officer Vacancy

We are currently looking for a volunteer to fill the vacant role of Circuit Safeguarding Officer. The key responsibilities will be to:

Act as the point of contact for the District Safeguarding Officer

Liaise with and provide support to the Circuit's Church Safeguarding Officers

Ensure relevant officers receive the appropriate training and obtain DBS checks

Oversee the local churches' safeguarding training and procedures

Ensure appropriate records are maintained.

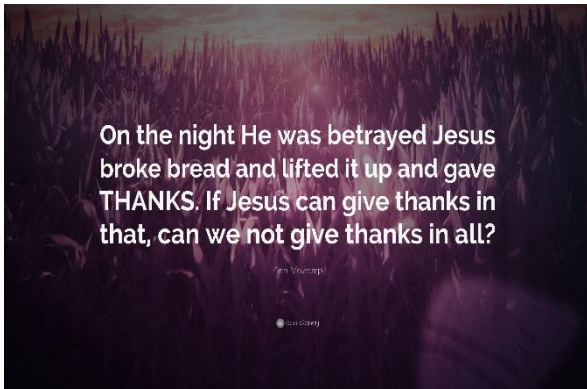
If you think you might be interested, or would like to know more about what the role entails, please contact Michael Axton at the Circuit Office

Next Newsletters

Please forward content for the next Circuit newsletter Michael Axton by Monday 11th March to:

circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

A 5 week course for Lent



On the Night He Was Betrayed -

Learning to give thanks on our darkest days

CTIM presents

A Five Week Course for Lent – Tuesdays 7.30-9pm - starting on 12th March

St James Church

Bodley Road

KT3 5QE

All Welcome!

Summary of Notices

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We are delighted to be able to report that following his meeting with the District Probationers' Committee on Wednesday, it has been confirmed that Karl will be ordained on 30th June in Darlington Road Methodist Church, Wolverhampton. Details on how you can attend will follow. What good news!!

FURNITURE NEEDED

An interfaith colleague of Karl's - Rabbi Janet Darley - is looking for help furnishing a house for a refugee family soon to arrive in the borough. If you can help with sourcing a coffee table, chest of drawers, lawn mower, TV or a bookcase, please contact Janet at janetdarley@blueyonder.co.uk

TOILET TWINNING



Many thanks to all who supported the Coffee Bar in aid of Toilet Twinning last Saturday. We raised the wonderful total of £180 – enough to sponsor three more loos in places where they've had nowhere to "go" until now! *Judith Jewell*

GOOD FRIDAY MUSIC

The ecumenical music will be at 8pm as usual when we will sing choruses and solos selected to complement the Passion story told by readings from scripture. Please put the date in your diary and if you would like to sing in the choir, please register with Peter Bullett by email if possible on p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk

(or by telephone 020 8942 0666). A full schedule of rehearsals is available in the Welcome Area.

PANCAKE PARTY



Please can anyone help with "The Big Pancake Party" on Sunday 10th March 12.30pm -2pm. I need cooks and games organisers!

I have the games prepared and some pancakes being made.

Can anyone help please. It would be great if people who can do this as a one-off can get involved. See further details in the newsletter.

Also please sign up to attend - sheet on the noticeboard.
Julia Morton

NEW MALDEN PASSION PLAY

The countdown continues to the Passion Play on Saturday 13th April. Please put it in your diaries. It's not too late to get involved and people who are willing to be Roman soldiers are particularly needed – no lines to learn! Contact info@nmpassionplay.com or call Peter Flint on 07436 119626 if you want to get involved.

HYMNS AND PSALMS

At its recent meeting, the Church Council authorised the disposal of the Hymns and Psalms hymnbooks which have recently been removed from the chair racks. If you would like a copy for devotional use, please take one from the stack by the Prayer Circle. We have a few full music copies: please speak to Peter if you would like one of these.

AUDITOR FOR ABACUS

Abacus Pre-School is looking for someone to audit their accounts. If you are interested in this volunteer role, please talk to Sarah who will pass your name on.

JOEL COMMUNITY TRUST



The Joel Community celebrates its 5th birthday as a permanent night shelter on Sunday 3rd March! There will be two services of celebration at St Peter's Church, Norbiton at 10.30am and 11.30am where there'll be birthday cake and a special screening of a wonderful, short film about The Joel Community. Everyone is welcome

to attend either or both (depending on your own church commitments, of course!).

The celebrations continue on Saturday 16th March when there will be a Ceilidh and Curry fundraiser at St Peter's Church. They would love to invite us all to come along for an evening of delicious food and some really uplifting music and dancing! Full details on the poster in the Welcome Area or from comms@joelcommunity.org or 07834 577649.

Diary Dates

Friday 1st 10.00am
Friday Fellowship
1.45pm
World Day of Prayer Service at NMMC
8.00pm
World Day of Prayer Service at NM Baptist Church

Saturday 2nd 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Amnesty

Tuesday 5th 7.30pm
De-cluttering Meeting

Tuesday 5th 7.00pm
Junior Badminton

Wednesday 6th
2.00pm Memory Café

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

Sunday 10th 12.30pm
The Big Pancake Party

Monday 11th 7.30pm
Wives & Friends AGM

Tuesday 12th 7.00pm
Senior Badminton

Saturday 16th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Christian Aid – Jennifer
Townsend

Monday 18th 7.30pm
Kingston District Chamber Music Society
Concert

Wednesday 20th 7.00pm
Malden Fortnight meeting

Saturday 23rd 10.00am
Coffee Bar – West Barnes Singers

Monday 25th 7.30pm
Wives & Friends – Mike Brown on ‘The Real
Dad’s Army’

Tuesday 26th NO BADMINTON

Thursday 28th 7.30pm
Pastoral Committee

Saturday 30th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Preserves Market

10.00am
Good Friday Music Rehearsal

Children’s Page

Hi

Having food with friends and family is always special. Sometimes the table may be laid with “best” crockery and cutlery, maybe with an arrangement of some kind to make the table more inviting.

When the food arrives, it is shared out between everyone, either arriving as a plate of food or as individual items to be shared. My children used to refer to this as a meal “with the dishes”.

So it should be with the worlds resources and food. There will be abundance of food in the world but only some are able to have a fair share (and often more) everyday.

During lent people often give up chocolate or biscuits or some other food to observe when Jesus went into the desert before he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

There are some in the world, who would love to have that luxury! If you a “fussy” eater why not try something new when you are offered something different at a family meal and rejoice that you have the opportunity to do so?

It is the company who you are eating with, that is as important as the food itself.

God bless

Julia



Services in March

3rd March – all age worship/local arrangement

6th March at 7.30pm Ash Wednesday service with Reverend Rutledge

10th March – Reverend Rutledge

17th March – Reverend Vernon and dedication of pastoral visitors

24th March – Reverend Jones and Holy Communion

Also café church with Reverend Rutledge at 3pm

31st March – Reverend Rutledge

Deadline for the next issue is 23rd March . Please leave contributions in the editor’s pigeon hole or email carolineauty@hotmail.com by 9am.

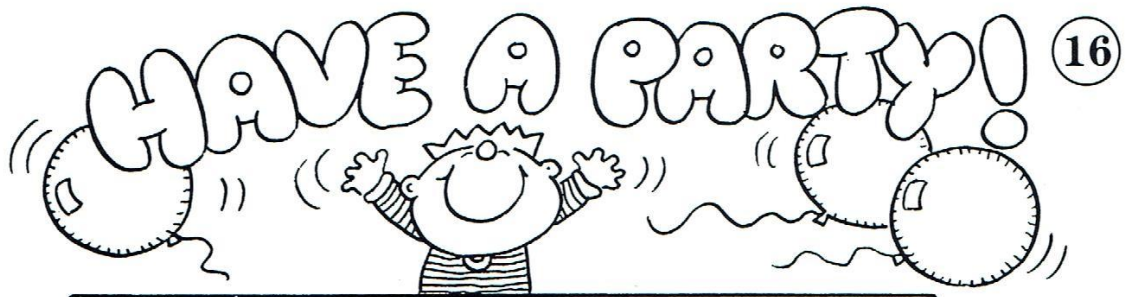
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nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

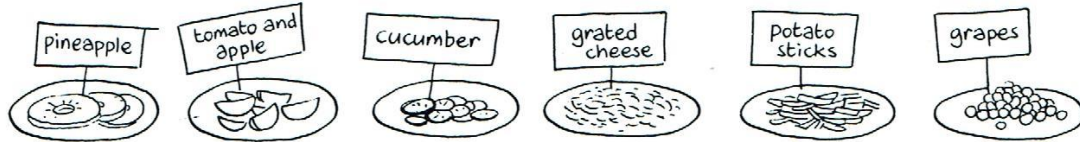
newmaldenmethodistchurch.com



Jesus was often invited to parties.
Why not have a thanksgiving party for a few friends – and invite Jesus along.

Sing your favourite praise songs, pray together and provide CREATION food. Put out bowls of ingredients so that each guest can CREATE A HAPPY FACE on a plate.

Thank God for making all of us and enjoy the food!



WORD SEARCH

'Girls' names from the Bible'

H	A	N	B	C	L	I	A	G	I	B	A
A	H	A	N	I	D	R	A	I	D	Y	L
N	D	O	H	E	F	L	E	H	C	A	R
N	G	M	T	H	M	I	J	H	T	K	R
A	L	I	U	A	R	M	T	N	T	H	O
H	H	A	R	O	B	E	D	P	O	S	E
Q	R	Y	S	T	B	U	B	D	V	W	E
X	H	A	R	A	S	Y	A	E	Z	A	B
C	D	E	Z	F	G	H	J	K	C	L	M
M	A	I	R	I	M	O	P	Q	R	C	S
T	L	U	V	A	H	T	R	A	M	W	A
E	X	Y	Z	B	E	C	I	N	R	E	B

ABIGAIL	MARY
BERNICE	MIRIAM
DEBORAH	NAOMI
DINAH	RACHEL
ELIZABETH	REBECCA
ESTHER	RHODA
HANNAH	RUTH
LYDIA	SARAH
MARTHA	



Read the story of how God fed Elijah with warm bread when he was tired, sad and hungry. It is in *1 Kings 19:3-9*.



Ingredients

½ cup flour	½ cup milk
1 teaspoon sugar	2 tablespoons of oil.
1 beaten egg	

What to do:

1. Mix everything together.
2. Heat a lightly-oiled pan.
3. Pour mixture in and cook till bubbles form on top.
4. Turn over and cook other side.
5. Eat with a drink of fresh water.
6. Thank God for feeding you!