



# New Malden Methodist Church

*At the **heart** of the High Street*

## The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church

**March 2020**

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### Message from Reverend Karl

Greetings!

It feels like two minutes since the last time, but once again, we find ourselves in the season of Lent. The colour of this season is purple, because Lent is a time for reflection and self-examination – both for individuals and communities. Some may approach this by reading a theological book or attending a course during these six-and-a-half weeks, whilst others may gravitate towards specific resources, such as the Radically Changing the Story pack produced by All We Can, which invites reflection and practical action on international development issues.

For me, one of the most challenging things I've come across in a while was produced by the children and young people who came together for the 3Generate gathering, back

in November. It is too easy to pay lip service to taking on board the views of youngsters in the life of the Church, so this year I'd like to invite you to join me in thinking about what it would mean to take seriously what the Methodist youth are asking all of us to take action on together, and to begin taking practical steps forward.

The commitments identified in the 3Generate manifesto are:

- Make sure God is in our conversations and decisions
- Be kind, helpful and respectful
- Build an inclusive and welcoming church
- Change the stereotype of churches being boring, and modernise them
- Make churches more eco-friendly
- Be better resourced to support mental health issues, particularly those issues young people face
- Challenge people in power about climate change, poverty and world peace

Some of these represent areas where I think we already have really positive things to say, such as the genuine warmth of the welcome offered in Wesley's to a wide range of people in our community throughout the week, but there is always more we can be doing. On my recent Sunday off, I went to one of the local cathedrals, and although those giving out service sheets and serving refreshments were lovely, I found myself completely ignored during the coffee time, as people talked only to those they already

knew. It reminded me that welcome is all of our task, not just that of a select few.

Other commitments in the manifesto will be more challenging to act on. In a secular world, breaking down the stereotypes people have of churches starts with building relationships and being prepared to be honest about the reality of our lives when we tell our stories, all of which can be costly business. Working towards becoming an Eco Church may mean investing in making our building more energy efficient, and challenging those in power holds up a mirror in turn to our own deeply-held prejudices, and blind spots. However, this strikes me as exactly the kind of repentance Lent calls for.

So, friends, please take some time in this most reflective season of the church's year to ponder and to pray about the issues raised and questions asked by the children and young people of Methodism, and as we think about staffing priorities and ensuring our building remains fit for purpose as we grow into the 2020s, join me in exploring how these commitments might shape our responses. At the very least, we need to keep God at the very centre of our conversations and decisions, otherwise we are failing to be the Church. May we go forth boldly into Lent, and it may be a time of both transformation and inspiration for this church, so that through us, God's love can shine through more clearly.

Every blessing,

Karl

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## Around the Circuit

Please note the following changes to the March to May Quarterly Preaching Plan, both at Surbiton Hill:

- 9<sup>th</sup> April: The Maundy Thursday service will start at 7.30pm, not 8pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> May: This service will not include Holy Communion

## Next Newsletters

If you have any news or a forthcoming event which you would like to share with the Circuit, please email Michael Axton at [circuitoffice@kingstonsircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@kingstonsircuit.org.uk) by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

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## Summary of February Notices

### COFFEE BAR – SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

Many thanks to all who supported this coffee bar in aid of victims of the fires in Australia. A magnificent £261.00 was raised.

### TODDLER GROUP

We are in need of extra regular help at this thriving group on a Thursday morning with the set up from 8.45 am and the distribution of refreshments during the session.

Please consider this carefully. A DBS can be arranged if necessary. Please see Julia or email her at [nmmcyw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nmmcyw@hotmail.co.uk).

### CHURCH SPRING CLEAN – THANK YOU

Thanks to the 10 people who turned up on Monday morning and helped clean the church. Items found were 2p, 1p, a Q-tip and a cocktail stick, many sweets plus numerous Christmas tree needles along with lots of fluff.

The cross now glows, the wood in the church shines and the building smells of polish. Again many thanks and keep an eye out for the next big clean.

### SNOW WHITE AND FRIENDS APPEARING AT A STAGE NEAR YOU!

Rehearsals have been ongoing since the beginning of January for this grand production. People have been encouraged and coerced into various roles, costumes have been made and adapted resulting that:

On Saturday 4th April the cast and crew of the New Malden Methodist Church invite you to come along to our latest pantomime. Be prepared to cheer the heroes, boo the villains and join in the community singing.

Performance 2pm and 7pm. Tickets available from Sunday 1st March: Adults £6, Concessions £4, Children (under 16) £3.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2020**

Please join us for this year's World Day of Prayer service to be held at New Malden URC on Friday 6th March at 1.45pm. The service has been compiled by the women of Zimbabwe and its theme is *Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk*. Involvement in this service is so important for the women of many countries as it gives them a voice where sometimes they have none.

This year we are trying out the idea of holding just one service to see whether we can get more support as numbers are not large at either service and sometimes a fair number of those attending the evening service have already been to the afternoon one and have come again to lend their support to the second host church. Please come and give us your support.

Our Coffee Morning on 1st February raised an amazing £185 from sales of coffee and cakes and donations and including about £40 for sales of jams and marmalades. Thank you so much to all who helped, baked or bought on the day.

*Carol and Doreen*

## **WAITROSE CHARITY SCHEME**

I am delighted to report that our Memory Café has received a donation of £370 from Waitrose. A big thank you to everyone who voted for us by putting their green tokens into the right slot during the month of October when NMMC Memory Café was one of Waitrose's three "Community Matters" charities.

*Glynis Fox*

## **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*

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

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

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



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020**

This year there will be an extra Coffee Morning at the beginning of Christian Aid Week (9th May) as well as the usual morning on the 16th May and I would really appreciate your support either by making or buying cakes. The Bread and Cheese Lunch will be held on Sunday 10th May in the Lower Hall after the Church service. Posters giving details will be on the notice board nearer the time.

I am working on another quiz which should be available in March/April and to help boost funds I was wondering if we could utilize all those annoying 1p, 2p and 5p coins that collect in our purses and pockets? Christian Aid used to have special little boxes for the collection of loose change but, unfortunately, they no longer provide these

so I am preparing jam jars for this purpose! If they take a month or a year to fill it doesn't matter – every little helps! Anyone interested please see me on a Sunday.

The following message is from Christian Aid:

### **You changed lives in 2019**

Together we raised £7.5m during Christian Aid Week in 2019. We are so thankful for the powerful partnership of churches across Britain and Ireland and to our amazing volunteers who gave their time to stand with us. Your gifts helped families facing poverty and injustice worldwide. Last year, Christian Aid gave over 58,000 people access to well-built health clinics and we trained 64,000 people in hygiene practices, helping mums and children to fight off illnesses and live healthier lives. We gave 13,000 women the means to save and pay for things like transport to their nearest clinic, through community savings groups. Thank you so much for your support.

*Jennifer Townsend*

### **FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR JONG RYEO**

For the attention of Mr Jong Ryeo (also known as Chung), formerly of Thetford Road, New Malden or anyone who knows him.

The estate of the late Colin Wiltshire who died in 2008 has additional money to be passed on to Mr Ryeo. Can Mr Ryeo or anyone who knows his whereabouts please contact Simon Robinson on 07711 691 398 or [srobinson202011@gmail.com](mailto:srobinson202011@gmail.com).

### **WINGS OF HOPE KNITTERS**

*I visited the school on Tuesday 4th February and I will write about my visit in the Newsletter. Just to say I had a shock when I found out that sixty 4 year olds were admitted to the school in January and not 50 as I expected. Fortunately on the day I visited, some children were away and I did have a Bear for every child sitting at my feet.*

*I do have 10 Bears and 10 scarves at home but need 10 hats so I can make up a parcel and get them posted as soon as possible.*

*Hopefully, when you read this the red wool will be in the basket and my prayer is that*

*those who knit for me will be happy to start again.*

Thank you  
Stella



On the 24<sup>th</sup> January I flew out to Johannesburg to spend a fortnight with my school friend Margaret and her husband Roly. A gentle holiday catching up with their friends and family. My baggage seemed out of proportion for one person going to the sun for two weeks, a large suit case and a very big canvas hold-all.

As most of you know I was also going to visit the Wings of Hope Nursery School in Jepperson, a desperately poor part of Johannesburg, to deliver for the thirteenth year the fifty Teddy Bears, fifty hats, scarves and pairs of mittens knitted for me by members of the church.

On Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February my Nephew (Chair of the Trustees of the School) picked up Margaret and myself to take us to the school. As always, on arrival, we were greeted by Peter, the Caretaker, who has been at the school from its beginning in April 2005.

Everything is very basic, simple classrooms, many lessons conducted with the children sitting on the floor, a bucket in the yard for hand washing before lunch, but also a lovely feeling of quietness.



We said hello to the children who received our gifts last year and then moved on to Grade Nought, where we were to meet, so we thought fifty four year olds, but to my shock there were sixty little ones taken in this January. You can imagine how I felt as the form teacher started to give out the Bears. What was I going to do?

Fortunately for me, some little ones were away and so all those before me received a Bear. I think they were a little awe-struck by all that was going on. The Headmistress explained to them that I had come on a big aeroplane from England.

I think it is hard for us to think of a class of sixty four year olds. Yet by the time they are six they are speaking English and ready for formal education which begins when a child is rising seven in SA.

The Headmistress was so happy to tell us that every year a state school is found for every child, and in fact all the local Primary Schools loved to have the Wings Of Hope little ones. They had already learnt a lot and were very well behaved.

It was as always an uplifting visit, so many little ones fed and nurtured.

My job now is to send out ten more Bears etc. as quickly as possible. Fortunately I have the spares.

Thank you everybody; please keep knitting.

*Stella*



## TREASURES

Hi

I expect you have somethings that you treasure. It may be a toy, or pet or perhaps a picture. It may be on display or hidden away to come out only on special occasions. It may not be valuable to anyone else but to you it may be priceless.

People are often like pieces of hidden treasure, they may look shiny and attractive on the outside but it is only when they are unwrapped we can really see how valuable they are.

It is by the way that we treat one another that we discover our true worth. By helping, being kind and thoughtful, or just smiling we can transform someone's day into something special. A real friend is someone who can listen and be there when needed. They are a treasure to be with and extra precious as a person.

You are a piece of treasure already to your family and friends, the best parts of you are on the inside, the way you care for others reflects God's love , real treasure indeed. Just as Jesus was to his friends so we can try to be more like him and become more valuable to others and the world.



Yours through Jesus

*Julia*

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## NEW PROGRAMME OF SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

In response to the worship survey conducted last year the following programme has been put together to include a variety of different types of worship including some of a more reflective style. These will take place at 6.30pm starting on April 26th. Do give them a try! Flyers are available in the Welcome Area for you to take home.

April 26th

*Easter Reflection: The Journey to Emmaus*

Join the disciples walking the road to Emmaus, as Jesus sets their hearts on fire.  
Includes Holy Communion

May 24th

*Circuit Service: Celebrating Wesley Day*

A chance to sing the classic Charles Wesley hymns, as we explore the story of Methodism past and present

June 28th

*Taizé Service*

Meditative worship with Taizé music, space for quiet and a relaxed candlelit setting

July 26th

*An Evening of Iona Worship*

An open hour of Celtic-style worship with prayer stations and liturgy from the Iona Community

August 23rd

*Theology for a Summer's Evening*

A chance to explore questions of faith over a cold buffet and refreshing summer drinks

September 27th

*Exploring Prayer Taster Session*

An opportunity to try out different ways of praying, in the relaxed atmosphere of Wesley's Coffee Bar

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## DES HANCOCK

Des died suddenly on 23rd December. This is the eulogy written and delivered by Bryn Jones, a friend of Des Hancock's, at his funeral at NMMC on Feb 7th and reproduced here with permission. I am indebted to Des' sister, Elizabeth, for the 'Des Hancock: The Early Years' part of this eulogy.

Desmond Albert Hancock was born in Launceston in Cornwall on 27th August 1942 to Wilfred & Ivy Hancock. Des's father was a baker. His sister, Elizabeth, was born four years later. Elizabeth told me that Des was disappointed when he was told he had a baby sister. He thought he was going to have a big sister who would take him out.

There was another member of the household who had a big influence on Des. She was a lady who worked for the Air Ministry and had been moved to Launceston. She was going from door to door looking for somewhere to stay. Des'

mum took her in! Anyone who knows Des when going out with him for a meal or a lunch will know about his passion for mustard and marmalade. Apparently this was down to the lodger! Incidentally, this Monday my wife and I went to the Royal Horticultural Centre in Wisley. We both remembered that we had been there just before Christmas with Des. On that day he bought one jar of marmalade for himself and one for Elizabeth!

Des's father eventually got his own bakery to run. In 1948 the family took the brave step to move to Devon where they had bought 'The Steam Bakery' in the village of Horrabridge on Dartmoor. Des was proud of how hard his parents worked on the business and even helped out himself on deliveries. Fresh bread was another passion of his.

Des had a very happy childhood living in the village except for his poor health. This made his school life in the local primary school a bit of a struggle as he hardly attended a full week whilst there. Asthma dogged him all his life and only in later years was he able to control it with a mixture of improved drugs and his singing! However, despite all this illness he passed his 11+.

So off Des went to Tavistock Grammar School. Again a school he enjoyed. You might think because of his small stature he would have been bullied. But Des was not stupid. He made sure that his best friends at school were the two biggest boys in the year and from his village so he was well protected. No-one picked on Des! Incidentally both were called John so he had two Big Johns to take care of him. Des was still going to school reunions until recently. I believe there may be one or more school friends here today.

During his time at secondary school he was learning to play the piano and had a lovely singing voice.

Holidays were often spent in Cornwall near St Austell staying with his Uncle and Aunt having a good time with all his cousins and going to the beach most days.

Des left school at 16 and worked for the Blue Circle Cement Company— no he didn't have to carry around bags of cement – he worked in the office. During his time there he joined the Gilbert & Sullivan Society and also went to night school to get his A-levels.

After five years he decided he wanted his life to go in a different direction. He applied to go to Caerleon Training College in Wales (a good

choice) to become a teacher with his specialist subject of course – music!

This was when I first met him in September 1964. I was walking along the corridor one day when suddenly a small figure went rushing past me dressed only in a white sheet from the bed and a pair of sandals. It was Des going to a rehearsal. I cannot remember if it was a show about Romans or ghosts or something but it was something musical.

Another story I remember about Des in College was something called Demonstration School or Dem School as we called it. Having to go out on teaching practice was bad enough but Dem School meant that the poor student had to do a lesson to a class of children with 20 or so of his or her fellow students watching on, grinning at the back of the classroom. Des drew the short straw and decided to teach a class of 10 years the music of Gilbert & Sullivan illustrating his lesson with pieces of music played on a record player. The lesson started well then went wrong for Des had forgotten to turn on the record player then through nervousness found it difficult to find the right spot on the LP to illustrate some point or other. But to his credit he got through it.

Des left college in July 1967 and applied for the job of music teacher at St Chad's Secondary School, Tilbury in Essex. St Chad's was a very challenging school and Des did not find it easy there. He was a long way from home. However, it was made a little easier for him as his sister by chance moved to the same area so he had her support and company.

After a couple of years at St Chad's he thought perhaps primary education was more suited to him so he moved to this area working first of all in The Mount Primary School (very near to here) and then Hampton Hill Primary School. So this was where I caught up with him again. We shared a flat together for a couple of years. He found it amusing or perhaps confusing that when we had flat meetings and there were disagreements I had the casting vote! He never worked that one out!

In the late 1980s he decided that he would not spend the rest of his working life in the teaching profession and wanted another change of direction. He first of all had a temporary job in Chessington. It was here that he met Mark who eventually became his lodger. Mark and Caroline remained very good friends with Des. Eventually he applied successfully to work for the Office for National Statistics in London – what did he do

there? Well we were never sure what he did when he explained it to us. We came to the conclusion that he must have been a spy! What I do know is he really enjoyed working there and made many friends – many from ONS here today. He kept in touch with many of them when he retired.

Des eventually retired in 2002. He was worried about retiring in case he did not have enough friends or things to do. We all know the answer to that. Shortly after retiring he went down to Devon to visit his mother. Unfortunately, she became very ill and Des had to stay there to take care of her. We believe he was there for about six months taking care of her until they eventually moved her to Sutton to live next door to Elizabeth where they were both able to care for her until she died.

That is the bare bones of Des' life but there was much more to him than that!

Music as I said was his passion. He loved playing his piano and singing – he still went to singing lessons. He was first of all a member of the U3A choir and was very proud when he passed the auditions to join Wimbledon Choral Society who are here today. He loved performing with them at some of the prestigious venues in London and Surrey. He loved going to concerts with his sister and other friends.

Des was an active member of the congregation of this church. He performed in a pantomime, wrote articles in the church magazine (some controversial), worked in the café, and organised the homeless shelter weeks in the church. It seems fitting that he sang carols in this church the evening before he died.

I was thinking of what words to describe Des:

*Punctual* – not really, as he was always too early, but he was never late.

*Persistent* – I mentioned earlier that Des left school at 16 but was determined to pass his A-levels whilst at work. The same happened again in his later life when he decided to work for a BA with the Open University. It took him eight years to achieve as he had a year off here and there until he reached his objective.

*Loyal* – no one was more loyal than Des. I have mentioned his mother. He cared very much about his friends, but perhaps worried too much that they were alright. He cared about Mark & Caroline, Julian and his family, Jim, myself and Pam my wife, and many others. But most of all

his sister, who he rang every day to 'see if she is alright'.

Des loved his house in Motspur Park and was close to many of his neighbours.

He was a creature of habit – he loved going into cafés. He would not pass one without going in for a cake and a coffee. A group of us used to go to the New Forest just before Christmas for a few days. We did this for about 25 years. Des enjoyed the walking we did there but he would suddenly go missing. He would be in a café somewhere. He loved the Babylon café in Raynes Park. Jim informed the staff there that Des had died. The manager came over to Jim with his condolences and said 'Not Flat White and a slice of Lemon Drizzle!'

Politics showed the other side of Des. He could get quite angry if he saw unfairness. At our weekly trips to the Hand in Hand on Wimbledon Common he would love talking politics, could get quite irate and had little time for many politicians. He often wrote letters to his MP about some issue or other. (Mr Trump & Mr Johnson are sleeping easier now).

He could get confused on occasions. I went to pick him up one day at Shannon Corner. He took a while to get into the car. When I asked him why he was taking so long to get in he said 'I just got in someone else's car a few minutes ago!'

Des was a very kind person – always gave little presents, always sent a card to say thank you after a meal, night out etc. or a phone call.

I was trying to think of a good sentence to sum Des up. Then I received a card from a friend John Waddleton who was moved on hearing of Des' passing. He summed up Des beautifully when he wrote 'Des inhabited a world of kindness, gentleness, a world of sincerity and peace. It was his nature in all he said and all he did!' That sums him up perfectly.

I found this quote: *'A light has gone out and all we have left is the precious memory of how brightly it burned, and the warmth it gave us'*

Des was a one-off. We will all miss him.

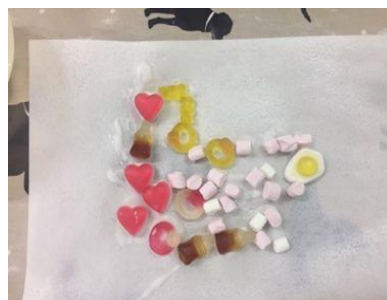
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The deadline for the next (April) issue is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Email contributions to [john.cronin@unix.net](mailto:john.cronin@unix.net) or leave them in the editor's pigeon hole please.

*Thanks, John C*

## Make Lunch

Here are some edible pictures made with great enthusiasm by the children who came to Make Lunch in half term.



## Services in March

1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am All Age Worship led by Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge

8<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship led by Revd Denis Vernon

15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Local Arrangement

22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am All Age Worship led by Ms Sally Rush

22<sup>nd</sup> 3.00pm Afternoon Tea & Chat led by Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge

29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion led by Revd Stan Brown



**New Malden  
Methodist Church**  
*At the heart of the High Street*

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



*New Malden Methodist Church*

*Cast and Crew*

*Proudly Invite you to a  
Springtime Pantomime on*



*Saturday 4th April 2pm and 7pm*

## **Snow White & Friends**

*Tickets available from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March*

Adults £6 Concessions £4 Child (under 16) £3

Proceeds to NMMC Christian Aid Project

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### **Diary Dates for March 2020**

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Films with Friends at the home of Eleanor and Andy Roberts
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	Badminton
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Panto Rehearsal
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Friday Fellowship
	1.45pm	World Day of Prayer service at New Malden URC
	2.10pm	Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton
	7.20pm	3Fs at the home of Liz & Rob Edwards
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Alzheimer's Society – Glynis Fox
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Music in New Malden
		Guildhall School of Music & Drama Historical Performance Dept. 17 <sup>th</sup> Century baroque masterpieces for voices and instruments
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – AGM & Games
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Bereavement Café
	7.00pm	Badminton
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Memory Café
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Panto Rehearsal
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	2.10pm	Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Women's Institute
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Kingston District Chamber Music Concert
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	1.10pm	Lunchtime Concert – Douglas Tang - Organ
	7.00pm	Badminton
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Creative Arts
	7.00pm	Panto Rehearsal
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.10pm	Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Bar – West Barnes Singers
	10.00am	Good Friday Music Rehearsal
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Pastoral Committee
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Panto Rehearsal
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Bar – Amnesty
	10.15am	Good Friday Music Rehearsal
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Panto Dress Rehearsal (TBC)

