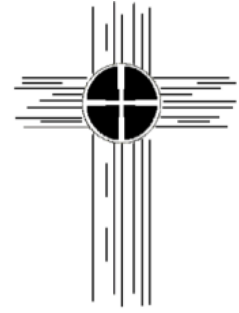


The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church May 2018



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Message from Karl

Greetings!

“In the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh ... then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:17, 21). These words come from Peter’s speech to the sceptical crowds, within a famous passage at the beginning of Acts. Following Jesus’ crucifixion, the disciples were hiding in an upper room for fear of the authorities, when on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon them with tongues of fire, transforming them from people cowering in the corner into disciples proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to all-comers.

This is a fascinating text from a biblical studies point of view, which is useful as I had to write a six-thousand-word essay on it at theological college! The quotation put into Peter’s mouth comes from the prophet Joel, and referred to God’s Spirit being poured out upon all the people of Israel, as God’s chosen people. However, Luke makes some subtle changes to the wording (we know which version of the Greek translation Old Testament was used, and hence can precisely pinpoint the edits) which massively

expands the scope of this prophecy. All the world, Jews and Gentiles alike, can call upon the name of the Lord and be saved, because of Christ’s life, death and resurrection. The events of Pentecost, therefore, kick-started the process of the Gospel being proclaimed to all nations.

This year, the festival of Pentecost falls on the 20th of May, and the sanctuary will be decked out in red, to mark the coming of the Holy Spirit in flame and rushing wind, and thus the birth of the Church. On the same Sunday, we will also be having our Annual General Meeting, the main focus of which will be mission planning. It represents a great opportunity to hear about where my thinking is at, get an update on things like the rebranding of the coffee bar, and to contribute to shaping the direction of travel for the church over the coming year.

As we move forward as a community, the theme of renewal which pervades Pentecost Sunday is a great one for us to keep in mind. We’re already doing some fantastic stuff to make connections with, and reach out to, the wider community of New Malden. Our location at the heart of the High Street gives us a launchpad from which to further develop our mission, and take risks for God which open up the potential for growth in all sorts of ways. God is nothing if not a God of surprises, and when we step out in faith, God honours that.

However, you don’t need me to tell you that mission is also hard work. Receiving the Holy Spirit did not stop the early Church having to wrestle with some hard questions about its character, priorities, scope and survival in an often-hostile climate. Acts and Paul’s letters reveal some of the conflict and arguments which took place. Moreover, while Luke

tends to focus on the 'successes' of Peter, Paul and so on, we also see some of their failures. Stepping out in faith means risking failure, which isn't something we're always very comfortable with in church life, but is part of the process of growth.

So, as we look to Pentecost, my invitation to you is to join me in prayerfully exploring the possibilities for renewal and growth here in New Malden.

Every blessing,

Karl

A stark message



Due to shortage of Church Stewards!

How would you feel if you arrived at Church on a Sunday morning for the 10.30am service and found this notice on the door?

Let us pray that it does not become a reality. However if Members of New Malden Methodist Church continue to be reluctant to serve as Church Stewards it might.

The present team of Church Stewards, Julie Haines, Alison Bullett and Jenny Reid are receiving great support from the newly recruited 'Vestry Stewards' as well as from our Lay Workers Sarah and Julia. Julie will have completed her four year term in September leaving only Alison and Jenny. It is unrealistic to expect only two Stewards to be responsible for ensuring that worship takes place in our church every Sunday.

The more Stewards we have the less work each will have to do, we need a team of four to function effectively. The appointment of Church Stewards needs to be done at the Annual Church Meeting on 20th May.

If you want to know more about this role please ask Julie, Jenny or Alison. If you are not yet a confirmed Member of the Methodist Church and are willing to serve as a Church Steward please talk to Karl about Confirmation or Membership or transferring membership from another church.

Please think and pray about this and listen to God for his prompting.

The Church Stewards

Christian Aid Week 13th-19th May



Here are two dates for your diaries:

- Bread and Cheese Lunch: Sunday 13th May
- Coffee Morning and cake sale: Saturday 19th May

As we no longer have so many house-to-house collections (one road, this year) it was decided we should repeat last year's extra fundraising by having two additional coffee mornings. These were held in February and March and brought in over £200 - so a big thank you to all involved.

This year we are going to try something new. A static collection outside the church just for 2 hours during the coffee morning on the 19th May. If we can find 4 volunteers it will mean only a half hour stint! If anyone is willing to undertake this please let me know.

And finally.....

Once again we have put together two quizzes and these are now ready for purchase!

The Literary Quiz at £2.00 and The Towns and Cities Quiz at £1.00 are available from Jennifer Townsend (020 8942 6867).

Support Christian Aid and have fun too!

Jennifer Townsend

Farewell to the organ – for now

So here is the moment, almost the last note played on the organ before it was dismantled and sent away to be reconditioned. I'll ask Alan V to take a similar picture when it comes back in the Autumn.



Singing in care homes

A small group of singers has been singing on a regular basis at the White House Nursing Home for about 3 years now. We are repeatedly told by the Activities Co-ordinator there that we are very much appreciated, and the residents look forward to our visits. Certainly the number of participants has risen over the years, although of course we have sadly seen many individuals come and go over that time.

But we soldier on! Our repertoire is wide, ranging from folk songs that the older folk remember from their school days, through to classic songs of the 30s, 40s and 50s, interspersed with favourites from Musicals such as South Pacific, The Sound of Music and Oliver. We sing for about 45 minutes and then enjoy a cup of something together. It is a very jolly and convivial time, and it is good to see some people who would

otherwise be sitting in silence, joining in with a smile at recollected words and melodies.

Recently we were asked if we could go and sing some hymns at Speirs House, where a few of our members were residing. We did this on 3 occasions, including a Maundy Thursday Service, before Margaret Eccleshall, one of our most enthusiastic and appreciative supporters, sadly died. Monika Schaffer is moving out shortly, so Doug Bryan will be the only member of our congregation still there and able to participate. However, it has been very gratifying to see that a number of the other residents are very keen to take part in this activity, and we will be continuing it on a monthly basis as long as the need is there. We mostly take large- print hymn books and ask for requests, but from time to time we will add prayers and readings. The room was full on Maundy Thursday, and last week it was good to be able to follow this up with some Easter Hymns, and then sing Happy Birthday to Monika and share a beautifully decorated birthday cake with her. It is good to see what excellent progress she has made in recent months, and we are glad that she now feels able to move out into a flat where she will have support but also more independence. We also remembered Margaret at the start of the session by singing Make Me a Channel of Your Peace.

If you would like to join us on any occasion, we would welcome some additional support. You do not have to 'Sign up' for a regular commitment, neither do you have to have a particularly good voice.

We tend to stick to Thursdays: 10 am for the White House and 3 pm for Speirs House. Why not give it a try? Informal singing is very good for the brain and the soul, and although you might be surprised at how much you know already, words are provided. Please speak to Alison to get the next dates.

Around the Circuit

CIRCUIT NEWS

Moving Stories Conference: 20-22 July

The London District has arranged a conference under its "Moving Stories" initiative at which attendees will share stories, learn about migration, and be equipped to make a difference in their community. The conference will take place from 20-22 July in Hoddesdon, and the cost will be £60 for adults, £40 for children (under 16) and students, and it is free for under 5's. The Circuit has agreed to meet these costs for anyone who wants to attend, and it would be helpful if anyone who plans to attend could let the Circuit Office know.

People can register online at www.movingstorieslondon.com/conference. For more information call 020 7654 3850

Volunteer Opportunity: Circuit Safeguarding Officer

The Circuit is seeking a new Safeguarding Officer from summer 2018. We are very grateful to Mike Bibby who has filled this role for several years and helped lead us through the transition to new and much stronger safeguarding arrangements. The Circuit Safeguarding Officer supports the Circuit in developing and implementing its safeguarding policy. The officer keeps records of appointments, DBS checks and safeguarding training for Circuit posts helps to co-ordinate our Circuit safeguarding training (we already have two qualified trainers within the Circuit), and ensures that we stay up to date with policy and procedures.

Training is available to support the role and there are regular District safeguarding conferences. The Methodist London District also has an employed part time Safeguarding Officer who supports the work of our Circuit and local safeguarding officers. Virtually all

our safeguarding administration is no "on line" and the safeguarding officer will need normal internet and email access.

This is a really vital role in the life of our Circuit and the support of all our local churches. We are absolutely committed to building safe spaces for everyone in all our churches. If you would like to know more or to explore volunteering please get in touch with Stan:

superintendent@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

Keeping Your Information Safe

We live in a society where data is easy to store and easy to share - this helps us to communicate quickly and efficiently but it also brings an obligation for organisations to keep information safe. From the end of May new legislation about "Data Protection" comes into force and this affects all organisations and businesses - including our Circuit and Churches. Each local church is already working to make sure that the information we have is held properly and securely. The Circuit also holds data and must do the same. The change which affects most people is that we will need your explicit consent to include any names and contact details in the Circuit Directory (and your local Church directories). As we prepare the next Circuit Directory this summer those whose details are normally included will receive an email or a letter asking them to agree to their contact details being stored and included in the directory. Behind the scenes there is quite a lot of other work going on to make sure we are ready for the new legislation - our thanks to everyone in the Circuit and local churches who is helping with this.

CHURCH EVENTS

CHESSINGTON

Flower Festival: As part of our 70 years anniversary celebration at Chessington Methodist Church we will be holding a

Flower Festival on Saturday and Sunday 12 and 13 May from 1.00 to 6.00pm. Everybody is welcome. Entry is free but there will be a voluntary collection for Chessington & Hook Voluntary Care Scheme. Refreshments will be available. We look forward to welcoming visitors from the rest of the Circuit.

KINGSTON

Annual Plant and Produce Sale This takes place at Kingston Methodist Church on Saturday 12 May, 10.30-12.30 - hundreds of indoor and outdoor plants for sale, as well as home-made cakes and preserves, books, toys and games, gifts, handicrafts, jewellery and refreshments.

SURBITON HILL

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

The next Quiet Days are:

June 23rd led by Rev Andrew Pakes

November 24th led by Rev Denis Vernon

Anyone for Tennis?

At Manor Drive, Surbiton (between numbers 11 13) the church has six all weather tennis courts and a pavilion. Members of the Methodist Church and its congregation are particularly welcome to join this family club. We have play equipment for children, and we have players of all standards.

The club meets on Saturday afternoons, when doubles sets are arranged (so no need to have a partner), and teas are served; and on some evenings. Sets solely for men and ladies are arranged on Wednesday mornings and Thursday mornings respectively.

The club runs on a "self help" basis, such that we all chip in. Please do not hesitate to have a chat with our captain Terry Ingham on 0208 399 8294 (email inghamkathryn@hotmail.com). Or just come along.

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 so that it can be included in each Church's next newsletter or magazine.

Please send contributions by Tuesday 7 May to: circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

Summary of April Notices

Harry Thorogood has been moved to St Helier Hospital and is still very poorly.

Jane Bennett recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Happy birthday!

Our beautiful church flowers on Easter Sunday 1st April were arranged by Pam Wardley and donated by Ann Bedford to celebrate her Mother's (Audrey Bedford) 92nd birthday. So Happy Birthday to Audrey as well.

Also on 1st April, Stella and Maurice Chattle were celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary which was on 29th March. Stella sent the following message to be published the Sunday after:
To everybody at church on Easter morning. Maurice and I want to say a huge thank you for all the love shown to us on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding. Such a special day celebrating Easter Day and all that means to us, Audrey Bedford's Birthday and Jane Bennett's Birthday and her coming home from hospital.
Our thanks too Nigel for a very special service. I will never forget it!
With love Stella.

A message from Donald Finnan: I would like to express my immense gratitude for the support I have had in recent months through prayer, cards and emails and through the presence of so many people at the Thanksgiving Service for Barbara. Thank you so much.

Sadly we have recently lost two of our long-standing members. Margaret Eccleshall died on Saturday 14th April and John King passed away peacefully in the evening of 15th April. Our prayers are with their families.

Margaret's funeral service was held here on Thursday 3rd May at 12.15pm followed by a burial at Wokingham.

John's funeral will be a cremation at 9.30am on Monday 14th May followed by a memorial service here at 11.00 with refreshments afterwards at the golf club.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations for the Marsden March over the past few weeks. Our team have raised an amazing £1284, £455 of which came from the New Malden Methodist church congregation. This far exceeded our target and made all the effort of the 14 miles worthwhile.

The money raised will help fund the pioneering research done by the Royal Marsden to give cancer patients, myself included, hope for the future.

Nicky Horton

3F's

An advance notice that the next 3 F's will be at the home of Susan and David Knowles on Friday, 11th May

SAVE THE DATE FOR PRAISE IN THE PARK

Praise in the Park this year will take place on Sunday 20th May. Bring a picnic and take part in workshops from 12.30, share in a praise service at 2.00pm followed by games. Previous events have been greatly enjoyed by all who attended so come along and join in.

MEETING POINT

A Few of our Favourite Things – a musical evening led by Alison and Peter. Come and join with Meeting Point on Tuesday May 8th 7.30 for 8pm to enjoy some light- hearted old favourites. Audience participation may be required...

Diary Dates for May 2018

Tuesday 1st 7.00pm
Senior Badminton

Thursday 3rd 7.00am – 10.00pm
Local Elections – Lower Hall in use as Polling Station
12.15pm Funeral of Margaret Eccleshall (Margaret's coffin in church from 11.15am)

Friday 4th 10.30am
Friday Fellowship

Saturday 5th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Barnardo's – Glynis Fox

Sunday 6th
Annual Report available in Church

Tuesday 8th 7.00pm
Junior Badminton

Tuesday 8th 7.30pm
Meeting Point – A Few of our Favourite Things – a musical evening led by Alison and Peter Bullett

Wednesday 9th 2.00pm
Home Instead Memory Café in the Welcome Area

Thursday 10th 8.00pm
Church Council Meeting

Friday 11th 7.30pm
3 Fs at the Knowles'

Saturday 12th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Amnesty

Sunday 13th
Christian Aid lunch after Morning Worship

Monday 14th 11.00am
John King Memorial service following cremation at Kingston Crematorium at 9.30am

7.30pm
Wives & Friends – Poems

Tuesday 15th 7.00pm
Senior Badminton

Thursday 17th 2.00pm
Arts Group

Saturday 19th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – Christian Aid

Sunday 20th Church AGM
12.30 – 4.00pm
Praise in the Park

Monday 21st 7.30pm
Wives & Friends – Holiday Trips

7.30pm
Kingston District Chamber Music Society
Concert

Tuesday 22nd 7.00pm
Junior Badminton

Saturday 26th 10.00am
Coffee Bar – VACANT (please see Sarah
Moore if you would like to run the coffee bar
on this date and raise money for your
favourite charity)

Tuesday 29th 7.00pm
Senior Badminton

Children's Page

Hi,

Are you a team player or an individual sports player, or a keen spectator?

Sports are played for fun, and it's not the winning it's the taking part. Although elite athletes may well disagree. They play to win whether as part of a team or an individual having put in hours if not years of training to achieve their goal.

There is an element of fun in taking part. As a team member you need to work alongside others, listening to their ideas and co-operating with them for the task or sport to be performed well.

There is almost always one person who takes the lead, a self-appointed or selected person who becomes the team leader or captain. This leader may do really well, leading by example and inspiring others or be a disaster by just being bossy!

Sometimes there can be disagreement, caused by more than one team member being determined to take the lead and then a deal has to be struck.

All sports and games are governed by rules and by everyone following the same rules to make the participating fair. If one team member decides to disregard the rules, then the game is no longer fun or being played honestly. If won by cheating then the victory is not so rewarding.

Jesus was a great team leader or his disciples would never have stayed with him. I sometimes think that Peter would have loved to be in charge sometimes but he recognised that Jesus was his leader and followed him. Will you do the same?

Love through Jesus

Julia

Services in May

6th May – Mrs Bridges – all age worship

13th May – Mr Fullbrook –

20th May – Rev Rutledge followed by the AGM. Café Church with Rev Brown in the evening.

27th May – Revs Rutledge and Brown and Holy Communion.

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Deadline for the next issue is 25th May. Please leave contributions in the editor's pigeon hole or email carolineauty@hotmail.com by 9am.

Church contact details



NMMC

49 High Street, New Malden

KT3 4BY

020 8942 1288

nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

newmalDENmethodistchurch.com

I will pour out my Spirit on all my

people

Joel 2:28
Acts 2:17

R = red
Y = yellow
O = orange



When the Spirit came to the disciples it looked like this

If someone comes to you hoping to find God's love, would they find you full half full empty?

If you want to be filled with God's Spirit, this is what to do...

God's Spirit is like a fire

