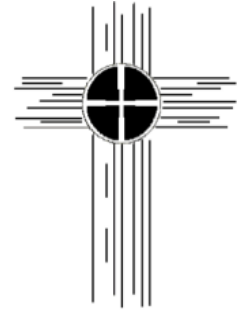


# The Newsletter of

## New Malden Methodist Church

### September 2018



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#### Message from Karl



Happy new Methodist year!

It's hard to believe that a year has already passed since I arrived in New Malden and Kingston; part of me feels I've been here two minutes and part of me forever! At the beginning of a new Connexional year, I hope we can embrace the opportunities and challenges ahead in a confident frame of mind, as there's much to look forward to in the coming months. As we continue to prayerfully explore what it

means to be at the heart of the High Street, and begin projects such as the bereavement café, we can trust that God walks with us as we journey together and take holy risks.

As we also move towards Advent, and the conclusion of another liturgical year (the Church has quite a few cycles of years running simultaneously!), the lectionary turns back once again towards Mark's Gospel and the events around the key turning point in that text, in which Peter was the first to declare that Jesus is the Messiah, the Holy One of Israel. Jesus responds by saying that if anyone wants to be a disciple, they must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him (Mark 8:27 – 38). From there, the action shifts towards Jerusalem, and ultimately, the cross and resurrection.

At the heart of Christian discipleship is, therefore, a pattern of dying and rising in Christ which shows why Isaac Watts was right to say that love so amazing and divine really does demand our souls, our lives and our all. Taking up our crosses isn't about putting up with something unpleasant or irritating for a season but entering wholeheartedly into a process of being shaped and refined into the 'best' version of ourselves, that which God always intended us to become. God both says a crucifying 'no' to that which gets in the way of not just our flourishing, but that of the world around us, and a great big resurrecting 'YES!' to all that makes for fullness of life.

In these next few months, we're thus invited to consider what discipleship looks like in some depth, and how God might be shaping and

changing us, both individually and collectively. We've the great advantage where we are of a fantastic location on the High Street, and I believe of being a genuinely warm and welcoming community. These give us a solid foundation from which to build when thinking about our collective discipleship. However, Jesus is always calling us onward, and if we are to truly be (at) the heart of the High Street, we'll need to continue to be shaped and refined by God.

The period from now until Christmas is one of the busiest of the whole year (Methodist or calendar!), and in the midst of meetings, services, community events, and so on, it can be so easy for the space we need for prayer and reflection to be squeezed. Yet, if this process of refinement and growth is to have a chance to take place, it's vital that we seek out opportunities to pray together and encourage one another. Perhaps the new afternoon format for Café Church will be part of that for some of you. Whatever the context, though, let's pray that God will inspire and equip us to deepen our discipleship so that we and those around us might know God's love, and the fullness of life in Christ.

Every blessing,

Karl

## A Look Ahead from Alison



September is the start of a new year not just in Education, but also in the Methodist Church.

As we go into this new Autumn Term, Julie Haines steps down as Senior Steward and I take over, probably for two years. Julie has done a

tremendous amount for the Church and I would like to thank her on behalf of everyone in the congregation for all the work she has done in the role and far beyond it. Last September we welcomed Karl, and as he goes round for the second time, and I start my term of office, it is reassuring to know that Julie will still be there, guiding and informing us about the various matters in the Church Year to which the Senior Steward has to turn her hand. Julie will also continue to look after the children's activities in our increased number of All Age Worship services and do the overhead projector slides, which is a particular relief to me!

I am still finding out exactly what the job entails. I never saw myself in this role and resisted it for many years – it always seemed far too responsible and grown up. But here we are – I will do my best and I know you will be indulgent when I make mistakes. I suppose if Karl is the Managing Director ('If only!', I hear him sigh!) then perhaps the Senior Steward is the CEO? Never having worked in an environment which has either, I am not quite clear about the demarcation, which perhaps is good, as we will all need to work together as a team.

One of the key aspects of the role is as co-ordinator, between congregation, Minister and Circuit, so I hope you will feel able to talk to me about any church matters so that I can feed back to the right quarters - that way we can all move forward together in a positive spirit of hope. Our congregation is getting smaller, and much has been written recently about the difficulty of recruiting people to key roles and committees. Although we now only have two stewards instead of the usual four, we do have a good body of people who have come forward as Vestry Stewards, to help with the many tasks on a Sunday, on a rota basis, and I do want to thank Ali Walsh, Jenny Townsend, Molly Simmonds, Pam Wardley and Michelle Lee for their support. Your role is vital to Jenny and me and will even allow us to have the occasional Sunday off! Other people of course already do crucial jobs week after week, and I feel there is a good Community feel and a Team Spirit.

There is much to look forward to in the coming months. Work on the organ is coming on well, and it should be back in place – restored to much more than its previous glory – well in time for Christmas. The Welcome Area and website will see further development as we seek to explore ways in which we can further expand our outreach to the High street and into the Community. There is the Harvest weekend, there are the Sunday concerts starting again in October, and much, much more.

So how can you help? Firstly, by supporting the various events in the Church diary. Don't be shy of asking for a lift if this would make things easier for you. Do let me know if you are willing to read on a Sunday morning, wash a tablecloth or some tea towels, bake a cake and support the Saturday coffee mornings which happen every single week. There is always something to be done for your Church... let's communicate with each other and work together!

Alison Bullett

## **Prayer Walking**

### **The event**

In July Churches Together in New Malden organised a prayer walking event during the New Malden Fortnight. Eight churches were each asked to cover an area of roads on a specific evening. We were allocated the roads bounded by the railway station to the Fountain; Burlington Road, Beverley Road, Egmont Road, Onslow Road, Park View and Dukes Avenue. Six of us set off on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and between us covered all those roads with our prayers. We were also supported by four others who prayed at their own homes.

We shared out thoughts afterwards and although each had their own feelings about taking part we all felt uplifted by the experience.

The mission of our church is to become more involved in the local community and

this is one way in which we can carry our mission forward.

### **What does it involve and how do we pray?**

Jesus warned his disciples against praying on street corners and advised them to go to their room and close the door to pray to God our Father. Indeed, we read in the Bible how Jesus often withdrew to a quiet place to pray. However it is possible to find quiet while walking in the evening as we pray silently for the people living there.

Churches Together in New Malden encouraged us to pray for the homes we passed, for peace and reconciliation in any difficult relationships, for loving, positive relationships between neighbours, for local Christians to be known and effective in their witness. There were also visual pointers for prayer as we walked such as children's toys - pray for the family; a neglected front garden indicating perhaps an elderly person, maybe students living there or someone with mental health problems.

### **When should we do this again?**

Do we wait until the New Malden Fortnight next year? If we are committed to our mission I think we should walk and pray for people in the roads near to the church on a regular basis. If our team of six could be doubled to twelve we could become the 'local disciples' carrying the love of Jesus quietly to our neighbours. Some of you might like to pray for the people who live in the same road as you. Others less able to walk could pray for a few chosen roads at home.

**Please talk to me if you are willing to serve Jesus in this way.**

Jenny Reid

Pastoral Secretary

PS

**Remember there is also the opportunity to pray every Saturday at 10.30 - 10.45am for the requests on the Prayer Board placed there by members of the church family and by people who come into the coffee bar from the local community.**

### **New Malden Passion Play**

Word is spreading - and excitement is building - about the New Malden Passion Play. This initiative was launched by Churches Together in Malden but is a community project for anyone and everyone who would like to be involved. The play will take place on Saturday 13 April in Blagdon Park. Please save the date.

I shall be holding a coffee morning here on Saturday 15 September to raise funds and awareness and to advertise the next meeting which will be held at the URC at 3pm the following Saturday 22 September. Come along and find out more! Also see the posters in the Welcome Area. If you'd like to go on the mailing list either drop a line to [info@nmpassionplay.com](mailto:info@nmpassionplay.com) or give/text me your email address.

Hilary Warner 07796 157490

### **Local Arrangement Service on 12<sup>th</sup> August**

Local arrangement service on 12th August.

Despite only 56 in the congregation the service was a great success, raising the profile of the Women's World Day of Prayer. The service had been prepared by a group of women in Suriname and was thought-provoking in many ways..

Suriname is a small country on the North East Coast of South America. North of Brazil. it has been governed over the years by the Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French, Spanish

and English prior to gaining Independence. Over 300,000 slaves were brought from Africa to work in the fields and on plantations. As a result, the population now has many people of Asian, African and European descent.

The service was based on The Creation Story, Genesis 1 v1 – 31. This passage ends with God giving people dominion over the things created. Mankind should be caring for the world, but sadly this is often not the case. Several people took part in the service, depicting the ways in which we use and waste the world's resources. and offering prayers in which we asked for forgiveness, help and inspiration to change this situation.

At the end of the service we were asked to make a commitment to care for our world. Members of the congregation made their commitments by writing on pictures of turtles which were then passed to the children present –representing 'the future'- to attach to the display of a large clean beach. An ideal world?





Some commitments made-

'Recycle fully' - 'Find ways of not having plastics to recycle' - 'avoid having to use plastic bags' - 'feed and care for the birds and animals in my garden' - 'Don't waste food' - 'Don't waste our natural resources'

Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this memorable occasion.

### Café Church – change of time!

For a trial period over the next 6 months Cafe Church will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month and at 3pm in the coffee bar not at 6.30pm.

### Summary of Notices

Very many congratulations to **Becky Edwards and Matthew Harris** who are excited to announce their engagement.

Sadly, we have to report that **Harry Thorogood** died on Thursday morning, 2nd August. He was receiving palliative care at home and slipped away very peacefully. His memorial service was held here on Wednesday 22nd August. Julia and Betty were very grateful to everyone who helped in any way and for the care and love that all the family have received.

**Jean Bedford** is in good spirits and recovering well after her recent fall and subsequent half hip replacement.

Congratulations to **Hannah Walsh** on gaining the required A level grades to enable her to study Photography at Falmouth University and to any other young people who have had exam success.

### MALAWI TRIP

Hello, in less than one month I will be setting off to Malawi for nearly three weeks! I am working with three other Guide leaders to run the London and South East England Girlguiding International Expedition to Malawi. We will be taking 14 guiding members aged 14-17 years. Whilst we are away we will be working with an organisation called Fisherman's Rest that orchestrate and support a number of local community projects. I would like to thank all those that have supported me with this adventure, particularly through the coffee morning, quiz night and the pantomime.

I look forward to sharing my experiences on my return! Becky Edwards x

Tis the season for **Jam and Chutney** making

Wanted Jam Jars with lids please. Fruit and veg always well received. Julie

### SITUATIONS VACANT

Could you once a month be a VESTRY STEWARD?

In September there will be only 2 stewards. Could you be at church at 10am and help set up, press the button on the slide projector to move on the screen in services when Karl is not leading (it's very easy). After the service bundle the flowers into 2 or 3 bunches. Collect up the orders of service left in the pews. Chat with Jenny Townsend or see Julie or Alison



Could you once a month sit with the children sticking and gluing in the corner (you would not be alone and they don't bite!) see Julie

### THANK YOUs

- To all those who helped in any way with the fund raising coffee morning and sale held by Wives & Friends last Saturday. We amazingly raised £256 which, together with the £61 collected at the Christmas Tree Festival, means we can make a donation of £317 to 'Toilet Twinning' a charity helping sanitation in the third world countries. Once again, many thanks. Doreen Downey

- Many many thanks to all who provided for, or helped with the coffee bar, cakes, lunches and bric-a-brac stall for the Saturdays of Malden Fortnight. We raised just over £680 for **Water Aid**.

- To **Rhian and Greg Martis-Jones, Julie Haines** and everyone else who contributed to last week's Family BBQ. Although the weather conspired against us, a good time and lunch was had by all in the church halls.

- Thank you to all who came and gave so generously at our **3Fs summer barbecue** in aid of Kingston Community Refugee Support. We raised a magnificent £125 which has been passed on to the KCRS Treasurer (our own Karl) in support of their work to help host a Syram refugee family in Kingston.

Angie and Andrew Turner

- **Church Garden Party –**

thank you very much to all the helpers and cake makers who made the (indoor!) garden party an enjoyable event. We were able to send £87 to the Literacy in a Box Trust. This is one of the coffee bar projects for this year

and there is some information about it in the coffee bar. Pam and Alan

**PLEASE NOTE** - as an experiment, we are changing the timing of **Cafe Church** to 3pm in order to try and encourage more people to give it a try. It is a shorter, informal style of worship, held once a month in the Welcome Area with refreshments and usually some discussion. Why not come for a 'Taster' session! The dates are Sept 16, Oct 21 and Nov 18.

### LOOKING AHEAD



Our **Harvest weekend is Oct 6/7**. Please keep these dates free and see details in the September newsletter.

Please also see the notice in the Welcome Area about the **Hymn Fest at the Kingston URC** on Oct 6, or speak to Peter Bullett. These events are not connected, but it will easily be possible to do both!



### **3Generate 1000 Letters**

Can you write a letter to children and young people attending 3Generate, the Methodist Church event for and led by young people? A letter to help them be courageous in their faith by sharing something of your own faith story.

Could you share something about your experiences of being part of a church/faith community. Maybe you remember special people or moments from growing up in a church - could you share some of that story?

Guidance for letter writers

The purpose of the letter is to help children and young people feel connected to, and part of, the wider body of the Church; to feel part of the big Methodist family!

Who is the letter for?

- The letter you write will be displayed at 3Generate to be read by a number of children and young people.
- The children and young people at 3Generate will be in the age bracket of 8-23. If your letter is written particularly for younger children, or the older attendees, then please make a note of that when you post it to us. Otherwise, you can write a general letter aimed at all ages.

What to include:

- something of your faith story – you won't necessarily have space to include all of it, but you may think that there are parts

that would be interesting for the children and young people to hear about.

- something about your experiences of being part of a church/faith community. Maybe you were part of a church when you were younger - could you share some of that story?
- things you have learned - again you won't be able to include everything, but are there key things you have learned about life and faith that would be helpful to share?
- encouragement for the younger generation to be courageous in their faith.
- Please make sure that the language you use and the stories you refer to are appropriate for the age group.

How to write it.

- A handwritten letter is more personal, so if it is possible for you, please do write by hand, but if you need to type it that's fine too!
- please don't put your address, or any personal contact details, on the letter.
- please don't put your surname on the letter; simply sign it with your first name.

How long should it be? Ideally your letter should be one side of A4.

Please send your completed letter to:  
3Generate 1000 Letters, 6th Floor,  
Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone  
Road, London, NW1 5JR

to arrive by mid October at the latest.

## Around the Circuit

### An Apology

We've managed to make an interesting typo on the September to November Preaching Plan. Our October Circuit Service will include a celebration not of "50 Services" from **Carolyn Doe**, but her "50 years of service" as a Local Preacher. We imagine Carolyn may have taken a few more than 50 services in that time!

### Riding Lights Theatre



At 7pm on 30 September we join with Churches Together in Surbiton to present the Riding Lights Theatre touring show at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church:

People are out on the street.

Another generation is looking for answers – a rich young executive, an angry gang leader, religious fanatics streaming live, baristas, professors, YouTubers, activists, a surprising refugee and the pizza delivery bloke who bought some seriously expensive jewellery.

Despite their differences and social divisions, everyone wants to meet one extraordinary person: Jesus has arrived on their street. There's always trouble on the street and he's looking to do something about it...

This is the second tour for this popular show from an established Christian theatre company. Ticket sales (£10) will open in August via the Riding Lights website/phone with a limited number available directly in our churches.

### Quarterly Plan of Church Services

We are aware that some people would prefer to receive a copy of the Quarterly Plan by email. If you would like to be added to the email circulation list to receive future copies of the Plan please contact the Circuit Coordinator, Michael Axton by sending an email to:

[circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk)

### Circuit Service on 29 July – Message from the Tennis Club

What a pleasure it was for the tennis club to be the hosts for the July circuit service. In the event the weather did not live up to its recent form so all attending were packed into the club house. But we certainly got to know each other as well as enjoying the food, entertainment and service that followed!

The pianists and drummer had everyone's feet tapping as we listened to a great array of music which brought great joy to everyone. The Kingston music group led us so beautifully in our worship with their singing, and Stan had organized a more informal style of worship which suited the occasion so well. The presence of God was obvious!

It was also really good to have some young people from the circuit with us and we were pleased they used the tennis courts to hone



their skills. Perhaps we will have some new junior members from the circuit wanting to join us next year??

Let's hope this uplifting event will be repeated. It certainly was a success!!

## **CHURCH EVENTS**

### **CHESSINGTON**

#### **History of Chessington Methodist Church**

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of Chessington Methodist Church, a small (36 page) twenty-year update to the church's history publication has been prepared. The first half uses the same format as Peter Roe's 1998 history of the church ("The Faith House"), covering the first 50 years from 1948 to 1998, in the form of a diary. The second half has all our regular church events, then our church groups, and then other groups that use our premises. Finally there is a list of many of the members who are no longer with us.

There are over 100 photos, so nearly everyone appears at least somewhere. You can purchase a copy for £2.50 – if you would like one please contact John Botterill.

There are a further 120 photos covering the last 20 years which are being added to the church's archive, which Sue and Ian Wells maintained.

### **SURBITON HILL**

#### **Harvest Barn Dance – 6 October**

Surbiton Hill church invites you to a Harvest Barn Dance on Saturday 6 October (7 till 9.30pm). A hot supper is included in the ticket price, which is £12 per person, under 16s free. Bring your own drinks. This is an all-age event and children are very welcome. We will be having LIVE MUSIC provided by the OUCH! band, which many of you might recognise as the band which our minister,

Stan, used to play in! We are hoping they'll let him have a go! We would love to have a mix of people from all our circuit churches, and anyone else, so do join us.

### **Quiet Days at the House of Prayer, East Molesey**

A Quiet Day provides a valuable opportunity to develop an understanding of oneself and one's relationship with God and to find peace in his presence. Held at the House of Prayer in East Molesey twice a year, these days provide a valuable opportunity for anyone in the Church family or Circuit to experience a day apart in the unique atmosphere of this special place.

The next Quiet Day is on November, led by Rev Denis Vernon.

### **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 Monday 10 September to:  
[circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk)

## Services in September

2<sup>nd</sup> September – Mrs Webb and All Age Worship

9<sup>th</sup> September – Rev Rutlidge

16<sup>th</sup> September – Rev Rutlidge and again later on for Café Church

23<sup>rd</sup> – Rev Brown and Holy Communion

30<sup>th</sup> September – Ms Rush. PLUS – Riding Lights Theatre Company at Surbiton Hill for the evening circuit service.

Deadline for the next issue is 21<sup>st</sup> September. Please leave contributions in the editor's pigeon hole or email [carolineauty@hotmail.com](mailto:carolineauty@hotmail.com) by 9am.



**NMMC** 49 High Street, New Malden  
KT3 4BY 020 8942 1288  
[nmmc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nmmc@hotmail.co.uk)  
[newmaldenmethodistchurch.com](http://newmaldenmethodistchurch.com)

## Diary Dates for September

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 10.00am **Coffee Bar – Action for Children** – Turner Family

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> 5.00pm **Property Committee Meeting** (Welcome Area)

7.00pm **Junior Badminton**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am  
**Wednesday Fellowship**

4.00pm **Finance Committee Meeting** (Welcome Area)

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **Friday Fellowship**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **Coffee Bar – Julie Haines**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm **Wives Cream Tea** (Welcome Area)

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm **Senior Badminton**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm **Home Instead Memory Café** (Welcome Area)

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **3 Fs at the home of the Knowles**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **Coffee Bar – Passion Play** – Hilary Warner

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Kingston District Chamber Music Society Concert**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm **Junior Badminton**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm **Malden Fortnight Committee Meeting** – Welcome Area (anyone welcome to attend)

8.00pm **Church Council Meeting**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm **Arts Group** (Welcome Area)

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am **Coffee Bar – Womens' Institute**

3pm-5pm **Passion Play meeting** at the URC

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm **Senior Badminton**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm **Circuit Meeting (Sanctuary)**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **Coffee Bar – Inner Wheel**