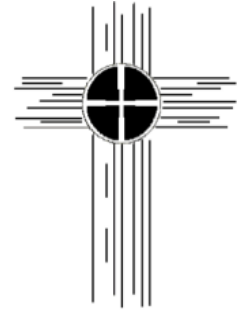


The Newsletter of

New Malden Methodist Church

Christmas 2018



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Message from Karl

Greetings!

Every year, my primary school used to put on a Christmas play. Every year, I wasn't allowed to take an acting role because (for some reason best known only to the teachers) they were always musicals and, as anyone who has heard my singing will know, it isn't among my gifts! The one exception was the memorable year I was allowed to be 'Third Sheep' and had to say 'baa!' at various points. Nativity plays were, therefore, one of those things that I could not wait to get out of the way. For many within our society (including churchgoers), that's how Advent feels – it's the boring bit before the party.

There's undoubtedly something of a gap between the Church's understanding of Advent as a space for reflection and slowing down, and the mad rush which goes on in the world beyond

its doors, that seem to start earlier each year (of course, that may be because I'm turning into a grumpy old man!). What we're waiting for is nothing less than God's love embodied in human form, showing up in our neighbourhood and transforming the world forever. However, in the midst of the busyness, it's easy for this to get lost in a sea of Brussel sprouts and tinsel.

Things are even harder if, for whatever reason, it's difficult for you to embrace the mood of joy that almost seems to be compulsory in December, reinforced by advertising and the pressure for the 'big day' to be perfect. That's why we're once again holding a Blue Christmas service (20th December). Blue Christmas is a special service for everybody who, for whatever reason, finds Christmas difficult. In poetry, music, silence and prayer, it offers the space to bring those things that are painful to God, so they can be held and acknowledged, without having to put on a smile and pretend to be happy.

Whatever our feelings about Christmas, Advent affords us an opportunity to take a deep breath, and to reflect on how things are in terms of our relationship with God. We're invited to ask what might happen if we allowed Jesus into our lives that bit more fully, that bit more radically, and to experience the difference that might make. It won't necessarily be easy, because stepping out of the darkness into God's light may well show us things about ourselves we rather wish weren't there, but we do so safe in the knowledge that we are loved without any conditions attached. The truth of Advent is the faithfulness of God in the midst of our messes and muddles.

I'd like to encourage you, therefore, to take a few minutes each day to ponder these things, and to read for yourselves those great prophecies of Isaiah and others that point forward to the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. Writing to a people struggling in exile, they brought Israel promises of hope and new beginnings, which crystallised hundreds of years later as God's initiative and Mary's 'yes' came together to change everything. God's love now has a human face, because God showed up, and took the risk of entering into this broken world, loving us to the end, even those of us stuck with playing the equivalents of Third Sheep!

Blessings,

Karl

Toilet Twinning



Each year the Wives and Friends group support a charity and raise funds from the Christmas Tree Festival and our fund raising sale in the summer. For 2017/18 we chose 'Toilet Twinning'. A strange charity I hear you say but, and I quote

"Good sanitation and clean drinking water are fundamental to communities. Yet 1 in 3 people worldwide don't have access to somewhere safe, private or hygienic to go to the toilet." The human and economic impact of this is enormous.

Every two minutes a child dies from diarrhoeal diseases and 60% of all rural diseases are caused by poor hygiene and sanitation.

Investing in sanitation is one of the most cost-effective forms of aid. For every £1 spent on water and sanitation programmes, £5 is returned through saved time, reduced health costs and increased productivity"

So, we raised £320 (enough for 5 toilets) and have now received 2 framed certificates, one for a church toilet block in Lusaka, Zambia and one for a latrine in Choma, Southern Province, Zambia. Obviously we have been twinned with toilets already in existence from previous funding so our money will go towards a future project.

These certificates will be hung in the two Welcome Area toilets and in the words of the charity - "your twinned toilets are helping to flush away poverty! Please hang your certificates with pride.

Doreen Downey

A Rose for Peace

The Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in GB&I suggested that clubs might like to plant a Peace rose to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. After consultation with Stella, New

Malden Inner Wheel has planted a rose in the flower bed outside the church on the High Street. Though it looks insignificant at the moment, hopefully by next summer it will be a mass of blooms. There will be a plaque at a later date.

Gloria Taviner



Mary Preston Projects

Graham Child Carols will be held in the church to raise funds for Mary Preston Projects. This charity undertakes to give breaks to carers both old and young. In the past some members of the church have benefitted so please support this important and fun event.



Around the Circuit

Circuit Service

The next Circuit Service will take place on 30 December, in the morning, at New Malden Methodist Church.

CHURCH EVENTS

NEW MALDEN

Christmas Fair – Friday 30 November

CHRISTMAS FAIR

New Malden Methodist Church

Friday 30th November

4.30 pm - 7 pm



Cakes, Refreshments
£1 Stall, Toys, Games,
Crafts, Raffle, Books,
Puzzles,
Decorations to Make,
Face Painting,
Santa in his Winter Wonderland
and so much more!

Free Entry

All proceeds to Melanoma UK and
Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship

The New Malden Methodist Church Christmas Fair will take place from 4.30-7.30 pm on 30 November. There will be Cakes, Refreshments, a £1 Stall, Toys, Games, Crafts, Raffle, Books, Puzzles, Decorations to Make, Face Painting, Santa in his Winter Wonderland – and so much more!

Entry is free, and all proceeds will go to Melanoma UK and the Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship.

Sheep Trail



Collect your entry form from New Malden Methodist Church from Friday 30th November at our Christmas Fair (4.30-7pm)

There will be a knitted sheep in approximately 40 premises on and around the High Street, either inside the premises or in the window. The sheep will be in the High Street until Thursday 20th December.

Each sheep will have a tag around its neck with its name on. Find the sheep and write its name in the space provided on the entry form. Return the finished form to the church on Saturday 22nd December (between 10am and 2pm) or at the Christingle Service at 5pm on Christmas Eve.

All completed entries will receive a small prize.



Christmas Tree Festival

The ever-popular Christmas Tree Festival returns to New Malden Methodist Church starting on Saturday 15th December. Around 24 local organisations will be

showing their artistic flair by decorating trees for their favourite charities. Last year saw entries from a host of local organisations including Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Tudor Williams, Rotary, Princess Alice Hospice, Groves Residential, Corpus Christi School and various church groups. In excess of £1500 was made for the charities so it would be great to top that this year.

Entry is free, so you can save your money to put in the box of your favourite tree, or there is a general collection box if you can't decide. Please come and see this festive forest in both daylight and in the dark (on the Saturday afternoon 15th December) when the twinkling lights will create a magical display.

Opening Times: Saturday 15th December (10am-5pm); Weekdays from 17th December until Christmas Day (10am-2pm, when the coffee shop is open); Saturday 22nd December (10am-2pm - including Community Carols at 11.30).

SURBITON HILL

Quiet Days at the House of Prayer, East Molesey

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 24 November, led by Rev Denis Vernon. Dates for 2019 are 9 February and 14 September, and we will provide further information about these days nearer the time.

Next Newsletters

Please send contributions for the next issue to Michael Axton at the Circuit Office so that it can be included in each Church's next newsletter or magazine by Monday 10th December to circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

Summary of November Notices

FAMILY NEWS

We would like to send congratulations to **Uchi Mwamuye** on the birth of Isaac McFadden on 17th September, a brother for Michael. We send love and prayers to all the family and look forward to seeing them back in church soon.

HARVEST COLLECTION

The proceeds of the Harvest Supper and the Harvest Festival collection amounted to the excellent total of £662.27 for All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development).

THANK YOU

Thank you so much to all those who knitted or crocheted any poppies. Your efforts have contributed to our lovely display.



BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ TRAINING

The revised training dates for the Bereavement Café have been fixed as follows:

Saturday 17th January 10.00am – 4.00pm
at NMMC

Saturday 26th January 10.00am – 4.00pm
at Princess Alice Hospice

Diary Dates for December

Saturday 1st 10.00am **Coffee Bar – NMMC
– Christmas Fair Overflow**

Saturday 1st 8am -4pm **Christmas Tree
Sale on Patio**

Tuesday 4th 7.00pm **Junior Badminton**

Saturday 8th 8am -4pm **Christmas Tree
Sale on Patio**

10.00am **Coffee Bar –
VACANT – Please contact Sarah
Moore to book**

Diary Dates for December contd

Monday 10th 7.30pm **Wives & Friends – Alison Bullett – Christmas Songs – Choir Vestry**

Friday 14th 10am – 7pm **Christmas Tree Decorating**

Saturday 15th 10.00am **Coffee Bar (Women's Institute)**

10am – 5pm **Christmas Tree Festival**

Sunday 16th 3.00pm **Music in New Malden – the Harmonie Choir & Orchestra Music for Christmas by Schültz and Vaughan Williams**

5.30pm **Church Nativity**

Monday 17th – Friday 21st 10am – 2pm

Christmas Tree Festival

Monday 17th 7.30pm **Wives & Friends – Christmas carols & readings – Choir Vestry**

Tuesday 18th 7.00pm **Senior Badminton**

Wednesday 19th 10.15am **Abacus Nativity**

Saturday 22nd 10.00am **Coffee Bar – NMMC**

10am – 2pm **Christmas Tree Festival**

11.30am **Community Carols**

Saturday 28th 10.00am **Coffee Bar – VACANT – Please contact Sarah Moore to book**

Sunday 29th 11.30am **Dismantling of Christmas Tree Festival**

Diary Dates for January 2019

Saturday 5th 10.00am **Coffee Bar – VACANT – Please contact Sarah Moore to book**

Monday 7th - **Schools Back to School. Re-start of all regular activities in church halls**

Wednesday 9th 4.00pm **Finance Committee Meeting**

Saturday 12th 10.00am **Coffee Bar – Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship – Karl Rutlidge**

Sunday 13th 3.00pm **Music in New Malden – Lakeside Clarinet Quartet 20th and 21st Century works including Mike Curtis's *A Klezmer Wedding* with Choreography**

Monday 14th 7.30pm **Wives & Friends – 'My Pipe Dream' – Peter Bullett**

Wednesday 16th 7.00pm **Malden Fortnight Meeting**

Thursday 17th 10am – 4.30pm **Bereavement Café Training – NMMC**

Saturday 19th 10.00am **Coffee Bar – Inner Wheel**

Monday 21st 7.30pm **Kingston District Chamber Music Society Concert**

Saturday 26th 10.00am **Coffee Bar – Alzheimer's Society – Glynis Fox**

Wives & Friends Diamond Anniversary celebration

10am – 4.30pm - **Bereavement Café Training – Princess Alice Hospice**

Thursday 31st 8.00pm **Church Council Meeting**

Saturday 2nd February 10am **Coffee Bar – World Women's Day of Prayer – Carol Dadds & Doreen Downey**

Children's Page

Hi

Here are some facts about Advent Calendars:

There are many types of calendars used in different countries. The most common ones in the UK and USA are made of paper or card with 24 or 25 little windows on. A window is opened on every day in December and a Christmas picture is displayed underneath.

In the 19th Century, German protestant Christians counted down to Christmas by marking 24 chalk lines on a door and rubbing one off every day in December.

Paper calendars were first popular in Germany in the early 1900s, although people made their own ones from the 1850s. There's a debate about exactly where and when the first mass produced calendar was printed - but it was certainly in Germany in the early 1900s. During World War II, the production of Advent calendars stopped due to a shortage of cardboard.

When they were first made, scenes from the Christmas Story and other Christmas images were used, such as snowmen and robins, but now many calendars are made in the themes of toys, television programmes and sports clubs. Some of these types of calendar even have chocolate under each window, to make every day in December that little bit better! I used to like those when I was a little boy (and still do now!!!) The first calendar with chocolate in it was made in 1958, although they only became really popular in the 1980s.

Some European countries such as Germany use a wreath of fir with 24 bags or boxes hanging from it. In each box or bag there is a little present for each day.

There are also now all different types of Advent Calendars used to sell and promote different products including chocolate, perfumes, alcohol and beauty products. You can even get advent calendars for your pets with dog or cat treats in them! The world's largest advent calendar was made in 2007 at the St Pancras Train Station in London, England. It was 71m tall and 23m wide and celebrated the refurbishment of the station. The most expensive advent calendar ever was made in 2010 by a jewellers in Belgium. It was made of 24 glass tubes each containing some diamonds and silver! It was worth about \$3.3 million (€2.5 million | £2.1 million)!!!

You can also now get online Advent or 'Christmas Countdown' calendars. So during December, why don't you visit an online Advent Calendar and find out about something Christmassy each day!

God bless

Julia



Services in December and January

There's a handy leaflet in the church with all the advent services listed so do pick one up. Here is what I think is a complete list for the next 2 months:

2nd December – Reverend Rutledge – all age worship at 10.30am

Festival of Lights at 3pm

9th December – the Doe's – gift service

16th December – Mrs Davis at 10.30, 5.30pm nativity!

23rd December – Reverends Brown and Rutledge with Holy Communion.

Carol service at 3pm.

24th December – Christingle at 5pm and extended Holy Communion at 11.30pm

25th December – Ms Rush -remember to bring a pressie to show off

30th December – circuit service

6th January – Mr Fulbrook and all-age worship

13th January – Reverends Clark and Rutledge, Covenant and Holy Communion

20th January – Reverend Rutledge and the Rededication of the Organ

27th January – Mrs Davis at 10.30am, Café Church at 3pm with Reverend Rutledge.

Deadline for the next issue is 25th January 2019! Please leave contributions in the editor's pigeon hole or email carolineauty@hotmail.com by 9am.

And just an extra note from me to say thank you to all who have contributed to this issue. It's really great to have photos and articles, it makes the newsletter more than just a list of dates and a much better read I'm sure. Keep up the good work!



NMMC

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nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

Mary will have a son and his name will be Jesus!

Matthew 1:18-23

The prophets said this child would be known as

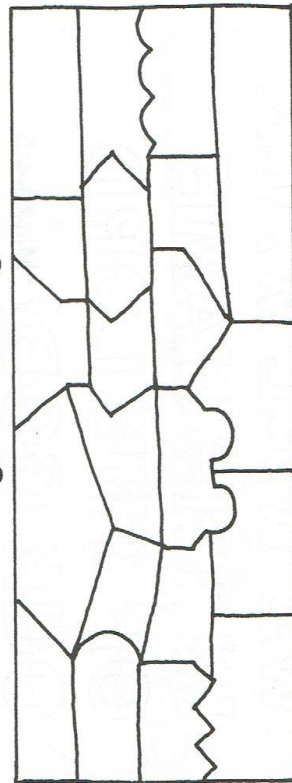
Colours: R = red
O = orange
Y = yellow

EMMANUEL

which means

GOD WITH US

Jigsaw message!



Revelation 21:1-7

will wipe God
himself be with every shall more
their tear death
eyes
them; away and be will
he from no

Our Refurbished Organ

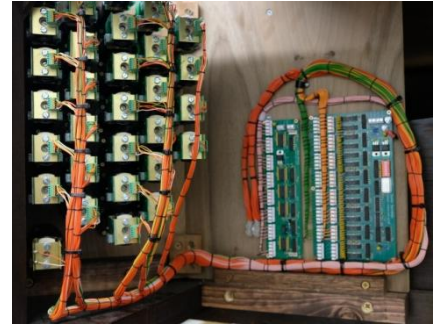
At the end of last month, three members of the Organ Committee made a day trip to the workshops of Pipe Organ Services near Melton Mowbray which is the firm charged with refurbishing and reinstalling our organ. We were shown the re-leathering of the chests, cleaning and repairing of some of the nearly 1100 pipes, the wiring up of the extensive printed circuit boards which will control the digital action and, perhaps the most spectacular, the nearly-complete refurbished console from where everything on the new organ will be played and controlled.



Jamie shows us the Great mixture



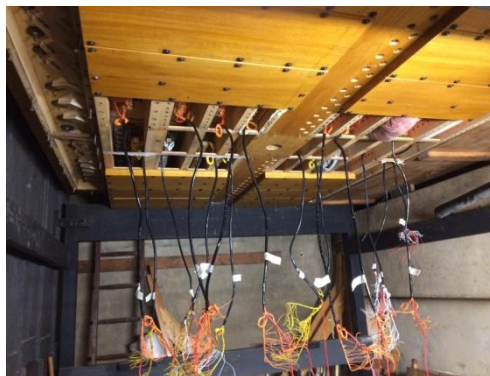
Eddie holding a heavily mitred pipe



The wiring from the stops to the PCBs



The newly-decorated Organ Chamber
with 16' Open Wood pipes on the left



The wiring hanging down from the bottom of the Swell Box ready for connecting

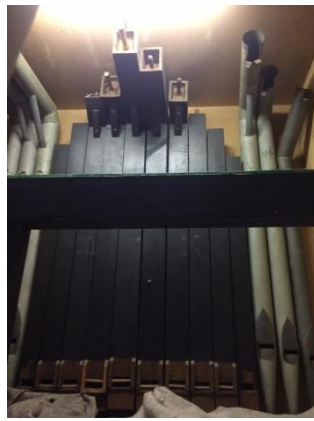


A general view of the workshop
showing the pedal organ (left)

A selection of photos (courtesy Tony Chalk) above gives a flavour of this inspiring visit. Some parts, including the refurbished blower, have already returned to the redecorated and rewired Organ Chamber. Some photos are shown below. The console, complete with pedal board and mobile platform, will follow in the next few weeks.



The refurbished blower



Inside the Swell box



The refurbished 3-manual console

It is possible that some of the organ will be sounding by Christmas, but we expect to have to wait until into the New Year to hear it played and hope it will be fully "bedded in" by Easter. It is very exciting to see everything coming together and we are beginning to make plans for its rededication and the mini-series of opening recitals. Watch this space.

Peter Bullett