

AROUND THE CIRCUIT: MARCH 2016

CIRCUIT NEWS

From the Superintendent

Friends, you have already put up with me as your superintendent for 6 months – God bless you for your patience and understanding whilst I find my way into this new role. I thought you might find it helpful to have a bit of a round-up of some of the interesting things which are happening in our group of churches. In particular it is important that everyone feels they know something about the things which are occupying the minds of our Circuit Meeting and our Leadership Team. I hope you will find this summary useful and will draw these themes into your prayers for all our churches.

God bless: Stan

From the Circuit Meeting

“What does the Circuit Meeting do?” It might not be the most important question on everyone’s lips in our churches but it is worth asking! The Circuit Meeting has a lot of responsibilities for our property, finance and ministers – so much of our business is about giving permissions and allocating resources. More importantly the Circuit Meeting is the place to talk about the mission of the circuit to the local community. At the January Meeting we had two particularly interesting conversations about our work together.

The January Meeting began with a “Swop Shop”. We broke into groups and made two lists from each of our churches – one of things we had in our church that other churches might want to “borrow” and the other list of things we needed in our own church which we thought others might be able to “lend” us. It wasn’t a very scientific way of auditing the resources of our local churches but we had a fun conversation! One thing which came out of the “swop shop” quite clearly was that all our churches are looking for help and leadership in our work with children and young people. We will take up this theme in our Circuit Leadership Team and begin to think about what we might do better together as a circuit with our young people than we can do separately in our own churches. There have been suggestions before about a circuit youth worker/minister – such things are always possible but resources have to be found and that can be a struggle but not one we should shy away from. We cannot promise an answer to this difficult question but we will give it serious, prayerful and hopefully imaginative attention.

The Meeting was then joined by friends from the Korean Christian Fellowship based at Chessington Methodist Church. John Lee (one of our local preachers) gave a fascinating presentation on the story and the future vision of KCF. We broke into groups – with a friend from KCF (all of them young adults) joining in each conversation. KCF is currently an independent charity which has a partnership with the Circuit based at Chessington. A vision is beginning to emerge within KCF that it might become part of the Methodist Church in Britain - a Korean Speaking Congregation which is fully part of our circuit (though a congregation without its own building). This vision is for KCF to become the Methodist mission to the Korean speaking community in our Circuit and Borough. More than half the Korean speaking people in Britain live around New Malden (about 8% of the population of Royal Borough of Kingston). We have a real opportunity to develop a distinctive Methodist outreach to our Korean friends and neighbours.

This is quite a vision and quite a challenge. It would raise issues about ministry, staffing, finance and organisation as well as integration and diversity. There would be exciting opportunities as well as difficult questions. There will be no rush towards any kind of new formal relationship with KCF. We need more information and better understanding of our own vision and calling before making any firm decisions.

From the Circuit Leadership Team

The Circuit Leadership Team meets regularly to help the Circuit Meeting in guiding the Circuit. Like most Methodist meetings we have lots of “routine business” to do, so we will be spending some time away together in April to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. With pressure on our resources and membership which is declining slowly across the circuit we need to have a longer term vision for the mission of our circuit.

New Members at Chessington

We are happy to receive five members into the Kingston- Upon -Thames Circuit through Chessington Methodist Church. The Kingdom of God continues to grow and we warmly welcome our sisters as they take a step of faith to join the Methodist Church. It was such a happy occasion as the whole Circuit came together to receive them at our Circuit Service on 31st Jan. 2016 in the Chessington Methodist Church. May God bless and continue to work His purpose out in them.

Some of our new members are from the Korean Christian Fellowship and the number of KCF friends who have joint membership with Chessington Methodist Church continues to grow.

New Local Preacher

Jilly Bridges has now completed her local preacher training and is to be admitted as a local preacher with the joyful support of the Local Preachers Meeting and the Circuit Meeting. We have arranged Jilly's service of recognition for the evening of May 15th at Surbiton Hill (her home church). This is Pentecost Sunday and will be a wonderful occasion to celebrate the worship life of our churches and the contribution of all our Local Preachers.

OTHER CIRCUIT INFORMATION

Quarterly Plan

There are some amendments to the March to May Quarterly Plan. Please note your copies to show "HC" for the evening services at Chessington on 25 March and 17 April; and for the Chessington service at St Paul's at 7pm on Good Friday, CS stands for Chat Service (on this occasion there will be a performance of Faure's Requiem).

Training for Children and Youth Workers

Brian Smith, the District Youth and Children's Coordinator, is conducting some Training Sessions for those in the Circuit working with children and young people. The training is entitled "Helping Those Working with Children and Young People Point to Jesus", and will take place from 10am to 4pm at Chessington Methodist Church on Saturdays 20 February, 2 April and 21 May. For more information about the sessions please contact Brian by email (brian@methodistlondon.org.uk) or phone (07951 408379)

Circuit Service on 31 January

The collection taken at the Circuit Service on 31 January amounted to £107.67, and this has been sent to All We Can (Methodist Relief & Development).

CHURCH EVENTS

Chessington

A Women's World Day of Prayer ecumenical service will take place at St. Paul's, Hook, at 10.15 am on Friday 4 March.

New Malden

Dads & Doughnuts: At New Malden Methodist Church on Saturday 12 March, 2pm to 4pm. This a group for dads, granddads and male carers and their children aged 0-5 years. Just drop in, no need to book, stay for as long as you wish. £2 per child, to include refreshments. Doughnuts for dads and biscuits for children, unless you wish to share! Activities include soft play, art and craft, toys and fun! This is an opportunity to do things together in a secure environment and meet other dads.

Surbiton Hill

Drop In Fellowship takes place on the second Wednesday of each month in the Lower Hall at Surbiton Hill (from 1.45pm for a 2pm start). Please note the following events:

9 March "Getting to Know You": Katie McAuslan

13 April "How Did I Get Where I Am Today?" Rev Hazel Yu

The next Quiet Days at the House of Prayer, East Molesey will take place on 7 May (led by Steven Talbot) and 8 October (led by Stan Brown). Please note your diaries - further information will be provided nearer the time.

Monthly Prayer Fellowship takes place on the first Saturday of each month at Surbiton Hill, from 10 am to 11am, led by Daniel Masillamani. The next session will take place on 5 March.

OTHER NEWS

Ealing Animal Welfare

The 38th Ealing Animal Welfare Bazaar takes place at Hanwell Methodist Church, Church Road, Hanwell, W7 1DJ on Saturday March 5th from 10.30am-4pm. Over 30 charities and societies will be participating in this animal welfare event, and you are welcome to attend.

ONE DAY with MHA: To Explore Why Later Life Matters

A Day Conference will be held at Methodist Central Hall on Monday 29 February 2016 to explore how prepared we are both as a society and as individuals for ongoing lengthening lifespans. Chaired by Dame Denise Platt OBE, with special guest Dame Esther Rantzen.

Followed by:

An Evening Service of Celebration (6.15pm – 8.30 pm, no charge but ticket only)

Hosted by Pam Rhodes, with special guests Revd John Bell, Graham Kendrick & Revd Stephen Gaukroger.

For more details of the day and how to book: see www.mha.org.uk/oneday; call 01332 296200; or contact Corinne Foster at KMC

Daffodil Day

The annual Daffodil Rally at Methodist Central Hall on Monday 7 March. Please arrive by 1.40 pm for Community Singing, which starts at 1.45, followed by Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs.

Speakers include Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, Revd Tony Milese, Pam Rhodes, Revd Steve Wild, Dr Jill Barber, Anne Browse and the Lord Mayor of Westminster. Artists will include Anando Mukerjee, Anna Cochrane, Gerard Brooks and Andrew Furniss.

For more information see the poster in your church; contact Ollie McEwen on 020 7654 3809; or visit the website: www.methodist-central-hall.org.uk

NEXT EDITION

If your church has 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 newsletter/magazine.

Please send your contributions by Friday 13 March to: circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk