

Chessington Methodist Church

Weekly News

1 January 2017

Rev Andy Clark

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Services

Sunday 1 January 2017 (New Year's Day)

10.00am **Mrs Jilly Bridges**

12.30pm **Worship Service in Korean**

6.30pm **No evening service**

Sunday 8 January

10.00am **Rev Andy Clark** Covenant Service

12.30pm **Worship Service in Korean**

6.30pm **Mr Dennis and Mrs Carolyn Doe**

Our weekly prayer:

Loving heavenly father

As we have been celebrating the birth of your precious son and spending time with our loved ones, let us take the time to pray for those people who are suffering loss and trauma in the wake of the recent terror attack. May your love surround them and may your word spread the message of light and peace. In your name

Amen

A very warm welcome if you are new to us, or visiting. Do please join us for coffee after the service. If you would like Andy, our minister, to contact you, or arrange a visit, his details are shown above.

Large print versions of *Hymns and Psalms* and *Songs of Fellowship* are available from the door stewards if you require them.

The church is equipped with an induction loop system for those who are hard of hearing. If you are using a hearing aid, please switch it to the 'T' position. All hymns and songs used in the church are covered by CCL Licence No. 58439.

The next worship consultation will be on Tuesday 3rd January at 8pm in the Parlour. All welcome.

The next Ladies Home Group will be on 4 Jan, 7:45pm, at 14 Hurst Close. Subject 'Fear'. All Welcome.

If you have anything you would like included, please put it in the pigeon hole or speak to Mark Harvey on 01483 223543 or mpharvey2000@yahoo.co.uk

Circuit Stewards

Val Hayden stands down as our Senior Circuit Steward at the end of 2016. Val has done tremendous work through some difficult times of change for the circuit. She has overseen the safe arrival and departure of ministers, worked with us through a time of financial uncertainty and been a rock of support to many of us. We owe her our grateful thanks and pray for her as she continues to serve God and our churches in different ways.

Margaret Turner (SHMC) takes over as Senior Steward from January 1st. Ruby Esson (KMC) has already joined the stewards from Sept. 2016, so our leadership team remains at full strength as Val moves on. We are very blessed to have such dedicated and capable volunteers on our circuit leadership team. Please pray for all our leadership team:

Stan Brown	(Superintendent Minister)
Sooncheol Choi	(Circuit Minister)
Andy Clark	(Circuit Minister)
Festus Mensah	(Finance)
Alan Bennet	(Property)
Michael Axton	(Circuit Secretary)
Margaret Turner	(Senior Circuit Steward - SHMC)
David Knowles	(Circuit Steward - NMMC)
Elizabeth Moore	(Circuit Steward - CMC)
Ruby Esson	(Circuit Steward KMC)



Our Circuit

Circuit Vision - Rev Stan Brown, Superintendent Minister

At the end of October I was asked to present a vision for our future together at an open Circuit Meeting. A good number of you were kind enough to come along and join in this conversation. The Circuit Leadership Team has taken up the challenge to share these ideas and make them into an effective plan for the Circuit. In January and February each church will have a much shorter version of the presentation in one of the Sunday morning services. We will then ask each of our church councils to respond and begin to draw up plans for your own church.

The presentation on "Our Circuit" looks at where we are now, what growing churches look like and how we can respond to God's call to mission in this place.

In case you miss one of these presentations here are the key points for the future that we are inviting our church councils to think about

- **We will focus on the mission of each church not on re-organisation**
We may need to make some staffing changes in the circuit in the future, but re-organisation will not really make a lasting difference. Each of our churches is set in a different community – we need all of them and we need all of them to be strong. Our churches should not be the same, what matters is that each church is clear about what God is calling it to do.
- **Each church makes its own plans for mission**
To help us think clearly about what God is calling us to and how we can work towards it, each Church will be asked to make a **Mission Action Plan (MAP)**. These plans need to be realistic focussing first on small improvements to the way we run our churches, but they should also be ambitious for God – believing that we can experience growth again.
- **Circuit oversees and supports the MAP of each church**
The mission of each local church comes first. The job of the Circuit is to support, resource and if necessary challenge the churches to be clear, faithful and effective in their missions. Together as a group of churches we can support one another by reviewing and overseeing the plans and progress each church makes. We should "watch over one another in love".
- **Circuit training to support for MAPs**
A key role of the Circuit will be to provide training and opportunities for us all to learn how to be more effective churches. We need to make sure that all our precious volunteers are clear and confident about what they are doing. We need to learn from other churches who have new and exciting ideas. We can't afford to stand still, the circuit will identify resources for training and focus this on the priorities of our churches.
- **Release resources to focus on the Mission Plans**
After a difficult financial period the Circuit is now balancing its books. But we now have limited cash resources in reserve. Most of our money is tied up in our buildings. In the future we may need to think and pray about whether to release money from our buildings to support our wider mission. Do we use all our space effectively? What is the best use of our "spare" manse in North Kingston – rental income or capital to kick-start new projects?
- **The challenge to create something new**
New kinds of church are bubbling up in many places alongside traditional congregations. As a challenge to the whole circuit - can we together plant a completely new congregation or project aimed at people who are simply not attracted to traditional church?

God bless

Stan