

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE

MINISTER: REV. DAVID FAULKNER TEL: 01483 472524



KMC 150



Winter 2015

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICES

10am - Morning Worship (includes Junior and Youth Church)

Our services are warm and cordial. We include traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, led by our worship group. The first 15 minutes of the service includes children and young people before going to their own groups.

The sermons are Bible based and are often themed over several weeks.

Holy Communion is generally on the second Sunday of every month.

After the service everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments, a time for a chat and to get to know any visitors.

6.30pm - Monthly Evening Holy Communion

This is usually the fourth Sunday of the month. This is a small intimate service of Communion with about 15 or so people, many from other churches in the village. You will be made most welcome.

If you would like to worship on a Sunday evening when we do not have a service, you will be able to at these churches:

2nd Sunday of the month - Holy Trinity church at 6.30pm.

3rd Sunday of the month - St Saviour's church, Brookwood at 6.00pm.

For further information see the notice board outside the church or call Rev. Dave Faulkner:

01483 472524 or see www.knaphill-methodist-church.com



KMC MAGAZINE

Editor: Barbara Humphries. Layout & design: Allan Wright.

NEXT ISSUE: Easter 2016. Copy Deadline: Sunday 6th March 2016

Copy to: Barbara Humphries - barbara0803@sky.com or to the Magazine pigeonhole.

Message from Dave:

No message this time, instead Dave has submitted a poem - which says it all!

SHRINK-WRAPPED

by Chris Bambrough



**We want Him neatly framed between lead,
Pictured in primary colours but safely dead.**

We like Him distant, god-like, rarefied:

In robes and crowns we sit him, beatified.

We like Him pale and blonde, and carrying a smooth cross;

Beaten (if you like), but without blood-loss.

It`s nice if He`s middle-class, tolerant and polite;

Low-cal, substance-free, god-lite.

**We need Him small and fragrant and wrapped by Christmas Eve,
While polished haloes merrily light the plastic holly-leaves.**

We like it when the stars twinkle and the wise men nod,

But sin`s alive and the earth`s a sod

Smeared with the wayward, the vile and the frankly lost;

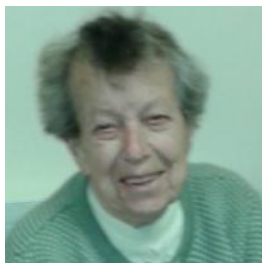
We need this Saviour real and willing to count , and pay the cost.

We want Him Sundays, Easter, and, maybe Christmas Day.

He wants us always or no other way.



Church Family News



It is with sadness that we
announce the passing of both
Ivy Ross and Win Swan.



Liz and Mike Funning are delighted to tell KMC that their son, Gareth married his long time partner, Jen during the summer. They met at the University of California (Riverside) where Gareth is a professor and Jen was studying for her PhD.

Many thanks to Shirley Chase for again organising the purchase of the Christmas tree, and to the member who gave the donation towards it. Thanks also to Jonathan & Christopher Gurd for putting it up (and for helping to take it down).

Thank you to all who helped to make the Christmas Bazaar such a success, we raised nearly £1,700.

Editors Note: *This is something I would like to include in each magazine, so if you are aware of anyone who would like to be added or has anything to celebrate please let me know by email on barbara0803@sky.com or phone on 824469.*

The Christmas Life

by Wendy Cope



*Bring in the tree, a Norwegian spruce,
Bring Hyacinth rooted in the cold,
Bring winter jasmine as its buds unfold
Bring the Christmas Life into this house.
Bring red and green and gold,
Bring things that shine
Bring candlestick food and wine,
Bring in your memories of Christmas past,
Bring in your tears for all that you have
lost.*

*Bring in the shepherd boy, the ox and the ass,
Bring in the stillness of an icy night
Bring in the birth of hope and love and light
Bring the Christmas life into this house.*



CAMEO is on it's Christmas break at present - following a wonderful Christmas Party in December!

We will meet again in January for a "Member's Afternoon". Please check the Weekly Notices for more information.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! **Ella Allen 830154.**



Saturday 23rd January 2016

Forget the January blues and enjoy a Scottish Evening in our church hall
Haggis, heaps and potatoes will be on the menu.

After dinner entertainment requires poets (of course), singers, dancers,
sketches and recitations. How about volunteering and joining in the fun?

Tartan wear optional.

More details soon

Marilyn and Shirley would love to hear from you!

Wesley's Chapel

On 23rd September Eileen Lane arranged a trip to Wesley's Chapel, six of us turned up at Woking Station where, with the help of those who held passes Eileen negotiated the cheapest day return fare for us all. On arriving at Waterloo we went straight up the escalator to our favourite café for a quick coffee. After being refreshed we caught the double decker bus through the City to our destination. The journey was very long due to heavy traffic and road works, however we saw many places of interest including Fleet Street, the Law Courts and St Paul's Cathedral.



Our guide was waiting for us when we arrived. He took us to the museum area in the Crypt where he explained some of the exhibits and gave us a brief history of the surrounding area as it was in Wesley's day. We then progressed to the Foundry Chapel which contains some of the original wooden benches and the pipe organ saved from the original Foundry. The main Chapel contains the original pulpit but it was 5 feet higher then and had an additional level where John Wesley would have preached from but and scripture was read from a lower level. There was a marble font which was given to the chapel in 1891. The original chapel would have only had plain glass windows but now there are some wonderful stain glass windows, one depicting the conversion experiences of John and Charles showing them singing the hymn "Where shall my wandering soul begin".

We were then taken into the house where John had lived for 11 years of his life. It is now a grade 1 listed building, tall and narrow and very quaint with three floors; ascending some of the narrow staircases proved to be a challenging task but well worthwhile. One of the only original pieces of furniture was a welsh dresser in the kitchen which I photographed only to be reprimanded by the guide but too late and I still have it !!!

Once outside we took photographs of the John Wesley statue and sat down to eat our packed lunch before crossing the road to view his mothers and his grave in the Bunyan Church burial ground. Then back to Waterloo for the return home unfortunately early rush hour but we all managed to get seats even if I had to politely ask a male commuter if he could take his laptop off a seat so I could sit down, which he reluctantly did. We arrived home exhausted but thankful that Eileen had organised such an interesting day - well done Eileen.

Sylvia Peters

Christmas Bible Quiz?



Test your knowledge with this Christmas Bible Quiz about our Christmas carols. Some questions are definitely easier than others!

(A Hint: In the carol questions, if you can hum the tune that fits the words, you will often guess right!)

- 1) When hosts of angels appear to them, announcing Jesus' birth, a carol says the "shepherds quake at the sight." In what carol is the quoted line found?**
- 2) Mary laid her newborn Son in a manger. A carol says Jesus had "no crib for a bed." What is the carol?**
- 3) What carol contains the line, "Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing"?**
- 4) What carol quotes the angels saying to the shepherds, "All glory be to God on high, / And to the earth be peace"?**
- 5) What carol fancifully describes "angels bending near the earth / To touch their harps of gold"?**
- 6) What carol says of Jesus' birth, "While mortals sleep, the angels keep / Their watch of wondering love"?**
- 7) What carol says of Christ's coming to earth, "Mild He lays His glory by, / Born that man no more may die"?**
- 8) What carol says to the wise men, "Sages, leave your contemplations, / Brighter visions beam afar"?**
- 9) What carol tells us, "Then entered in those wise men three, / Full reverently upon the knee"?**
- 10) Referring to the English custom of ringing church bells on Christmas morning, what carol says, "Then pealed the bells more loud and deep" / 'God is not dead: nor doth He sleep"?**

Answers on page 14

The Youth at KMC - 1975-1990

Back in 1975 when my Graham was twelve, I became concerned because there were no regular social events being held in our church for teenagers. I decided I would start a youth club for the group of young people involved in the senior part of the Junior Church. To begin with it only met once a month, but it became obvious it needed to be a weekly meeting and a Friday night was chosen. It grew slowly and the young people started to bring along their friends. The other



Methodist Churches in the circuit had similar groups and we all belonged to the M.A.Y.C. which was the national Methodist Association of Youth Clubs. It was in the seventies and early eighties that discos were very popular and we were often travelling to other clubs or holding discos ourselves and it was nothing to have well over a hundred folk in our hall enjoying these events. We also wanted to emphasise our Christian values and held a 'middlelogue' on club evenings, often inviting members of our church to come along and talk to our young people about their faith.



Knaphill Methodist Church did not have a history of getting involved in M.A.Y.C. but from my past experiences in the Portsmouth Circuit and our increasing friendship with Trinity Methodist Church, Woking, we encouraged our young people to take part in the London Weekend, which was held every May in Westminster Central Hall and the Royal Albert Hall and many other venues as well.

Folk from all over the UK, including Channel Islands, travelled up to London every year to meet new friends and enjoy themselves.

The highlight was the show in the Royal Albert Hall and also a very moving service on the Sunday morning, finishing with a march up Whitehall and a rally in Trafalgar Square.

Although Knaphill is nearly thirty miles outside London, we were considered near enough to do "Operation Friendship" which meant we were put in contact with a club in another part of the country and offered them hospitality on our premises for the weekend. We did this for many years and

became friendly with clubs from various places in the UK.

Our area M.A.Y.C. took part in the Albert Hall show several times and we worked very hard to keep the standards high. Several years we used to go to Guildford Methodist Church for rehearsals every Sunday afternoon for weeks. Most of us would be at church in the morning and then turn round to get to Guildford by 2.15pm.

I will finish talking about our M.A.Y.C. weekends by mentioning Rev Chris Gardner who always came with us and was a great mini-bus driver. He was always supportive and the young people loved him. When he moved on we were fortunate enough to have Bob Bailey driving his mini-bus to provide us with transport. Bob Bailey, who was a member of our church, was co-leader of our club for some years and we have to say his help was enormous. Through him we started the sunrise service on Easter Day and it was held on Chobham Clump, followed by breakfast at the church. Now and again we went on a midnight walk which was great fun and we felt very adventurous.

For many years there was a national M.A.Y.C. Orchestra and singers and two of our young people, Paula Meller and Geraldine Allen were part of the choir and had wonderful opportunities to sing at some great venues.

Over the years I had a lot of help from members of our church and among them was Brian Shrubbsall, Robb Peters, Ivy Ross and Jo and Colin Greenwood. Jo and Colin took over from me when I had completed 14 years and they ran it for several more years. It was a very meaningful part of my life and I thank God I can look back to that time with happy memories.

Ella Allen



Christmas Humour

Ho! Ho! Ho!



"Wireless communication is nothing new. I've been praying for 75 years!"



Honey, our lawyer wishes us, but in no way guarantees, a Merry Christmas.

Profile of Barbara Hadlow

For this Christmas issue of our magazine, I am pleased to have been able to produce a profile about Barbara Hadlow who has been part of the KMC church family since the early 1980s. However, Barbara was not originally from these parts but, like yours truly, born in Kent. Whitstable to be exact where her father was a fruit farmer. Barbara was the middle one of seven and from an early age spent much of her young life looking after her three youngest siblings. This could be how her love of children started and developed as you will read.



Although Barbara passed the 11 plus examinations, going to the nearest grammar school in Canterbury was not to be because of the cost of bus fares and uniform. So instead she attended the new secondary modern school which at that time had just opened outside Whitstable.

Leaving at the age of 15, which was not unusual in the 1950s, Barbara's very first job was in a baker's shop which did not suit her at all – too hot and she had to be inside all the time. It was through help from her mother that she started looking after the family of a local doctor and where she decided that training to be a nursery nurse was really what she wanted to do. Nine months later, Barbara found herself a position as nursery assistant at a residential nursery run by the local authority. This was a nursery for babies and children up to the age of six who stayed there on a temporary basis for a variety of reasons. She acquired a wealth of experience so that after 17 months she was able to move to another job as a nursery nurse student in another residential nursery in Tunbridge Wells. During this period she also attended college twice a week for two years in order to become qualified as a nursery nurse.

On qualifying Barbara was offered a junior nursery nurse position for a year at another nursery in Sevenoaks, following which she moved to a similar nursery in Chislehurst where she stayed for over four years.

By this time it was 1963 and Barbara had started to have itchy feet so

changed jobs again and became a nanny for a family. Fourteen months later in 1965 Barbara felt ready for more responsibility and applied for a position as matron at a residential nursery in Newham, East London. Her application was successful and she ran this nursery which accommodated 18 children for over eight years. During this time she acquired a dog which she named Roger and whom all the children loved. It was whilst she was out walking on her regular walk with Roger one day in the local park, that she found a newly born baby which had been abandoned. She took the baby girl to the nearest maternity hospital after which the baby came to live at Barbara's nursery until she was eventually fostered and adopted some time later. As the baby was only a few hours old when she found her, Barbara feels sure the mother must have been aware that Barbara used the park every day and therefore knew Barbara would find the child.

Barbara thoroughly enjoyed her time at Newham but decided to leave when staff who left were not replaced straight away and because she had not had a day off for months. She felt the children were not receiving the quality of care they deserved because of this so left in 1973 to become matron at another residential nursery in Chelmsford. This was at a time when these nurseries were starting to be closed; this nursery being one of the last in the country. When plans were made to close this nursery, the local authority built a replacement home in the grounds which was to become an all-age childrens home. Barbara was asked to stay on as housekeeper for a month until the married couple recruited to run it were able to start. This she did before departing and moving in, on a temporary basis, with her parents who by then were living in South Godstone. 1975 saw Barbara working in a greengrocers in Lingfield but luckily this turned out to be temporary too. During 1975 it was in the news that quadruplets had been born to a Dutch couple who were living in Surrey. Three girls and one boy. Barbara enquired of various health visitors about this family which resulted in Barbara being interviewed for the job of nanny to these four babies. Barbara says now of this job that it was very enjoyable but not to be recommended! When seven months later the family were due to move back to Holland, Barbara initially went with them to assist in interviewing for a new nanny. The family would have liked Barbara to stay but living abroad did not really appeal to her at that time. What happened next was quite a coincidence. The Nursery World magazine wanted to interview the quads' parents and take photographs. In the issue of the magazine, in which the article and photos appeared, was an advert for an officer-in-charge to run a nursery for babies and children aged 0-6. This job was at Highlands in Woking and Barbara ran this home until

1981 when it closed down. Barbara was effectively made redundant at this time and was also going to be without a home. Luckily, Woking Borough Council found accommodation for her in Goldsworth Park where she still lives to this day.

From 1981 Barbara was a registered childminder and then foster parent. Initially she fostered children under five but later babies too prior to them being adopted. One of the first toddlers she child-minded recently contacted her out of the blue. He is now 28!

Anyone who has known Barbara in the last 20 years or so will know that she was a foster mother to Suzie right from when she was seven months old and whom Barbara later adopted. Suzie is now 28 and although she lives independently of Barbara still does require the support of Barbara and others.

It was through having Suzie that Barbara found KMC via the crèche that was held there at that time. Her involvement developed too through the Mother & Toddler Group which she attended regularly with Suzie and other children she looked after over the years.

These days Barbara is a staunch supporter of CAMEO. She enjoys reading poetry and occasionally writing some too. Barbara is into scrabble in a big way and attends U3A scrabble sessions as often as she can. Tending her



Making a Difference

Barbara Hadlow recently entertained CAMEO members with a fascinating talk about her recently published book, "Making a difference: a lifetime in childcare". The book gives us an insight into the vanished world of the residential nursery. Barbara devoted three decades of her working life to making a difference in the lives of the children she cared for, many of them in the Woking area. Some were rejected at birth, some taken into care, while others were affected by circumstances beyond anyone's control.

All of them were in need of love, security and reassurance and everyone of them occupied a space in her heart.

Copies of this most interesting book can be purchased from Barbara, price £7.99, either in person or by phoning Barbara on (01483) 487828.

garden is also something she likes to do and is her way of keeping fit now rather than attending keep fit classes! A possible little known passion of Barbara's is dolls houses and she currently has a huge one in her lounge that she has put together herself. Each room represents one which would have been found in a residential nursery. It is exquisitely furnished with all the soft furnishings like towels and baby clothes made by Barbara. It is a sight to behold and deserves a much wider audience. Finally, as many people know Barbara is an author and her book entitled "Making a Difference – a Lifetime in Childcare" was published earlier this year. If this article has left you wanting to know more about Barbara's life I thoroughly recommend you get hold of a copy of her book now!

Robin Spice



Christmas Bible Quiz Answers See page 7

- 1) "Silent Night" 2) "Away in a Manger. 3) "O Come, All Ye Faithful." 4) "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" 5) "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear." 6) "O Little Town of Bethlehem." 7) "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" 8) "Angels from the Realms of Glory" 9) "The First Noel." 10) "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

My Life at KMC

My Grandmother, Maude Westcott joined the church when she and Grandad Jack moved to Chobham Road, Knaphill in 1905. She brought up her three children in the church - the eldest being my mother Irene; Arch who became a mechanic; and Reg, a school teacher, head master and local preacher.

Irene married John Elliot, a farmer from Bisley and raised two children, myself and younger sister Lorna. Lorna and I were also brought up in the church and joined the Sunday School in the afternoons and later, the Young Worshippers League which was part of the morning service (we



Marilyn Meller



produced several plays and entertainments in which we all took part.

We gradually progressed, taking Scripture Exams, helping in the Sunday School and taking part in the 'Circuit Eisteddfods (much rivalry



received certificates for regular attendance).

Grandma, a teacher and professional singer formed the church choir and wrote and



1960 "The Fleet's In"



between Byfleet, Trinity and Knaphill) including crafts, music, cookery, writing, poetry etc. This went on into my early twenties.

I became a junior member of the church at the age of twelve and full member at sixteen. Lorna joined the Youth



Club and we both joined the 1st Knaphill Guide Company at Holy Trinity in Chobham Road.

In the 1950's Walter Deakin came to our church and took on the choir, formed a junior choir and instigated the Epworth Choir in Trinity, Woking (I was part of that choir for over forty years).

Eddie Wiggham and family arrived about the same time. He was a talented pianist and also played the organ, hence more socials, entertainments and fundraising for us all.



I met my husband Tom Meller while studying agriculture at Merrist Wood and was married here in 1960 with a Guide guard-of-honour. (Lorna married Melvyn Tongue a couple of years later) and our two daughters, Jackie and Paula were christened here.

I carried on with helping in the Sunday school and eventually leading the junior department for many years.

Jackie and Paula joined in all the activities, including Circuit Sports and Fun days and M.A.Y.C youth club.

2nd Knaphill (Methodist) Guide Company was founded in 1974 with leaders Valerie Walsh and Shirley Matthews. In the meantime I'd started 1st Bisley in 1967 and 2nd Bisley in 1974.



1988 Hunger Lunch at KMC



Coldingley Prison was built on the Shaftesbury School site and there was a need for Guiding and Scouting for the warders' children. (I've also been District and Division Commissioner and Camp Adviser).

After a few years our Church Company was struggling to find new leaders, so I decided to take it on with a few helpers including Carol Redraw and Sheila Allen (now Hamilton, who is still involved today). It was during these years I was able to include the guides in K.M.C. - parade services, entertainments, Easter breakfasts, a stall at the annual bazaar and youth club events.

Norman Parker, a youth leader from West Sussex formed the junior section of M.A.Y.C. for the 10-14 year olds. Hence weekends away meeting like-minded groups at various venues around the region - Highlight Horsham, Go Guildford, Ealing Feeling, Eastbourne Extravaganza, Wackey Woking to

name but a few. This was a good opportunity to include the guides in these events and enough adult supervision to help with the sleepovers, catering, activities, outings and Sunday morning worship.

1991 Highlight Horsham



In the 1980's Jackie and Paula were married here and their children christened. Both families have moved away Paula is carrying on the guiding spirit in Devizes, Wiltshire.

Having retired from active guiding a few years ago I have

joined the Trefoil Guild, meeting once a month with like-minded guiders from the surrounding area having fun and friendship. I also offered my services as a Church Steward and joined the Leadership team.

It's amazing how the years have flown by, and, looking back, thankful for my life. Being able to influence so many children into taking the straight path with a few basic principles of loving God, respecting the world we live in and helping other people. Guiding and my church life have gone hand in hand.

Marilyn Meller



Times Are Changing

My father and his brothers all worked for Slococks Nursery. Originally they lived in St Johns, then moved to Knaphill into Halls Farm on Anchor Hill (opposite the entry to Barley Mow Lane), this being a house belonging to Slococks.

My mother's father and brothers worked in the brickfields which were in Knaphill at that time. Her family lived in the old house called Stevens Cottage lying back behind the newer cottages in Barnby Road, which at one time had been a corn chandlers - their name board was still under the ivy on the house wall, and the old bushel measures were still in the garden shed - useful to hold the gooseberries in the large garden when we picked them!

My parents married in June 1930 at St John's Church. They didn't have cars to take them there, they all walked down Barnby Road, along Robin Hood Road, into St John's village, and up to the Church.

They moved into one of the cottages just down Littlewick Road (near the "Mink Farm") so I was officially born on Littlewick Common. That was in December 1935, just as the new church building for Knaphill Methodist Church was completed. My mother's family were Methodists, and I was the first baby baptised that day, the one following after me was Vera Lody, who later was in the same class throughout Infant and Junior School.

In August 1939 I got a baby brother, and soon after, we moved house up to Barnby Road, near the Anchor Hill End, this being two houses away from Gran and Grandad Harwood (Mum's parents).

Then soon time to start school. The Junior School was the building looking into the recreation ground, next to the bowling green. Behind it was the Senior School, on the High Street.

Then came the war. I was in the reception class at the time when the bombing raids started. The reception class (you were promoted up to the next class when you had mastered the alphabet) sheltered in the school corridor, sitting on P.E. benches.



All the rest had to run across the recreation ground to the field beyond, where there was a line of shelters. The Seniors went into the first ones as they had already come from their building across the Junior playground. The shelters were each like a long corridor with a slatted wooden bench along it, and one light. We carried our "air raid kit" - a pencil and one piece of paper with us - we never used these as there was nowhere to rest the paper to be able to write on it! I think we had a different shelter for each class and the teacher just talked to us to keep us calm till the All-Clear went. If it was dinner time or afternoon home-time and the All-Clear had not sounded, we had to wait for a parent to collect us before we were allowed out of the shelter. As my mother was able to come, the Headmaster collected all the children who lived along our route to Lower Knaphill and off we went in a crocodile, being dropped off as they came to their house.



The next thing we had to deal with was the Gas Mask. I had an ordinary black one and a van arrived at school at intervals through that time, to fix new filters into them. My brother was still too young for a mask, so we were given a cardboard box with a pump on top.

You were supposed to put the baby inside and shut the lid and pump air in. I remember my mother thought it would be no good, as to shut a baby in a dark box would frighten it too much. Luckily she never had to use it to find out. Later she was given a mask specially for a toddler - bright red with a flappy "beak" on it, probably worse-looking than the black ones!

That was the time we had to carry our masks everywhere, so at register time at school we had one mark for being present, one mark for having our gas mask, and one if we had brought a halfpenny for our bottle of milk (if we brought a penny, we got a bottle in the afternoon as well).

Somehow we all managed to get in some lessons between all this disruption, even doing some country dancing! If wet, in the Church Hall next door, otherwise in the playground.

When I was 7 or 8 I started going to the Methodist Sunday School, in those days taking place in the afternoons. Beryl Fagence took the youngest. Her father Mr Ruggles took the Juniors. We had class teachers to take their small group for a story etc, while Mr Ruggles led the hymns playing his violin.

I remember the outbreak of Polio, when we prayed during special Sunday School time for Tony Burch who fortunately survived but needed an iron leg support with a chain to hold up his toes from dragging along.

I also remember vividly our Christmas Party in the Church Hall the year the war ended, when a lot of men were still coming home. Beryl Fagence was running the games after the party tea. We sat on the floor and waited to hear what we were playing next "Don't wriggle or you'll get splinters off the floor!". Suddenly the outside door banged open, and there was a soldier in his khaki uniform walking in. Mrs Fagence gave a loud shriek and dashed over and flung her arms round his neck! We were still sitting on the floor (minding the splinters) with our mouths open and eyes like saucers! It was her husband Cyril, just demobbed with no advance notice to relatives.

The Sunday School put on various shows while I was young. My first effort, when I was about 8 was a bluebell fairy. Also Orpah in the story of Ruth - performed in the Church.

Later, while I was teaching in the Primary Department, Several Pantomimes, Musicals - Greater Than Gold, A Grain of Mustard Seed, Jerusalem Joy.

We also had coach outings for all the children and parents.

As the war ended the old plant nursery at the back of Stevens Cottage and Halls Farm started to be developed for housing to replace bombed buildings. A little gang of prisoners of war came every day with a supervisor, and laid out drains and a roadway. They built a little bonfire each day, where they

sat round and ate their lunch. My cousins Joan and Eileen (who lived at grans with their mother – my mother's youngest sister, throughout the war) my brother and I used to go through the hedge and join them with our dolls and my brothers rugby ball. no-one was supposed to talk to them or even give them water, but no-one seemed to bother. They were young soldiers and quite pleasant. I think a few stayed in England after they were released. This was the first new housing in Knaphill - which became Nursery Road.

Then came Larks Way. It had been a cornfield during the war with a footpath across the middle - about where the road is now. Also Lane End Drive, where the circus and funfair visited after the war, was turned into housing.

Brookwood Hospital was still there and had a large flower show in their field on August Bank Holiday Monday (in those days at the beginning of August). As well as fruit and veg competitions, there was a small fun-fair with swinging boats the main attraction. Most popular were the old fashioned competitions - bowling for the pig, climbing the greasy pole, and best of all for fun "Tilting the Bucket", which had 2 men, a wheelbarrow, and a long pole. One sat in the barrow with the pole while the other ran pushing the barrow through an archway with a bucket of water attached to a swinging plank with a target hole to aim the pole at. The object being to push the pole through the hole without hitting the plank causing the bucket to tip over, soaking the 2 men, which happened more often than not, to the delight of the spectators.

After some years working in Residential Child Care in boarding schools for various special needs, and later in Council Childrens' Homes, I came back to live in Knaphill in Wood Lane, and renewed my attendance at the Methodist Church. I was approached about working in the Sunday School, now held on Sunday mornings at the same time as morning service. I started in the Primary Department as teacher to a small group - one year we had 48 Primary children split into about 7 groups. The Primary Leader was Marilyn Meller and after a while she asked me if I would like to swap jobs with her, so I became Leader and she took a small group and eventually moved to the Junior Department.

At that time we had circuit events - Sports Day one year and Eisteddfod the alternate one.

Our youngsters produced a lot of different talents to use in the Eisteddfodd - art, music, cooking etc. and we won the cup for several years. It was kept in a small glass-fronted case hung on the wall in the hall. After several years, we came to take it to that year's competition, but no-one could find the key to open the case, so it had to be unscrewed from the wall and given over still in the case! Soon afterwards Sheerwater Sports Field was closed for renovation, and no-one had time to undertake organising the Eisteddfodd, so both events ceased which was a great pity.

The hall floor "mind the splinters" was eventually replaced with a new concrete one. Unfortunately it needed to be done on the weekend of the Sunday School Anniversary, when we had a celebration tea for pupils and parents, so, as the concrete was to be poured straight through into the hall off the lorry, it was the only opportunity to do this after the old cottages next door had been demolished, and the lorry could drive straight back in the space, before they built Lloyds Bank there. So we had the children sitting on a ring out on the pathway outside the hall, being offered sandwiches and cakes by the plateful, while the parents sat on chairs in a row against the wall elbows tucked in, in the parlour, which along with the kitchen was the only part of the floor which was ok to walk on, the main hall being full of half-set concrete - a different sort of tea party than usual!

During the time of the MAYC London Weekend our Youth Club was near enough to travel to London and back to Knaphill in a comfortable time. But lots of churches needed to stay nearer for the weekend, so for several years we had clubs camping in our Church Hall, so for breakfast and supper a couple of Knaphill members, on a rota for each day, went to the church and prepared their meals. I did supper a couple of years - arriving in time to be ready so they could eat as soon as they arrived back, before bed ready for an early start the next morning.

As time went on lots of activities disappeared or altered, so things became different in many ways. We have more contact and joint activities with the other churches in the village nowadays.

Halls Farm and Stevens Cottage were eventually demolished and the large gardens they both had were turned into another batch of housing.

So things would seem very different to people from a previous generation, as even I can see a vast change, even within my time. **Helen Baker 2015**

Let Us Live Christmas Every Day

Christmas is more than a day at the end of the year,
More than a season of joy and good cheer,
Christmas is really God's pattern for living
To be followed all year by unselfish giving.

For the holiday season awakens good cheer
And draws us closer to those we hold dear,
And we open our hearts and find it is good
To live among men as WE ALWAYS SHOULD.

But as soon as the tinsel is stripped from the tree
The spirit of Christmas fades silently
Into the background of daily routine
And is lost in the whirl of life's busy scene,

And all unawares we miss and forego
The greatest blessing that mankind can know
For if we lived Christmas each day, as we should,
And made it our aim to always do good,

We'd find the lost key to meaningful living
That comes not from GETTING, but from UNSELFISH GIVING
And we'd know the great joy of PEACE UPON EARTH
Which was the real purpose of our Saviour's birth,

For in the GLAD TIDINGS of the first Christmas Night,
God showed us THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIGHT!

Author Unknown



KMC 150

2016 is set to be a momentous year in the life of our church as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Methodism in Knaphill. A new history of the church has just been published, and is available from John Mynard, price £5. It is a fascinating account of the journey travelled from modest beginnings on the local playing fields, and would make an ideal Christmas present for anyone you know interested in the church and the development of the life of the village.

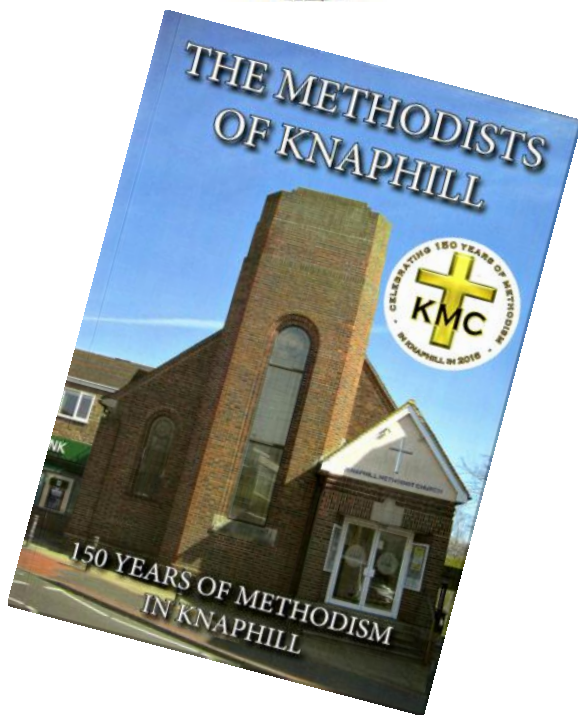
Keep a look out on the Weekly Notices or the website for further details of the special events being planned to mark our anniversary, but in the meantime do ensure you have the following events marked in your diary:

10am, Sunday 21 February

Special guest preacher, Rev John Hellyer, Chair, South East Methodist District

7:30pm, Saturday 27 February

Concert given by the Almac Bisley Brass Band, in aid of Band-nominated charities and church funds



7:30pm, Saturday 12 March

Talk on the history of Knaphill by local historian and author, Iain Wakeford

Easter Weekend, 25 – 28 March

Exhibition on Methodism and its place in the village, past and future. Volunteers to steward the exhibition and provide refreshments for visitors are still needed. Please let me know if you are able to help.

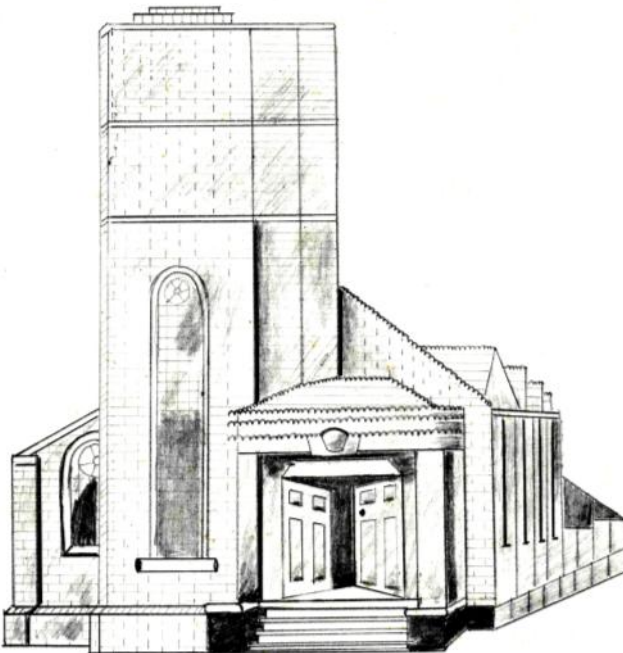
Saturday 11 – Sunday 12 June

This weekend will include a Community Flower Festival, a service of celebration and thanksgiving led by our own minister on the Sunday morning, and a Songs of Praise service at 4pm that afternoon. More details of all this to come nearer the time, but we are hoping that all those interested in the church through a past association will be able to return to see the displays of flowers and to attend one or both of the Sunday services.

Can you please spread the word about this weekend amongst family, friends, neighbours and anyone else with whom it would be good to renew fellowship.

More events are being planned for later in the year, so keep watching for further details.

All the above events will take place on our church premises



Who's Birthday is it?

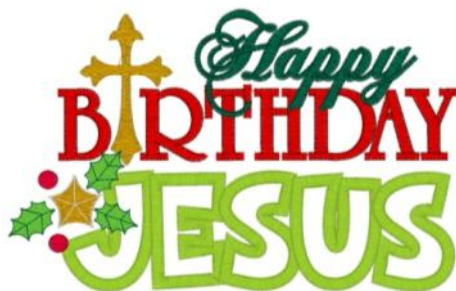
Everyone remembers birthday of loved ones/relatives, friends, colleagues and one's own birthday from roughly age 5 or school age onwards. Newspapers remind readers of some well-known individual's birthdays and Facebook reminds you of birthdays of "friends". In the Christian world there is one birthday every practising Christian remembers - or ought to remember. Mothers preparing Christmas cake remember "stirring" time - the family tradition handed down through generations. Advent calendars dormant for 11 months come into vogue for 4 Sundays. Opening each "window" is a delight with some surprises.

Summer gives way to Autumn which stealthily covers the golden months. Some shops bring out their decorations, made mostly of colourful plastic and papers. Alcohols are sold at competitive prices to raise (?) spirit levels later!! Newspapers are bejewelled with Christmas Fayre advertisements. Last Friday of November - Black Friday - starts the race into pandemonium - in riotous scrambles for the best bargain, camouflaged as Christmas shopping for Christmas presents. Good Will to the Mankind becomes the casualty and Peace on the Earth is shattered. Just under 4 weeks to Christmas, commercialisation speeds up earnestly. Some shops display cut out figures of a baby in a manger as parents dotingly looked at the baby; shepherds, cattle and donkeys magnetised and angels hovering, awaiting the Three Wise Men bearing gifts from the East heralding the GOOD NEWS forecasted many times in the Old Testament (Isaiah 42- verse 1 to 9).

In this age of multimedia, ipod and latest gadgets money can buy; alas, less people in the "Christian World" seem to connect with the significance of the Heavenly event on the Earth. Guaranteed two working days as Bank Holidays - Christmas Day and Boxing Day (BH). However, every year less and less adults and children connect these two "BH" with the Spiritual event of more than two thousands years ago, that occurred to rescue souls of humanity - in the absence of AA or RAC or Green Flag, ambulance service and helicopter rescue. In today's modern age souls are being drowned by commercialisation which enhances materialism as the panacea for managing this transient world.

**CAN WE SPARE SOME TIME TO REFLECT
ON HIS BIRTHDAY??**

Rajendra/Raj Chhetri, 27th November



Services



20th December	10am	Morning Worship with Graham Pearcey
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight with Dave Faulkner
24th December	4pm	Christmouse Christingle with Elizabeth Gurd
	11pm	Midnight Holy Communion with Dave Faulkner
25th December	10.30am	Family Worship with Elizabeth Gurd
27th December	10am	Morning Worship with Gill Taggart
3rd January	10am	Morning Worship with Mark Lawson
10th January	10am	Holy Communion with Dave Faulkner
17th January	10am	Morning Worship with Rosemary Lee
24th January	10am	Morning Worship with Elizabeth Gurd
31st January	10am	Morning Worship with Dave Faulkner
followed by Open Meeting about the Circuits		
7th February	10am	Morning Worship with Graham Warr
14th February	10am	Holy Communion with Dave Faulkner
21st February	10am	Church Anniversary with John Hellyer and Dave Faulkner
	6.30pm	Holy Communion with Dave Faulkner
28th January	10am	Morning Worship with Elizabeth Gurd

