

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH

MAGAZINE

MINISTER: REV. DAVID FAULKNER TEL: 01483 472524



KMC 150



Autumn 2016



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 front of the church in Broadway,
or call Rev. Dave Faulkner: 01483 472524
or see www.knaphill-methodist-church.com
or email: minister@knaphill-methodist-church.com



KMC MAGAZINE

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

NEXT ISSUE: Look out for copy deadline in The Notices

Copy to: Barbara Humphries - magazine@knaphill-methodist-church.com or to the Magazine pigeonhole.

Message from Dave:



Dear Friends

Happy New Year!

Is that a strange greeting? If you are only used to September being the start of the educational year, and you have left school and college long behind, then perhaps it is.

But it is the start of the new Methodist Year. It is when presbyters and deacons take up new appointments. In the case of our new Circuit (which also begins its life on 1st September), we welcome Paul Chesworth to take pastoral charge of Trinity Woking and St Michael's Sheerwater (the latter jointly with Anglican priest Gillaine Holland). With our staffing issues, it's also the time that I am adding Weybridge to my 'portfolio' of churches.

And in Knaphill's case, we mark it by the holding of our annual Covenant Service in this month, rather than in January, as many other churches do.

We have **new opportunities and new challenges**. Well, if I'm honest, the challenges have been creeping up on us for a while. That's why I've called an Extraordinary Church Council for 12th September and an Open Meeting for 9th October after the service.

The **challenges**, brutally, are financial. Lynda Shore and her predecessor Chris Lowe have warned us for a few years now that things were going in the wrong direction. We have come through the latest financial year largely because the circuit rebated several thousand pounds to us, due to the ministerial shortage.

But projections suggest that with loss of members we may soon face annual deficits in the region of £12,000. Yes, you read that figure correctly. Twelve thousand pounds. Even with our reserves, we cannot sustain such a loss for more than a couple of years.

Why has this happened? We have lost several members. We have also lost one or two major hirers, most notably the Pied Piper Pre-School, who suddenly found themselves on the end of ever more strict OFSTED regulations that required exclusive use of our premises' toilets while the pre-school was running. If we take on another pre-school (and we have been in talks with one), then we shall face similar restrictions.

It's sad to have to share this so soon after we have been thinking about the exciting options Derek Kemp, our architect, gave us, and as our 150th Anniversary celebrations come towards a close, but even if we go ahead with ambitious plans, we still need to sustain church life afterwards.

I have said ever since coming here six years ago that we cannot rely on new people just turning up in order to maintain our congregation. Churchgoing and Christian faith are now alien practices for the majority of Westerners.

The **opportunities** come in responding to these deep challenges. We need to reach

out to our sister churches in Christian unity and to the community in mission. And we must be careful to do this not for the sake of our own survival but for the sake of God's mission. Remember that Jesus said those who wanted to save their lives would lose them. I think that can be just as true of a church as of an individual.

Reaching out in Christian unity would realistically mean conversations with Knaphill Baptist Church, Holy Trinity Knaphill, or Trinity Methodist Woking. I have already had informal conversations with Baptist leaders, because they have a vision to look for bigger premises and be a clear presence in the village. However, that would not involve them coming into our building, and it would be unlikely to result in a full ecumenical partnership.

Reaching out in mission means we must be intentional in seeking to reach our locality for Christ. If we stay huddled here at KMC, then we shall die. It is as simple as that. We need to stop avoiding the question about what we might do to bring the love of Christ in deed and word to our community.

Ideally, I would have liked to have called the Open Meeting before the Extraordinary Church Council, but diary constraints prevented that. At least the way this has worked out means that everyone now has a chance to pray, think, and talk for a few weeks before we all come together. It also means that the Church Council may be able to bring some considered thoughts to the Open Meeting.

Let me reassure you that I never came here to close a church, and I still don't intend to do that. Nevertheless, the situation is serious, and we can't put our heads in the sand any longer. We need imaginative solutions that may well look very different from church as we have known it over the years.

Please – please – pray.

Your minister and friend

Dave Faulkner





We Come To Worship

In this place we come to worship, you, our heavenly Father.
You have shown us grace and mercy so much more than we deserve.
*Come among us, in this worship. Come among us, as we sing and pray.
Not for just this fleeting moment, Father, be with us each day.*

We have served you in your house Lord, many years have passed us by.
But the worship never ceases. We will praise you Lord most high.
Chorus

We remember those, who have served you, for their witness in this place.
May they never be forgotten, as we journey with your grace.
Chorus

On this very special occasion, give us now your blessing, Lord.
May this place be ever a witness, may your name be ever adored.
Chorus

As we journey into the future, serving you, our faithful Lord.
May this place be ever a witness, where your name is ever adored
Chorus

This hymn was written by John Mynard to celebrate KMC's 150th Anniversary and sung at the Anniversary Service on 12th June 2016.





On the 13th July, Malcolm and myself went to Cornwall and Devon for a few days, mainly to catch up with some friends, who we hadn't seen for a number of years. While there, we visited Bodmin and came across this shop that has been converted into a Methodist Church. It looks like the decision was taken 5 years ago to leave their large church and have the shop converted. The congregation is about 40 people, they have a monthly coffee morning and occasionally provide light lunches. There is a women's social group held every other Tuesday, Bible study groups plus a prayer group as well. More information at www.bpwcircuit.com/bodmin.html Could this be something KMC should consider, as after all, it is the people who make the church, not the building! I am just thinking of another way we can resolve the situation with our church.

Helen Brice

Thank you!

I would just like to say what a wonderful service on the 17th July for Elizabeth to be welcomed as a Local Preacher. To finally see all her hard work being rewarded was beautiful, the food was excellent, mostly prepared by Elizabeth and family. Once again, a big thank you to Jonathan who played the trumpet as we sang the last hymn, "And Can It Be". The roof certainly was raised as everyone sang with such passion. Brilliant!

Helen Brice

Church FamilyNEWS

- Many congratulations to Elizabeth and Stephen Gurd who will be celebrating their silver Wedding Anniversary on 3rd August.
- Well done to Juliette Wright and Jonathan Gurd on passing their driving tests **first time** in May and June.
- Congratulations for Helen and Malcolm Brice as they will be celebrating their 40th Wedding anniversary on 11th September
- Congratulations for Joan and John Bearman as their eldest grandson, James has recently become engaged to Lizzie.
- Christine Woodley would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, prayers and good wishes following her hip replacement . She is now home and doing well.
- Please pray for Barbara Humphries as she starts treatment for breast cancer.
- Many congratulations to Kwabena son of Emmanuel Oduro and Nana Serwaa Bonsu who was baptised on 31st July.

Editors Note: *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 01483 824469.*



Many of you have Home Mission boxes, here is an extract from 'One Mission Matters' magazine, just 1 example of how some of your money was spent.

"This summer we are thankful for the Blackpool Food Partnership (BFP), which is helping to alleviate food poverty across Blackpool.

Supported by Springfield Methodist Church and Methodist Action (North

West), the project collected an incredible £77,000 worth of surplus food last year from major supermarket chains and wholesalers. In addition to redistributing surplus food to children's centres, community kitchens and hostels across Blackpool, the BFP is coordinating and training church volunteers to deliver 'cook and eat' sessions for people who are learning to cook on a budget.

'It's all making a huge difference to people in poverty in Blackpool, the extra vitamins in fresh food make a huge difference to families at children's centres' Nikki Hart (Project Manager BFP)

Enabled by your generosity, we were able to award BFP a grant of £21,100 from Mission in Britain Fund. This will help keep this incredible work going for the next three years."

Ella Allen

Where your money went



One key way in which the Methodist Church responds to God's generous provision is by giving to funds that enable money to be directed to where its use can be maximised in mission and ministry.

Across the Connexion there are churches and circuits working faithfully as God's witnesses - some from a position of financial challenge, but others seeking to discern how they should use reserves that are greater than their immediate need. The Methodist Council is deliberately reducing levels of planned reserves, releasing additional money for grant making for all kinds of projects.

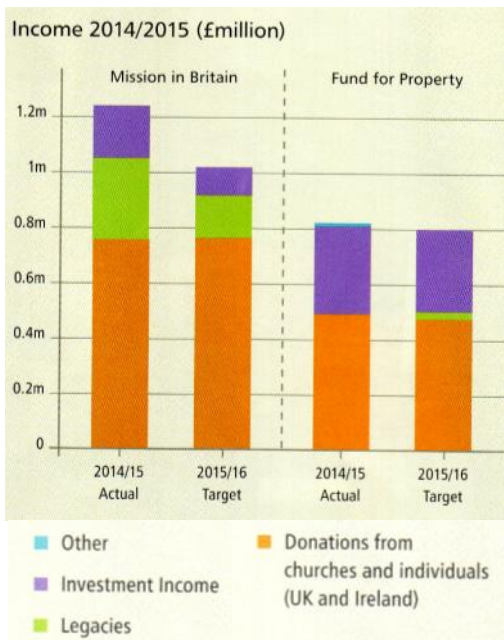
Thank you for giving generously to Methodist mission over the past year. Every Methodist who gives (be it their time or finances) is an essential part of God's mission.

Mission in Britain Fund

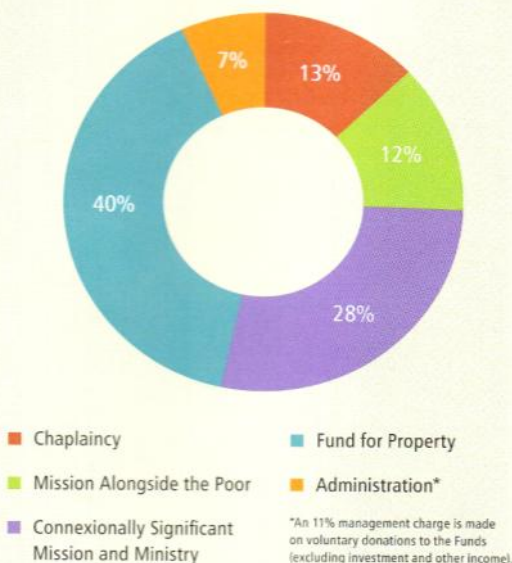
We received applications significantly in excess of the grants budget and were pleased to be able to award grants from the Mission in Britain Fund to 85% of applicants (23 out of 27 applications). Four grants were for more than £100,000.

Fund for Property

We have continued to encourage churches to strengthen the mission aspects of their projects, in order to increase their chances of being funded. The total number of applications was 31. Two churches were awarded a grant exceeding £100,000, with 16 grants below £100,000.



Expenditure 2014/2015



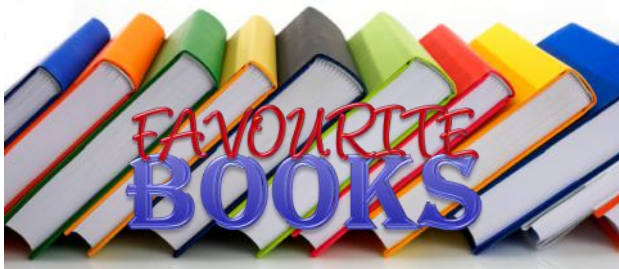
CAMEO

Come And Meet Each Other



This meeting, open to all, is held on 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Starting again in September, the first meeting is 7th Sept, 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start. It is a members' afternoon and folk can bring along a favourite book to share with us.



The next meeting is 21st Sept and we have a fun quiz organised by Robb Peters. Do come along, you will be made very welcome.

Following the tea and cake afternoon in July, we raised £90 for the Leprosy mission. Thank you to all those who came along and supported us.

Enquiries – Ella Allen 830154

Vacancy for a Church Administrator/Church Council Secretary at KMC

In May, Yvette Wright resigned from her position as Church Administrator and Church Council Secretary. If anyone feels the calling to take on the role please speak to Yvette or Dave Faulkner. The job could be split so the role can be covered by more than one person. Please contact admin@knaphill-methodist-church.com

Weekly Notices to become the fortnightly:

Yvette will continue issuing the Weekly Notices up until Sunday 28th August. From then it will change, to become "The Notices", issued fortnightly - so no notice sheet on 4th September, or 18th September etc. Please continue sending notices to Yvette in the usual way. Thank you.



CHURCH MEETING - 9th October

There will be an IMPORTANT Open Church Meeting after the morning service on Sunday 9th October. Please note the date to ensure you are able to attend. We will be discussing the future of our church.



Borneo!

Amie Humphries



In June 2016, I went to Borneo for 2 weeks, as part of my degree course at University of Kent. It was the most amazing, challenging, awe-inspiring two weeks, and I loved every minute! After an incredibly long journey (a 14 hour flight, a 3 hour stop over, then a second 3 hour flight), we arrived in Borneo. We spent our first two days in a resort about an hour away from the airport. This was mainly so that we could get used to the time difference (Borneo is 7 hours ahead of the UK) and the heat (it was at least 30°C and about 80% humidity each day!) before we started working in the rainforest. During our first two days we visited Orangutan and Sun Bear sanctuaries. It was amazing to see these incredible animals up close and personal.

On the morning of the third day, we then travelled to the main field site, which was located in the middle of the rain forest, literally! So we had to drive for an hour to get to the Kinabatangan River, then travel 45 minutes by boat to get to the site. Our main purpose of being out in Borneo was to carry out lots of wildlife surveys, so we surveyed birds, bats, and dungbeetles, among others.

When we were carrying out the bird survey, we wanted to see if there was a large difference in the size of the population in the oil palm plantation compared to the rainforest. To get to the oil palm plantation, we had to cross the river and then climb up and down a few very steep slopes. This was rather funny when it had been raining and it was very muddy, as most of us either slipped over backwards and slid down the slope on our backsides or “skied” down! Many hilariously embarrassing photos and videos were taken! The oil palm plantations were absolutely huge - mind-blowingly so! The palms were growing for as far as the eye could see; I mean, in

order to complete the surveys, we had to walk about 4 kilometres and you couldn't see an end to the plantation. It's just incredibly sad to think that the whole area would have been rainforest only about 20 years ago.

We also got the opportunity to go on a night walk in the rainforest. It was eerily surreal! We left the main field site at about 8pm and got back around 10.30pm. As there was no light pollution in the rainforest, and the canopy was so thick, when we turned the torches off, you couldn't see your hand in front of your face, let alone anything else! We managed to see some very cool nocturnal animals, like the White-Lipped Tree Frog, a Moonrat and a Frilled Tree Frog.

For three days we weren't allowed into the rainforest as there was a herd of about 100 elephants in the area. Yes, you read that right... 100 elephants! So, during those three days, we had lots of lectures and completed a lot of the work we had to do whilst we were out there.

One of the most memorable moments of the trip was when we saw two wild orangutans: a female and her juvenile! We were walking back to the main building when one of my friends grabbed my arm and half shouting/half whispering told us to look up and there they were, just watching us! We stood there for a good hour just watching them – simply amazing! As the Bornean Orangutan is now classed as Critically Endangered, we were incredibly lucky to see them!

On our last day we went to the Gomantong caves. There were literally thousands of swifts and bats! Our lecturer decided that anyone who wanted to could go with him and try and find the other entrance to the cave. Thinking it would be a gentle slope up, I decided to go. Well, it started off gently sloping, but before long we were pretty much rock climbing up the side of this cave! I think everyone thought that I would turn back at one point or another, and so kept checking to see if I wanted to. I was not going to turn back! It was my last day in Borneo, I was going to make the most of it! Yes, it was an incredibly challenging climb for me, but I did it and the view from the top was so worth it!

I'm so pleased that I decided to go on the trip. I nearly didn't sign up for it, as I wasn't sure if I would be able to manage it physically, particularly in the heat and humidity, but I managed everything and absolutely loved it!



God's Garden

Christine Woodley



Well are you nearer God's heart in a garden? To answer this question I turned to my Bible and re-read Genesis. My first thoughts were – God put his whole heart and soul into creating the Garden of Eden. Firstly He planted all manner of trees, bearing good fruit and irrigated it with a network of rivers. The trees also provided shelter from storm and sun, and provide home to small creatures as well as ambience and stability they are strong and enduring.

To help with the increasing workload of a large garden, God made a man – Adam and appointed him gardener. It was Adam's responsibility to care for all the plants and the numerous birds and animals that just kept arriving at Eden. They enjoyed working together and spent most evenings walking around the estate deep in conversation.



There are many references in the Bible of gardens, making comparisons for pastoral folk to identify with, from the seed sower seedlings not thriving without nurture, weeding, pruning to harvesting, not to mention a jolly good bonfire and bottle of wine at the end of the day.

So God having been instrumental and founder of the first profession which is still ongoing today – farming – the world must be fed.

A garden is your very own Eden. It doesn't matter if you have a small plot or acres, in the peace and tranquillity of the day you can be close to God.

Many years ago, when I was younger and fitter, I used to visit an elderly lady to help with a few jobs in her garden. I was concerned one day to find her in low spirits and disillusioned with the world after watching the television news. "Where is God in all of this" she asked. She told me later of a visit she had had from the Methodist Minister and she had asked him the same question. He did not bombard her with smart answers but took her arm and said "Shall we take a turn around your garden".



They admired the brightly coloured bedding flowers, the aubrietia fringing the wall and softening the edges of the pathway. They breathed in the fragrance of the roses and shrubs, touched the shiny leaves of the laurel, and watched with interest and fascination the tiny insects going about their business, unaware they were being watched. They listened to the chatter and song of the birds high in the tree.

The Minister observed the vegetable plot "I see your garden helps sustain you as well as delight you and gives you purpose for the day" he remarked. They talked about the weather, the seasons and the natural order of things, even the beauty of the night sky, lit by the moon and millions of stars and of the voices of the nocturnal creatures, unseen but still present.

The visit ended with a cup of tea, sat in the garden, on a bench under the tree, as they absorbed God's peace and marvelled at all His good work, fully refreshed in body and spirit.

So yes I do think and feel you can be close to God's heart in a garden, it is after all your own corner of the universe and all creation is there to His glory.

The mess of the world is MAN'S creation!

Some thoughts, memories re-kindled following Elizabeth's talk Easter Sunday 2016.

Love and God Bless, Christine Woodley

KMCC 150

Flower Festival/Anniversary Weekend

The weekend of 11th and 12th June was truly wonderful, when we held our Flower Festival, special service for former members, (plus lunch), and Songs of Praise service. Many people worked incredibly hard to bring all aspects of the weekend's events together and we had a superb response from organisations and businesses in and around Knaphill, and from other churches in Knaphill and the Circuit. We were able to display over 50 delightful flower

arrangements of all shapes, sizes and colours, which filled the Church, Welcome Area and hall with scent, as well as being beautiful to behold. Part of the exhibition on 150 Years of Methodism in Knaphill was re-erected and items of memorabilia were on sale. Refreshments served on Saturday and the fantastic lunch on Sunday were additional attractions.

The morning service on Sunday 12th was well attended by former members, some of whom travelled many miles to be with us, and the Mayor of Woking, Councillor Anne Murray. She kindly cut our Anniversary cake afterwards and chatted to a number of people. At 4pm we held a lovely Songs of Praise service, followed by the auction of many of the flower arrangements. This too was highly successful. In total, some £1200 was raised over the weekend, after expenses had been paid. This was an amazing result, as the original aim was to break even! It is thanks to the huge effort and great generosity of many members and supporters that such a magnificent result was achieved.

Thank you to everyone involved.

Lynda Shore

Family Coffee Morning with Bouncy Castle

Thanks also go to the Junior and Youth Church teams who arranged a bouncy castle, quizzes and art and craft activities for children, plus party food, on Saturday 25th June. We combined it with a regular coffee morning, which worked incredibly well. We had visitors young and old, regulars and first time callers and a lovely atmosphere. Proceeds were £263.86, after expenses, which is above the average for our monthly coffee mornings, so we regard the event as a great success and intend to repeat it in a few months. Many, many thanks to all the Junior/Youth Church helpers and to those who ran the regular coffee morning, staffing bric-a-brac, cake, book and outdoor stalls and serving refreshments.

Lynda Shore



Forthcoming Anniversary Events

Harvest Celebration and Supper



On Saturday 24th September, at 6.30 pm, we are marking harvest with a Faith Supper, a performance of the short play "From Pub to Pulpit", which charts the establishment of a Methodist Church in Knaphill, and a further special treat. A group of Gospel singers is coming to entertain us, and they are not to be missed! There is no charge for the evening, just the request that those attending bring food to share, so please note the date and come along to enjoy the evening.

The service on 25th will also be a treat, as Rob Gill is visiting to preach. We will also be receiving gifts (goods or money) for Whitechapel over the weekend.

Dave Bilborough Concert

This is our final special celebration for the 150th Anniversary – on Saturday 15th October, the celebrated hymn writer, Dave Bilborough, is returning to KMC to perform, starting at 7.30pm.

He will give an excellent concert, so please tell family, friends, members of other churches and anyone else you know about this and get your tickets ASAP.

Tickets are £10 each (£5 for children) and are available from Lynda Shore (01483 730761) or Robin Spice.

Please note that we have the following for sale:

"The Methodists of Knaphill" £5

"Memories of Years Past" written by Ella Allen, Helen Baker and Marilyn Meller £1

Anniversary pens £1.50

Anniversary torches £2.50

2017 Calendar of views "In and around Knaphill" £5

Also available are DVDs of "Memories of Knaphill Methodist Church" and of the concert by Bisley Brass Band held on 27th February 2016 £5 each

£5



£1.50



£2.50



£5



£1



Below are copies of some of the many entries into our Visitors book at the 150th Anniversary Exhibition in March and the Anniversary Week-end in June.

Date	Name	Address	Comments
25/3/16	BRIAN + ANN New City	BISLEY	LOVELY, THOUGHTFUL EXHIBITION!
25/03/16	Irene Collingridge		Fascinating exhibits,
25/3/16	Pam Ellis		Interesting and informative
25/3/16	Sylvia Ewers		Very interesting!
25/3	Paula Gerard	Chesham	Very good exhibition!
26/3/16	Ellen Kay Stickle	Bedford Close, West End	Great reflection and excellent projects - for the future -
26/3/16	AIN WAKEFORD	OLD WORKING	BRILLIANT DISPLAY. A LOT OF HARD WORK HAS OBVIOUSLY GONE INTO IT.
26/03/16	Rajendra Chhetri	Knap Hill	Thank you for such good and excellent presentation took me back. Great Exhibits
	Paula Postlethwaite	53 Draybonds Rd, (near Melk)	Lots of memories!!
28/3/16	Deirdre Alan Morden	Spalding Lincolnshire	Very interesting and informative.
11/6/16	Karen Eric Pewee	Lansdown Close St Johns	Beautiful!!!
11th June, 2016	David Holland	107B Grosvenor Avenue, Gosforth, Beeches SMS 564	Congratulations on wonderful flower arrangements. Nearly 25 years ago So glad to meet old friends
12/06/16	Ruth + Kevin Bamford	3, Croft Lane, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 3AD	Thank you for inviting us back. Many fond memories!
12/06/16	Celia Chapple	Goldsworth Park	lovely display. Thank you
"	Marian Chapple	" "	Beautiful flowers, church & people Best wishes for next 150 yrs!
12-6-16	Gerald Lambourn	6 LA VACHER 32230 AIZAC FRANCE	Great to meet so many friends from 1976-2004! Superb presentation!

Thank you everyone who came along!

The award for the visitor who travelled the furthest: Gerald Lambourn from France!



Harvest Celebration

Saturday 24th September 6.30pm

Harvest Faith Supper

**Harvest Performance of
"From Pub to Pulpit"**

Harvest Gospel Singers

**A Celebration of Harvest In our 150th year -
do not miss this evening full of entertainment!**

The Innocence of the Young Mind...

My 5 year old grandson came out with something last week that amused me:

Max "Nan, does God have a skeleton?"

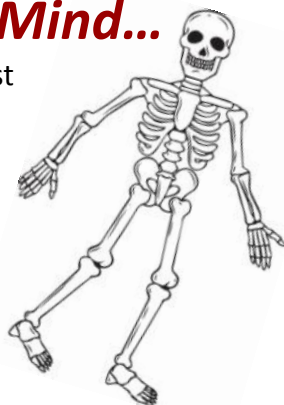
Nan "I really don't know Max."

Max "Why don't you know?"

Nan "Well, I don't think anyone really knows."

Max "Father Christmas knows. He knows everything!"

Helen Chamberlain





Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 23rd September 11am - 3pm

Trinity Methodist Church, Woking

There will be Ploughman's Lunches and Cakes

If you would like a Ploughman's Lunch, please contact Tarina Berry on 01483 382066 or 07787 923450 or by email on tastietreats2014@gmail.com by Monday 19th September

A Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning

is being held at St. Michael's Church, Dartmouth Avenue, Sheerwater on Saturday 1st October from 11am - 3pm

There will be a variety of things to do and buy, including a raffle, tombola, bric-a-brac, and games. At lunchtime we will be serving hot dogs and onions. Donations of gifts, prizes, cakes etc. would be welcomed.





Flower Festival

When a flower festival was first mentioned back at the end of 2014 it was greeted with rather muted enthusiasm by the flower arranging group. As the last one was approximately 10 years ago and several people who helped then are no longer here it was going to prove a bit of a challenge. However the planning committee went ahead and a date was fixed. Several meetings were held and it was difficult to envisage a church full of flowers on a cold windy night in January. We were aware that as this was to be our 150th Anniversary we must do the very best we could.



At the beginning of May this year, the local shopkeepers were approached by Sue Findlay and asked if they would be prepared to take part either by donating a ready made display, giving a donation to enable us to make one for them or in some cases bringing us flowers. This was very successful and we had wonderful support from local businesses who entered into the spirit with us and were very interested.

Detailed plans were drawn up and in the week preceding the event many buckets could be seen placed in the church with labels attached ready to receive flowers. Working from plans worked on in advance the placement of each donation was decided and although last minute changes were made in a few cases this was largely followed. On the Thursday morning bright

and early 3 of us were at Longacres Bagshot complete with 3 trolleys and working from detailed colour schemes we barged our way to the front of many other trolleys and filled them to the brim, working to colour plans provided by Sheila. Halfway round we bumped into Elizabeth and Helen buying their flowers for their displays too. When John, Sheila and myself emerged at the tills I was just glad that there was no one behind us in the queue for quite a while. After settling our large bill we all took the flowers back to the church, placed them in their individually allotted buckets and then set about trying to create order out of chaos over the Thursday afternoon and evening and Friday most of the day.



It was lovely as people from other churches, uniformed organisations etc arrived to set up their flowers and local traders came in with theirs too as we worked on the many we had to do. We all enjoyed the sense of fellowship and fun that this brought with it along with many amusing moments on the way. Everybody was busy in some way or other, cleaning the premises, getting the food ready for the massive catering bonanza that the weekend entailed and by the Friday evening all looked and smelt really lovely with so many arrangements in place. The Queen's 90th Birthday was a favourite among several displays and HM would have been

proud to see them, even the lovely one that was drenched on the Sunday as it stood outside in typical English weather!!

On Saturday many people came to see the flowers and displays from our exhibition in the church hall and have some refreshments. A very busy day was had by all. On the Sunday which was the day when many old friends and past members were invited to come and share the service with us and of course view the flowers, which lasted well, and eat a lovely meal cooked by the ladies in the catering team we all relaxed and felt that this was a truly memorable occasion. In the evening when Songs of Praise in the church finished and the flowers had been auctioned off we really felt that it had been a truly special weekend. Thanks to you all who helped make this such a special time and whatever may happen in the life of KMC from now on, I feel that we were truly blessed that weekend.

Gill Ball





Christian Aid

I would like to say thank you to anyone involved in any way with the Christian Aid House to House Collection in May 2016. We raised £2111.05 in Knaphill this year. This is not quite as good as last year (£2521.79), but we had the usual difficulties

finding collectors and coverage shrank once more, so it was a very good result. Whether you collected, delivered, counted or gave (or all of these), thank you very much for your help. **Lynda Shore**



We have continued our fundraising efforts for World Mission and Mission in Britain over the past few months, in addition to all the other activities taking place during our Anniversary Year. So far we have held a coffee morning in

January and a Beetle Drive and Quiz evening in April, which raised £220 and £234 respectively, which is shared between the two funds. The Easter Offering raised £87.37 for World Mission; less than usual, but very welcome nevertheless. Our final event for this year will be the coffee morning on 20th August 2016. There have also been some donations via collecting boxes held by members of the congregation. If you have a box which has not been emptied recently, please could you give Mission in Britain ones to Maggie Spice and World Mission ones to Lynda Shore, before the end of August, when the financial year ends?

Thank you, **Lynda Shore**

Financial Report



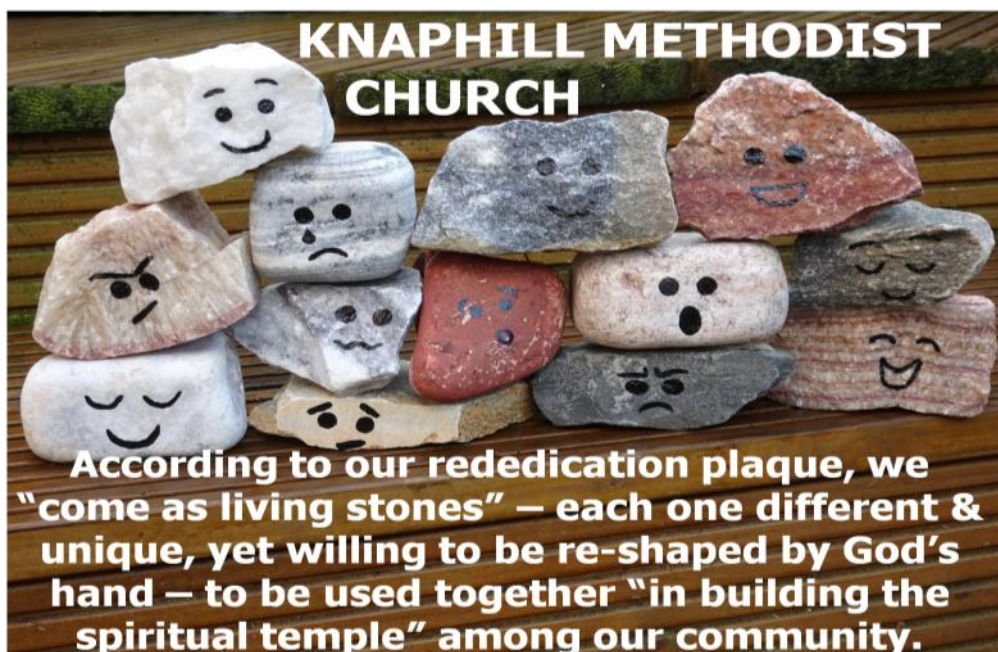
Income from regular giving (envelopes and standing orders) and the cash offertory at KMC was approximately £34,200 in 2012-13, but has been falling since, in spite of the great generosity of many members of the congregation. It is likely to be about £30,000 this year and is showing a downward trend. The reduction is generally owing to loss of members. The annual costs of running the church are between £65,000 and £70,000, including the assessment. Regular giving is supplemented by lettings, but we have lost some regular hirers and prayers are needed that attempts to acquire new users of our premises meet with success.

We have been fundraising with by way of monthly Coffee Mornings, which are proving to be very successful and have built up a regular clientele, both of members and visitors from outside the church. Thanks go to all who run them, bake cakes or donate items for sale, or come along to support them. In the current financial year, we have held 8 coffee mornings for church funds, raising a total of £2170.87. Our special events for the 150th Anniversary Year have also been very successful, and have raised approximately £1800 so far. They have all been rewarding and worthwhile in their own right, but it is especially pleasing to see that our efforts have produced such a beneficial income as well. We need everyone to work hard to sell tickets to friends and acquaintances in other churches for our Dave Bilborough Concert on 15th October, so that our final event of the Anniversary Year is also a big success (see separate item for details).

Many thanks are due for the generous donations, amounting to £1415, received for "Gift Day", over the 23rd/24th July. This is a most valuable contribution to church funds, to which will be added a further £300 when GiftAid is claimed from HMRC.

So, many people are working hard to try to ensure a sustained Methodist presence in Knaphill. We have an additional boost to our finances, but for this year only, because we received a rebate of approximately 3 months' assessment, owing to the shortage of clergy in the Circuit over the past year. However, the long term outlook is less encouraging, so I ask once again for prayers to help us perceive the way forward, both in sustaining giving and lettings income, so that Knaphill Methodist Church can continue to serve and witness in the community.

Thank you, Lynda Shore, Hon Treasurer.



John Morton - in profile



Robin Spice

It was a great pleasure to interview John for this profile. He has been attending KMC for the last 4 years but it seems longer because of the lasting favourable impression he leaves with those who spend any time in his company.

John is a Scot, born in Edinburgh in 1946 to Edinburgh parents who were themselves of Scottish ancestry. He spent much of his early life in Kendal in the Lake District due to his father's job but at 18 years of age he returned to Edinburgh to go to college. Despite this Anglicisation and despite now living in rural Surrey, John still feels very Scottish!

He spent the next seven years in Edinburgh studying civil and

structural engineering and was awarded a graduate and post graduate degree. As was the custom of the time, during his studies he had a number of temporary summer work placements in various locations including at Loughborough on the M1 construction and Drax Power Station south of York where he worked on setting it out. In 1968 he worked at Tebay on the construction of the M6 motorway over Shap Fell.

Following completion of his studies, John stayed in Edinburgh for a further 5 years and took a position as a lecturer at the University during which time he was trained in lecturing and in 'enabling learning' at various establishments including Bath University. In 1976, John made a move to Stoke on Trent to work for the Research Association for products of UK Ceramic Industries. In 1978, an opportunity arose to move to Surrey to work at the Trade Association for the British Brick Industry. So it was that three days before Christmas in 1977, John with his wife Anne, whom he married in 1969 (plus one daughter and a son), arrived in their new home in Lightwater where they still live.

Aged 40 in 1986, John was due to go on a business trip to Ipswich but arrived later than planned. He describes that it was during this period of his life that he felt

considerable spiritual growth. One source of inspiration, about which he read during college days, was the life and work of Albert Schweitzer, the great philosopher, theologian and musician. On arriving at his hotel in Ipswich late in the evening, John opened his bible at Corinthians 12 and continued to read into Chapter 13

***¹² For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face:
now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am
known.***

It was literally at this point that John's eyes were opened to the truth of the gospels. Perhaps because of this, John began to feel a call to preach. He describes a feeling of isolation, however, due to a lack of a mentor to talk and confide in, so he simply put his trust in God. He went forward to ask for a note to preach – the first stage in becoming a Methodist Local Preacher. That was during 1987/88 and he continued preaching, becoming a fully accredited Local Preacher in 1990 in the (then) Aldershot Farnborough and Camberley Methodist circuit - which included his own church at Bagshot. John also felt he should make an attempt to test a call for full time ministry; the response was negative and he has been content with the role of local preacher for the past 25 years.

In 1992, John's employment became insecure and, along with so many in the construction sector, he was made redundant. Due to this he decided to set up his own consultancy business, again trusting in God that this was the right thing to do to ensure he was able to support his growing family. By now John & Anne had four children and the eldest had just started college training as a physiotherapist. With three daughters and one son, John and Anne have seven grandchildren ranging in age from 13 to 3. Although that does not give the whole picture because while the eldest is 13, they have in fact three grandchildren who are 5 and another three who are just 3 years old! So life is not quiet in the Morton household when the family comes to visit!

One aspect of John which most of us will be aware of is his talent as a musician. If you know John, you might not be surprised to know that he taught himself to play the piano and was inspired by the organist at his childhood church to learn to play the organ and to lead Music Worship. So it was that when not preaching, John could be found playing the organ at Bagshot and in other churches in the area which he has done over the past 35 years.

When there were boundary changes to his own circuit, John decided to move to our circuit and join KMC; I would say this move has definitely been Bagshot's loss and our gain. John has occasionally been asked to preach at KMC and at other churches in the Walton & Weybridge circuit and of course it has been known for him to play our organ at a few services too! Otherwise John can be found most Sunday mornings in the pews so if you have not had the pleasure of chatting to him, do yourself a favour and introduce yourself, you won't be disappointed.

KMC 150 - A Reflection



Raj Chettri

Knaphill Methodist Church celebrated the 150th Anniversary with various functions. The Flower Display on Open Day caught my eyes. As I walked up the steps of the main entrance of the Church I observed shoes of many different shapes, sizes and colours. These shoes were facing outwards towards the Broadway - and I wondered. Should they not be facing the Church? These steps over years - more than a century had been trodden by hundreds of people - by thousands. Indeed, being on a prime site - at the very entrance of the Broadway beside the confluence with the High Street, adjacent to village's shops. The Broadway of New York boasts about many theatrical shows - dramas: biographical and contemporary; some musical, comedy and some dramatic for budding stars.

But the survivors of real life melodramas traverse this Broadway.

The steps of KMC lead people with a variety of reasons for their "pilgrimage" to this building architecturally distinct. To some this structure is a place of worshipping having communion with God and thanks-giving; for others a shelter from cruel world outside; unfriendly neighbours, colleagues at work and even kith and kin. The varieties of shoes, sandals, trainers and flipflops already mentioned represents the cross-sections of attendees - worshippers/ visitors. Their ages range from babies a few days/ weeks old to children and teenagers to Working Adults

and retired citizens. "My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled. . and afraid.(John 14:27)

Over the years KMC has welcomed and is welcoming people of whatever Ethnicity/ Race, Social Status/Class and even Creed and Denominations. The Farsi/Iranian Christians used the Church for their services in their tongues. Many in the congregations represented continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. Some church members took their mission abroad to respond to the Master's calling. The Church donated its After Service Coffee money donations to drinking Water project in a village school in Nepal and another specific donation to Camberley Alzheimer's Café which shared one third of the donation with Nepalese Christian Congregation - Yahweh using the same venue. God Almighty works in a mysterious way - beyond human imagination and comprehension. Indeed a reflection of KMC's Missionary work within UK.

Almost 30 years ago I started to pop in: to listen to sermons, sing praises to God Almighty for sacrificing His Son to propitiate/wash our sins, greed, mental and physical weaknesses with the Jesus blood shed on the Cross.

Over the 3 decades I came to know Vicars; each one stood out for contrasting personality. Some were popular as they were too polite; but a few made a mark calling spade the spade. Unfortunately some in the congregation misread this sincerity, a hallmark of personality trait. As a Psychiatric nurse for 40 years my unobtrusive observations provided some insight on "Christians". I had been educated in schools run by Methodist, Catholic and Anglican in the British colonies of Malaya and Singapore where I had acquired some knowledge on Christian Denominations. But only by coming to UK and living here I realised the need of the Ministry of Jesus Christ within UK. Multiculturalism was the hallmark of British Diplomacy and rule for the retention of foreign territories so revenues accrued in riot free colonies went to the British Treasury. Holy Trinity (Anglican) as my 1st port of call for 7 years when I suffered Reactive Depression after the death of my elder sister. But here in KMC I found the anchor to stop me adrift. In this Class/Status conscious country I never had thought the Jewish Carpenter would salvage the Mankind. In Reality the Salvager of souls buffeted by stormy seas of churning emotion, poverty, bereavement, physical/ mental health issues, conflicts in Inter-personal relationship, climatic and financial tragedies is ever ready to save us.

KMC for 150 years has been a bastion - an anchor for us, me included. But can KMC survive on the contracting congregation and inversely the finance, in all seriousness, to further her sustenance beyond this 150th Anniversary of the Ministry of Jesus Christ? Many other Christian congregations in UK are in the same boat.

Please pray for miracle to the Master of Miracles. The boat He was in never sank in the stormy water. "He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Quiet down, and the wind fell, and there was a great calm!" And He asked them, "Why were you so fearful? Don't you even yet have confidence in Me?" (Mark 4: 39 & 40 - printed in the USA, September 1981: The Living Bible. Complete Catholic Edition).

Raj Chettri

Living in a Secular Society

Rev David Holland considers what it means to live in a secular society

(David Holland was Minister tat KMC from 1967 to 1970)

Secular means 'of the world' or 'worldly' and has come to mean a world without God. Secularists claim to be atheists or agnostics. In spite of a great deal of residual Christianity in this country, and many Muslims, Jews and Hindus present, secularists are becoming a majority.

For many thinking people science has taken the place of religion - they claim that eventually we shall know all about everything including the origin of the universe, even the reason for it, if there is one.

The claims of science do not necessarily clash with Christian belief. Many scientists hold the Christian faith whilst others share with Christians a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty and complexity of the universe.

In seeking after the truth, Christians need have no fear; there is no need to quarrel here with science. Our Lord said, "seek after the truth, the truth will set you free."

The claims of science do not necessarily clash with Christian belief.

Materialism

Apart from scientific materialism there is a materialism of a different kind which all of us are caught up in as it has become part of our secular culture. It is the continual seeking after a higher standard of living for ourselves, a competition for riches as the 'haves' vie with the 'have nots'.

Alas! The gap widens. Jesus said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!" and: "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of the goods he possesses."

All too often we are being consumed by our consumerism! The coining EU vote will be determined by whether we think we will be better or worse off 'in' or 'out'.

Relationships

Christianity is all about relationships. Alongside of secularism is what we have come to call 'the broken society'. Millions of children come from homes and single-parent families.

A teacher in inner London told me recently that none of the children in her class came from what 50 years ago would have been called a 'normal' home.

Post-Freud and the widespread practice of birth control, sexual habits have altered in many different ways. Premarital sex is now the norm, and though it is easy to exaggerate the revolution that has taken place, the problem is that all too often

sexual relationships have become separated from a love that includes faithfulness, stability, forgiveness, the sharing of joy and pain, and a trust within marriage which is the lifelong union of one man and one woman.

Ethical attitudes

There has been a marked change in ethical attitudes in the secular society. Situational ethics has largely replaced traditional absolutes. To give one example, in a review of 'Today's Papers' one reviewer sympathised and appeared to commend parents who lie to get children into schools of their choice. No-one on the panel took issue with this. For Christians, the end does not justify the means.

Perhaps the most significant of all differences between Christians and secularists is in regard to death. For secularists, death is the end. For Christians it is the last enemy which has been overcome. For secularists death has to be accepted and 'got over' as quickly as possible.

I am reliably informed that most funerals no longer take place in church. A time of celebration of the deceased's life may be held anywhere, funny stories may be told and his or her favourite music played. In contrast, a Christian funeral should be a solemn act of worship, including remembrance, thanksgiving, penitence and hope.

[We] should seek to demonstrate the relevance of our faith to daily life.

Compromise

Finally, for Christians there is a real problem as to how far we should compromise with a freedom which in secularism has often become too libertarian in a society that has rejected God.

In working out our response to difficult questions we must not be 'holier than thou'

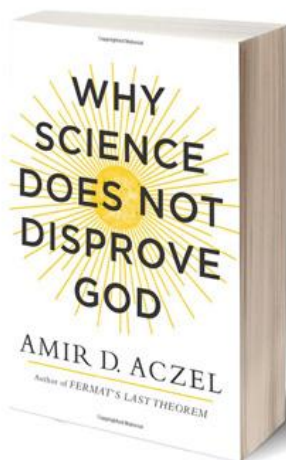
but should seek to demonstrate the relevance of our faith to daily life and share with others something of the love and compassion we have received from God. Jesus told his followers to be in the world but not of it.

David Holland

Further reading

Some of the ideas in David's article are explored in the book "Why Science Does not Disprove God", by Amir D Aczel

Article submitted by Ella Allen





Candidates Portfolio Day

A practical day to find out and explore what is required in completing a portfolio for the candidating process.

Saturday 10 June 2017

10am - 4pm

Methodist Central Hall, London



Hosted by the East of England, London and Southern & Islands regions

The day is suitable for all those exploring the possibility of candidating for Methodist Ministry (Diaconal and Presbyteral) in the coming Connexional year or in the future (2017-18 & beyond).

The day provides an opportunity to share together in exploring:

- Introduction to theological reflection
- Reflective practice in action
- Creative presentation
- Reflective study
- Being a mentor (for those who are attending as mentors)

Past attendees have found this day particularly helpful.

Participants are strongly encouraged to come with their mentors or Superintendents on the day.

Please ensure you book early to secure your place.

For further information and to book a place:

www.portfolioday2017.eventbrite.co.uk

Cost—£10 to cover lunch and refreshments

Bookings close on Friday 26 May 2017



Exploring God's Call

Could God be calling you to something amazing?

Come to a

Vocations Day

exploring ministry in The Methodist Church

Hosted by the East of England, London and Southern & Islands regions

Chislehurst Methodist Church, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5LX

Saturday 18 March 2017, 10am - 4pm

Cost - £10 to cover lunch and refreshments



For further information and to book a place:

www.vocationsday2017.eventbrite.co.uk

e-mail: rouxa@methodistchurch.org.uk telephone: 07779 990476

Services and other events



SEPTEMBER:

Sunday 11th	10am	Covenant & Holy Communion with Dave Faulkner
	6.30pm	Circuit Service at Trinity, Woking Welcome to Paul Chesworth and the beginning of the Wey Valley Circuit
Saturday 17th	10am - 12pm	Coffee Morning
Sunday 18th	10am	Morning Worship with Jane O'Leary
	6.30pm	Harvest Celebration
Saturday 24th	10am	Harvest Festival with Rob Gill
Sunday 25th	6.30pm	Holy Communion with Dave Faulkner



OCTOBER:

Sunday 2nd	10am	Morning Worship with Janet Gardham
Sunday 9th	10am	Holy Communion with Dave Faulkner
		followed by a Church Open Meeting
Saturday 15th	7.30pm	Dave Bilbrough Live and Acoustic
Sunday 16th	10am	Morning Worship with Paul Hulme
Saturday 22nd	10am - 12pm	Coffee Morning
Sunday 23rd	10am	Morning Worship with Elizabeth Gurd
	10am	Morning Worship with Asif Das
Sunday 30th	6.30pm	All Souls Service with Dave Faulkner

Dave Bilbrough

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7.30PM

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singer song writer,
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*Abba
Father,
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