



New Malden
Methodist Church

*At the **heart** of the High Street*



Spotlight

April 2023

Message from Karl

At the beginning of April, we will once again begin our journey through Holy Week, as we remember Jesus arriving into Jerusalem in powerful and symbolic fashion, overturning the tables in the Temple, debating with the religious authorities, and sharing a last meal with his friends before being arrested, tried and crucified. On Easter Sunday, that journey is completed as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and the new life and possibilities this opens up as the new creation breaks through.

In the seven weeks of the Easter season, we will hear some of the most astounding and world-changing passages in the whole of Scripture, as we recall the appearances of the risen Jesus to his startled disciples. Two of these encounters in particular stand out: the first person to recognise the risen Christ, in the garden on Easter morning, was Mary Magdalene, and the first to proclaim him as their Lord and God was Thomas. Both have been given a hard time down the years, with Pope Gregory the Great branding Mary a prostitute, and Thomas being labelled 'doubting Thomas', yet both have much to teach us.

In a society where women were not allowed to give testimony in court, because they were not considered to be reliable witnesses, it is remarkable that it was Mary who was the 'Apostle to the Apostles', as the first person to meet with the risen Lord. It is a very intimate scene that takes place in the garden where Jesus had been laid to rest, which reflects the deep bonds of love between the two of them (John 20:1 – 18). Her faithfulness in those turbulent days far outstripped many of the male followers of Jesus.

Thomas, we are told, was the last of Jesus' close friends to encounter him post-resurrection, and he has been much criticised down the centuries, for refusing to believe the claims of the others without first seeing things for himself. However, doubt is not the opposite of faith, and in the end, when Thomas saw Jesus, he did not need to place his fingers in the holes in Jesus' hands and side; instead, he declared Jesus to be his Lord and God – a powerful statement of a deep faith.

Combined with the evidence of the empty tomb, these stories and others in the Gospels demonstrate that God really has done what common sense tells us should be impossible, and raised Jesus up from the dead. It is important that Jesus' resurrection body, while able to do things we cannot, like enter locked rooms, bears the scars of crucifixion. Christ is forever the crucified God, by whose wounds we are healed. That continuity reminds us that what we do in the here-and-now matters, because the new creation follows on in some sense from the old, rather than erasing it completely.

So, in this Easter season, we need both to prepare to be amazed as those first Apostles – witnesses to the resurrection – were, and to look ahead to the inbreaking life of the new creation, of which the resurrection is the guarantee and promise. This is a time in which we are called to look out for God's Kingdom breaking through in unexpected ways, and to roll up our sleeves and join in this redeeming work. Are you ready, along with Mary and Thomas, to be amazed by what God can do?

Blessings, Karl

Spotlight's Safeguarding Space

A few months ago I received an unnerving 'phone call purporting to be from the police saying that my credit card had been cloned & that hundreds of pounds had been spent in the Apple store in Oxford Street. Was that my purchase?

Fortunately, just the previous Sunday I had spotted a poster on the notice board in Wesley's explaining that this is a scammer's trick.



The poster is still there, do please take a look. Also, in the magazine holder there is a book 'Scamwise' which is worth perusing when you are next in for a midweek cuppa. Stay safe!



The **Methodist** Church

Liz Edwards, Safeguarding Officer

Church Family News

Jean Bedford has now permanently moved to Speirs House. She would welcome visitors and callers. If you would like her room number and direct telephone number, please see the church directory or ask Sarah.

Spotlight on Music

Congratulations to **Isabel Elves** who gained a Distinction in her recent Grade 6 piano exam, scoring 130/150 marks. Well done Isabel! Perhaps we can look forward to hearing you play in a service sometime soon?

March Thank Yous

Cake for the Quake Saturday 25th February

If you were in Wesley's on Saturday 25th February you will have seen that it was buzzing with people having cake and coffee to raise funds for the victims of the Turkish/Syrian earthquake. Helen had mobilised a huge amount of support through her



network of friends and school mums and she also wanted to thank the church members who contributed cakes and came for coffee. The fantastic sum of £1185 was raised on the morning with a further £57.00 on Sunday from donations for leftover cakes. Online donations since have pushed the total up to in excess of £1500.

What an extraordinary total which shows what can be achieved! As well as the huge total raised, it was also brilliant to show off the fantastic resource that Wesley's is to a whole new crowd.

If you would like to make any further donations to the appeal, please use one of the following websites:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cakeforthequake

or

www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/syrian-earthquake-emergency-donations/

Kingston and Malden Scout and Guide Band Saturday 4th March

Thank you to everyone who supported this coffee morning. We raised £215 to support the band, as well as having the opportunity to raise our profile locally. The parents who came to run the event were really impressed with the facilities and grateful for the opportunity to hold this event.

Becky Haines

NMMC Boiler Fund Saturday 11th March

A huge thank you to anyone who supported the coffee morning in any way. There was a good turn out and plenty of delicious baked goods to buy. An impressive £305.80 was raised to start our fundraising for the new boiler.

March News

Community Larder

The Community Larder is still being well used. Thank you for your continued generosity in keeping it stocked up.

Some suggestions for donations are cereals, tinned meat, long life milk, coffee, pasta sauce, rice, squash, instant mash, tinned vegetables, pot noodles, oils, ketchup and mayonnaise. Thank you.



Walk of Witness Good Friday 7th April

The Ecumenical Walk of Witness will start at 10:10am at Nando's near the Fountain Roundabout, ending with a service at New Malden War Memorial near Waitrose. St Joseph's will be leading the service. Refreshments will be available here after the service.

Songs of Praise

Our next Local Arrangement Service will be on Sun April 16th and we would like to make this a Songs of Praise Service.

Please come along and support this effort and please see Alison or Peter or one of the Stewards if you would like to suggest a favourite hymn – particularly one that hasn't been sung for a while, or perhaps one from your childhood. We have access to a huge data base of hymnody – you do not have to be restricted to what is between the covers of our present hymn book. It would be great if you would like to say a few words about why you have chosen your particular hymn, but this is not compulsory!

Also, if you would be willing to write or read some prayers, do a reading or even deliver a short address, we would be very glad to hear from you. This is a Team Effort!

Church Family Quiz

Saturday 22nd April 2023 7.00pm
in Wesley's

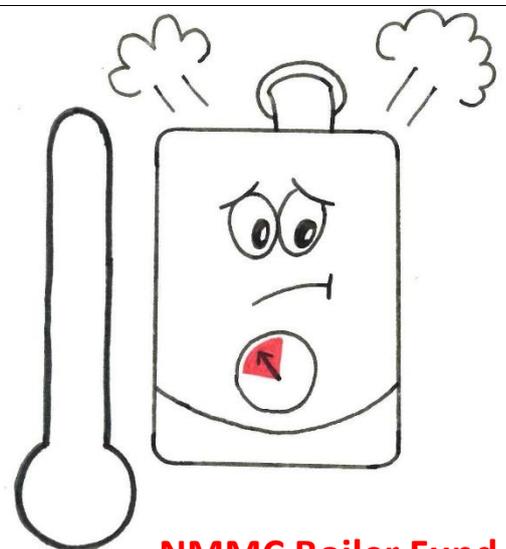
£5.00 per ticket including squash

Raffle

Bring your own nibbles

Numbers are limited, so get your ticket
(from 2nd April)

All proceeds to the Boiler Fund



Wesley's Saturday 8th April

We will be holding regular Saturday coffee mornings to raise the much-needed funds to replace our boilers, the next one being Easter **Saturday, 8th April**. If you are able to help with this (or any other) coffee morning, please let Sarah or the stewards know. It would be good to spread the effort so that we don't have too many or too few helpers and if you are able to run one of these coffee bars yourself, that would be greatly appreciated. Also, can you please let us know if you can bring a cake, again for planning purposes. Your support on the morning is also vital so please come along.

RBKares update

In faith I have purchased 30 100g of Christmas Green Wool and 20 100g of Grass Green Wool.

I delivered two bags of lovely knitted scarves to Dr Kate

Kenyon of RBKares recently and asked if we should go on with

the hats, scarves and blankets. Kate said that this winter's need with our help has been



completed, but now she had a new project in mind – an artificial Christmas tree created with green beany hats with colourful pom poms on top.

The dream being that those they supported, the vulnerable elderly, young carers, refugees and the forgotten, would be able to take from the tree a special hat.

So New Malden Methodist Church would we be willing to take up the challenge, to knit one or many? I have the wool. I have the pattern. You only need the needles. Love Stella
NB Stella will be running a coffee morning in Wesley's on April 15th to finance the wool she has bought and raise further funds for RBKares.



The Flowers

There is a team responsible for the beautiful arrangements that grace our sanctuary every Sunday morning. Thank you.

At the recent Pastoral Friends Meeting there was discussion about the importance of our Flower Ministry ie who should be given the flowers to enjoy at home in the knowledge that they have been remembered by New Malden Methodist Church.

The stewards decide to whom the flowers are given & would be pleased to receive suggestions of those we need to remember in this way. So do you know anyone celebrating an anniversary, new job, new house?

You can be part of this special ministry by adding your name on the sign -up sheet in Wesley's to deliver the flowers.



News from the Roberts family

Hello everyone, this is your northern Correspondent here again! You'll never get rid of us!!!
Ha ha ha.

Andy and I miss you all very much, think about you often, and send our love and hugs to everyone. Hard to believe this is our ninth month up here in Bakewell- almost a full-term pregnancy's worth of life, which often resembles being in a quirky episode from The Archers.

As you may know Andy was brought up in a tiny village, but as a child of suburbia I'm finding it interesting adapting to being part of a very rural community. It's all a bit odd, in an endearing sort of way! Yesterday, for example, I discovered that the only place in

Bakewell where you can buy DVDs is - guess where? - yes, the local Edinburgh Woollen Mill! (10 points to anyone who guessed that one correctly!).

We love our cottage, and thanks to the help of a local Anglican minister who doubles up as a gardener, our high-maintenance garden is reasonable tidy and bursting into spring life. Andy has been asked to take on various roles - including taking over the out-of-date website for Bakewell's U3A, mowing the lawns for the croquet club, and (biggest promotion so far) becoming Mr Deputy Heating at church, and apparently taking over from Norman soon when he turns 90! We are both now on the rather formidable coffee rota for the Monday community cafe, which can be a bit of a challenge, depending on who is 'the leader' that particular week! I'm pleased to have found an ecumenical women's group which meets weekly, just for an hour or so, in someone's flat, and is encouraging and friendly. At the moment we are doing the Lent course based on the film "The King's Speech", and before that were looking at various paintings from a really good book called "Art for Advent," with reflections by Rowan Williams' wife.

There's plenty going on here. Last night Andy and I were invited along to an event at nearby Calver village hall, organised by our minister and Calver's, a music cafe - where anyone of whatever age or stage could perform in front of an audience of around fifty. Acts ranged from a boy of 7 playing solo electric guitar, to a brass trio whose oldest member was an incredible 97.

It's lovely when John and Anna return home for the university holidays. Their second year is going by so quickly, and John will be returning by train for Easter this Friday, and we'll see Anna the following week. (Although we live on Station Road, there isn't a station anymore in Bakewell, the nearest ones being Chesterfield or Matlock!). They both seem to like Bakewell, especially the lovely walks on the doorstep, but it must be strange for them not knowing other people here really.



These are a few photos from our recent trip to Florida, which I hope you'll enjoy.

With our love, Eleanor and Andy Roberts
xx





The Convoy of Hope – 5th – 9th March 2023

Very many thanks to everyone who responded to the appeal last month for clothes, medical supplies and equipment to stock ambulances for Ukraine.

This update from the organisers of Medical Lifelines Ukraine reports that 6 loaded ambulances were successfully delivered by an intrepid team of volunteer drivers, and another trip is planned in May, nicknamed the Coronation Convoy.

Please let Alison Bullett know if you are able to support this charity in any way, financially or with donations in kind.



Our Good Friday Music performance of Faure's beautiful Requiem features two of the talented soloists referred to in the piece below, Dariella Moskalyuk and Oleksii Zasyadko, who are familiar faces in Wesley's on Wednesdays. (Pictured right at the February concert in Putney with Julia playing the traditional bandura).

The retiring collection will be for humanitarian aid for Ukrainians both here in the UK and at home.



Please come and support this event, hear these rising stars sing with an ecumenical choir of nearly 50 singers and support a worthy cause.

Alison Bullett

With the fantastic generosity, donations and support of residents of South West London, the Convoy of Hope recently set off to deliver six fully equipped, refurbished ambulances to Ukraine.

It began with the Concert of Hope on Sunday 19th February in St Margaret's Church, Putney, featuring six talented Ukrainian musicians. Donations in kind followed, including medication, baby food, bandages, syringes, clothes, sleeping bags, rucksacks, sanitary wear, dog food, crutches, wheelchairs, zimmer frames, retractable chairs etc.

The team of 12 drivers left at 5.30am on Sunday 5th March after a ceremonial send-off in Luttrell Avenue the previous evening. They drove 1485 miles via Eurostar, through France, Belgium, the Netherlands to Germany and Poland, to arrive in Lviv in Ukraine on Tuesday morning. Two ambulances were handed over there while the remaining four were driven 410 miles on to Kyiv where they were delivered to the Ministry of Health.

This Convoy's mission has been successfully completed, but The Coronation Convoy will be setting off on 9th May with a further convoy planned for June. Aliya Aralbayeva, co-founder of Medical Lifelines Ukraine, and local residents will continue fundraising to purchase more ambulances and other vehicles specifically needed so badly in Ukraine. If



you're interested in helping in any way, please email sallystrahan@outlook.com or to make a donation for this fantastic initiative for Ukraine, please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/convoys2023>.

What is Membership in the Methodist Church About?

Each year, those who are formally members of the Methodist Church receive a small card called a membership ticket, signed by their Minister and their Pastoral Friend. It symbolises the commitment they have made to both the Connexion – the national Church – and the particular local congregation to which they belong.

The history of membership tickets takes us right back to the earliest days of Methodism.

John and Charles Wesley were both Anglican priests, and the earliest gatherings of the Methodist people took place alongside the ministry of parish churches. Methodist societies initially met for worship in the evenings, leaving people free to attend Church of England services in the mornings. However, as time went on, an increasing number concentrated just on Methodist gatherings, and many who became Christians during what has come to be known as the Evangelical Revival had never been a churchgoer beforehand. Methodist chapels began to be built, in which the society would meet together for worship and fellowship.

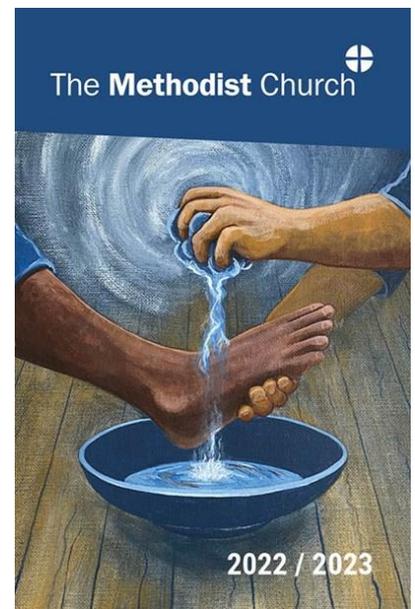
Membership tickets were given out in small group gatherings called class meetings, in which people met in each other's homes to encourage one another and have mutual accountability. When the various classes came together as a society, the membership ticket signified that one was a member in good standing, and it was needed in order to receive Holy Communion. As such, it was a really important fixture of Methodist life as a sign of belonging, something that persisted after John Wesley died and different subgroups of Methodists split away from both the Church of England and one another.

Over time, the structure of the Methodist Church has changed significantly, even as most of the different strands came together again in 1932, and work is currently being done at a national level to explore what membership means today. Some churches continue to have small group meetings of one sort or another, but not all do so, and the class meeting as the Wesley brothers knew it has almost entirely died out. However, while membership tickets are no longer needed to receive Communion, as we have an open table, they have continued to be issued each year.

It is important to note that not everyone who might consider themselves to belong to a local church will have formally entered into membership, and a membership ticket is not a reflection of how often a person is able to attend Sunday worship, how much they volunteer in their church throughout the week, or how much money they are able to contribute.

Anyone who wishes to and has been baptised can become a member, in what is a simple but powerful ceremony that is normally part of a service of Holy Communion. The promises a member makes are in response to the following questions:

- Will you commit yourself to the Christian life of worship and service, and be open to the renewing power of God?
- Will you seek the strength of God's Spirit as you accept the cost of following Jesus in your daily life?



- Will you witness, by word and deed, to the good news of God in Christ, and so bring glory to God?

If you are interested in becoming a member, please have a chat with either Karl or your Pastoral Friend.

Wesley's

We are still in need of more volunteers during the week if you are able to help.



Saturdays in April & May

April

- 1st Inner Wheel
- 8th NMMC Boiler Fund
- 15th R B Kares
- 22nd Currently vacant
- 28th Currently vacant

May

- 6th Coronation. Wesley's will be closed.
- 13th NMMC Boiler Fund
- 20th Christian Aid
- 27th Currently vacant

June

- 3rd Plant Sale in aid of the NMMC Boiler Fund

Please contact Sarah Moore if you would like to book Wesley's on a Saturday morning to hold a coffee morning and cake sale to raise funds for your favourite charity. There are still plenty of vacancies 😊.

Hot chocolate anyone?

If you've smelt a whiff of chocolate in the corridor where the supplies cupboard is, it is because Karl had a slight altercation with a communion rail whilst re-filling the hot chocolate tub!



Birthdays

Jill Kibler celebrated her birthday in Wesley's on 23rd March with a cake that Chris Haines had decorated to reflect Jill's daily habit of doing the crossword.



And on Wednesday 29th Alan Downey was celebrating his birthday with chocolate cake.



Ruth McLeod and Stella

My close friendship with Ruth came about when Maurice and I returned from a wonderful month spend in South Africa in 2005. We had spent three weeks with my school friend and her husband, and one week with my nephew, Mark, and his wife. Fortunately for us they both lived in Johannesburg, albeit we travelled far and wide with each family when we were there.

That year while with Mark, he asked us if we would like to visit the Wings of Hope Nursery School of which he was Chair of the Trustees. The school was in the district of Jepperstone, one of the very poorest areas of Johannesburg. The children were all of refugee families living illegally in desperate circumstances. Knowing the situation before we went, and that the children joined the school at four years old, I contacted Teddies for Tragedies in Guildford to see if they would give me 50 of their lovely knitted bears for the school. Fortunately they agreed and Maurice and I squashed the bears into our cases.

The giving out of the bears was a joyous event and after talking to Sister Natalie the Headmistress, we left promising that we would deliver to the school 50 bears and 50 hats, scarves and mittens, all knitted in the school colours of red and white, plus a bag to keep the bears in, every January for the children joining the school.

This was a huge promise but knowing there were people in the church who loved knitting I was sure this promise could be met. We came back and told of our promise. Ruth said she would knit the bears and others said they would knit hats scarves and mittens.

Maurice and I were so lucky to be able to go to South Africa every other year until he became too unwell in 2017 and I then went for just a week for the next two years, so that the bears, etc, could be taken in my luggage each time. The in-between years I posted everything. This worked well and I was helped with the cost of the postage by New Malden Rotary. My final posting was just before the Pandemic Lockdown. I funded the £300 postage cost myself: 9 2kg parcels. Sadly only 3 of the bags arrived in Johannesburg and the others were lost. I could not now travel and we sadly had to end our association with the Wings of Hope.

It had been an amazing undertaking and even more amazing were the 50 bears knitted by Ruth every year. The children learnt so much by having them; the parts of the body, their colours because Ruth used every colour of wool possible, how to count and all the Teddy Bear songs which they would sing for Maurice and I. All these little ones had to master English and the bears helped so much. While they learnt, Sister Natalie worked so hard to get each child registered under SA law so they could go to a State School at six years old.

What a wonderful legacy Ruth has left. She knitted at least 750 bears, knitting well into her nineties.

One more story about Ruth. She had been knocked down by a car and was in Kingston Hospital. Maurice was also there. I approached the ward where Ruth was and she was

being wheeled towards me on a hospital bed. She put up her hand and said 'Stop' to the porter. I expressed my concern for her and also (rather tongue-in-cheek) for the fact that she would not be able to knit, whereupon with a grin she lifted up her knitting bag which it seems never left her side. Thank you so much Ruth. Love Stella



This was just one year's worth of bears!

Easter Postbox Topper

Thank you to all those other talented people who contributed to our Easter post box topper with knitting, crocheting and sewing. The very cheery addition to the High Street has been much admired.



with programmes of 18th-century music played on historical keyboards - especially fortepiano - evoking the sound worlds of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. His performances and CD recordings have garnered international critical acclaim. During lockdown, he recorded several programmes for them, including one featuring Preludes and Fugues from Bach's incomparable '48 Preludes & Fugues'. This can still be seen on the MiNM YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7oINH_fSEU

John has recently been focusing more on the modern piano, and on Sunday 16th April he will be performing a varied programme ranging from Bach to Rachmaninov on one of the lovely Bluthner grand pianos in New Malden Methodist Church. Beginning with more of Bach's Preludes, and the centrepiece from Bach's *The Art of Fugue*, he continues with a Mozart Fantasia, Haydn's extraordinary F minor Variations, and culminating in some late Brahms and early Rachmaninov.

We greatly look forward to welcoming John back to the stage on 16th April and look forward to seeing you there too!

An hour of music followed by tea and cake

Tickets £8

Series Subscription £20

www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm
Wesley's NMMC 11am -1pm M-F (cash)



Next Spotlight Issue

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at nmmc@hotmail.co.uk (or in my church pigeonhole). I am happy to receive anything you think might be of interest: memories, news of members, advice for life, poems, photos, recipes etc.

The deadline for the April issue will be Wednesday 26th April.

Requiem

by

Gabriel Fauré

Friday 7th April at 8 pm

(doors open at 7.40 pm)

Dariella Moskalyuk (soprano)

Oleksii Zasyadko (baritone)

Stefan Bown (leader)

Douglas Tang (organ)

Peter Bullett (director)

Choir from churches in New Malden and District

Proceeds of retiring collection to
Humanitarian Aid for
Ukrainians in the UK and at home

Spring Photography Competition

And the winner is

Springtime!

Well done Dave Moore
(I can assure you that
there was NO bias
involved in this judging!
Sarah)



Circuit Plan

		CHESSINGTON 10.00 am	KINGSTON 10.30 am; 6pm	NEW MALDEN 10.30 am	SURBITON HILL 10.30 am
<i>Korean Language Service at Chessington on Sundays at 12.30 led by Rev Paul Han</i>					
02 April	am	J Wakelin	Rutlidge: SJ	Brown	M Wakelin 4.30: B Coveney PP
06 April		<i>No Service</i>	6pm: Rutlidge: E	<i>No Service</i>	7.30pm Brown
07 April	am	<i>No Service</i>	10am: Rutlidge: W	10am: W	TBA
09 April <i>Easter Day</i>	am	9 M Wakelin: HC 11 M Wakelin/Han: HC	Cocking: AA/HC	8.30: Rutlidge: HC 10.30: Rutlidge: AA/HC	Brown HC
16 April	am	Davis: C	LA	LA	Webb
	pm	<i>No Service</i>	LA	<i>No Service</i>	<i>No Service</i>
23 April	am	M Wakelin	Rutlidge	Bridges/S Lloyd	Brown
30 April	am	Brown	Chun	Rutlidge	Webb
07 May	am	M Wakelin: HC	Rutlidge: AA/HC	T Coveney AA	Brown
14 May	am	Rutlidge	Bridges/S Lloyd	Vernon	Brown HC 4.30: B Coveney PP
21 May	am	M Wakelin: C	Rush	Rutlidge: HC	Brown
	pm	<i>No Service</i>	Rutlidge: HC	<i>No Service</i>	<i>No Service</i>
28 May	am	M Wakelin: P	D Lloyd: P	Rutlidge: P	J Wakelin
Abbreviations		AA: All Age Worship CA: Café Church C: Contemporary Service CT: Churches Together E: Eucharist		FP: Family Parade Service FS: Family Service GF: Good Friday Service HC: Holy Communion LA: Local Arrangement	P: Pentecost PP: Praise Party SJ: With St John's TBA: To be arranged W: Walk of Witness

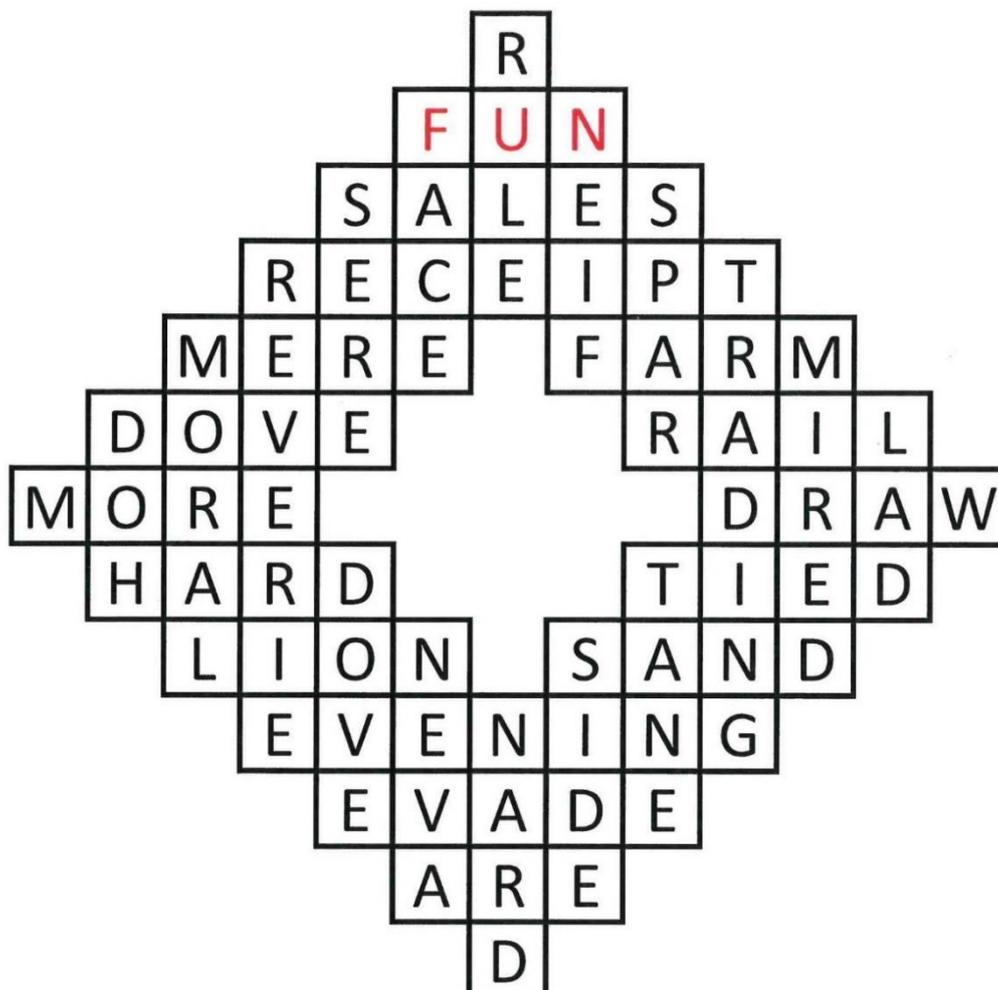
NMMC Diary Dates – April

Saturday 1 st	10.00am – 12 10.15 – 12.00am	Wesley's – Inner Wheel Good Friday Music rehearsal
Wednesday 5 th	3.00pm 8.15 – 10.00pm	Hymn singing & Holy Communion at Speirs House Good Friday Music dress rehearsal
Thursday 6 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Friday 7 th	10.10pm 10.00 – 12.00 8.00pm	Walk of Witness (from Nando's) & service at War Memorial Wesley's open for refreshments after the above Good Friday Music
Saturday 8 th	10.00am – 12	Wesley's - NMMC Boiler Fund
Monday 10 th		Wesley's CLOSED for Easter Monday
Tuesday 11 th	1.10 – 1.50pm	Lunchtime Concert
	2.30pm – 4.00pm	Bereavement Café
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Comic Songs
Friday 14 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Board Games Afternoon
Saturday 15 th	10.00am – 12	Wesley's – RB Kares – Stella Chattle
Thursday 20 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Saturday 22 nd	10.00am – 12	Wesley's – Currently vacant – please contact Sarah to book
	7.00 – 9.00pm	Quiz (see separate article)
Tuesday 25 th	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Starters & Puds
Saturday 29 th	10.00am – 12	Wesley's – Currently vacant – please contact Sarah to book

Solution to last month's FUN's Word-Cross Puzzle

– the first to be published, in the New York World on 21st December 1913

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2_3 What bargain hunters enjoy. | 10_18 The fibre of the gomuti palm. |
| 4_5 A written acknowledgement | 6_22 What we should all be. |
| 6_7 Such and nothing more. | 4_26 A day dream. |
| 10_11 A bird. | 2_11 A talon |
| 14_15 Opposed to less. | 19_28 A pigeon. |
| 18_19 What this puzzle is. | F_7 Part of your head. |
| 22_23 An animal of prey. | 23_30 A river in Russia. |
| 26_27 The close of day. | 1_32 To govern. |
| 28-29 To elude. | 33_34 An aromatic plant. |
| 30-31 The plural of is. | N_8 A cat. |
| 8_9 Cultivate. | 24_31 To agree with. |
| 12_13 A bar of wood. | 3_12 Part of a ship. |
| 16_17 What artists learn to do. | 20_29 One. |
| 20_21 Fastened. | 5_27 Exchanging. |
| 24_25 Found on the seashore. | 9_25 To sink in mud. |
| | 13_21 A boy. |



Hymns and Poems for Easter



Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom on every bough
And stands about the woodland ride,
wearing white for Eastertide.
Now, of my threescore years and ten
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.
And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty Springs are little room,
About thee woodlands I will go,
To see the cherry hung with snow.

AE Housman, from A Shropshire Lad

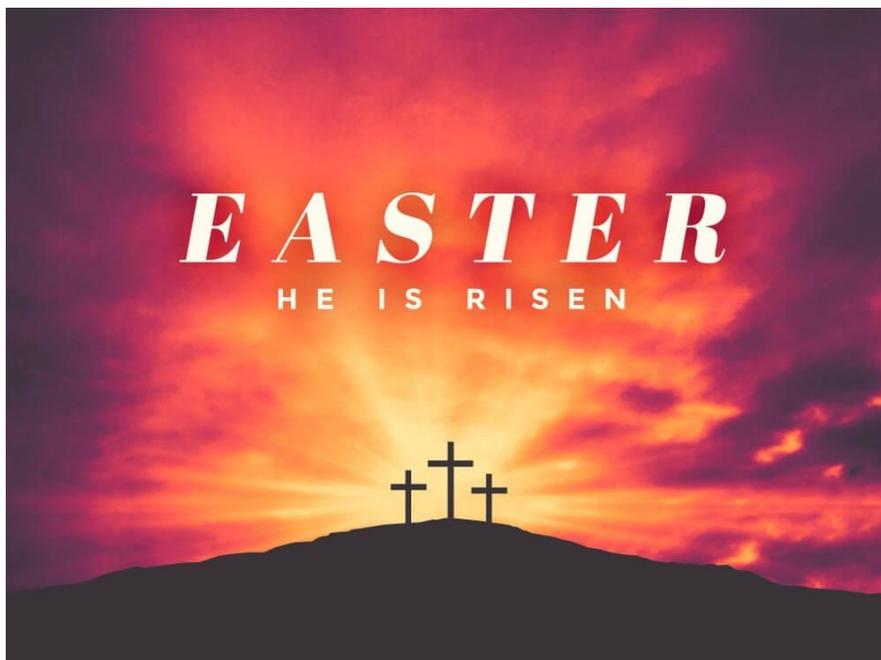
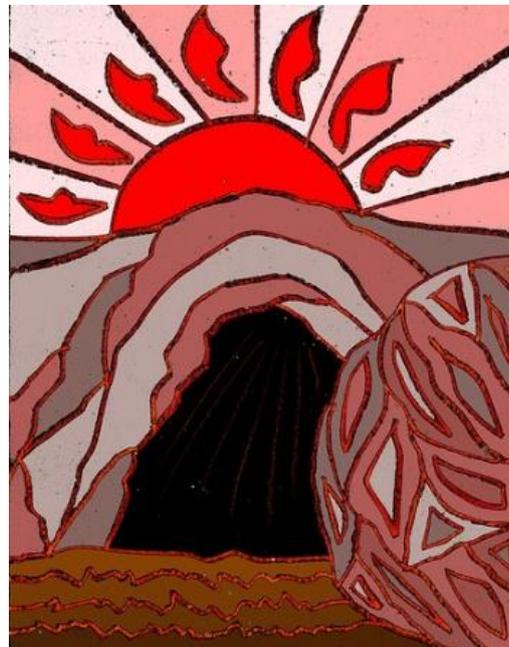
An Easter hymn from the Iona Community by John Bell and Graham Maude
(Singing the Faith 296)

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
As he said and as he promised,
As we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing,
Let the sun sustain the cheer.
Let the world confirm the rumour,
Christ is risen, Christ is here!

Christ has risen for the people
Whom he loved and died to save,
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room,
He whose word inspired creation
Is not silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen to companion
Former friends who fear the night,
Sensing loss and limitation
Where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer,
They expect no hopeful sign,
Til Christ ends their conversation,
Breaking bread and sharing wine.

Christ has risen, and forever
lives to challenge and to change,
All whose lives are messed or mangled,
All who find religion strange.
Christ is risen , Christ is present ,
Making us what he has been -
Evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.



This next hymn was in Hymns and Psalms but is not in Singing the Faith and I make no apology for its reappearance in this month's Spotlight. It is set to an arrangement of the traditional Cherry Tree Carol and I think gives a simple poetic message in language which

speaks directly to the heart while relying on the ear and not bypassing the brain. The words are by Alda M. Milner – Barry (1875-1940)

Good Joseph had a garden, Close by that sad green hill
Where Jesus died a bitter death, to save mankind from ill.
One evening, in that garden, their faces dark with gloom,
They laid the saviour's body within good Joseph's tomb.
There came the holy women, with spices and with tears,
The angel tried to comfort them but could not calm their fears.

Came Mary to that garden, and cried with heart forlorn.
She seemed to hear the gardener ask 'Whom do you seek this morn?'
She heard her own name spoken, and then she lost her care,
All in his strength and beauty, the risen Lord stood fair.

Good Joseph had a garden; Amid its trees so tall
The Lord Christ rose on Easter Day; He lives to save us all.
And as he rose at Easter, He is alive for aye,
The very same Lord Jesus Christ Who hears us sing today.
To tell the Lord Christ's message, The Easter triumph sing,
Till all his waiting children know that Jesus is their King.
Go tell the Lord Christ's message, The Easter triumph sing,
Till all his waiting children know that Jesus is their King.



The caption competition

Please send me your vote for your favourite, Sarah



1. I was hoping to pick up a couple of Penguins here but it seems we're out of luck. Never mind, I've got cold feet now anyway.
2. We're here to audition for the 12 days of Christmas, are we too late?
3. I dare you to go in there. After you my dear.
4. Come on Jeff, it's March already, just buy the cheapest diary.
5. Fancy a gulls' night in? Ooh yes, my tern to buy snacks.
6. Right, you cause a distraction whilst I grab the latest copy of Big Fish Monthly.
7. Honestly, Bernard. When I said I wanted to travel first class, I didn't mean in the post!
8. So, you dive-bomb the cashier and I'll grab the grub. *What do you mean, you forgot to bring the balaclavas?!*

When I get Up from My Chair by Pam Ayres

Quiet please! Kindly don't impede my concentration,
I am sitting in the garden thinking thoughts of propagation,
Of sowing and of nurturing, the fruits my work will bear,
And the place won't know what hit it

Once I get up from my chair.

I'm at the planning stages now, if you should need to ask,
And if I'm looking weary, it's the rigours of the task
Creation of a garden is a strain, as you can guess,
So if my eyes should close, it isn't sleep of course

..... it's stress.

Oh the leeks that I will dibble and the beans that I will stick,
the bugs that I will slaughter and the seedlings I will prick,
I'll disinfect the greenhouse, I will organise shed,
And beside my faded roses I will snip off every head.

The mower I will cherish and the tools that I will oil
The dark nutritious compost I will stroke into the soil,
My sacrifice, devotion and heroic aftercare
Will leave you green with envy

Once I get up from my chair.

Oh the weeds that I shall mutilate, the clumps that I will split,
I'm foaming at the mouth just as the very thought of it,
I am heaving at the traces, I am tearing out my hair,
And you'll see a ruddy hero

Once I get up from my chair.

I will massacre the bindweed and the moss upon the lawn,
That hairy bittercress will curse the day that it was born,
I will rise against the foe and in the fight we will be matched
And the woolly caterpillars they will curse the day they hatched.

Oh the branches I will layer and the cuttings I will take,
Let other fellows dig a pond – I shall dig a lake,
My garden, what a showpiece! There'll be pilgrims come to stare,
And I'll bow, and take the credit

Once I get up from my chair.

Remember the Plant Sale on 3rd June!!



And Finally,

Should we want to set another caption competition

