



**New Malden
Methodist Church**

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



Spotlight

April 2024

Message from Vindra

Dear Friends,

I hope that this greeting finds you well and that your Lenten journey is fruitful.

I am sure that you are aware that I broke my right ankle whilst out in Trinidad on holiday. I was coming down some stairs... the rest is history. It happened on 15 February which marked the beginning of Lent. I have always been a busy, active person but this brought everything to a halt. Healing requires being mostly stationary until the cast comes off. I will keep you updated.

This Lenten journey has been very much finding God in the wilderness in a different way and holding on to his promises to me. I have found on line services and talks life sustaining. I am spending more time reading the Bible and in the last few days memorizing scripture. If I do not spend this time with God and build myself spiritually then this time of healing can lead to frustration. There are times when I am just human.

Since September, I have truly enjoyed getting to know the circuit churches and thinking ahead about what God is saying to us. I will continue to pray for the circuit and seek God's wisdom and guidance. I do enjoy reading your newsletters. As my recovery progresses, I will keep you updated but long to return to the life and ministry I love.

Wherever you are on your journey I pray that the presence of God in your life will sustain and strengthen you and that your cup will overflow with blessings.

I leave you with the words of Philippians 4:1-7.

Love and prayers,
Vindra

Spotlight's Safeguarding Space

One Saturday in March I attended the annual London District of the Methodist Church Safeguarding Conference. The two keynote speakers addressed the 'Wellbeing' theme and I was reminded of some wellbeing frameworks such as the Five Pillars of Wellbeing. These are Connect, Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give with the understanding that to have the highest level of wellbeing we need to engage with all five.



A reading from Mark's gospel prompted the question about how well we love ourselves with the comment that loving self often gets squeezed out which results in us not being able to love our neighbour as well as we should. It is not wrong to look after our own wellbeing!

There were about 100 people at the conference and only a few raised their hand after being asked, 'Is wellbeing discussed or promoted in your church?' My mind was taken to the fliers in Wesley's as I raised my hand thanking Lee for her work and Karl for his vision.

I was pleased to attend and should receive the powerpoint slides soon. If you would like a copy please let me know.

'The second most important commandment is this: Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' (Mark 12:31)

Liz Edwards, Safeguarding Officer

Church Family News

We have had news that sadly **John Kelsey** had a stroke on Saturday 10th March. He is in St George's Hospital Tooting and is thus far unable to speak and has paralysis in his right arm. Please ask me if you would like the address of John's sister Ruth.

However, good news from **Rosemarie Lester** who saw her Oncologist last week and was given the brilliant news that she is currently cancer free and in remission. She will continue to have regular check-ups and monitoring at The Royal Marsden.

Rosemarie would like to thank everyone for their prayers over the last year of treatment. She feels extremely blessed to have been surrounded by such amazing care and support.

Recycling

Would you be able to come down to church on a Wednesday to put out our recycling bins? It is not an onerous task and some weeks they do not have to go out at all but it would be good to have someone keep an eye on it and it is one thing that we could remove from the church office! Please talk to Sarah if you think you could help.

Christ is alive! Let Christians
sing;

His cross stands empty to
the sky:

Let streets and homes with
praises ring,

His love in death shall never
die.

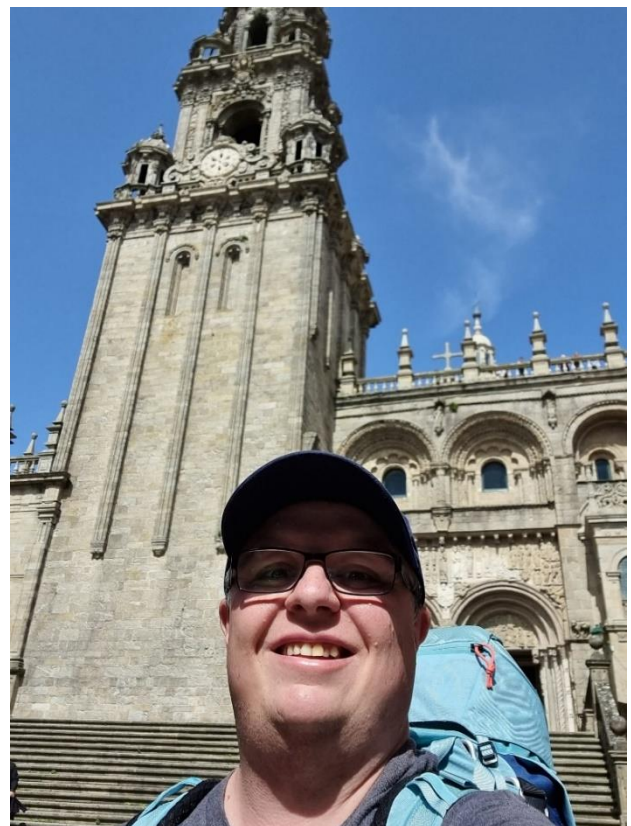


Karl's Progress

Karl arrived at Santiago Cathedral on Thursday 21st March, finishing his epic walk of the Camino Trail and sent this picture. I'm sure you will all want to join me in congratulating Karl on this magnificent achievement.

He has been posting thoughts and observations from his journey on Facebook of which the following are a couple of extracts plus a couple of the many photo montages. The photo count is 1200 so perhaps we will publish a special edition and I'm sure a presentation or two will be on the cards!

Sarah Moore



Day 25 - Today is a rest day, which works to join up where I have got to on the Camino with what I had booked in advance. I am in the small, friendly and pleasant town of Padron, pottering around and chilling out.

Yesterday, I was rather surprised by how few fellow pilgrims I saw on the road, given how many seemed to be pouring into Pontevedra a few days ago; indeed, for the vast majority of the time I was on my own, and I reckon I saw less than a dozen others heading my way all day. It reminded me of a question I was asked before I left about whether walking the Camino by myself would be lonely.

It is true that there were a couple of days when I felt really homesick, but I don't think that's the same as feeling lonely. I have had plenty of human contact on the road, most of it welcome, and either way, I am quite content with my own company. However, I have missed the ordinary things of home and my shared life with Sally very much.

It is notable that many of those I have seen have been pairs of people, and I can see why one might prefer to walk the Camino with a friend, family member or partner. After a hard day, when everything hurts and the prospect of doing the same tomorrow is far from



attractive, having another person to keep one's spirits up must help, even as it is arguably no bad thing to have to fall back upon one's own resources, and I expect my experience of discovering I am more physically and mentally resilient than I thought is not unusual.

Yet, for me, there is something more. As a person of faith, prayer has been key to my journey. I have not had some kind of great revelation about prayer, or a 'road to Damascus' moment, but I have found God in the ordinary. In the quiet of an empty church, in loitering at the back as the Mass is celebrated, in moments on the road, I think I have rediscovered something of my own thirst for God.

In Psalm 42, the author speaks of thirsting for God as they long to be part of the assembly walking in procession to the Jerusalem Temple. For me, this thirst isn't as dramatic and overwhelming as when I first came to faith, but is there in the ordinary and day-to-day. I know some argue prayer shouldn't become routine, but actually I think such ordinariness matters just as much as the domestic ordinariness I have missed. Unlike in human relationships, we don't add anything to God, but attending to that daily thirst is part of a healthy connection with God, I think.

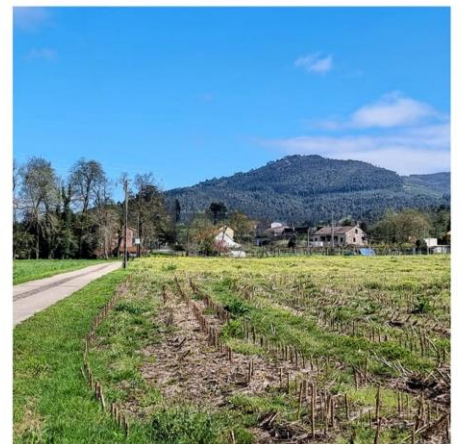
In short, while it hasn't been dramatic or earth-shattering, and thus in contrast to what some folk I have met have said they think pilgrimage is about, I have found my own thirst for God reignited and as necessary to get me through as the water and food my body needs each day. The challenge is to take this back into 'normal' life...

Day 26 - Today is my penultimate day on the road, and I walked 11.7km to a beautiful farmhouse in a small village as my overnight stop. Tomorrow, I will continue on the final 14km stretch to Santiago de Compostela, and it is exciting think I am nearly there at long last!

I will miss the Camino. This has been one of the hardest things I have ever done, physically and mentally, but apart from the day I waded through an Atlantic storm(!), it has been a wonderful experience and one of the best times and achievements of my life. I am so glad I decided to do this and stuck at it, even with the blisters and achy muscles!

I have visited some fantastic places in Portugal and Spain I had never even heard of beforehand, let alone thought to visit, met some fascinating people and spent time walking amid so much glorious scenery. The views in Viana in the north-west of Portugal, and this final stretch of Galicia from Pontevedra onwards, have been especially beautiful.

I would have no hesitation in recommending the Camino Portugues to anyone who enjoys walking, though with hindsight I reckon 12 to 16 days is a more realistic estimate of the time needed to walk from Porto to Santiago than the 21 days I allowed. Also, if you go off-peak as I have, hotels and holiday apartments are very affordable, and good food is not expensive here, even if like me you do not eat shellfish!



Wesley's Community Hub

Wesley's is going from strength to strength to the extent that more volunteers are needed! If you think you can help, please contact Lee. There are several gaps in April to fill.

The usual sessions continue - Knit and Natter, Tai Chi, Walking with Nature, Bereavement Café and Board Games afternoon. Please see the April calendar for dates and times. We are so grateful to all those volunteers who make these extra sessions possible.

On Tuesday 23rd April there will be a repeat of the Health Check Drop-in (10.30 – 1.00pm). And in addition there will also be a Benefit check desk (11am – 1pm). Followed by the Lunchtime concert.

All these programs embody our outreach and community bonding mission.

Join us to share God's goodness, contributing to our journey towards stronger, connected communities rooted in faith.

Every blessing, Lee Monczak

For updates please follow us on Instagram/Facebook. If you can help, let us know.

Your likes and follows on Wesley's Instagram and Facebook mean a lot to us.

For the latest updates and more information, follow Wesley's on Facebook and Instagram:

👉 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wesleysnewmalden/>

📷 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wesleysnewmalden/>

Stay tuned and be a part of our community's journey!

Every blessing, Lee

Please collect your Wesley's calendar for April 2024 from Wesley's

Summary of March Notices

Prayer of the Week

We started putting a 'Prayer of the Week', usually written by Karl, in our windows during Lockdown and have continued as it seems to be well received by people inside and outside the church. Many people stop and read it.

During Karl's absence (and even when he's back!), if anyone else would like to write a prayer of the week, please send them to me by the end of Wednesday.

Thank you, Sarah Moore

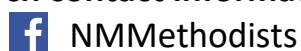
Night Security Caretaker Post

Surbiton Hill Methodist Church (39 Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 6AF),
is looking for a new Night Security Caretaker.

3 hours per week at £15.70 an hour

For further details, contact: shmcoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk or 020 8390 4598

Church contact information – website www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com



Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge (Minister)

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n/a Monday

Mrs Sarah Moore (Administrator)

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(Mon & Wed 10am - 2pm, Thu 12 – 4pm)

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Mrs Julia Morton (Senior Steward)

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Mrs Liz Edwards (Steward)

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Mrs Julie Haines (Steward)

juliehaines53@gmail.com

The Sunshine Sensory Playgroup from Sue Knowles

When Warren Park closed in the pandemic, never to reopen, our playgroup relocated to NMM Church. Here, on a regular basis, families of deaf and visually impaired babies and preschool children come to enjoy a wide variety of activities. Our aim is to immerse the children in a natural aural environment which will encourage them to listen and talk. Hearing aids are checked and supplies of batteries etc made available. An information table with leaflets and books on relevant subject is there for parents to browse and borrow, while news about local and national events is highlighted.

There are lots of toys, and each session we have craft activities and sand, water or play dough available. Each activity is planned to enrich the children's access to speech. The babies enjoy "Baby Beats" a fun musical approach which helps to develop a baby's listening and language, while the toddlers have story time. A snack session, very popular, is followed by nursery rhymes, action songs and singing games.

The playgroup has enabled families to meet together and to share experiences in a supportive environment while helping their child develop listening, spoken language and communication skills plus have lots of fun.





Saturdays in Wesley's

We have had an email from Helen Cleaves who held a coffee and cake sale on 16th March for the British Heart Foundation. From proceeds on the day and subsequent donations, Helen has now raised £1066.10.

Helen would like to say a "huge thank you to the Methodist Church community for their ever generous welcome, camaraderie and kindness. It is such a supportive and dynamic community."



Saturday 13th April



Coffee Morning

Date: 13th April 2024 Time: 10am - 12pm

Location: Wesley's Cafe New Malden
49 High Street
New Malden, KT3 4BY

Come and meet Guide Dogs and join us for Coffee, Cake and Conversation.
Everyone in the Community welcome!

Can't make it, but would like to support Guide Dogs for the Blind? You can make a donation online at:
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sandi-johnson1

Kane will be here along with some of his mates



The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in England and Wales (209617), Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334). B301 02/24



Repair

You may have noticed that the central tile from Sarah Choi's beautiful cross sculpture in the church has been missing. It was discovered a few weeks ago in many pieces on the floor.

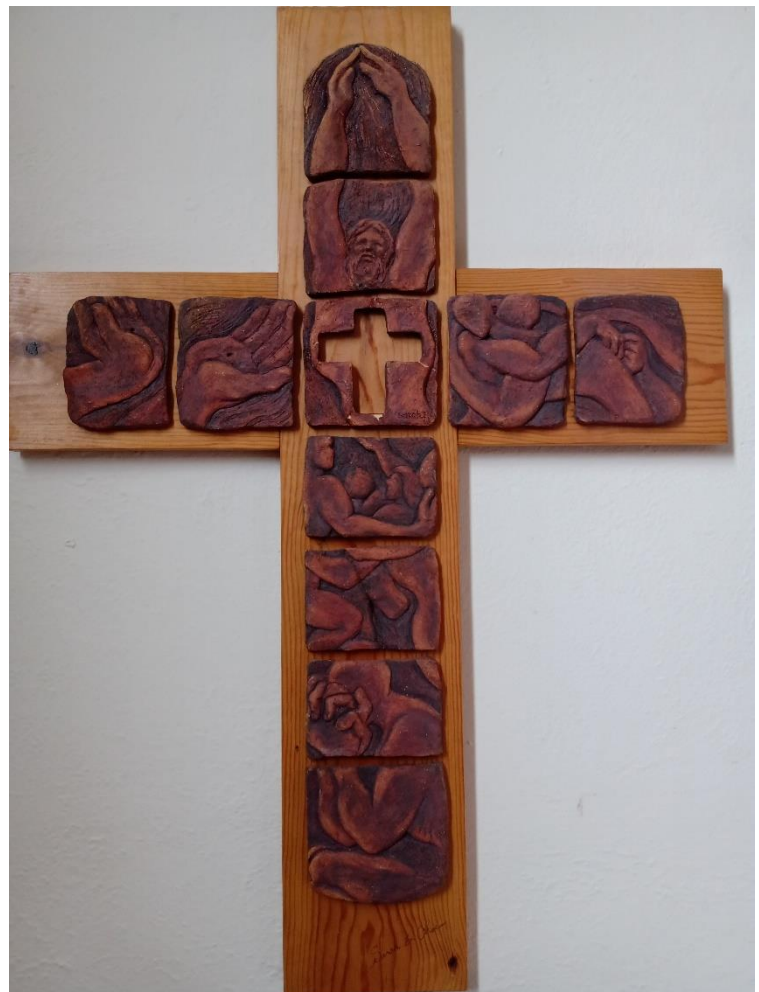
I took it home and Dave painstakingly puzzled it together and glued it and has now stuck it back up, as he did once before with another tile that suffered the same fate but was not as badly damaged. All the tiles have now been re-glued!

The repairs can be seen (if you look closely) but we decided that it was important to see the cracks, in the style of Japanese Kintsugi pottery.

Kintsugi ("golden joinery"), also known as kintsukuroi ("golden repair"), is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with urushi lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise.

We didn't have any gold lacquer but felt that being able to see the cracks was a fitting reminder that God loves us for who we are with all our cracks and imperfections and that sometimes it is important to acknowledge we have been damaged but have survived that damage.

Sarah Moore



Celebration Lunch

Doreen, Alan, Clive, Marion and Peter celebrating two Wedding Anniversaries and a birthday at Woodies. Alison also helped with demolishing the most excellent sausages and caramelised onions.



Lunchtime Concert 19th March

2 pianos, 4 pianists, 8 hands, too many notes to count, Tuesday saw an almost capacity crowd fill the church to watch the hotly anticipated return of Alison, Peter, Linda Bridges and Anthea Fry - oh and 2 pianos. A varied programme of orchestral favourites arranged for



2 pianos filled the next 50 minutes including:
Mozart's overture to the Marriage of Figaro;
Tchaikovsky's waltz in 5/4 from his 6th symphony;
a Bach orchestral suite;
The Rakoczy March by Listz;
and a jolly Spanish dance to finish.

In summary, something for everyone and a very enjoyable way to spend a Tuesday lunchtime.

See below for details of the next Lunchtime concert and two other concerts in the church during April.

April Music



Music in New Malden presents a duo recital by **Paula Gorbanova (violin)** and **Douglas Tang (piano)** on **Sunday 14th April** at 3 pm. Paula has won prestigious international competitions and Douglas has given organ recitals at NMMC on several occasions and is one of the most versatile musicians of his generation. Tickets are £10 from Wesley's or www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm.



Our lunchtime concert on **Tuesday 23rd April** at 1.10 pm is a solo cello and organ recital by **Graham Waterhouse** when he will play his own compositions. Graham is an established, prize-winning composer who is based in Munich and whose music is both approachable and stimulating. As usual, a retiring collection.



On **Thursday 25th April** at 6.30 pm (NB start time)
Joseph Tang and Ben Costello play two-piano music
by William Mathias, Madeleine Dring, Richard Rodney
Bennett and a special arrangement of movements
from Horoscope by Constant Lambert.
Tickets are £12 from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm



All are highly recommended.

Peter Bullett

Angel Exhibition

An idea has been put forward to stage an exhibition of angels in the church on 13th July which is the middle Saturday of Malden Fortnight. Angels can be made of anything, knitted, sewn, crocheted, drawn, whittled, origami-ed. Big and small, no angel will be refused. Please let Julia know if you would like to take part.

An initial indication of interest would be helpful to see if this will be viable. There may be a couple of angel-making workshops to attend.



You get the idea – let your imagination and creativity run wild and let's fill the church with angels!



Soup & Puds

Following a successful event last year the Inner Wheel Club are holding another Soup & Puds lunch in the Lower Hall on Thursday 25th April at 12.30 for 1pm.

Tickets £12 available from Gloria Taviner or email: gloriataviner4@gmail.com



Panto

Cinderella will be performed on Saturday 6th July 2pm and 7pm (oh yes it will!!).

Chorus parts still available plus front of house and ice cream sellers on the night.

Rehearsals will be on Tuesday evenings, 7 – 9pm. Watch this space for further details.



NMMC Diary Dates – April

Tuesday 2 nd	10.30am	Walk with Nature
Thursday 4 th	2.00pm	Creative Arts
Saturday 6 th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's – Our Woofs & Miaows
Tuesday 9 th	10.30am – 11.30am	Tai Chi
	2.30pm – 4.00pm	Bereavement Café
	7.00pm	Panto rehearsal
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Tai Chi with Angy
Thursday 11 th	11.00am – 12.30pm	Knit & Natter in Wesley's
Friday 12 th	2.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 13 th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's – Guide Dogs for the Blind
Sunday 14 th	3.00pm	Music in New Malden (see page 14 & 15)
Tuesday 16 th	10.30am	Walk with Nature
	7.00pm	Panto rehearsal
Thursday 18 th	2.00pm	Creative Arts
Saturday 20 th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's – Breast Cancer Care
Tuesday 23 rd	10.30am – 11.30am	Tai Chi
	10.30am – 1.00pm	Health Check Drop-in
	11.00am – 1.00pm	Benefit Check Desk
	1.10pm	Lunchtime concert (see page 14 & 15)
	7.00pm	Panto rehearsal
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Bee keeping – Julie Konishi
Thursday 25 th	12.00 noon – 2.00pm	Inner Wheel Soups & Puds
	6.30pm	Concert (see page 14 & 15)
Saturday 27 th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's – Young Carers
Tuesday 30 th	7.00pm	Panto rehearsal

Circuit Plan

Following Vindra's accident some changes have obviously had to be made to the published plan. The plan below has been amended to reflect the changes that are known so far.

We do of course wish Vindra a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming her back soon.

	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>			
07 April	LA	Cocking: HC	Vernon: HC	Stonehewer 4.30: Coveney: PP
14 April	Han	Webb	Stonehewer	D Lloyd: LM
21 April	M Wakelin & S Lloyd: P	Bridges: AA LA	J Wakelin: AA	Maraj-Ogden: HC
28 April	M Wakelin: ACM	D Lloyd: CF	Fullbrook	Maraj-Ogden: B
05 May	M Wakelin: HC	J Wakelin	Maraj-Ogden: AA	Webb 4.30: Coveney: PP
09 May <i>Ascension Day</i>	7.30pm: E	No Service	No Service	No Service
12 May	D Lloyd	Maraj-Ogden: CA/HC	LA	LA
19 May <i>Pentecost</i>	D&S Lloyd: C	LA: AA M Wakelin: HC	M Wakelin: CA/HC	Maraj-Ogden: HC
26 May <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	M Wakelin	Rutledge	Maraj-Ogden	S Lloyd
Abbreviations AA: All Age Worship ACM: Annual Church Meeting B: Baptism C: Contemporary Service		CA: Christian Aid CF: Café Church E: Ecumenical service EW: Ecumenical Week of Witness HC: Holy Communion	HCE: Extended HC JMA: Junior Mission for All LA: Local Arrangement LM: Leprosy Mission M : Music for Good Friday PP: Praise Party	

Next Spotlight Issue

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

The deadline for the next issue is Wednesday 24th April.

Family Quiz

4 teams of Quizzers assembled on the evening of Saturday March 16th. As instructed, all had brought their own snacks to share and hopefully fuel the brains.

The first round was all about Marks and Spencer's. Not all the questions were as easy as the first one, which was 'What are the names of the founders of M and S?' But most of us of a certain age remembered the St Michael branding, even if we couldn't recall when the store first opened or where.

Age was also a significant divider in the round where you had to decipher examples such as 76 T in the BP (Trombones in the Big Parade). Knowing the song 'Two Lovely Black Eyes', (2LBE) and that '2001 C a BBC' means 'Cleans a Big Big Carpet' gave a useful advantage to

those whose knowledge of football and all other sporting matters was woefully inadequate. Quizzes are not all about what you know, however. Much amusement and amazement was had when guessing Guinness records. The record number of cars that have been jumped over on a pogo stick already stands at 9, so further attempts could be futile or fatal. The record number of rabbits that have been pulled out of a magician's hat? 300. (It must have been an extremely large hat, and the rabbits must have been breeding whilst waiting for their turn...)

In the end the 'Universally Challenged' team (Robert, Caroline, Isabel and Alan V)were the winners, while the 'Bullett- Chasers' (Alison and Peter; Sue and David K) won the highly-coveted wooden spoon for coming last.

Much enjoyment was had by all; many thanks to Julia and Liz for devising such a fun and well- organised evening.

Alison Bullett

Julia and Liz would like to thank everyone who supported the quiz. As well as having a good time, over £130 was raised for the Alzheimer's Society.

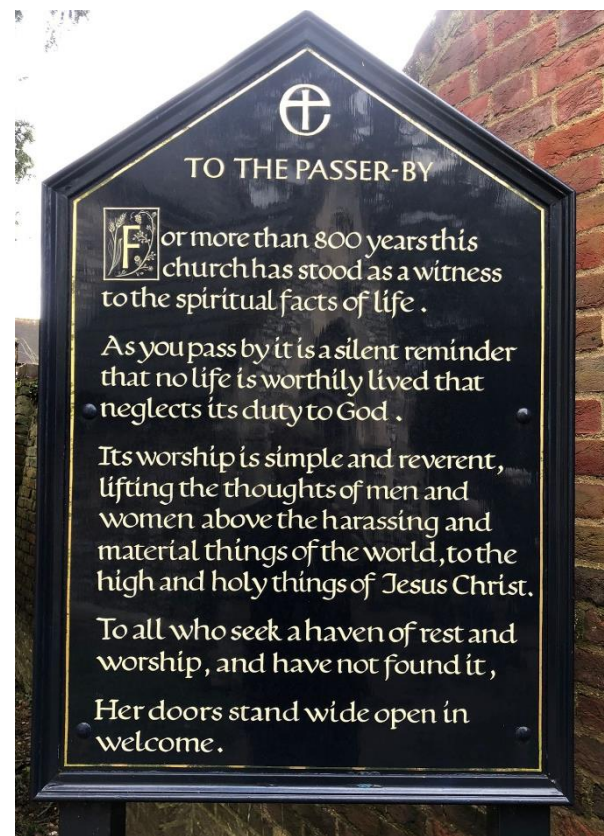
Watch this space for news of the next one!

In case you missed it, try this round.

80 D A the W	
9 P in the S S	
2000 L U the S	
64 S on a C B	
12 M of a J	
360 D in a C	
57 H V	
7 B for S B	
101 D	
366 D in a L Y	
54 C in a P of P C	

St Nicholas Church in Thames Ditton

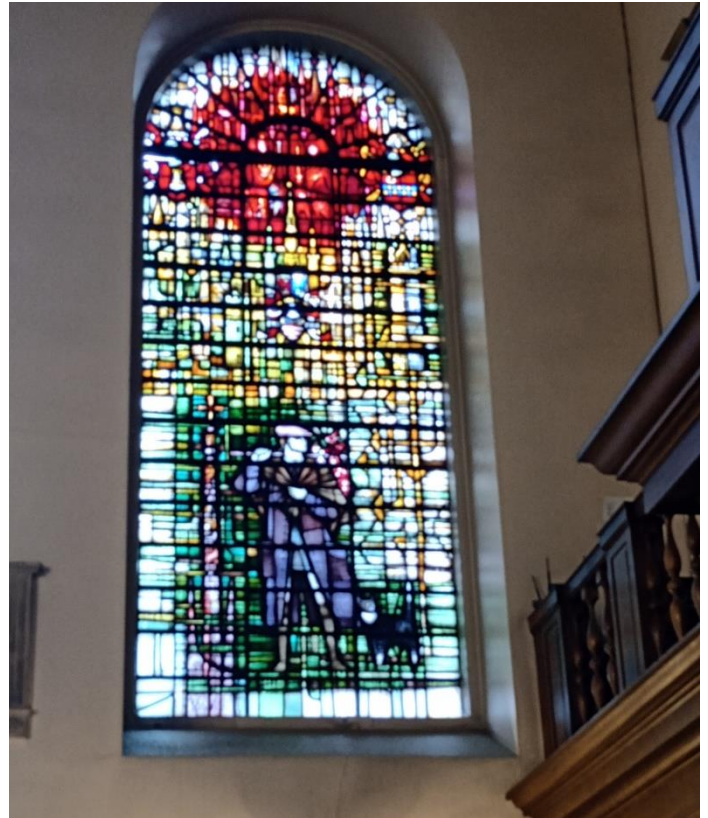
The Bulletts had a walk in Thames Ditton and found this delightful church with a Remembrance Garden and this warm invitation.



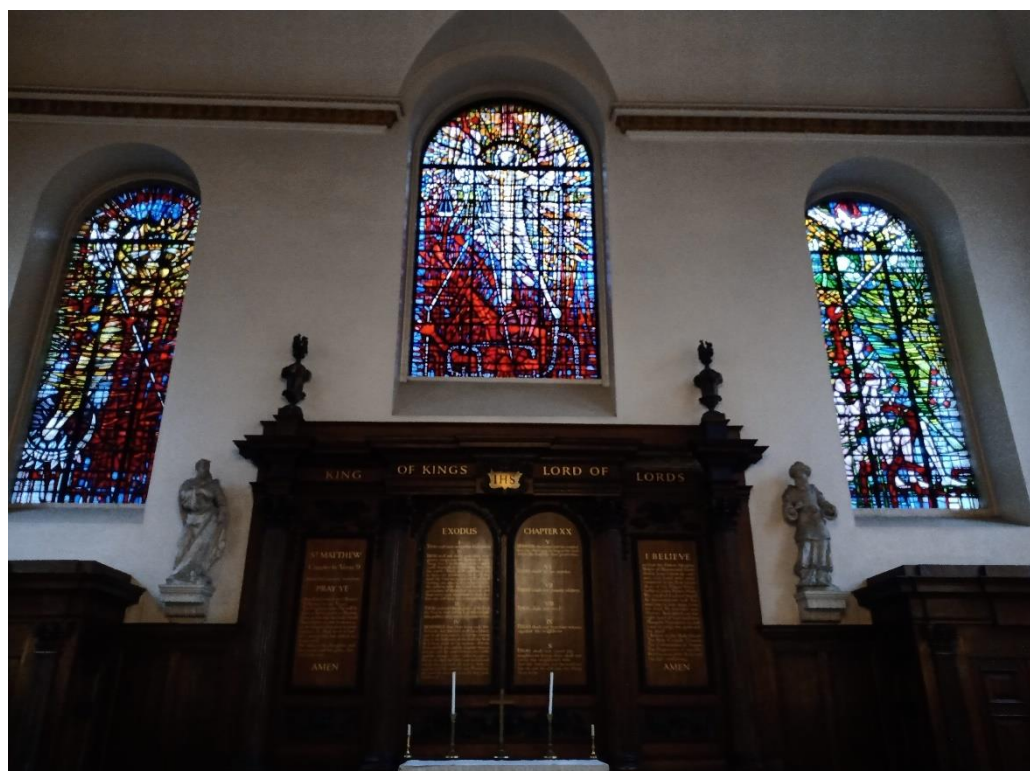
St Michael Paternoster Royal, London EC4

The Moores came across this church in a rainy London last week. The original building, which was first recorded in the 13th century, was destroyed in the Great Fire of London and the church was rebuilt under the aegis of Sir Christopher Wren. However St Michael's was severely damaged during the Blitz and then restored between 1966 and 1968.

In 1423 Richard "Dick" Whittington, the fabled Lord Mayor of London, was buried within its precincts. Although the tomb is now lost, there is a stained glass window depicting Dick Whittington with his bundle and his cat!



St Michael's has several spectacular stained glass windows and is well worth a visit.



Wesley's Calendar - April 2024

Date	Day	Morning	Afternoon	Notes
1 Apr 24	Monday	Easter Monday - CLOSED		He's risen - Hallelujah!
2 Apr 24	Tuesday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
		10:30 Walking with Nature		
3 Apr 24	Wednesday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
4 Apr 24	Thursday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
			2-4 Creative Arts Group	
5 Apr 24	Friday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
6 Apr 24	Saturday	10-12 Bake Sale	Our Woofs + Miaows	
7 Apr 24	Sunday	10:30 Sunday Service		
8 Apr 24	Monday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
9 Apr 24	Tuesday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
		10:30 Tai Chi Qigong	2:30 Bereavement Cafe	
10 Apr 24	Wednesday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
11 Apr 24	Thursday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
		10:30 Knit & Natter Morning		
12 Apr 24	Friday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
			2-4 Board Games	
13 Apr 24	Saturday	10-12 Bake Sale	Guide Dogs for the Blind	
14 Apr 24	Sunday	10:30 Sunday Service		Music in NM Concert
15 Apr 24	Monday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
16 Apr 24	Tuesday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
		10:30 Walking with Nature		
17 Apr 24	Wednesday			
18 Apr 24	Thursday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
			2-4 Creative Arts Group	
19 Apr 24	Friday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
20 Apr 24	Saturday	10-12 Bake Sale - Charity TBC		
21 Apr 24	Sunday	10:30 Sunday Service		
22 Apr 24	Monday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
23 Apr 24	Tuesday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	Lunchtime Concert
		10:30 Tai Chi Qigong	Health Check Drop-In	
24 Apr 24	Wednesday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
25 Apr 24	Thursday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
		10:30 Knit & Natter Morning		
26 Apr 24	Friday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
27 Apr 24	Saturday	10-12 Bake Sale	Young Carers	
28 Apr 24	Sunday	10:30 Sunday Service		
29 Apr 24	Monday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
30 Apr 24	Tuesday	10-12 Coffee Bar	12-2 Coffee Bar	
		10:30 Tai Chi Qigong - TBC		

For more information, please contact Lee at nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com