



New Malden
Methodist Church

At the heart of the High Street



Spotlight

May 2023

Message from Karl

There is an old joke that ministers only work for a few hours on a Sunday, which reflects how this is the time we are often most visible to congregations. However, the reality could not be more different.

According to the Methodist Church's rulebook, which has the catchy title of 'Constitutional Disciple and Practice', ministers should aim to not work more than forty-eight hours per week on average, which nominally suggests eight hours a day of activity for six days out of seven. Sticking to this and not exceeding it by some margin can be tricky, especially at certain times of the Connexional year, but it is a discipline I try to follow as far as possible, not least because consistently working long hours has been shown to have a significant detrimental effect on both physical and mental wellbeing.

So, what do ministers do in those forty-eight hours? Well, it is not easy to describe what a 'typical week' looks like for me, because there is no such thing. I love that ministry is so varied and thus interesting and energising, but it is undeniably true that this suits some personality types more than others. Hence, some people look to put more structure around their working week, but of course unexpected things happen and any framework has to be flexible.

For me, there are some constants each week, most obviously the preparation of worship, spending time in Wesley's and administrative tasks such as sending off orders of service and writing the Prayer of the Week. Beyond that, however, there is a lot of variation. To give a flavour, I have recently spent time doing the following:

- **Preparing worship** typically takes eight to twelve hours per week, including preparing Bible study material, online worship and slides for in-person services.
- **Meetings** vary a lot, but are most intense in September, January and May because of the general pattern of the year and the things which need to be done ready for the

Church Councils. As well as attending/chairing meetings, there is a couple of hours preparation time needed on average, so in a week with two meetings taking around two hours each, that adds up to eight hours of work.

- **Administration** is usually unseen but makes up an increasing percentage of my work, encompassing such joys as data protection auditing, Methodist statistical submissions and annual reporting to the Charity Commission, as well as important work but time-consuming work such as safeguarding audits and verifying DBS applications. Add to this the routine weekly and monthly stuff, including writing pieces like this, and that easily comes to between four and six hours in a typical week, in each of the two churches.
- **Pastoral and Mission** work is hard to pin down because it takes many forms, from working with individuals in crisis or simply being around to listen, to attending groups such as the Crafts Group in New Malden on Thursday afternoons or the Drop-In Afternoons at Kingston, through to acting as a barista in Wesley’s at least one morning per week. Funerals and weddings take around ten hours to prepare and lead, not including follow-up with families/couples as required, and pastoral visiting obviously varies depending on needs. Seeking to be present and visible in the churches and beyond is a major part of my working life, adding up to around fifteen hours a week on average.
- **Miscellaneous** things fill the rest of my time, involving the comical at one end of the spectrum such as chasing escaping Christmas trees down the High Street while waiting for the Council to take them away, to the more serious business of dealing with property and finance matters, line-managing and looking after staff (there is no HR department!) and dropping in on groups such as Playbox at Kingston or leading small group sessions.

So, as you can see, it is not a surprise that there is often more to be done than hours in a week, especially if one seeks to avoid what Rachel Mann calls the ‘machismo of busyness’ and stick to sensible hours. I hope this give you some insight into what ministers get up to beyond leading worship on a Sunday morning. In all of this, your prayers and support are always much appreciated.

Blessings, Karl

Spotlight’s Safeguarding Space



Look out for the posters giving contact details.

Liz Edwards, Safeguarding Officer



The **Methodist** Church 

Church Family News

We were recently in the Peak District and were pleased to catch up with Eleanor and Andy. It's coming up for a year since they left New Malden and they are settling really well into life in the Peaks. It was evening when we met them so yet again we were forced to meet in the pub rather than the church. We were also forced to eat Bakewell Pudding; people who live in Bakewell eat this everyday I'm led to believe. It's a hard life.

Caroline, Robert & Isabel



April Thank You

Local Arrangement Sunday 16th April
Thank you and well done to Alison, Doreen, Judith, Liz and Julia for leading our worship on Sunday 16th. It was a really enjoyable service and many positive comments were received after the service.



Looking to the Future

In November 1972 a young woman came to New Malden Methodist Church for the first time. She was new to the area but had been a regular and enthusiastic church-goer all her life. That evening she rang home and told her parents that she had not been welcomed and in fact nobody had spoken to her at all, but that she would persist because she could see it was a large and vibrant Church with a lot going on and a lot of busy and committed people in it.

In fact it took a while before she felt 'accepted' and really part of things, but persist she did, and in due course she became a steward, then Senior Steward, and when she stepped down from that role, her gifts were acknowledged and formalised by one of the Ministers and she became our chief greeter and welcomer. She truly understood the importance of that first impression, and she has welcomed countless people into our building ever since, rarely missing a week and always ready with a warm smile, a polite enquiry and the genuine hope that visitors will feel they want to come back again.

I'm talking of course about Greta Curry, who, now well into her nineties, has had to acknowledge that it has become too much of a strain for her to stand in the Welcome Area and do this vital task. She has been in a lot of pain from arthritis in her lower back recently, though you would never know it from her unchanged demeanour. She has been under investigation from the medics and the latest news is cautiously optimistic while they continue to keep her under review. We would like to give our warmest and most grateful thanks to Greta for all her years of service and assure her that not only will we come to talk to her – she is easily recognisable in the back pew by her always beautifully coiffed hair and lovely brightly coloured coat, as well as that smile – but that we will also continue her mission to make sure that everyone is welcomed to our church and that no new 'Gretas' are inadvertently turned away by the unwitting assumption by Everybody, that Somebody will do it.

In the immediate term, Greta's job will be done by a steward but it would be lovely if there could be a range of people willing to be On Duty for perhaps twenty minutes before the service, just smiling, saying hello and handing out the Notices. If you could be there just 5 minutes earlier than that, you could perhaps also put out a few things necessary for the service ...the Offertory plate and bags, the water for the preacher, the Peace candle. Perhaps you are not an early riser? Well, all the above-mentioned things have to be put away again. It doesn't take long, but Somebody has to do it, and every week. Several of you do this already – thank you - these Supporters of the Steward team are so important to the smooth running of a Sunday morning. There is no regular commitment, no meetings to attend; just a willingness to spread the involvement and responsibility.

We are so lucky to have a team of dedicated flower arrangers, but there is always room for more, if your talents lie in that direction, or even if you'd just like to have a go. The flowers are usually distributed after the service, could you perhaps be the Somebody to bundle them up into a couple of bouquets and/or maybe deliver one to someone who has not been well or just to mark an important anniversary?

Very soon, there will be an eye-watering sum revealed for the replacement of our boilers and the complete overhaul of our heating system. There will have to be a large fundraising effort, even though we stand to receive a certain percentage of the cost from various grants. Please support the various events that will be organised, as much as you can. Yes, we are going to ask you to reach deeper into your pockets in order to ensure that we have a reliably warm building by the Autumn, fit for purpose and attractive to outside hirers on whom our survival depends.

Yes, it is that serious. We are no longer a large Church, although it is still full of busy people. We are all ageing, although we have recently been delighted to welcome a few younger people in, (thank you Greta!) It is a sign of the times we live in. Church-going is a minority activity. Many young people cannot afford to live around here. During Covid many people found alternative things to do on a Sunday and did not come back. Some people have demanding jobs, family commitments. More often, children's activities such as

sport and drama now happen on Sundays as well as Saturdays. We can explain it, but we also have to deal with it.

There is a sign-up sheet on the board in Wesley's where Anybody can volunteer for the many jobs that need doing for the weekly services. We feel that this is a better system than coming round with a clip board each week and nagging people to do things. Please seriously consider whether you could read a lesson, deal with the flowers or do the getting out and putting away as referred to above.

During the week we constantly need volunteers to man Wesley's, 11-1, with a little time before and after for preparation and clearing away. This is not a demanding job: you will not be rushed off your feet, though a stool is available, as is friendly instruction. It is usually a very convivial way to pass the morning. If you cannot do this, then do come as a customer and tell your friends where to get the cheapest coffee we know about! Come to a Saturday coffee morning (10-12, though it usually overruns!) to support a range of charities. Perhaps you could make a cake for our monthly in-house efforts? And of course there are always vacancies for Somebody to run it in aid of a charity of their choosing. We don't want not to be open, and help is available – please ask.

There are of course one or two bigger job opportunities coming up. We need a Steward to take over from Alison in September. We also need Somebody to come on to the Property Committee now, with a view to taking over from Peter in 18 months' time, and a Treasurer to take over from Gloria in August which is a very important role to be filled.

We are so fortunate in so many ways, and we have a tremendous heritage and a responsibility to maintain it as far into the future as possible. No one likes to face the hard facts, or a moaning steward for that matter, but maybe we can all try to re-motivate and re-vitalise ourselves as the Summer months approach, and let's see what we can achieve, working together as a committed body of Christ's people. And remember, Anybody can be a Somebody!

Finally, a huge thank you to all of you who work so hard already, in seen and in unseen roles.

Alison, Julie, Julia & Sarah

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 June issue will be Wednesday 31st May.

Good Friday Music

The Good Friday concert is a firm tradition now in the calendar and this year was something really special. Faure's Requiem is such a beautiful and poignant piece and was made all the more beautiful and poignant by Dariella and Oleksii, our 2 Ukrainian friends making a welcome return to the church. Their solos were really top notch, the orchestra played with great sensitivity, and Douglas Tang on organ was equally fabulous. The church was packed with getting on for 200 in attendance, and all were pleased to join in with a rousing rendition of Ireland's My Song is Love Unknown. Most were happy to stay for hot cross buns afterwards too, thanks to those who got these ready earlier in the day. Best of all a staggering £1750.00 was raised which will go towards humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

Caroline Auty



Speaking of Choirs

Valerie Groves spotted these in "The Lychgate" St Mary's Church (the magazine for the people and community of Long Ditton) April/May 2023, and thought we would enjoy them.

St James the Least of All

Beware when the choirs meet

The Rectory
St James the Least

My Dear Nephew Darren

You agonised recently over your ecumenical service: who should be invited? Who should preach? What about the order of service? If you had attended our recent combined churches' choir festival, your own dilemmas would have seemed a little less acute.

At the pre-meeting, there was heated discussion about whether those choirs who normally wore robes would be comfortable standing among those who didn't. The more aesthetically sensitive worried whether St Agatha's pea green cassocks may clash with our red ones. Intending to be helpful, but phrasing it rather badly, someone suggested that the normally robed choirs should wear nothing. Colonel Wainwright was a little too quick to chuckle.

I began to wonder if a prize was to be awarded to the person who raised the greatest number of concerns: Should the choirs stay separate? Would the tenors be next to the altos or the basses? Where would extra seating be placed? Would the heating be on for the rehearsal? Then came what you would call the 'elephant in the room': of all the choirmasters, *who would conduct and who play the organ?* Tension mounted, and expressions grew grim but before the committee started to dig trenches in my carpet and position howitzers under the desk, I briefly left the room, turned off all the electricity and claimed we'd had a power cut. This is a useful device for truculent committees; sadly, it can be used only rarely.

Come the day, an uneasy truce lasted while everyone adopted the traditional solution to disagreement within congregations and simply did exactly what they wanted. Some were robed, some were not, some choirs congealed in their own huddles, while others joyfully sat next to people from other churches – mainly so they could point out their neighbour's wrong notes. Some sang in the right key, some sang in the wrong key, some sang what sounded like quite different songs altogether.

The service ended with one choir thinking that the organist had played too loudly, while another choir thought that the conductor wasn't up to much. Everyone agreed afterwards that we must do it again, while firmly stating that if their own choirmaster didn't conduct next year, they wouldn't be there.

Thankfully, one fundamental thing on the day united them: they all said that our church was too cold, and they all went down to the pub afterwards to warm up.

Your loving uncle

Eustace

Out West

A devout cowboy lost his Bible while he was mending fences out on the range. Three weeks later a cow walked up to him, carrying the Bible in its mouth. The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes. He took the book out of the cow's mouth and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Well, hardly that," said the cow. "Your name was written inside the cover."

Heaven

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"

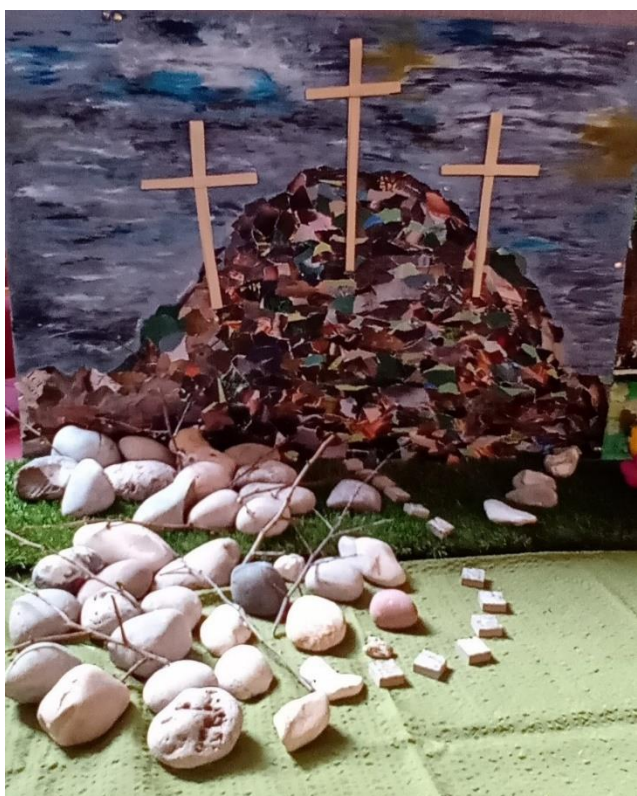
Signs found outside churches....

- Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside
- Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!
- Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives.
- Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low but the retirement benefits are out of this world.

Easter Morning

The Easter bunny brought plenty of eggs on Easter morning to be found by the children, though Sarah is very happy to report that when she came to work after the Easter weekend she found 14 eggs which had been overlooked.

The extremely talented Creative Arts group made a beautiful Easter display for the Church.



A fixed Easter day?

Easter is quite literally, a moveable feast. People talk about whether Easter is early/late/ in April/ in March etc in a way that doesn't apply to other significant dates, and the reasons for this are long-standing, and complex. "The first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox and using Jerusalem as the meridian point" is one way of working out when Easter is but different denominations have other ideas and it also helps to know which calendar you are following – Julian or Gregorian. The Orthodox church uses the Julian calendar and Easter was therefore 16th April. There have been rumblings for centuries to "fix" Easter day and the current Archbishop of Canterbury has suggested it might be possible to bring different faiths together and agree a fixed date sometime within the next 5-10 years. I quite like it when politics and religion coincide and this is one such occasion as, interestingly enough, legislation to enable the fixing of Easter day has already been passed by Parliament and can be found in the 1928 Easter Act. This sets the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. Got that? The impetus for the Act came about after the League of Nations, of all things, looked into the issue and produced a report and recommendation. Clearly Easter Day isn't (yet) fixed, so what's going on you might wonder? Essentially and without being too nerdy, the Act hasn't yet been brought into force – in legislative terms it needs a commencement order for this to happen. Acts can be brought into force with immediate effect on receiving Royal Assent or different parts of an act can be brought into force on different dates, or as in this instance a whole act can await commencement. In this instance both Houses would have to affirm or approve a regulation that the Act is brought into force.

Since 1928 there have been various attempts to bring the Easter Act into force. There's obvious pressure from educationalists as fixing Easter would allow for regularised school holidays and perhaps even a move away from 3 terms followed by a loooooong summer break when schoolchildren forget everything they've been taught and people struggle with childcare. It could also help out with spacing of Bank Holidays, which businesses might like. It might even mean we get better weather at Easter – I have to say it was wet and cold this Easter in the Peak District but I'm not taking sides. I'm also not forgetting that Easter is a religious festival first and foremost. Fixing Easter is also a wider question as it would be unusual for the UK or any one church to act alone in this and this adds to the complexity. The World Council of Churches turns its attention to the issue periodically and there's a Parliamentary question most years asking when a date might be fixed, but the Government has made it clear it won't act unless there's agreement from the churches.

Like I said it's a complex issue and if you want to know more, a House of Lords debate in 1999 covered the arguments on both sides incorporating the Council of Nicea, the Inland Revenue (as was) and the horseracing calendar. Have a read:

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/1999-03-11/debates/d033812b-03c6-44b7-84bb-c396e35886a1/EasterAct1928\(Commencement\)BillHl](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/1999-03-11/debates/d033812b-03c6-44b7-84bb-c396e35886a1/EasterAct1928(Commencement)BillHl)

On a related note, there is a prize (not a very good one) for telling me when Christmas Day was fixed as 25th December.

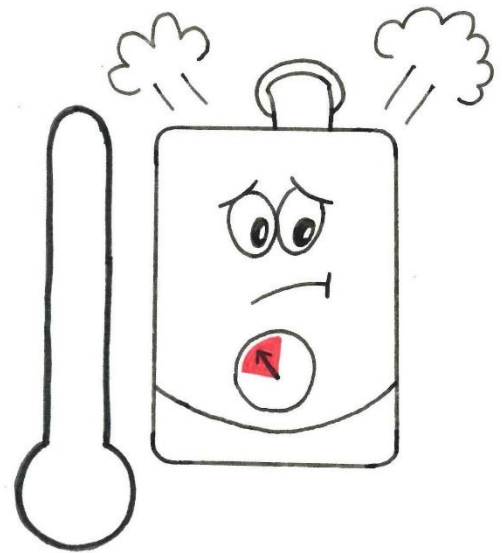
Caroline Auty

Boiler Fund Update

Saturday coffee bars in April have taken respectively £276.00, £122.50 and £185.00 and the Quiz made £105.00.

Including a couple of other donations, that is over £700.00 raised in April. A good total though we have a long way to go!

Your support for the coffee bars is vital, whether that is helping out serving coffee or cakes, making cakes and coming along with your friends. All and any donations are very much welcomed.



Church Family Quiz

Eschewing whatever reality TV is currently dominating Saturday evening schedules, a group of hardy quizzers gathered at the church to pit their wits and raise money for the boiler fund. If there were points for team names then everyone would be a winner as Densa took on Universally Challenged and the Cleveland Cavaliers. Liz Edwards was MC and exceedingly nice in the role, awarding points for good effort, vain attempts, and alternative answers. This was not how Ann Robinson ran the Weakest Link and we were glad for that as we needed all the help we could get.

In round 1 we had to identify tools and state their purpose. This attracted high quality responses along the lines, "it's a windy/hitty thing" used for "winding/hitting" etc. Disturbingly, a crowbar can be used to break into cars - said one teenage participant. Round 2 was on the history of New Malden and we took solace in the fact we hadn't lived here as long as other contestants. Round 3 was on the Old Testament and we had no excuses. We did a bit better on Round 4 and cryptic place names (which appears later in this edition), thanks to years of doing the Guardian crossword. Julia did the bright and beautiful final round with answers leading to a secret theme.

It was a photo finish but we romped home in third or possibly joint second place. We were no match for the collective brains of Densa whose knowledge of Old Testament kings was second to none. The excitement was only added to when the raffle was drawn and contestants took home prizes including a chocolate orange, shortbread, some daffodils, and a box of fudge. All very welcome after Lent. Overall a great time was had by all and a magnificent £105 was raised for the boiler fund. I forgot to take any photos so here's in an artist's impression of Densa's winning moment:



Milk Bottle Tops

Thank you for continuing to collect milk bottle tops.

They are collected by Paul and Veronica Whittle who pass them on to a couple called Ann and Andy Potter who have been collecting the bottle tops since December 2009. Up to January this year, the total weight collected was 23,478kg – a lot of bottle tops which are not going into landfill!



The tops are picked up by GHS recycling from Portsmouth and ground down into pellets so they can be used to make toys and other plastic items. The Potters then donate the proceeds - £1392.44 to date – to The Springboard Project, Hurst Road, Horsham.

The Springboard Project is a community based charity that provides inclusive play and leisure opportunities for families with young children and fun short breaks for children and teenagers with disabilities.

Springboard Houses are open as drop-in centres for any family to bring their children and enjoy play facilities during the week. The centres are accessible with ceiling hoists and changing facilities and lifts. www.springboardproject.com

So thank you for your continued support in this endeavour and keep on bringing those tops in (clean milk bottle tops only, as they are of the right consistency of plastic). A big thank you also goes to Paul and Veronica for picking up our tops and passing them on. What a great community effort!

Stephen Lawrence

At the recent 'Churches Together in Malden' service held during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. James I heard a song written in response to Stephen Lawrence's murder. It is simply entitled 'You are Loved'. These were words spoken to him by a stranger who held him thirty years ago on the pavement. It is certainly worth finding on You Tube or alternatively it is included in Doreen Lawrence's Desert Island Discs on BBC Sounds. The song was written by Garth Hewitt who is committed to social justice.

www.youtube.com/garthhewitt

Liz Edwards

Ruth and Bill Warner

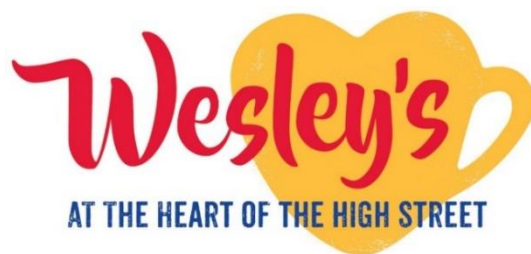
You may remember the sad news back in February that **Ruth Warner** had died peacefully aged 100 years old. Ruth and Bill Warner were members here and when Bill died, his family organised a memorial plaque on one of the benches on our patio. Ruth moved away but always had fond memories of her time here with Bill so her daughter, Jennifer Barham, asked if they could add a second memorial plaque which has now been done. We are pleased to have a memorial to a lovely couple who were clearly very happy here.



This photo of Ruth and Bill was taken at the 70th anniversary of WAGS (the Women's Afternoon Guild) in 2010.

Wesley's

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



Saturdays in May & June

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

10th Wives & Friends for RB Kares

17th Currently vacant

24th Currently vacant

Please contact Sarah if you would like to run a coffee bar for your own charity – or indeed for the Boiler Fund – Julie can't run them all herself!

Music in New Malden

Sunday 14th May 3.00pm

String Chamber Music played by students from Tiffin Boys' School offering two of the real gems of the classical literature by Schubert and Dvorak - the ideal way to relax on a summer's afternoon!

Dvorak Serenade for Strings (selected movements)

Schubert Rosamunde Quartet (selected movements)



Sunday 11th June 3.00pm

Andrew Roberts (violin) and Rachel Fryer (piano)

Sonatas by Beethoven and Brahms with shorter pieces by Kurtag and Joachim.

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)



Poetry Corner

For Equilibrium

By John O'Donoghue

Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,
May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.

As the wind loves to call things to dance,
May your gravity be lightened by grace.

Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth,
may your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.

As water takes whatever shape it is in,
So free may you be about who you become.

As silence smiles on the other side of what's said,
May your sense of irony bring perspective.

As time remains free of all that it frames,
May your mind stay clear of all its names.

May your prayer of listening deepen enough
To hear in the depths the laughter of God.



Statue at RHS Wisley
'Equilibrium'
by Michael Speller

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>			
07 May	am	M Wakelin: HC	Rutledge: AA/HC	T Coveney AA	Brown
14 May	am	Rutledge	Bridges/S Lloyd	Vernon	Brown HC 4.30: B Coveney PP
21 May	am	M Wakelin: C	Rush	Rutledge: HC	Brown
	pm	<i>No Service</i>	Rutledge: HC	<i>No Service</i>	<i>No Service</i>
28 May	am	M Wakelin: P	D Lloyd: P	Rutledge: 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 – May

Monday 1 st	Wesley's will be closed for the Bank Holiday
Thursday 4 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm Creative Arts Group
Saturday 6 th	Wesley's will be closed for the Coronation
Monday 8 th	Wesley's will be closed for the Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 th	2.30pm – 4.00pm Bereavement Café
	Wives & Friends Visit to Isabella Plantation & programme planning
Friday 12 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm Board Games Afternoon
Saturday 13 th	10.00am – 12 Wesley's – Boiler Fund
Sunday 14 th	12.00 Church Council Meeting
	3.00pm Music in New Malden
Tuesday 16 th	1.10 – 1.50pm Lunchtime Concert
Thursday 18 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm Creative Arts Group
Saturday 20 th	10.00am – 12 Wesley's – Christian Aid
Tuesday 23 rd	7.30pm Wives & Friends – City Churches – Alan Vincent
Saturday 27 th	10.00am – 12 Wesley's – Currently vacant – please contact Sarah to book
Monday 29 th	Wesley's will be closed for the Bank Holiday



**Please wear red to church on
28th May for Pencecost**



CRYPTIC TOWNS AND CITIES



This was one of the rounds in the recent Church Family Quiz. There may be more than one answer to each clue!

1	Join to the next one	
2	Tub full of water	
3	Mat insect	
4	Tend fire	
5	Where the steer crossed the river	
6	Mother's garden entrance	
7	Old car	
8	Part of a ship	
9	Colourful car	
10	Cook's meadow	
11	Noah's home rebuilt	
12	Chef's advice	
13	People's rock	
14	Bing's town	
15	Look for a bargain	

The caption competition

We have had several suggestions for this photo of Alison



- I didn't know being a Methodist Senior Steward meant blowing out Roman candles!
- But my birthday isn't till February!
- At last we've found a candle that can withstand Alison's singing.
- Alison goes for gold in the NMMC fire eating competition.
- Can she eat the whole cake without using her hands or singeing her fringe.
- " and is this burning, an eternal flame?"
- Alison was a bit taken aback when finding out that Waitrose had run out of candles, Peter suggested using a bunsen burner instead.
- It was Pentecost Week on Bake Off.

The photos ripe for captions just keep on coming!

Suggestions please for this photo of Karl at the Kingston Walk of Witness.



Please see the back page to find out what Karl will be up to for Christian Aid in May.

On Saturday 20th May, as part of Christian Aid Week for 2023, Karl will be joining other Kingston clergy and church members in a flash dance outside the Bentalls Centre. Anyone who has seen Karl dance will know that his style is somewhat unique, and so he has been practicing hard to get his two left feet into line!

The steps are shown in the diagram, and if you would like to join Karl to provide a bit of safety in numbers, there is a rehearsal at Kingston URC from 9.30am to 12pm, with the dancing in the town centre from 12.30pm to 1pm. Alternatively, you could just come along and watch, have a laugh, and donate to Christian Aid as it works with partners across the world to bring hope and overcome challenges.

