



New Malden
Methodist Church
At the heart of the High Street



Spotlight

September 2025

Message from Karl

One of my heroes is somebody of whom I suspect many people have never heard, but whose courage and integrity have long inspired me.

Hans Litten was a lawyer working in 1930s Germany. He was passionate about human rights at a time and in a context when few people were talking about the subject, and he pursued his cases as if his life depended upon it.

The Stormtroopers, sometimes called the SA as opposed to the SS, operated under the leadership of Ernst Rohm and attacked as the street thugs of the Nazi party, though at enough of a distance that Hitler tried to deny their violence was anything

to do with him. He claimed he did not know what the Stormtroopers were up to, and denied that their violence was Nazi policy. When a group of four Stormtroopers attacked a gathering of the Nazis' political opponents, Hans Litten sought to join the dots,

and connect their violence to its origin. During the trial of these men, Litten took the opportunity to summon Hitler to give evidence and to cross-examine him at length, highlighting how he overtly planned to take power by force, using the Stormtroopers, if democratic means failed. This triggered Hitler into ranting and raving, undermining his pretence of calm respectability and



his supposed commitment to non-violence.

The consequences for Litten of taking on the Nazis were significant. He was attacked, hassled and spat at in the streets, vilified in the press and hounded by opponents inside and outside the legal profession. This did not deter him, even when it became clear that the Nazi tentacles had reached deep into the police and judiciary, so that evidence disappeared and attempts to bring further prosecutions were blocked, and opportunities for other work suddenly started drying up.

When the Nazis came to power in 1933, Litten was arrested and sent to a concentration camp. He did not survive.

At a time when democracy is profoundly under threat in the United States – witness the sacking and/or prosecution of Trump's political opponents on fabricated charges, deportations to torture facilities outside the country with no hope of return even for US citizens, the deployment of troops on the streets of Washington DC on the basis of false claims about crime, and so forth – and fascism and far right ideology is on the rise in the United Kingdom among many other countries, it is vital that we learn the lessons of history, and that we do not repeat the same mistakes that led to the rise of Hitler and other dictators in the 1930s. Yet, tensions and scapegoating are, if anything, being fuelled by politicians and media alike in a way that gives the impression that extreme views are actually normative.

In these times, we need people like Hans Litten, who did what they could to speak truth to power and wake people up to what was really going on. We need people with the integrity and courage to do the right things, even when it may well be personally costly.

As such, we need to speak up against the co-opting of our national flag by those driven by racism and xenophobia, who want to turn something which should be about pride in community and hospitality and togetherness into a symbol of fear and hatred. We need to counter the lies told and propagated about asylum-seekers, Muslims, trans people and others who are being scapegoated for all of society's problems, and we need politicians who will act to address the rising inequality and the housing crisis which are creating the ideal conditions for the rise of fascism.

In Wesley's and in other places in New Malden, I have heard some profoundly racist tropes and hateful comments recently about minority groups such as the above, which are not acceptable or welcome here. God's love is for all, and if we cannot reflect that even over a cuppa in Wesley's, then we are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past and give into fear, hatred and demonisation of the 'other'. Remember that the rise of Nazism did not begin with Auschwitz, but progressed there after years of dehumanising, othering and scapegoating.

Please, therefore, be more Hans Litten, for all of our sakes.

With every blessing,
Karl



District Service of Welcome

Revd Faith Nyota

Chair of the London District of the
Methodist Church

Sunday 07 September | Service commences at 6pm
Methodist Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate

London, SW1H 9NH

Refreshments will be served after the service

Spotlight's Safeguarding Space

Did you know that Safeguarding is an agenda item at every Church Council meeting? This is to keep Church Council members updated with opportunity to read a report and ask questions. This does not just happen here but at every Methodist Church in the country to ensure Safeguarding remains a priority.

Liz Edwards – Safeguarding Officer



The **Methodist Church** 

Church contact information – www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com



NMMethodists

Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge (Minister) 07932 242789 karl.rutlidge@methodist.org.uk
n/a Monday

Mr Barry Sawyer (Administrator) 020 8942 1288

nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Lee Monczak (Development Officer)

nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com

Mrs Julia Morton (Senior Steward)

juliamorton@virginmedia.com

Mrs Liz Edwards (Steward)

lizedwards513@gmail.com

Mrs Julie Haines (Steward)

juliehaines53@gmail.com

Charity Registration Number 1176621



Karl taking part in the VJ Day Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Friday 15th August. Afterwards he was presented with a certificate from the British Legion to recognise his support over recent years.

In his sermon on Sunday 24th August Karl used the term,

'I'll go to the foot of our stairs'

He asked if anyone knew what it meant? No reply. Even being a northern lad he could not explain it either.

So when I got home and being inquisitive, after lunch searched the internet and came up with the following:

'Used to express astonishment or incredulity, surprise or amazement'

eg ***'I heard that you're pregnant with twins. Wow, congratulations. I'll go to the foot of our stairs.'***

'Well, I'll go to the foot of our stairs. I can't believe that I can win this prize.'

– Julie Haines

****SSAFA – Sponsorship update****

On my original note about the sponsorship associated with my bridges walk, I forgot to include the £75 taken by credit card within the stated total.

Card payments have to transit the church bank account.

This means the final total donated was just over £470.

Thanks again.

– Dave Moore

Is God calling you to lead?

**People are coming in -
who will walk with them
into prayer,
into fellowship,
into God's presence?**

In just over two years, Wesley's has grown from a small coffee bar into a community hub with nine wellness projects, welcoming many new faces through its doors. But opening the doors is only the beginning. The greater work is to help people return to God, rebuild, and grow stronger in faith.

Our faith is nourished not only in worship and service, but also as we walk alongside one another - strengthening, encouraging, and keeping the fire of faith burning as we grow in Christ.

We long to see someone step forward to lead a small Bible study or Alpha-style group, so that those who enter through Wesley's may also find their way into the sanctuary of God's love.

Faith

to move mountains

MATTHEW 17:20

Is God calling you to lead and nurture others in His Word?

If this stirs your heart, please speak with us.

Every blessing, Lee



September Dates Quiz

A fun challenge where every answer is a September date

1. On which date does the autumn equinox most commonly occur in the Northern Hemisphere?
2. Which date is celebrated as International Literacy Day around the world?
3. On which date did the signing of the U.S. Constitution take place in 1787?
4. Which date did Japan sign the Second World War Peace Treaty?
5. On which date is World Tourism Day celebrated?
6. Which date will Surbiton Hill Methodist Church Tennis Club recognise 100 years with a celebration to which we are all invited?
7. On which date is Mexico's Independence Day celebrated?
8. Which date is the United Nations' International Day of Peace?
9. On which date is Roald Dahl Day celebrated to honour the famous author?
10. Which date is recognised as World Heart Day?
11. When does 'Strictly Come Dancing' start this year?
12. On which date did the English, led by Lord Howard of Effingham, defeat the Spanish Armada?

Answers in next month's Spotlight (or get Googling if you can't wait that long!)

Significant September dates

2
1666

The Great Fire of London began in a bakery in Pudding Lane near the Tower.

5
1997

Mother Teresa died in Calcutta at age 87.

7
1986

Bishop Desmond Tutu became Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, the first black head of South Africa's Anglicans.

8
2022

Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain died at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, after a 70-year reign.

9
1776

The United States came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies.

11
2001

The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons.

12
1990

A treaty was signed by East and West Germany and the Allies of World War II allowing for the restoration of sovereignty to a re-unified Germany.

14
1741

Composer George Frederick Handel finished Messiah after working on it nonstop for 23 days.

15
1890

British mystery author Agatha Christie (1890–1976) was born in Torquay, England.

16
1620

The Mayflower ship departed from England, bound for America with 102 passengers and a small crew.

19
1893

New Zealand became the first country to grant women the right to vote.

25
1906

Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia.

26
1984

Britain agreed to allow Hong Kong to revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

28
1066

The Norman conquest of England began as Duke William of Normandy landed at Pevensey, Sussex.

30
1955

Actor James Dean was killed in a car crash in California at age 24.

Local events
coming soon...

A MILE IN THEIR SHOES

3.30pm,
11 Oct. '25

Be one of the 100!
Join us, walk 5
miles, help end
local homelessness.

REGISTER NOW



KCAH OPEN DAY

VENUE: All Saints Church, Kingston

**4-7pm
25 Sep.
'25**



Don't miss out on...

- KCAH's future plans
- Winter Night Shelter impact report
- Talks and displays
- Chats with staff and trustees
- Keynote talk by KCAH CEO, Georgie Forshaw



We look forward to seeing you at All Saints on 25 Sep.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL OR ADDITIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- INTRODUCTION TO ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND WHAT SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS, AND THEIR FAMILIES, CAN EXPERIENCE.
- HANDS ON TRAINING
- TIPS, RESOURCES, AND STRATEGIES THAT TEAMS CAN USE TO HELP EVERYONE TO BE INCLUDED AND TO BELONG.
- CASE STUDIES
- G AND A
- SIGNPOSTING TOWARDS FURTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION TO EXPLORE
- ALL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE RESOURCES TO TAKE AWAY INCLUDING FULL-COLOUR A4 WORKBOOK
- FACILITATED BY MARK ARNOLD AND URBAN SAINTS

4TH OCTOBER 2025
10:00-13:00 @ NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH
1A WESTBURY ROAD, NEW MALDEN, KT3 5BE

£5 (FREE FOR NMBC MEMBERS AND REGULARS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR, EMAIL [YVONNE.NICHOLSON@GOOGLEMAIL.COM](mailto:yvonne.nicholson@googlemail.com) OR CONTACT YVONNE NICHOLSON OR EMMA PARKER AT:

YVONNE - 07931522846
EMMA - 07984419089



A trip down

MEMORY LANE

My first recollection of Bournemouth seaside was when my grandfather took me to see the pier (we weren't allowed on it, as sections of planking had been removed to prevent enemy access to the town). This was probably sometime in the 1940s, when my "called up" parents had handed me over to my maternal grandparents while they were part of the "War Effort" – father in the Army, mother in one of the "war office" typing pools in or near London.

My mother's younger two sisters attended secondary school in Bournemouth – the same one which I attended many years later before going on to train as a Paediatric nurse in Manchester.

Oh, so many years ago now! Africa, marriage, four children, UK, more nursing and other occupations, New Malden, death of beloved husband, etc – now life with number 3 child and family! So I'm still around!

– Jane Bennett (née Preece)

The Alto's Lament

It's tough to be an alto when you're singing in the choir
The sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire.
The bases boom like loud trombones, the tenors shout with glee,
But the alto part is on two notes (or if you're lucky, three).

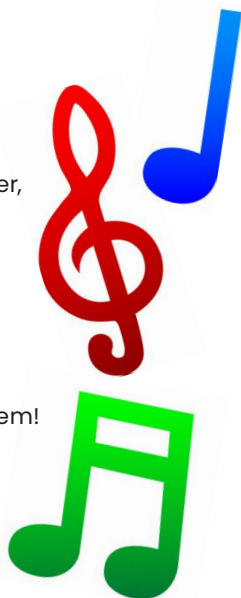
And when we sing an anthem and we lift our hearts in praises
The men get all the juicy bits and telling little phrases.
Of course the trebles sing the tune – they always come off best;
The altos only get three notes and twenty-two bars rest.

We practise very hard each week from hymn book and the Psalter,
But when the conductor looks at us our voices start to falter.
"Too high! Too low! Too fast! – you held that note too long!"
It doesn't matter what to do – it's certain to be wrong!

Oh! Shed a tear for altos, they're the martyrs and they know,
In the ranks of choral singers they're considered very low.
They are so very 'umble that a lot of folks forget 'em;
How they'd love to be sopranos, but their vocal chords won't let 'em!

And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted higher,
Sopranos, basses, tenors – they'll be in the Heavenly Choir.
While they sing 'Alleluia!' to celestial flats and sharps,
The altos will be occupied with polishing the harps.

POETRY CORNER



Can you help?

My name is Lois and in October I will be starting a one-year internship as a tapestry conservator at Hampton Court Palace and I am looking for accommodation. I am 26 years old and have been working for the National Trust in Norfolk for the last two years. I am planning to travel back to Norfolk most weekends but would like to spend the occasional weekend in London.

I would appreciate you getting in touch if you can help. My phone number is **07852 950747** and my email address is **loisglithero@gmail.com**.



In August's Spotlight Caroline sent in this carefully curated selection of holiday photos from some recent trips.

The answers (if they weren't obvious enough) are:

**Julian Alps,
Slovenia**



**St Mark's
Square, Venice**



Pen-y-Ghent

Next Spotlight Issue

Please send Barry – **nmnc@hotmail.co.uk** – anything you think might be of interest: memories, news of members, advice for life, poems, photos, recipes, quizzes, etc, by **Wednesday 24 September**.

Donations

New Malden Methodist Church now has a donations page set up with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

Please scan this QR code if you wish to donate online.



NMMC Diary Dates – September

Tuesday 2nd	10.00am	Walking Group
Thursday 4th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Friday 5th	11.30am	Writers Workshop
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 6th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's Charity Bake Sale
Tuesday 9th	10.30am	Tai Chi
	2.30pm	Bereavement Cafe
Thursday 11th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 12th	10.00 – 11.30am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 13th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's Charity Bake Sale
Tuesday 16th	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 18th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Friday 19th	10.00 – 11.30am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 20th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's Charity Bake Sale
Tuesday 23rd	10.30am	Tai Chi
Thursday 25th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 26th	10.00 – 11.30am	Writers Workshop
	1.00 – 2.00pm	Cancer Connection Group
Saturday 27th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's Charity Bake Sale
Tuesday 30th	10.30am	Tai Chi / Wlaking Group

Plan Details for the Churches (membership numbers in brackets)					
Date	Time	Chessington (74)	Kingston (75)	New Malden (78)	Surbiton Hill (113)
07/09/2025	AM	Wakelin: 11am A	Rutledge: HC	LA/AA	Maraj-Ogden: AL
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	Maraj-Ogden: 4.30pm PP
14/09/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden: HC	Rutledge: ACM	S. Lloyd	Bridges
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
21/09/2025	AM	D&S Lloyd: CS	LA	Rutledge: HC/ACM	Maraj-Ogden
	PM	No Service	Rutledge	No Service	No Service
28/09/2025	AM	11am: Han: HF	Rutledge: HF/AA/P	D Lloyd	Maraj-Ogden: HF
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
05/10/2025	AM	LA	Vernon: HC	Rutledge: HF/AA	Maraj-Ogden: PV/HC
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	Fullbrook: 4.30pm PP
12/10/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden: HC	S. Lloyd: AA	Fullbrook	Rutledge
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
19/10/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden	Rutledge: HL/OC	Vernon	S. Lloyd
	PM	No Service	Rutledge: HC	No Service	Maraj-Ogden: 3pm Prayers
26/10/2025	AM	Bridges	Cocking	Maraj-Ogden: HC	LA
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
30/10/2025	-	No Service	No Service	No Service	Maraj-Ogden: 6.30pm RS
	AM	LA	Rutledge: HC	LA	Maraj-Ogden: HC
02/11/2025	PM	Maraj-Ogden: 4pm RS	No Service	No Service	Bridges: 4.30pm PP
	AM	Cocking: R	R/LA	Rutledge: R	Maraj-Ogden: R
09/11/2025	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
	AM	D&S Lloyd: CS	Rutledge: AA	Maraj-Ogden	Vernon
16/11/2025	PM	No Service	Rutledge	No Service	No Service
	AM	Fullbrook	S. Lloyd	Rutledge: HC	LA
23/11/2025	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
	AM	Rutledge: HC	Vernon: G	D. Lloyd: G	Maraj-Ogden
30/11/2025	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service

Ministers' Day Off: Karl and Vindira - Monday Circuit Meeting: 9th September at Kingston

List of Abbreviations	
A = Anniversary with KCF	
AA = All-Age Worship	
ACM = Annual Church Meeting	
AL = Alpha Celebration Service	
CS = Contemporary Worship	
G = Gift Service	
HC = Holy Communion	
HF = Harvest Festival	
HL = Homelessness Sunday	
LA = Local Arrangement	
P = Parade Service	
PP = Praise Party	
PV = Pastoral Visitors Dedication	
R = Remembrance	
RS = Remembering Service	

Chessington (10am)	
Bible: NIV MWB: HC Only	
Music: SfF, H&P, SoF 1 - 3	
Korean Language Service 12.30pm	
Kingston (10.30am & 6pm)	
Bible: GNB MWB: HC Only	
Music: SfF, SoF 1 - 3	
Online: Windows on Worship	
New Malden (10.30am)	
Bible: NRSV MWB: Complete	
Music: SfF	
Online: Windows on Worship	
Surbiton Hill (10.30am)	
Bible: NIV MWB: Complete	
Music: SfF, H&P, Let's Praise 1, 2	
Online: Live Stream	