



New Malden
Methodist Church
At the heart of the High Street

SPOTLIGHT

OCTOBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM KARL

In the past month, the world has witnessed the bizarre sight of an American President standing up at the United Nations, and spouting so much nonsense that even the normally positive BBC News reporter described him as “vainglorious”. Having complained about a malfunctioning escalator, which it turns out had stopped because his own photographer had triggered the safety mechanism(!), Donald Trump made a series of sometimes highly questionable, and at other times outright false, claims about stopping wars, the Mayor of London and a supposed ‘free speech crisis’. The irony of his administration implementing censorship and cancellation on anyone not mourning hard right activist Charlie Kirk as he would like seemingly escaped the Orange One, as he claimed yet again to be the smartest guy around while attacking others.

The story of ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes’ by Hans Christian Andersen came to mind while watching this spectacle. In this tale, a pair of conmen manage to persuade a vain ruler who loves fancy clothes that they can weave

him a special outfit for him to wear that will look amazing, but which only those smart enough will be able to see. He agrees, and the conmen set up their looms and pretend to work. A series of officials inspect proceedings and notice that nothing is happening, but they are too fearful to say anything. Finally, the conmen pretend to dress the emperor, who parades through the streets naked because nobody in his entourage dare tell him he is not wearing any clothes. Eventually, a small child points out the obvious...

Now, setting aside for a moment the ludicrous nature of the statements Trump makes all too frequently and which point to him being an egotistical fantasist, what disturbs me most is the way in which those around the American President, the media in both the UK and USA, and other world leaders (including Kier Starmer, who had the red carpet rolled out for him at the recent state visit) seem to go along with it all so readily. Surely, I find myself thinking, they can see that the emperor has no clothes, but they nod along with everything like crawling sycophants, and



TRUTH

it seems there is no equivalent of the young child there to name what the ‘grown-ups in the room’ will not.

This stuff matters for a range of reasons, including the damage done by false claims:

- Paracetamol does not cause autism. I remember the anguish my mother felt when equally false claims were made about the MMR vaccine; she believed that getting my brother vaccinated may have caused his disability. Claims like that of Trump and Robert F. Kennedy Junior cause real harm, and fuel stigma towards neurodiverse people and their families.
- Climate change is not some great scam. Instead, the overwhelming majority (i.e. 99.9%+) of scientists agree that global warming driven by human activity is all too real and is already having devastating impacts. It may not suit Trump’s ‘drill, baby drill’ agenda, but it is true that fossil fuels are central to the problem and renewable energy key to the solution.
- The Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan, is a Muslim, but is not seeking to impose Sharia Law on the city. As much as Trump

seems to have a real grudge against Khan, the Mayor is actually far more socially liberal than most of the Labour front bench, for example, including on subjects such as LGBTQ+ rights.

- The UK is not being overrun by immigration. The government’s own statistics show that only 0.7% of the population are refugees, for example, and UN data shows that we are well down the league table of those countries welcoming refugees, as most people flee to a neighbouring country and stay there. Moreover, one-in-five NHS workers are migrants, and far from taking away access for Brits, the whole system would collapse without them.

Jesus said that the truth will set us free (John 8:31 – 32). In a world in which the emperor is stark naked and waving around the willy of untruth and lies, may we be like the child who sees through the nonsense, and recommit ourselves to being people of truth in an age of dangerous lies.

With every blessing,

Karl

THE LOST SHEEP

During the service about the parable of the lost sheep led by Sharon Lloyd on September 14th the members of the congregation were asked to find the cotton wool balls that had been hidden in the back of the chairs. An invitation was then extended to place the cotton wool ball at the foot of the cross & in so doing consider our response to the story particularly the shepherd's joy when the lost sheep was found. So, if you find the odd cotton wool ball in the back of a chair, take it, rejoice & remember that you are loved.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Warmest Congratulations to Grace Mensah and Isabel Elves for some fine GCSE results in August... just too late for the last issue of Spotlight! We are very proud of them and all the hard work these results represent, and wish them well on their onward journeys with their A levels.

Isabel is at Coombe Girls' School studying History, Politics and German, while Grace has transferred to Esher College where she is studying, English, History and Philosophy.

Isabel also recently gained a Merit in her Grade 8 piano exam – another fine achievement reflecting a long period of careful and focused study.. She played a recorded programme of music in very varied styles by Mozart, Liszt, Debussy and Scott Joplin

Carol Dadds is now in Teddington Memorial Hospital for rehab after surgery and hopes to be home soon.

SPOTLIGHT'S SAFEGUARDING SPACE

It is vital that our premises are safe for all using them. Now that Abacus playgroup has resumed for the Autumn Term the part of the building they use is exclusively for them. This is part of the hire agreement. Therefore, those using Wesley's must stay within Wesley's. The sanctuary can be used by those who wish and volunteers can still access the supplies cupboard!

Liz Edwards – Safeguarding Officer



The **Methodist Church** 

MOVING ON

Eric and I will be moving from New Malden at the end of September to our new home on the south coast. It is over six years since we began the process of considering if and where we should move from North Wales where we had lived for over 40 years. Our children were both settled in London and asked us to consider moving nearer to them. With so much to think and pray about we decided to take a holiday and consider it all.

It was on our way to begin the holiday that we 'found ourselves' in Emsworth and fell in love with the place. Was this where we were supposed to move to?

To prepare for the move we began to slim down our possessions. It was hard work after so many years of collecting and inheriting so much, but also fun finding places to take our offerings. But that's another story. Then came the pandemic, slowing things up. New grandchildren arrived and we focussed our attention on New Malden and helping out. This was when we changed from being occasional visitors to the church to more regular worshippers with the church family. And how wonderfully we were received and welcomed. You, the church family, couldn't

have been kinder and your warmth and friendship made it easier to part with our other church family in North Wales. There has been much to share for prayer and praise in the three years we have been with you. We especially love your focus on being at the heart of the High Street. We've chatted about

Sunderland, families, medical matters, jam, rugby, hopes and dreams, knitting patterns, Wesley's cross section of visitors, cycling, board games.... The list goes on and on.

When we move to our new home you will not get rid of us totally for we still have family nearby and grandchildren

who want us to help them hunt for sheep at Christmas-time or take them to the church café for hot chocolate. Then there are concerts to tempt us and people to laugh with.

When we are settled we have some work to do on the new place, and then perhaps we can tempt you to the seaside. We shall call our place Azotus House – for like Philip (Acts 8 v 39–40 Good News Bible) we 'found ourselves' there and we are looking forward to seeing what our Heavenly Father has in store for us in our new place.



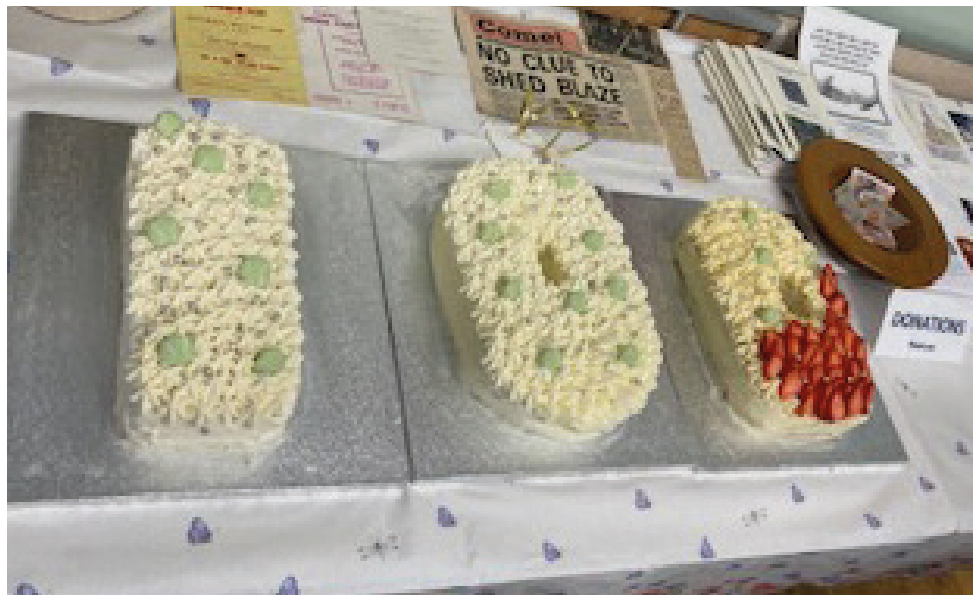
– Toni Coulton

SERVING UP A BIRTHDAY TREAT

The tennis club attached to Surbiton Hill Methodist Church celebrated its centenary recently and a few of us from New Malden popped over to join the party. If you haven't been, the club is a thriving and fantastic resource with 6 high quality courts, floodlighting and a club house. More to the point the membership is also thriving with regular practice, matches and junior coaching. It's all very reasonably priced too.

We enjoyed hearing a potted history of the club from some of the members and some very fine cake. There were quite a few familiar faces there too. So many congratulations from us at NMMC.

Worth remembering that the club can be rented for parties and events and might be a good venue for our next church picnic?



TIME OUT



I wonder how many people have visited Strawberry Hill House, home of Horace Walpole (1717-1797,) the youngest son of Robert Walpole who was Britain's first and longest-serving Prime Minister. It makes a very interesting day out. Located a short walk from Strawberry Hill station - though there is also a small car park with five Blue badge spaces - it is an astonishing white fairytale castle-type building, complete with pinnacles, battlements and a round tower. It is Britain's first and finest example of a Georgian Gothic Revival villa which inspired an architectural style for decades to come. Walpole junior had it developed from two small 17th century cottages overlooking the Thames and used it as a Summer residence where he could entertain foreign

ambassadors, aristocrats and Royalty. It has recently been carefully restored to reflect as closely as possible how it must have looked in those days. Sadly the view of the Thames has become obscured by tall trees, however.

The Blue Plaque in Arlington Street, his London residence, refers to Walpole as a 'Connoisseur and Man of Letters.' He followed his father into Whig politics and was an MP for 28 years though he rarely if ever visited his more far-flung constituencies. He made large sums of money mainly through the well-paid sinecures that his father secured for him, in Customs and the Exchequer, for which he apparently had to do no work. He never married, so had no dependants and was thus free to travel and indulge his extravagant tastes for fine art, antiquities

and historical curiosities - Cardinal Wolsey's hat and a lock of Edward 1V's hair being just two examples. If he saw something he liked in a famous building at home or abroad, he had it re-created at Strawberry Hill. The Robert Adam fireplace, for example, was based on the tomb of Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey. His collection became so valuable and wide-ranging that he wrote his own descriptive catalogue of the artefacts in the house, and where they were positioned. This information was very useful when it came to trying to reassemble the collection after a huge sale of the house contents in the early 19th century. Articles were reclaimed and donated from all over the world, though a large number still reside in the library at Yale University.

There is still plenty to admire in the house however: an impressive library, an art collection including portraits by Reynolds and Holbein as well as Renaissance glassware, ceramics and fine Chinese porcelain. Skilful trompe d'oeuil wall-coverings in the entrance hall give the impression of intricate raised plasterwork, but perhaps the most famous exhibit is a large Chinese porcelain urn in which Walpole's cat drowned. This episode was immortalised in the mock-heroic *Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Goldfishes* by the poet Thomas Gray – he of the 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard' – a friend with whom Walpole did the Grand Tour in his youth.

'...The hapless Nymph with wonder saw:
A whisker first and then a claw,
With many an ardent wish,
She stretched in vain to reach the prize.
What female heart can gold despise?
What cat's averse to fish?

Presumptuous Maid! with looks intent
Again she stretched, again she bent,
Nor knew the gulf between.
(Malignant Fate sat by and smiled)
The slipp'ry verge her feet beguiled
She tumbled headlong in.....'

Horace Walpole, although not a poet, was indeed a Man of Letters: he left over 7,000 of them which have been collected into 48 volumes. They are an invaluable resource as a witty social commentary and political history, much as Pepys' diaries were for an earlier age. He even had his own printing press - one of the more practical oddities in the house. Perhaps his best-known work is *The Castle of Otranto*, inspired by a nightmare and said to be the first Gothic novel. I must confess to not having read it or indeed anything else by (either) Walpole, but this trip certainly piqued my interest in this eccentric individual and I thoroughly recommend this trip. The guides were very informative and there is a second-hand bookshop.

I have even done the homework for you:

Strawberry Hill House
268 Waldegrave Road TW1 4S7
020 8744 1241

Open Wednesday – Saturday, 11am – 4pm
www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk

There are various concessions available for over 65s, Residents of Richmond Borough and Blue Badge holders, so remember to take your documentation. There are also pleasant grounds (free entry) and of course a Cafe.

– Alison Bullet

IT HAPPENED HERE AT NMMC...

K-POP AWARDS



The New Malden K-POP Awards is an annual celebration of Korean pop culture, hosted in New Malden home to the largest Korean community in Europe. First launched in 2024, the festival aspires to establish New Malden as the UK's premier K-Culture hub.

Proceeds from the New Malden K-POP Awards are dedicated to building the New Malden Art Centre a permanent cultural venue and enhancing the local community's cultural infrastructure, ensuring the festival's impact lasts far beyond the event itself.

Visit www.newmalden.org to see video of the event.



KINGSTON YOUNG CARERS

A big thank you to your church for hosting the recent morning tea fundraiser in support of our Young Adult Carers group. Over £200 was raised – thank you so much!

We are very grateful for the support. I also wanted to share a quick update: the group is continuing to grow, which is really encouraging. At our last session on Friday,



we held a CV workshop and had 16 attendees and there are some great friendships which have been formed.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

On 13th September New Malden Methodist Church was the gathering place for an event to mark the 60th anniversary of The Sound of Music album, organised by New Malden Residents' Association – www.newmaldenresidents.org.uk – and Community Brain.

Nuns and other characters from the film then processed across to the station car park where they sang four songs, including The Sound of Music, led by local soprano Jane Wilkinson, who has often performed at the church.

About 300 people participated and greatly enjoyed the event- the local connection is that the album was pressed at Decca Records, at Shannon Corner. Thanks to Kingston Council and South Western Railway, who both provided funding, and to SWR for giving permission.



TWO YEARS AND £2000 LATER

Two years ago, we were raising money for a new boiler and I thought that collecting and selling pre-loved jewellery would be a novel way to swell the coffers. I had imagined that this venture would finish when the boiler target had been achieved but I realised this had become a retirement hobby!

I enjoy chatting to many people when I am sitting at the jewellery stall on Saturday mornings when Wesley's is being run by church members. The money raised is handed to those running the Coffee Bar and their charity choice. The amount also includes any money I have made by selling the jewellery in other ways.

Other ways include selling gold and silver at jewellers, using Vintage Cash Cow (other similar organisations exist) and selling at antique/vintage shops which explains the strange number of pence.



The next opportunity to browse the Autumn Collection will be on Saturday 18th October when money raised will go to Kingston Methodist's fundraising for 3Generate.

I am always excited to receive contributions and also any cellophane greetings card wrappers.

Thank you.

– Liz Edwards

These are the charities that have benefitted:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Boiler Fund | £447.67 |
| Christian Aid | £379.25 |
| Church Funds | £359.62 |
| London Air Ambulance | £168 |
| Guide Dogs for the Blind | £104 |
| Water Aid | £81.35 |
| Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness | £81.35 |
| Alzheimer's Society | £72.10 |
| MacMillan Cancer Trust | £67 |
| SSAFA | £45 |
| Kids for Kids | £41.40 |
| All We Can | £37.50 |
| Parkinsons | £35 |
| King's Trust | £27 |
| Shelter Box | £16 |
| Sightsavers | £13.50 |
| Action for Children | £12 |
| 3Generate – to be included 18.10.25 | £96.24 |

October Music at New Malden Methodist Church



MinM

Sunday 12th October at 3 pm

Emily White (trombone)
Sam Haywood (*piano*)

Made Human A programme telling the human stories of loss, love and facing our mortality.

The trombone is given its own voice in songs of the 19th, 20th and 21st Century.



Tickets are £10 from Wesley's 10:00-14:00 M-F (cash) or www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm.

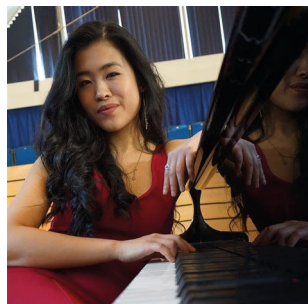


Lunchtime Concert

**Tuesday 14th October
at 1.10 pm**

Geoff Clapham (*baritone*)
Joanna Lam (*piano*)

This recital will include songs from the 19th and 20th centuries by Tchaikovsky, Ravel & Massenet



Retiring collection to help defray expenses.

MinM

Sunday 19th October at 3 pm

A Masterclass with
Marcus Barcham-Stevens

Three or four string students will have the opportunity to be coached at no cost by a distinguished violinist and chamber music player as part of our outreach programme



Tickets are £5 from Wesley's 10:00-14:00 M-F (cash) or www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm.



KINGSTON INNER WHEEL
“TRY ANYTHING ONCE CLUB!”

Come and join our next session

and try Makaton



Communication Signing

Monday 13th October

6.45 for 7 pm

**Yorda Adventure Playhouse
Devon Way (behind House
No. 88)
Chessington, KT9 2RJ**

£10 per person

**Let us know if you are
coming**

and check for future sessions

Innerwheelclub-kot@hotmail.com

SIGNIFICANT OCTOBER DATES

1

1949

The People's Republic of China was founded with Mao Zedong as Chairman.

3

1863

President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

4

1181

St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) was born in Assisi, Umbria, Italy (as Giovanni Francesco Bernardone).

6

1927

The first "talkie" opened in New York. The Jazz Singer starring Al Jolson was the first full-length feature film using spoken dialogue.

8

1993

The U.N. General Assembly lifted economic sanctions against South Africa following the end of racial apartheid.

9

1940

John Lennon (1940-1980) was born in Liverpool, England.

13

1884

Greenwich was established as the universal time from which standard times throughout the world are calculated.

14

1066

The Norman Conquest began with the Battle of Hastings in which King Harold II of England, the last of the Saxon kings, was defeated and killed by William of Normandy's troops.

15

1815

Napoleon Bonaparte arrived on the Island of St. Helena beginning a British-imposed exile following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.

19

1987

"Black Monday" occurred on Wall Street as stocks plunged a record 508 points or 22.6 per cent, the largest one-day drop in stock market history.

21

1915

The first transatlantic radio voice message was made by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company from Virginia to Paris.

23

1956

A Hungarian uprising against Communist rule began with students and workers demonstrating in Budapest.

28

1971

The British House of Commons voted 356-244 in favor of joining the European Economic Community.

29

1618

British explorer Sir Walter Raleigh was executed in London for treason on orders from King James I.

31

1517

Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg's palace church, denouncing the selling of papal indulgences and questioning various ecclesiastical practices.

HARVEST QUIZ

**Can you work out
the Harvest Hymns?**

Example:

***PGFTHOFAOF = Praise God
for the harvest of farm and
of field.***

1. CYTPC
2. SSAG
3. TTOLLHWR
4. YGIGIEAS
5. CFACG
6. GWFAC
7. TFGHCT
8. WPTFAS
9. HUOLFHTDP
10. FTFHCTBTG

September Dates Quiz Answers

1. On which date does the autumn equinox most commonly occur in the Northern Hemisphere? **22nd**
2. Which date is celebrated as International Literacy Day around the world? **8th**
3. On which date did the signing of the U.S. Constitution take place in 1787? **17th**
4. Which date did Japan sign the Second World War Peace Treaty? **8th**
5. On which date is World Tourism Day celebrated? **27th**
6. Which date did Surbiton Hill Methodist Church Tennis Club recognise 100 years with a celebration? **14th**
7. On which date is Mexico's Independence Day celebrated? **16th**
8. Which date is the United Nations' International Day of Peace? **21st**
9. On which date is Roald Dahl Day celebrated to honour the famous author? **13th**
10. Which date is recognised as World Heart Day? **29th**
11. When did 'Strictly Come Dancing' start this year? **20th**
12. On which date did the English, led by Lord Howard of Effingham, defeat the Spanish Armada? **15th**

NEXT SPOTLIGHT ISSUE

Please send Barry – nmmc@hotmail.co.uk – anything you think might be of interest: reports and images of NMMC events, memories, news of members, advice for life, poems, photos, recipes, quizzes, etc, by **Wednesday 29 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: OCTOBER

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Thursday 2nd | 10.30am | Knit & Natter |
| | 2.00 – 4.00pm | Creative Arts Group |
| Saturday 4th | 10.00am – 12.00pm | Wesley's Charity Bake Sale |
| Tuesday 7th | 10.30am | Walking Group |
| Thursday 8th | 10.30am | Knit & Natter |
| | 2.00 – 3.30pm | Short Tennis (Upper Hall) |
| Friday 10th | 11.30am | Writers Workshop |
| | 2.00 – 4.00pm | Board Games |
| Saturday 11th | 10.00am – 12.00pm | Wesley's Charity Bake Sale |
| Tuesday 14th | 10.30am | Tai Chi |
| | 2.30pm | Bereavement Cafe |
| Thursday 16th | 10.30am | Knit & Natter |
| | 2.00 – 4.00pm | Creative Arts Group |
| Friday 17th | 10.00 – 11.30am | Writers Workshop |
| Saturday 18th | 10.00am – 12.00pm | Wesley's Charity Bake Sale |
| Tuesday 21st | 10.30am | Walking Group |
| Thursday 23rd | 10.30am | Knit & Natter |
| | 2.00 – 4.00pm | Short Tennis (Upper Hall) |
| Friday 24th | 10.00 – 11.30am | Writers Workshop |
| | 1.00 – 2.00pm | Cancer Connection Group |
| Saturday 25th | 10.00am – 12.00pm | Wesley's Charity Bake Sale |
| Tuesday 28th | 10.30am | Tai Chi / Walking Group |
| Thursday 30th | 10.30am | Knit & Natter |
| Friday 31st | 11.30am | Writers Workshop |

| 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 | |