



New Malden
Methodist Church
At the heart of the High Street

SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM KARL

One of the lovely things about being the Minister at New Malden Methodist is getting to interact with the variety of groups who gather in Wesley's during the week – everything from Knit and Natter through to Tai Chi and Short Tennis. One of my regular highlights is joining with the Writers' Group. Through this, I have rediscovered my enjoyment of writing poetry, and the group has grown to include a variety of contributors, from academics and storytellers to fellow poets, and of course those who just like to hear what others have produced over a cuppa and chat.

The development of groups like this shows something of the way one cannot predict how God will make use of even the most challenging of circumstances. I got involved with the London branch of Citizens UK – a community organising collective embracing a range of social issues, including the living wage and support for refugees – during the pandemic. A listening exercise involving

thousands of people across South London identified mental health challenges as a key area in need of change, and this in turn led to mental health training from the local NHS trust and the establishment of what became known as 'Be Well Hubs'.



These hubs aim to create safe spaces in which people can open up about their mental health, and within which issues that can contribute to poor mental health, such as loneliness, can be addressed. The wellness programme at Wesley's started out by incorporating existing work in this vein, such as the monthly Bereavement Café, and with the energetic ministry of Lee, it has really

blossomed into the current varied programme of events. We are very lucky to have her as a member of the Staff Team here, and she has supported groups such as our little writers' gathering.

As we look to the future, I hope that during my final few months with you, we can re-establish a weekly Bible study and prayer time on Wednesday mornings, as a further part of our outreach efforts. Nothing can replace the unique ministry which the late and beloved Rev Donald Finnan shared with us for many years, but as wellness includes spiritual wellbeing alongside physical and emotional health, it is important that we give it a go, I think. I hope that if you are free on Wednesday mornings in the new year, you might join me in this over a cuppa from Wesley's.

In the meantime, I thought I would share one of the poems I have written in the past few weeks, following a busy shift behind the counter, and if you would like to join the Writers' Group on a Friday morning, you would be very welcome! It is called, 'A Busy Morning in the Coffee Bar'.

With every blessing,

Karl

There are times when things never stop,
when people flood in to drink or to shop.
I'm rushed off my feet,
but I won't taste defeat.
It's just a busy morning in the coffee bar.

The vast Tai Chi crowds run amok.
To the Writers' Group, masses do flock.
I don't always know
if to come or to go,
when it's a busy morning in the coffee bar.

I fill mugs with coffee and pots up with
tea,
as some folk pay cash and others go free.
The card machine argues,
and I lose my marbles
in a busy morning in the coffee bar.

Here we welcome all sorts - fussy buggers,
crossword gurus, tea lovers, tree huggers -
the whole human soup
links up in our loop.
All in a busy morning in the coffee bar.

And so, if you should find me pulling out
my hair,
and you want to make a wisecrack, don't
you dare!
For I've worked dead hard,
for my feet no regard,
through a busy morning in the coffee bar!

Church contact information – www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com



NMMethodists

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

Mr Barry Sawyer (Administrator) 020 8942 1288 nmcmc@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Lee Monczak (Development Officer) nmcmc.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



Congratulations to Mick and Gloria who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 9th October.

SPOTLIGHT'S SAFEGUARDING SPACE

Kingston Giving have produced two excellent leaflets

'What's Up?' for teens and young adults, and **'How Are You Doing?'** for adults. They are described on their website as "accessible, friendly guides packed with local resources, check-in prompts, and ideas to support your wellbeing or help someone close to you. Created with input from members of our community with lived and practice experience."

Following recent Wesley's Team WhatsApp chat I am hoping to get some for Wesley's so that any volunteer may offer them to customers if appropriate.

www.kingstongiving.org.uk

Liz Edwards – Safeguarding Officer



The **Methodist** Church 

HELLO FROM HILARY

Hello to all my pals at NMMC - I miss your smiles and hugs! Wesley's used to be a huge part of my life and I hope to get involved again in the fullness of time. For now though I'm working full-time at Zazza Korean Noodles, the restaurant that my husband, Sunkoo (rhymes with Don Goo), and his brother opened two years ago. We'll be celebrating our birthday on the 8th of November.

When I started helping out, my sister-in-law ran front of house and I was only needed at busy times but she's had to go to Korea for an operation so I've been promoted. I love chatting with customers, finding out where they're from and a bit of their story. People are fascinating! Naturally we welcome plenty of Koreans but also many others from across the world. I have a list (no surprise there!) with 82 nationalities. My Korean has improved a lot and I'm working on

getting my listening level up. I can ask, "How was your meal?" but I only understand the answer if it's favourable!

I reckon I listen to around 45 hours of K-pop music every week but as soon as the last customer leaves we switch to a worship playlist which starts with this lovely version

of Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing by Celtic Worship – youtu.be/0Hbll7XcIlQ.

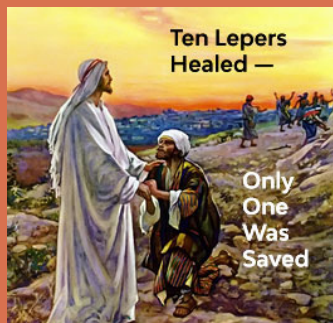
If anyone wants to visit you can find us hidden inside Seoul Plaza supermarket – the one by the URC church bus stop, not by Waitrose. Google will tell you our hours, contact details and some mostly lovely reviews but feel free to

text me direct if you prefer on 07796 157490.

The photo shows the Warners in one of our private rooms (me, my parents, brothers and sisters-in-law).



Hilary Warner



THE IMPORTANCE OF GRATITUDE

The service on October 12th led by David Fullbrook was based on the story about Jesus healing 10 lepers. My understanding of this familiar story was deepened with David's words, "Ten were healed but only one was made whole because of the gratitude shown." The congregation was reminded of the importance of showing gratitude, being thankful & saying thank you.

Liz Edwards

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 4.30 – 7.00PM

The clocks have gone back now which means that Christmas is fast approaching and the Christmas Fair will be the first in our programme of events and services (more of which later).

The usual stalls and fun will be in evidence with favourites like cakes, preserves, books, puzzles, jewellery, crafts and decorations, knitwear, face painting, the ever popular soft toy tombola and so much more.

To make this a tremendous success we need YOU to help and donate.

From the beginning of November, there will be a basket in Wesley's to collect donations (PLEASE NO Bric-a-Brac or videos), so look out your books, toys, puzzles, games, unwanted gifts, toiletries, DVDs, soft toys, jewellery, or knit and sew for the craft stall.

Cakes and other consumable delights can be delivered on the Thursday or in advance earlier in the day.

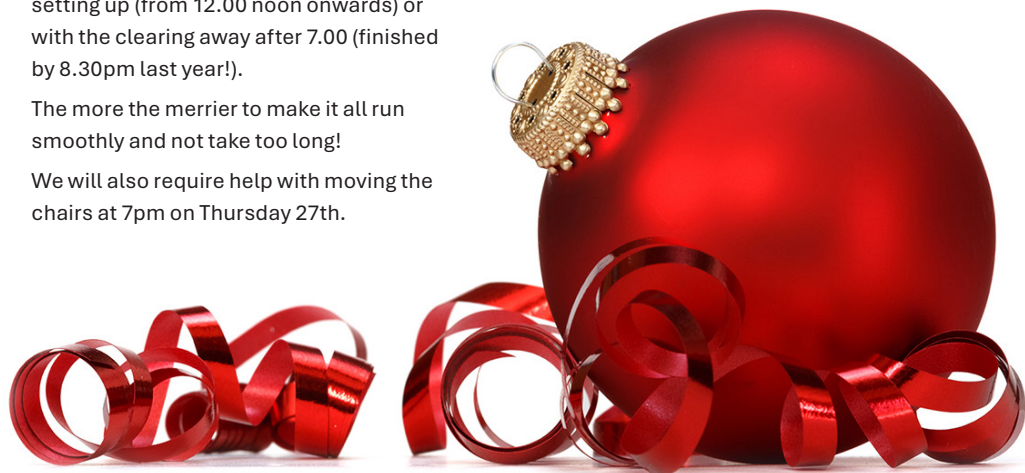
Help on the day is essential so please sign up on the sheet which is on the noticeboard in Wesley's so we know who is available and can allocate a specific space. NEW helpers especially welcome.

Do sign up and please, please do not presume we know, because you always come!

If you cannot man a stall, could you help with setting up (from 12.00 noon onwards) or with the clearing away after 7.00 (finished by 8.30pm last year!).

The more the merrier to make it all run smoothly and not take too long!

We will also require help with moving the chairs at 7pm on Thursday 27th.



BOOK CLUBS FOR ALL!

I love the two book clubs I go to . . . and not just for the books! Of course, we do read a book each month – but when we meet to discuss what we’ve read, it’s not long before we find ourselves talking about life, the universe and everything!

I often think how much poorer my life would be without books. So, why should we leave out people who find reading difficult? Why shouldn’t they have the chance to join a book club?

This is why I’m running a Book Club at Fircroft. Some members are people that Fircroft supports with their mental wellbeing; others are from the supported living service at Firs Court – people who live with complex needs, or learning disabilities. The one thing they have in common is that they’d struggle to read a traditional book in the traditional way.

This is where the charity Books Beyond Words comes in. There are no words in the Books Beyond Words stories – instead we read the pictures.

The books all tell a story, but they also encourage readers to tell their own story – the

one they see in the pictures. This can reveal a lot about a person’s inner world and their understanding of situations. Just like at my other book clubs in fact!

Beyond Words Books has lottery funding to provide book groups with a starter pack, but that’s just two copies of a range of their titles. My own book clubs wouldn’t be as enjoyable if we just had one book between five of us! So I’d like to be able to buy a few more books to supplement this, then everyone who comes to the Fircroft Book Club could get their hands on a book, turn the pages themselves and enjoy the full experience.

I’ll be holding a coffee morning and cake sale at Wesley’s on Saturday 29 November. Yes, that’s the day after the Christmas Fair so you might be in need of a nice sit down with a cuppa and a cake.

Judith Jewell

**You can find out more at
www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk
and www.thefircrofttrust.org**



GOOD DOG

During 2024-25 the Wives & Friends group raised money for their chosen charity Guide Dogs for the Blind.



At the second meeting of this new year Joan presented a cheque for £560 to the speaker Sandi who told us about her special relationship with her guide dog Kane.

Wives & Friends will decide this year's charity prior to the Christmas Tree Festival when their fundraising will begin.

Details about the group can be found on the notice board in Wesley's.



COFFEE MORNING

At their coffee morning on 22nd November **INNER WHEEL** will “**ORANGE THE WORLD**” in support of the United Nation's global campaign to raise awareness and take action against violence towards women and girls across the world. There will be orange cakes and hopefully some orange (carrot) soup. Do come long and support **INNER WHEEL** to **UNITE IN ACTION HER SAFETY OUR PRIORITY.**



MY WEEKEND AT

3GENERATE

I accepted an invitation by Sally, Karl's wife, to become a member of the Delivery Team at this year's 3Generate which took place at the beginning of October at the NEC Birmingham. 3Generate is an annual event for Methodist youth groups between 8-18 years old. This year about 2000 youngsters gathered from all districts in the country. (Those from Shetland & Isle of Man flew!).

The theme was 'Journey of a Lifetime' and this was writ loud and clear on the bright orange t-shirts all Delivery Team members had to wear, along with wrist band and ID lanyard. Not only did these items prove safeguarding checks were in order but it also meant I could collect a coffee and a chocolate Freddo in the Leader's only zone.



The NEC space was truly transformed with the zoned areas separated by white picket fences. I was reminded of a Holiday Club but on a much, much larger scale with many, many different activity zones for those attending. There were areas for rock climbing, electric guitar music, craft, electronic lego, dance, football, table tennis, bouncy castle to name a diverse few.

There were worship times with loud music and strobe lighting. There was a market place which is where I was based serving free squash and fruit next to the tuck shop, and charities including 'All We Can' & 'Frontier Trust'.



The Methodist Recorder (17.10.25) reported one of the organisers' view,

“It’s a testament to the Methodist Church that we can put together such a massive event full of children and young people – and shows that the Church is alive and well.”

It was a ‘massive event’ and it was only on the Sunday morning, as they were preparing to leave, that I met up with the group from Kingston Methodist.

Liz Edwards

November Music at New Malden Methodist Church

Soraya Verjee (piano)

Sunday 16th November at 3 pm



Soraya is a local pianist, recently graduating from the University of Liverpool, where she won a prize for her performance of Clara Schumann's Piano Concerto. She promotes female classical and popular music composers and includes works by Clara Schumann and Amy Beach as well as Medtner, Liszt, Debussy, Szymanowski and Sciabin in her recital

Tickets are £10 from Wesley's 10:00-14:00
M-F (cash) or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm
or £12 on the door

Trios for clarinet, bassoon and piano

Tuesday 18th November at 1.10 pm

Alan Maries, Chris Fry and Peter Bullett



Three musicians who have appeared in previous lunchtime concerts return to play trios for a somewhat unusual combination of instruments: a collection of short movements by CPE Bach (perhaps the most famous of JS Bach's sons) and a trio written aged eighteen by the musical prodigy William Hurlstone who died tragically young.

Retiring collection (cash or card) to help defray expenses.

PEACE CANDLE

The tradition of passing along a “Candle of Peace” originated in 1985 and arrived in New Malden Methodist Church in the 90s, during Robert Jones’ ministry. This week Greta’s nephew, my cousin, and his wife visited us from Leicestershire and gifted us with a peace Candle from Birstall Methodist Church. Not realizing that New Malden Methodist Church was originally gifted one many years ago. However, it’s so long ago, that we couldn’t remember where the original came from.

Every Sunday the stewards light the Peace Candle before the service begins and we thought it would be good to remind people why we do it, along with the history behind the tradition. Though only going for 40 years, the mists of time appear to have had their effect and there are different versions out there!

According to Birstall, it all started when the pastor of the first Presbyterian Church in York Pennsylvania visited the Soviet Union in 1985 in the early days of ‘glasnost’. In the small town of Vorenezh an elderly lady approached the pastor and gave him a small sum of money asking that he used it to do something for World Peace.

He recognized a deep desire and a strong devotion in her eyes and such a yearning in her voice, that he was

determined to do something after he returned to the United States. But what could he do with three roubles?

He purchased a votive candle, or tea light as we know it, placed it on the Communion Table, lit it and then recounted the story of his meeting with the elderly lady in the Soviet Union to his congregation. The congregation agreed to make the lighting of the candle a permanent feature of the service and also bought a supply of tea lights making them available for all visitors to take ‘peace’ away with them back to their own sanctuaries.

Since then visitors to America have received Peace Candles from York and brought them to their own churches. This behavior has ensured the tradition has spread all around the globe.

New Malden Methodist Church has now been presented with at least our second Peace Candle, thanks to the congregation of Birstall Methodist Church who have passed one on with the accompanying request:

“Please accept this candle with our best wishes. It is our hope that your congregation will join us, in spreading this reminder of the peace, with the prayer ‘May peace prevail’”.

Ian Curry

A SEASON TO PREPARE THE HEART

NOVEMBER REFLECTION FROM LEE AT WESLEY'S

Before the celebration begins, November calls us to pause – to slow down, reflect, and make room in our hearts for Christ. It's a gentle reminder to realign our steps with His and prepare the way for the One who brings true peace.



As the year begins to draw to a close, November invites us to slow down and look inward — to take stock of the heart before the rush of December arrives.

It's a month for quiet gratitude and reflection. A time to notice where God has been faithful, even in the smallest details, and where we might have drifted or grown weary. The world moves fast, but spiritual growth happens in stillness — in those moments when we stop long enough to listen for God's whisper.

Before we step into the joy of celebrating Jesus' birth, let's prepare the soil of our hearts. Let's renew our focus, realign our priorities, and make room for what truly matters.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord, so too we are called to prepare — through humility, repentance, and love. The best way to welcome Christ this Christmas is to let His light find a clear path within us.

“Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight paths for Him.” – Luke 3:4

Blessings,

Lee

SIGNIFICANT NOVEMBER DATES

1

1995

The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.

3

1957

Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

4

1890

The first electrified underground railway system was officially opened in London.

5

1605

The failed "Gunpowder Plot" to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I.

7

1867

Polish chemist Marie Curie (1867-1934) was born in Warsaw, Poland.

9

1989

The Berlin Wall was opened up after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War.

11

1918

The Armistice between the Allied and Central Powers was signed, silencing the guns of World War 1 effective at 11am – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

13

1956

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

17

1558

Queen Elizabeth 1 ascended the throne of England at the age of 25, reigning until 1603 when she was 69.

20

1962

The Cuban Missile Crisis concluded as President John F. Kennedy announced he had lifted the U.S. Naval blockade of Cuba

21

1920

The IRA (Irish Republican Army) shot and killed 14 British soldiers in Dublin in what became known as "Bloody Sunday".

22

1990

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced she would resign after 11 years in office

24

1859

Charles Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was first published.

26

1922

In Egypt, Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon first went inside the tomb of King Tutankhamen.

30

1874

Winston Churchill (1874-1965) was born in Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, England.

LEST WE FORGET



Plaque to the memory of one million dead of the British Empire during WWI, inside Reims Cathedral. Photo taken by Sarah Moore

Harvest Quiz Answers

1. CYTPC – Come ye thankful people come
2. SSAG – Summer suns are glowing
3. TTOLLHWR – To thee O Lord our hearts we raise
4. YGIGIEAS – yes, God is good-in earth and sky
5. CFACG – Cauliflowers fluffy and cabbages green
6. GWFIAC – God whose farm is all creation
7. TFGHCT – The farmer gathers his corn today
8. WPTFAS – We plough the fields and scatter
9. HUOLFHTDP – Hear us, O Lord, form heaven thy dwelling place
10. FTFHCTBTG – For the fruits of his creation, thanks be to God.



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 26 November**.

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: NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Kingston Giving
Tuesday 4th	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 6th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Friday 7th	11.30am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 8th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Wesley’s Projects + others
Tuesday 11th	10.30am	Tai Chi
	2.30pm	Bereavement Cafe
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Crafts for Christmas
Thursday 13th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 14th	11.30am	Writers Workshop
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 15th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – NM Rotary
Tuesday 18th	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 20th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Friday 21st	10.00 – 11.30am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 22nd	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Korean British Exchange
Tuesday 25th	10.30am	Tai Chi Qigong
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – My Sabbatical: Karl Rutledge
Thursday 27th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 28th	10.00 – 11.30am	Writers Workshop
	4.30 – 7.00pm	Christmas Fair
Saturday 29th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Fircroft Trust

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	