



New Malden
Methodist Church
At the heart of the High Street

SPOTLIGHT

DEC 25 / JAN 26

MESSAGE FROM KARL

In the past few months, I've stumbled across more than one instance of someone arguing that the problems faced by this country stem from the loss of so-called 'Christian Values'. In particular, the Far Right agitator Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (who often goes by 'Tommy Robinson', among his various aliases) has appointed himself the defender of Christianity. Now, this isn't a new phenomenon, and in my experience, what people usually mean is either that they're uncomfortable about the presence of other significant faith groups within our society, or that they are uneasy about the legal recognition of other types of family beyond the nuclear model of mum, dad and 2.4 children. Thus, I tend to be on my guard whenever I hear people talk about 'the loss of Christian values', as what follows is often something I want to robustly challenge.

However, pondering the seasons of Advent and Christmas in the context of recent events, including Labour's disgraceful, in my view, scapegoating of refugees and people seeking

asylum for the nation's problems, has led me to reflect on what lies at the core of my own values as a Christian person, especially as someone who finds themselves in the position of having a modest public voice through pieces such as this and, most obviously, in the pulpit. For me, the fundamental starting point has to be what God's character and actions (which are inseparably linked) can tell us about what it means to be a human being. In Advent, we're invited to explore the most amazing, wonderful and frightening fact – in Jesus Christ, God's life boiled over into our world, in the form of defenceless love.

This year, our Gospel reading for Christmas morning is the majestic prologue to John's Gospel (John 1:1 – 14), which tells us that the Word of God who became human was with God from the beginning, and indeed was God. In other words, God is eternally a God of relationship, and Jesus Christ is God from God, Light from Light, as the fourth century Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed puts it. When we gaze upon the baby in the manger, we're therefore looking at the fullness of God – needy, vulnerable and primarily dependent on a remarkable young woman (who was anything

but meek and mild) who would soon need to flee with her husband and child from the wrath of Herod. It seems that God was willing to take extraordinary risks to come among us humanly and transform creation from the inside.

I think we can thus see from Jesus Christ's birth that God's very nature is indeed that of defenceless love, and if we were in any doubt about this, surely the events at the other end of his life, and opening his arms wide upon the cross to embrace our broken world, confirm this. There is even more to say, however, because God's choosing to be become human in order to both reveal the divine character, and bring about salvation from the relationship-destroying and insidious nature of sin that blights our experience, says much about the value God places on each and every person. The incarnation – to use the proper theological term – should make us look upon one another with awe and wonder: God thought that this

face was worth quite literally everything; this face was worth living and dying for.

It would make a tremendous difference to our world, and the systems which govern and shape it on both a national and international scale, if this basic 'Christian value' of recognising the infinite worth of each person was reflected. I doubt so many people would be dreading being cold, scared, hungry or lonely at Christmas time if it was, and we would not have people getting drunk and spewing abuse at frightened people in asylum hotels in the name of 'patriotism'. Advent is a season of getting ready to encounter this truth, and indeed the truths that God loves all people equally whatever our faith, nationality or skin colour, and that God in human form was also a refugee. May these things shape not just how we respond to those who would stoke division across the political spectrum right now, but how we live every minute of every day.

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 **Monday 26 January**.

Church contact information – www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

 NMMMethodists

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SPOTLIGHT'S SAFEGUARDING SPACE

Copies of the two leaflets mentioned in the November edition – 'What's Up?' (for teens) and 'How Are You Doing?' (for adults) – have been delivered and are available from the magazine rack. These are a useful resource particularly if you are on duty in Wesley's and feel it appropriate to offer some practical support (ie give them a leaflet) to a customer who may be distressed.

A date for your diary – Foundation Module Safeguarding Training will be held here on Wednesday 28th January 6.45pm led by me and Grahame Snelling.

Liz Edwards – Safeguarding Officer



The **Methodist** Church 

HATS OFF!



These are some of the hats I have knitted for the homeless supported by KCAH (Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness).

Wool always welcome!

Jenny Titterton

READY, STEADY, LAUNCH

Judith Jewell

Wesley's was transformed into a literary salon in November when local author Heather Walker launched her new novel, *Tinsel Street*.

In front of an enthralled audience, Heather described her writing life, from early childhood stories, through poetry slams, flash fiction – to this novel. It's fascinating to hear about a writer's process; Heather told us where her ideas come from, how they develop and how her characters introduce themselves to her.

Tinsel Street, as you might guess from the title, is set at Christmas. It tells the story of Kitty O'Brien and her two daughters moving into their new home, a house in Tinsel Street. As Kitty gets to know her neighbours, with all their quirks and foibles, so do we. There's drama, romance – and a bit of mystery. But at its heart is the notion of home – what and where it really is.

If you'd like to buy the book, it's available on Amazon.



CHRISTMAS

Tree Festival

Real Christmas trees,
decorated by the
church and local
organisations, on
display in the
Church to raise
money for each
organisation's
chosen charity.



Monday to Friday
10am – 2pm

Saturday
6 & 13 December
10am – 4pm

Saturday
20 December
10am – 1pm
*(with carol singing
on the High Street
at 11.30am)*

On each of the Saturdays (apart from Saturday 13 December between 10am and 1.30pm) NMMC will be running the Cafe. If you can give any time please fill in the sign-up sheet on the Noticeboard. Any contributions of baked goods – sweet and savoury – would also be greatly appreciated.

SERVING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are reminded that love often shines brightest through unexpected people and simple acts of kindness.

Christmas invites us to look beyond ourselves and let His light guide our hearts - a light meant to reach past any boundary.

This season, we remember not only the story of His coming, but the purpose of it: LOVE made visible.

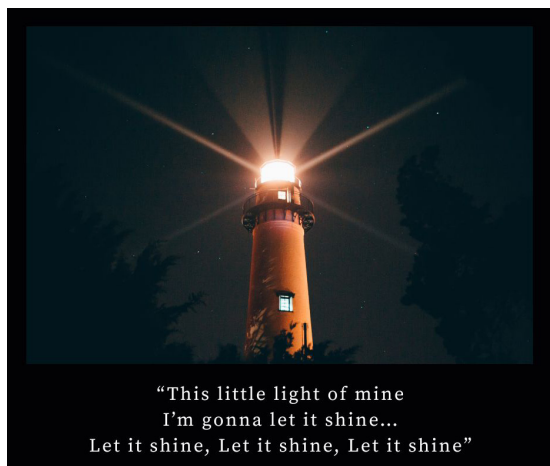
And through our outreach, we have seen that love in action. Many who don't call themselves believers, yet carry deep compassion - have stepped forward to serve with sincerity and care. Their kindness has shown us something important: God's grace

can shine through anyone who chooses to do good.

It is a gentle lesson.

Faith is not proven by words or traditions, but by how we treat each other. And as followers of Christ, we are called to be light — to give, to serve, and to love in ways that lift others.

This Christmas, may we not only remember the Child in the manger, but reflect His heart in our everyday lives. The greatest gift we can offer the world is a life lived with open hands, open hearts, and unwavering love.



"This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine...
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine"

And may we always keep this simple truth close:

"If others can show such love without even knowing Him, let us be inspired to do the same - and more."

Thank you all - Merry Christmas!

Warmly,
Lee

The profit made from Wesleys in 2024/25 was £4,000 which will be divided between Smile Train and Centrepoin.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who give their time freely to make this possible.



CHRISTMAS FAIR







The Christmas Fair
raised over

£1700

Proceeds to be split
between **Oxygen**
and **Kingston Street**
Pastors



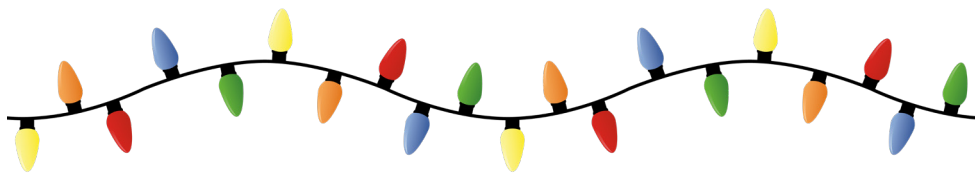


To everyone who helped: bakers, servers, stall holders, jam makers, face painters, decoration makers, knitters, furniture movers, clearer uppers...

THANK YOU!

YOU'RE ALL STARS





CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. The Twelve Days of Christmas finishes on which date traditionally?
2. Which of Santa's reindeer comes first alphabetically?
3. The Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree is a gift from which city to London, a longstanding tradition since 1947?
4. The original name for mistletoe was mistaltan. With 'Tan' coming from the Anglo Saxon word for stick, mistletoe literally translates to what on a stick?
5. How do you say 'Merry Christmas' in Spanish?
6. Which country is Europe's largest exporter of natural Christmas trees?
7. What do elves typically have on their shoes?
8. What colour suit did Santa Claus originally wear before the iconic red suit?
9. What type of bird usually appears on Christmas cards?
10. What gifts did the three wise men give Jesus?
11. What are small, inexpensive gifts usually called?
12. Which reindeer's name means 'thunder'?
13. In which modern-day country was Saint Nicholas born?
14. What's the main colour of the berries of the mistletoe plant?
15. Which country is credited with the creation of the Christmas beverage, eggnog?
16. What is the last day of Advent?
17. In Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", how many ghosts visit Scrooge?
18. In "A Christmas Carol", what does Scrooge have for his Christmas dinner?
19. Which country is known for its tradition of a "witch" delivering presents to children at Christmas?
20. Which saint's day is celebrated on 26th December?
21. In which ocean can you find Christmas Island?
22. What time is the King's speech usually broadcast on Christmas Day?
23. How many Scrabble points for the word 'Christmas'?
24. What is the tradition of filling children's clogs with candy?
25. Which most popular toy of 1980 was designed by a professor of architecture in Budapest to teach his students about spatial awareness?



NEW MALDEN VOICES *in Concert*

IN AID OF REFUGE UK

A VARIETY OF
CHRISTMAS CLASSICS

TICKETS £10
CHILDREN
FREE



THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER
7.30PM

NEW MALDEN
METHODIST CHURCH

MUSICAL DIRECTOR - JANE WILKINSON



SIGNIFICANT DECEMBER DATES

1

1919

Lady Nancy Astor became the first woman in the British House of Commons.

2

1979

Electors in Iran voted overwhelmingly in favor of a new constitution granting absolute power to Ayatollah Khomeini.

5

1791

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died a pauper at age 35 in Vienna, Austria.

6

1921

The Irish Free State became an independent member of the British Commonwealth.

7

1941

The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft.

8

1980

Former Beatle John Lennon was assassinated in New York City.

9

1992

Buckingham Palace announced the separation of Prince Charles and Princess of Wales, Dianna.

11

1936

King Edward VIII abdicated the throne of England to marry Wallis Warfield Simpson.

13

1577

Francis Drake departed Plymouth, England, in the Golden Hind on his voyage around the world.

16

1663

Following the defeat of King Charles I in the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell, leader of the Parliamentary forces, was declared Lord Protector of England.

21

1846

Anesthesia was used for the first time in Britain during an operation at University College Hospital in London performed by Robert Liston who amputated the leg of a servant.

23

1888

Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh cut off his left ear during a fit of depression.

27

1831

Charles Darwin set out from Plymouth, England, aboard the ship HMS Beagle on his five-year global scientific expedition.

29

1170

Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered by four knights acting on orders from England's King Henry II.

30

1865

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) was born in Bombay, India.



Music in New Malden
Series 18

Yuletide Concert

Sunday 14th December at 3 pm

Jane Anghelatos (soprano)
Caroline Auty (french horn)
Graham Currie (tenor)
Alison Bullett (piano)
Peter Bullett (organ)
Kingsley Norton (trumpet)

Music featuring song - original and in
arrangement - with brass and voices

An hour of music followed by
Wesleyan punch and mince pies

Tickets £10

www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinm
Wesley's, NMMC 10am-2pm M-F (cash)
On the door £12



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: DECEMBER

Tuesday 2nd	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 4th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Friday 5th	11.30am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 6th	10.00am – 4.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival – NMMC
Tuesday 9th	10.30am	Tai Chi
	2.30pm	Bereavement Cafe
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends
Thursday 11th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 12th	11.30am	Writers Workshop
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 13th	10.00am – 4.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Our Woofs & Miaows 1.30pm Christmas Tree Festival – NMMC
Tuesday 16th	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 18th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Saturday 20th	10.00am – 1.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival – NMMC (11.30am – Carol singing on High Street)
Sunday 21st	10.30am	Lessons & Carols
	3.00pm	Service for Remembering
Wednesday 24th	5.00pm	Christingle Service

Quiz answers	1. January 5th	10. Gold, frankincense and myrrh	18. Gruel
	2. Blitzen	11. Stocking fillers	19. Italy (La Befana)
	3. Oslo, Norway	12. Donner (or Donder)	20. St. Stephen
	4. Dung	13. Turkey	21. Indian Ocean
	5. Feliz Navidad	14. White	22. 3pm
	6. Denmark	15. England	23. 16
	7. Bells	16. 24th December	24. The Netherlands
	8. Tan	17. 4	25. Rubiks Cube
	9. Robins		

Plan Details for the Churches (Membership numbers in brackets)				
Date	Time	Chessington (74)	Kingston (75)	New Malden (78) Surbiton Hill (108)
07/12/2025	AM	Han: 11am N/G	Rutledge: HC	D. Lloyd: AA Maraj-Ogden: G
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service Maraj-Ogden: 4.30pm PP
14/12/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden: HC	Rutledge: N	Vernon: HC Maraj-Ogden: 5pm CF
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service Maraj-Ogden: 5pm CF
21/12/2025	AM	S. Lloyd: CS	CL/LA	Rutledge: LC Maraj-Ogden: HC
	PM	No Service	Rutledge: CL/E 6pm	Rutledge: RM 3.30pm Maraj-Ogden: 5pm CL
24/12/2025	PM	No Service	No Service	Rutledge: CT 5pm Bridges: 4.30pm CB
	PM	Han: HC 11.15pm	No Service	Rutledge: HC 8pm No Service
25/12/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden: 10am	Rush: AA	Rutledge: AA Maraj-Ogden: 11.30am
	AM	LA	LA	LA LA
28/12/2025	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service No Service
	PM	Han: WN 11pm	No Service	No Service No Service
31/12/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden: CV/HC	Bridges	Rutledge: CV/HC Cocking
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service 4.30pm PP
11/01/2026	AM	LA	Rutledge: CV/HC	Fullbrook Maraj-Ogden: CV/HC
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service No Service
18/01/2026	AM	D. & S. Lloyd: CS	Rutledge: AA/CC	Bridges Maraj-Ogden
	PM	No Service	Rutledge: HC	No Service No Service
25/01/2026	AM	Maraj-Ogden	Vernon	Rutledge Fullbrook: AL
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service No Service
01/02/2026	AM	Maraj-Ogden: HC	Rutledge: HC/PV	D. Lloyd LA
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service 4.30pm PP
08/02/2026	AM	Fullbrook	LA	Rutledge: PV/HC Maraj-Ogden
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service No Service
15/02/2026	AM	D. & S. Lloyd: CS	Maraj-Ogden: AA	LA Vernon: HC
	PM	Sharon Lloyd's Accreditation 4pm at Chessington		
18/02/2026	PM	No Service	No Service	Rutledge: 7.30pm AW No Service
	AM	Han	Maraj-Ogden	S. Lloyd Rutledge
22/02/2026	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service No Service
Ministers' Day Off: Karl and Vindra - Monday Circuit Meeting: 14th January at Surbiton Hill				

AA = All-Age Worship
AL = Alpha Service
AW = Ash Wednesday
CB = Crib Service
CC = Café Church
CF = Choir Café Service
CL = Carol Service
CS = Contemporary Worship
CT = Chirstingle Service
CV = Covenant Service
E = Ecumenical
G = Gift Service
HC = Holy Communion
LA = Local Arrangement
LC = Lessons and Carols
N = Nativity
PP = Praise Party
PV = Pastoral Visitors Dedication
RM = Remembering Service
WN = Watchnight Service
Chessington (10am)
Bible: NIV MWB: HC Only
Music: StF, H&P, SoF 1 - 3
Korean Language Service 12.30pm
Kingston (10.30am & 6pm)
Bible: GNB MWB: HC Only
Music: StF, SoF 1 - 3
Online: Windows on Worship
New Malden (10.30am)
Bible: NRSV MWB: Complete
Music: StF
Online: Windows on Worship
Surbiton Hill (10.30am)
Bible: NIV MWB: Complete
Music: StF, H&P, Let's Praise 1, 2
Online: Live Stream