



New Malden  
Methodist Church

*At the heart of the High Street*

# SPOTLIGHT

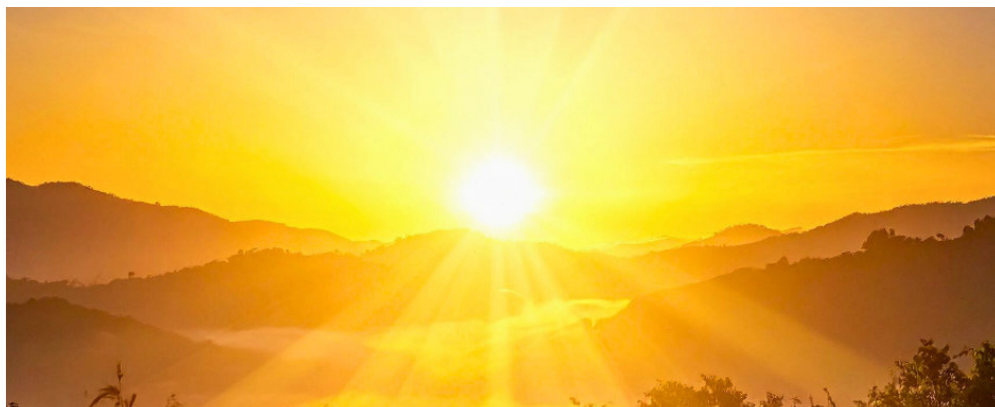
MAY 2026

## MESSAGE FROM KARL

One of the real joys of the past couple of years has, for me, been getting back into writing poetry and joining the Writers' Group that meets in the church on a Friday morning. As a teenager, I did try to pen some poems, but the truth is the results were mostly riddled with the angst of that stage of my life and not very good. I'd like to think, however, that my more recent efforts have at least a little more to commend them, and I

have learnt a lot from other members of the Group. There is something about finding one's voice as a poet which is both crucial and harder than it sounds, but I think I am getting there.

This notion of finding one's voice is something I have also heard people talk about in relation to preaching. Again, it is not necessarily an easy thing to do, and despite having been practising the art for over fifteen years now, it is still something I wrestle with. Yet, over time and with the help of others who have mentored and encouraged me, as



well as some very patient and supportive congregations in this Circuit and elsewhere, I feel that I have reached a place where what comes across is at the least authentic and naturally me. Plucking up the courage to preach without my notes has undoubtedly helped.

Now, I think there is something about finding our voice that goes beyond either poetic craft or public oratory, and applies to all of us. It is not an accident that the Bible depicts God's act of creation as emerging from divine speech – 'God said, "Let there be light", and there was light' (Genesis 1:3) – and that the eternal Son of the Father is also called the Word of God. From the eternal dynamic of love between Father and Son comes the Spirit, and through the Spirit the glory of a world and creatures capable of sharing in that same self-giving love. When God speaks, the language is that of a love that reaches right to the heart of God's nature: God is as God says.

To be a Christian is, as much as anything else, about learning to speak the language of divine love in the midst of everyday life. What this sounds like will obviously depend on the situation, but the poetic thread woven through our words and actions is that of love – a love that does not make our humanity somehow lesser in the process of speaking it, but instead brings out the best and most authentic version of ourselves as the people God made us to be. To put it another way, to

be Christlike is not to lose our own identity, but for our humanity to be at its most real and fulsome in the act of speaking God's love and life into the world anew.

In these turbulent times, we are reminded on an almost daily basis of the power of words to be destructive and divisive, to make us suspicious of one another and to generate fear and hostility. Whether it is the lies told about an alleged rape in Epsom, which turns out not to have happened but was nonetheless weaponised by the Far Right to further an anti-immigration narrative, or the numerous careless utterings pouring out of the mouth of the Orange Menace in the White House, words can be used, and all too often are used, for harm. Yet, the opposite is also true; words can be the means of bringing people together across boundaries, of reaching out in friendship and taking the risk of facing our fears, of hope and kindness and generosity. Words can be vehicles of love – not the soppy rubbish of greetings cards, but the realistic and practical love grounded in the self-giving love of God.

May our words be words of truth so that as we follow Jesus, as the divine Word made flesh, on the way, we may bring life in dead places and radiate love into a world that desperately needs to know there is a different way to be.

Every blessing,  
Karl

## SPOTLIGHT'S SAFEGUARDING SPACE

Foundation Module training will take place at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church on Monday 22nd June at 7pm. Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm. This will be led by me and Linda Bridges.

**Liz Edwards – Safeguarding Officer**



The **Methodist** Church 

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

## ERIC MURRAY

Karl has been contacted by Rev Eric Murray's son, Jonathan. Sadly, Eric is coming to the end of his life, after a long period suffering from dementia. Please pray for him and for his family at this difficult time.

## 97 NOT OUT!

A big thank you to the church family, for all your good wishes and cards on my 97th birthday. As it fell on Easter Sunday, it made it a very special day. Thank you for sharing it with me.

– Greta Curry

## LET'S DO LUNCH!

We are holding a bring and share lunch next Sunday 10th May after the service for Christian Aid.

No need to book, you can decide on the day!  
Bring a small donation of food to share and make a donation to Christian Aid.  
All welcome – maybe bring a friend!



## SCAM ALERT

If anyone receives an email claiming to be from 'Revd Karl Rutledge', using the email address 'karlrutlidge@nmmc@yahoo.com', please ignore it. It is not Karl but a very determined scammer. Some of the emails ask if you're able to purchase 'Tesco's vouchers for some sick women and a few staff bonuses', claiming 'but my busy schedule is limiting my ability to do this myself'.

### Church contact information



[www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com](http://www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com)



**NMMethodists**

Revd Dr Karl Rutledge (Minister) 07932 242789  
n/a Monday

[karl.rutledge@methodist.org.uk](mailto:karl.rutledge@methodist.org.uk)

Mr Barry Sawyer (Administrator) 020 8942 1288 (Church Office) [nmmc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nmmc@hotmail.co.uk)

Mrs Lee Monczak (Development Officer) [nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com](mailto:nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com)

Mrs Julia Morton (Steward) 020 8942 2657 [juliamorton@virginmedia.com](mailto:juliamorton@virginmedia.com)

Mrs Liz Edwards (Steward) 020 8949 4023 [lizedwards513@gmail.com](mailto:lizedwards513@gmail.com)

Mrs Julie Haines (Steward) 020 8395 0202 [juliehaines53@gmail.com](mailto:juliehaines53@gmail.com)

Charity Registration Number 1176621

# MAY MUSIC AT NMMC



## Music in New Malden

18<sup>th</sup> Series

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 3 o'clock  
New Malden Methodist Church KT3 4BY



*Sophia Prodanova – violin*  
*John Reid – piano*

Schumann 2<sup>nd</sup> Sonata in D minor  
Brahms 1<sup>st</sup> Sonata in G major

Tickets £10 (£12 on the door)  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm)  
Wesley's, NMMC 10am – 2pm M – F (cash)



An hour of music, followed by tea and cake



New Malden  
Methodist Church

Lunchtime  
Concert

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 1.10 pm  
New Malden Methodist Church KT3 4BY



## Oleksii Zadiasko

(bass baritone)

## Bohdan Parashchak

(piano)

Oleksii, a long-standing friend of NMMC, will present a range of songs from the English, German and Ukrainian traditions in his inimitable style, with projected simultaneous translations

**40 minutes of music**  
**Retiring collection to help defray expenses**



## Music in New Malden

18<sup>th</sup> Series

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
at 3pm

### The Whittall Octet

Celia Waterhouse, Juliet Kauffmann, Caroline Waters & Katherine Collison (violins)  
Ian Byrne Brito & Deborah Young (violas) James Jarvis & Kate Leigh (cellos)



String Octet in E-flat major Op. 20  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

String Octet Op.7  
George Enescu (1881-1955)

Come and hear perhaps the most prodigious composition ever written  
(Mendelssohn was just 16) and a 20<sup>th</sup> Century masterpiece.

Tickets £10 (£12 on the door)  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm)  
Wesley's, NMMC 10am – 2pm M – F (cash)



# THE FRIDAY WRITERS' GROUP

On a Friday morning, sometimes in Wesley's and sometimes in the lounge area at the back of the church, you will find the Writers' Group.

We are a friendly lot, and our members have a range of interests. Some are poets, others write fiction and another member is an academic who shares his work. There are

some who are new to writing, and others who have been churning out poems and so on for years. All are welcome to join us, and we always have tea, coffee and a lot of laughter, as well as the chance to try out ideas and share our work.

This poem, written by Karl, gives a flavour of who we are:

If you should wander through the church building,  
keep going straight on till you reach the back kitchen,  
you'll discover a coven, a convent - no, a conclave! - of writers.  
There's John with his archive of verse horticultural,  
and New Phil, whose old jokes are not the best ones!  
Betty from Babylon shares her rich, gentle wisdom,  
and First Phil brings odes of opulent song-prose.  
Witness glorious skill played in poetic Roger's melodical lilt,  
while Laurenti's compositions chime out their sacred visions.  
You'll hear Patrick's sweet span from the tragic to humour,  
contend with Quaker history conveyed in Mark's learned word,  
and eat tasty mints laced with the fruit of the study of slit  
as Tom and Joy preside o'er proceedings with wonder and wit.  
And last but not least, there's me, and this is my offering to thee.



# WHEN THE MAYOR (AND DEPUTY) CAME TO LUNCH

On Thursday 23 April the Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Noel Hadjimichael, visited Wesley's Cafe to spend time with our wonderful volunteers. As well as chatting with a number of people, he also tried his hand at knitting, along with the Knit & Natter Group.

The following day the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sue Ansari, visited the Cafe and spent time with the Cancer Connection Group.





# GOOD FRIDAY MUSIC

Concerts in NMMC have attracted capacity crowds in recent weeks and this year's music for Good Friday was no exception. As well as a full and appreciative audience, the chance to sing a compilation of passiontide classics attracted a large choir from across local churches, plus the entire Harmonie Choir.

In just over an hour, the audience was treated to music from Stainer to Schubert, Fauré to Franck, and able to join in on Ireland's My Song is Love Unknown. Our very

own Karl was narrator and added in the relevant Bible passage. Shout out to the orchestra led by Joshua von Bohlen, soloists Graham Currie and Jonathan Law, and the Bulletts for organising the whole thing.

Everyone enjoyed hot cross buns afterwards and a whopping £1220 was raised for Save the Children. Roll on next year and is it too soon to wonder what might happen in 2029, the 30th anniversary of Good Friday music at NMMC?





# MARATHON...MAYBE?

As I write, the 2026 London Marathon is just about to kick off. 59,000 runners, 26 miles of sweat, and quite likely blood and tears too. I can see elite athletes, hopeful amateurs, veterans, people dressed as cartoon characters or iconic buildings (The Shard, Big Ben..) I hear that friction can cause quite a lot of uncomfortable problems from about mile 13 onwards even if you're wearing normal clothes. Some less motivated people would take that as a sign to stop.

The first Olympic marathon in modern times was run in Athens in 1896 (frequent quiz question) and was 'only' 25 miles long. 8 out of the 17 participants failed to reach the Finish line. The now standard if somewhat arbitrary length of 26 miles and 385 yards (42,195 metres) was established for the London Olympics in 1924.

The annual London Marathon, which began in 1981 and runs from Blackheath to Buckingham Palace via a loop round the Isle of Dogs, is the biggest such event in the world. 55,646 people crossed the finish line in 2025. That sounds like quite a lot to me, but apparently the ballot received over a million applications, and it is likely that from next year the event will have to happen on two days. One Buster Martin completed the 2008 Marathon in under 10 hours at the reputed age of 101, though according to some sources he was only 94. Our Choir Director is running in it this year – no, sorry, not Peter; a different choir.. But however seriously you take it, and however much disruption it may cause in the capital, it has enormous benefits. Last year's London Marathon raised a record £87.3 million for charities.

As well as this, the health benefits of training and running include cardiovascular rejuvenation, increased bone density,

stronger joints, greater aerobic capacity and stronger mental resilience. Experts say that the glowing high you feel after a long run is caused by substances called cannabinoids, the same stuff that's found in cannabis. Now you know why they don't give up.

I am hugely admiring of the amazing energy and determination shown by such a diverse group of people, including in the wheelchair race, but absolutely none of this has any direct relevance to me; a 'glowing high' is surely just that sweaty, pounding feeling you get at the top of the tenth hill that day. Yes, I'm banging on about walking again. (Joke: How do you know if someone's run a Marathon? Answer: They'll tell you.)

My self-designed and very loosely-defined mini-marathon on July 4 in aid of Alzheimer's will involve 13 miles round Ullswater with TREK 26 – and that is emphatically not just a stroll round the lake; it is a tough switchback of ascents and descents – followed by 13 miles up some more hills in North Wales between Ruthin and Bodfari to complete some unfinished business with King Offa and his Dyke from last year. There will be no running involved – I can't even run to the end of the road reliably – and I may even have a Day of Rest in between these two outings, as that will be a Sunday and we might pop over to St Asaph's, Britain's smallest cathedral, where we know the organist.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has so far donated to this cause, either in cash or via my Justgiving page, and a Shout-out to the many anonymous donors who I cannot thank personally. 'It will take a Society to beat Dementia', and we are certainly a Society. I, or more accurately You, have reached the stunning total of around £1600 pounds so far,

with a lot of gift aid on top, and there are still several weeks to go. I do not have a financial target in the sense of a limit, so please do consider contributing to fund research into this devastating disease. Nearly everyone knows or has known someone affected by Alzheimer's cruel symptoms. The Society gets the Justgiving money almost immediately, by the way, not after the Event, so your contributions make an immediate impact. This is the link, or I can accept cash donations. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/trek26lakedistrict202613miles-alisonbullett>.

I am now In Training, meaning that I have

Alzheimer's Charity Bake Sale on Saturday 30 May, 10-12. Could you possibly help, or bake something, or bring some friends along?

'Together, we WILL beat Dementia.'

Back to the Proper Marathon, and now the elite athletes are pounding up the Mall and yes! A world record has been broken. Sabastian Sawe has broken through the 2 hour 'barrier' with several seconds to spare and barely even looks out of breath. We have come a long way since 1896. Apparently in Beijing, robots have beaten the fastest human time in the half marathon. It is quite funny to watch when they fall over, but it is only a matter of time...



become slightly obsessed with my daily step count and am aiming to walk a little more each week than the one before. Not so good with the 'strength training,' apart from squats which are a necessary life skill! I'm taking extra protein and supplements for my bones and joints, but I always have trouble cutting down on the sugar, and will have to find some serious hills to practise on soon. Talking of sugar, do please come and support the

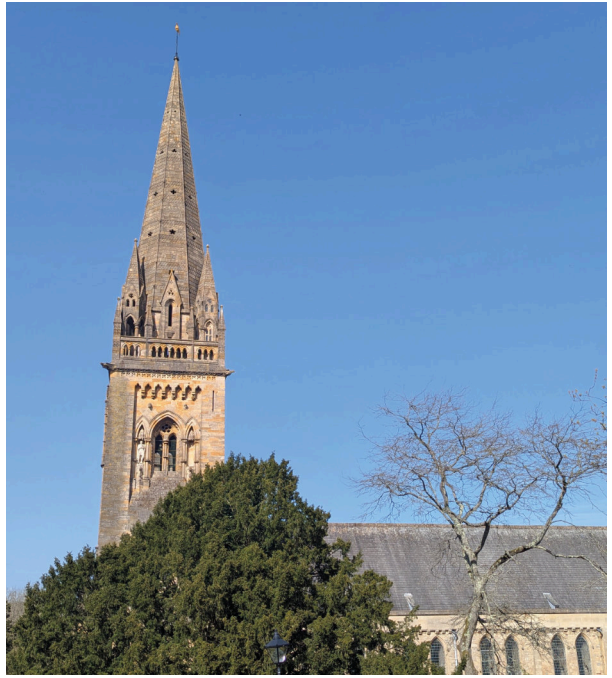
Finally, full marks if you spotted the deliberate error in my article last month. I'm not quite sure how it happened, but some inattentive searching and clicking late at night meant that the lovely lake on P.10 is of course not Ullswater but Lac d'Artouste in the Vallee d'Ossau, somewhere in the Pyrenees. Where Ossau-Iraty cheese comes from. Don't worry – that is not next year's challenge.

– Alison Bullett

# LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL

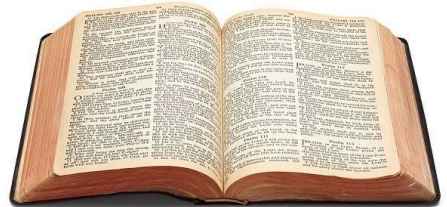
My husband and I visited Llandaff Cathedral just outside Cardiff on Wednesday 8th April. We were blessed with very blue skies and discovered a small, friendly lovely Cathedral nestling in a quiet village. There is a walk from the Cathedral along the River Taff into Cardiff City Centre, Alison take note (!) and a Pilgrimage the other way which Karl may like to try! I thoroughly recommend it as a place to visit and stay. A very warm welcome.

– Mary Garrett



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR MAY & JUNE

Following the success of the Lent Bible Studies, Karl will be leading another few sessions, this time looking at Philippians as the subject of this year's Bible Month. The sessions will be on Wednesdays at 11am in Wesley's, and all are welcome (note Karl will be away on May 27th).



May 6th – A church founded amidst suffering: Acts 16:11 – 40

May 13th – Prayers from prison: Philippians 1:1 – 11

May 20th – Rejoicing even in hard times: Philippians 1:12 – 30

June 3rd – Following the pattern of Christ: Philippians 2:1 – 18

June 10th – We need one another: Philippians 2:19 – 30

June 17th – Paul's story of a transformed life: Philippians 3:1 – 11

June 24th – Holding onto resurrection hope: Philippians 3:12 – 4:1

July 1st – Building one another up: Philippians 4:2 – 23

# SIGNIFICANT DATES IN MAY

**1**  
**1707**

The Union between England and Scotland is proclaimed.

**7**  
**1945**

Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allies at Rheims and the war in Europe ended.

**12**  
**1937**

George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey in London, following the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII.

**19**  
**1536**

Anne Boleyn, King Henry VIII's second wife, was beheaded in London. She was 29.

**25**  
**1994**

After 20 years in exile, Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn returned to his homeland.

**2**  
**1611**

The Authorized Version of the Bible (King James Version) was first published.

**10**  
**1940**

Promising his people nothing but "blood, toil, tears and sweat", Winston Churchill becomes British Prime Minister.

**13**  
**1981**

Pope John Paul II was shot twice while riding in an open automobile in St. Peter's Square in Rome.

**21**  
**1991**

Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated.

**26**  
**1940**

The Dunkirk evacuation began in order to save the British Expeditionary Force

**6**  
**1954**

Roger Bannister becomes the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes.

**10**  
**1994**

Former political prisoner Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as president of South Africa.

**18**  
**1804**

Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor of France

**22**  
**1859**

Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was born at Edinburgh, Scotland.

**29**  
**1660**

Charles Stuart entered London to become King Charles II, restoring England's monarchy following Oliver Cromwell's commonwealth.

## DONATIONS

New Malden Methodist Church has a donations page set up with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). Scan the QR Code to donate.





This fantastic production from the Searchlight Theatre Company is being performed on Saturday 13th June 2026 at 7.30pm at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church Ewell Road KT6 6AF. We are incredibly lucky to be able to host this production which has been performed around the world and is fresh from the Edinburgh Festival.

It is a moving reimagining of Corrie Ten Boom's biographical tale of forgiveness and reconciliation in the shadows of WW2.

Her family bravely hide Jews in their small clock shop and the consequences were dark and devastating. The production looks not only at the story from Corrie's viewpoint, but

from a German army officer's as well. How do they both regard their families, their faith, the Jewish people and the occupation of Holland? They begin in different worlds, but eventually come face to face with each other.

This is a powerful play and one which concludes our ALPHA and one which I would really encourage you and your families and friends to attend.

There is no charge for tickets and we would ask for a donation instead, but we do need to know numbers for safety and seating reasons and so if you (and people you know) are coming please could email the Church office [shmc.office@kingston-circuit.org.uk](mailto:shmc.office@kingston-circuit.org.uk)

## NEXT SPOTLIGHT ISSUE

Please send Barry – [nmmc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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 25 May**.

Plan Details for the Churches					
Date	Time	Chessington (70)	Kingston (75)	New Malden (78)	Surbiton Hill (105)
01/03/2026	AM	Maraj-Ogden: HC	D. Lloyd	Rutledge	Fullbrook
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	Fullbrook: 4.30pm PP
08/03/2026	AM	Vernon	Rutledge: HC	S. Lloyd	Maraj-Ogden: HC
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
15/03/2026	AM	Maraj-Ogden: MS	Rutledge: AA/MS/P	LA/MS	Bridges: MS
	PM	No Service	Rutledge	No Service	No Service
22/03/2026	AM	LA	LA	Rutledge	LA
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
29/03/2026	AM	P. Han: PS	Rutledge: 10am E/PS	Bridges: PS	Maraj-Ogden: PS
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
02/04/2026	PM	7:30pm E/MT	Rutledge: 6:30pm MT	No Service	Maraj-Ogden: 7:30pm E/MT
03/04/2026	AM	No Service	Rutledge: 10am Wow	9am WoW	10:30am GF/LA
	PM	No Service	No Service	Rutledge: 8pm GF	No Service
05/04/2026	AM	P. Han: 8am HC	No Service	Rutledge: 8:30am HC	No Service
	AM	P. Han: 10am HC/KCF	No Service	Cocking: 10:30am AA/HC	No Service
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
12/04/2026	AM	LA	LA	LA	LA/AWC
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
19/04/2026	AM	S. Lloyd: CS	Vernon	Rutledge	Maraj-Ogden
	PM	No Service	Rutledge	No Service	No Service
26/04/2026	AM	D. Lloyd	Maraj-Ogden: CC	Rutledge	Fullbrook
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
03/05/2026	AM	Maraj-Ogden: B	Taylor	LA	Rutledge
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	4:30pm PP
10/05/2026	AM	Maraj-Ogden: HC	Rutledge: CA/HC	D. Lloyd: CA	S. Han
	PM	Circuit Service	Circuit Service	Circuit Service	Circuit Service
17/05/2026	AM	S. Lloyd: CS	Bridges: AA	Rutledge: HC	Maraj-Ogden
	PM	No Service	Rutledge: HC	No Service	No Service
24/05/2026	AM	LA	Rutledge	Taylor	Maraj-Ogden: HC
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
31/05/2026	AM	Vernon	S. Lloyd	Maraj-Ogden	LA
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service

**Ministers' Day Off: Karl and Vindra - Monday**    **Circuit Meeting: 8pm on 12th March at New Malden**

List of Abbreviations
AA = All-Age Worship
AWC = All We Can Speaker
B = Baptist
CA = Christian Aid
CC = Café Church
CS = Contemporary Worship
E = Ecumenical
GF = Good Friday
HC = Holy Communion
LA = Local Arrangement
MT = Maundy Thursday
P = Parade Service
PP = Praise Party
PS = Palm Sunday
Wow = Walk of Witness

Chessington (10am)
<b>Bible:</b> NIV <b>MWB:</b> HC Only
<b>Music:</b> Stf, H&P, Sof 1 - 3
<b>Korean Language Service 12.30pm</b>

Kingston (10:30am & 6pm)
<b>Bible:</b> GNB <b>MWB:</b> HC Only
<b>Music:</b> Stf, Sof 1 - 3
<b>Online:</b> Windows on Worship

New Malden (10:30am)
<b>Bible:</b> NRSV <b>MWB:</b> Complete
<b>Music:</b> Stf
<b>Online:</b> Windows on Worship

Surbiton Hill (10:30am)
<b>Bible:</b> NIV <b>MWB:</b> Complete
<b>Music:</b> Stf, H&P, Let's Praise 1, 2
<b>Online:</b> Live Stream

# NMMC: WHAT'S ON IN MAY

Saturday 2nd	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – NMMC
Tuesday 5th	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 7th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Friday 8th	11.00am	Writers Workshop
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 9th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Chailey Foundation
Tuesday 12th	10.30am	Tai Chi Qigong
	1.10pm	Lunchtime Concert
	2.30pm	Bereavement Cafe
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Isabella Plantation
Thursday 14th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 15th	11.00am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 16th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – New Malden Rotary
Tuesday 19th	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 21st	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Friday 22nd	11.00am	Writers Workshop
	12.30pm	Cancer Connections Group
Saturday 23rd	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Alzheimers Society
Tuesday 26th	10.30am	Tai Chi Qigong
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Tai Chi
Thursday 28th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 29th	11.00am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 30th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Alzheimers (Alison Bullett)