



New Malden
Methodist Church

At the heart of the High Street

SPOTLIGHT

JULY 2026

MESSAGE FROM KARL

It is hard to believe that this is the final article I will write for Spotlight, after nine years of at least monthly reflections being a part of my life. During that time, life has changed for me in having been ordained back in 2019, and in now preparing to head off to my second appointment. I have taken a handful of weddings and managed to baptise several infants without causing a disaster by dropping the baby! On a sad note, I have conducted over a hundred funerals in my time here, including of many beloved friends from the church community. Such is the nature of life.

There has also been a global pandemic, major events such as Britain leaving the European Union, more than a handful of Prime Ministers, a change of monarch after the longest ever reign under Elizabeth II, and the welcome revival of Manchester United's fortunes after years of misery in which it had become embarrassing to be a supporter. I am

pleased to note that I have been in the Kingston Circuit for 3,225 days as of 1st July, which is nearly sixty-six times as many as Liz Truss managed as Prime Minister, and much longer than the infamous lettuce!

Through that time, I have learnt a lot about myself, about God and about what it means to be a Presbyterian in the Methodist Church in a time of significant denominational change. Some things that seemed very important when I was at theological college, and about which my fellow trainee ministers debated and even on occasion argued, turned out not to matter that much. Other things I hadn't even thought about before arriving have proven to be very important, such as how to make a decent cup of tea for the Staff Team and at the various meetings and events we've hosted.

I've also had to do many things we were not taught at college, including chasing escaping Christmas trees down the High

Street when the fierce winds of Storm Eunice hit New Malden, and the local council hadn't taken them away! There are aspects of ministry I wish that my training had focused on in more depth, such as looking after buildings and line management of both staff and volunteers, as these are significant parts of my everyday working life. I also have learnt a lot about pipe organ maintenance, the challenges facing pre-schools, how a local authority works, running a coffee bar and mental health first aid, to name but a few miscellaneous areas.

Perhaps the main things that will stick with me, however, are the profound privileges of being a minister: being welcomed into people's homes and lives at liminal moments, sharing in joys and sorrows, getting to lead worship week by week and share something of the love of God, and being able to preside at Holy Communion. I think of conversations about loved ones lost at Blue Christmas, of silliness and laughter and tears and

hugs in Wesley's, of the lovely ecumenical and interfaith colleagues who have become genuine friends, of the mutual support and friendship of the five brilliant people who have been part of the Staff Team during my time here, and even Sarah's random bursting into song in the church office!

Looking back on this period of my life shows me how much I have grown in confidence, both personally and professionally, and how I have benefited from the encouragement, wise advice and the occasional kick up the backside from you. I will miss you all very much, but I know Rev Alana will be fabulous when she arrives in the Kingston Circuit, and Haywards Heath is not actually that far away! I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at my leaving service – 19th July 4pm for afternoon tea and 5.30pm for the service – and I wish you all well for the future.

With love and blessings,
Karl

SPOTLIGHT'S SAFEGUARDING SPACE

At the recent Foundation Module Safeguarding training that I led I was reminded about the importance of us getting to know new people who join our community either for worship or in Wesley's. The Pastoral Friends keep in contact with church members and can share any concerns with each other. However, it is not just those who hold such a role that can share concerns. If you are worried about anyone please let me or Karl know.

Liz Edwards – Safeguarding Officer



The **Methodist Church** 

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Sadly **Carol Dadds** passed away on Friday 12 June. Her funeral will take place on Monday 20 July, 12.30pm at Randalls Park Crematorium (Randalls Road, Leatherhead KT22 0AG). Following this the Wake will be held at Woodlands Park Hotel (Woodlands Lane, Cobham KT11 3QB). All are welcome.

The funeral for **Monika Shaffer-Fefre** will now take place on **Wednesday 8 July**, 1pm here at NMMC, followed by the committal at Kingston Crematorium at 2:20pm.

After several days in hospital having his kidneys investigated, **Peter Bullett** is now home again and feeling much better. There will be some absences from the organ over the summer but these are pre-planned holidays and no cause for alarm. Thank you for all your good wishes.

Thanks too to everyone who has sponsored me on TREK 26; the Alzheimer's walk, taking place on July 4 and 5. I have reached £2500, so almost £100 per mile, which is amazing and very motivating. A large proportion of this total is down to the NMMC community through coffee mornings and personal donations. Thank you all for making a difference and I look forward to sharing the outcome with you next month!

– Alison Bullett

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Do please consider if you could read a given prayer, compose a prayer, choose a hymn, introduce part of the service, light the peace candle, receive the offertory, say the blessing or contribute in discussion at a planning meeting for a 'Local Arrangement' service please contact Julie, Julia or Liz. The next Local Arrangement services are on August 2nd & 30th. Thank you.

CHURCH GARDEN PARTY WITH CREAM TEA

I hope to be able to host this again this year so please book the date of Wednesday 15 July from 3pm at Conifers, High Drive, KT3 3UG. More details later.
Alan Vincent 020 8942 3752





Greta and I attended the Harmony across Cultures concert on Saturday 6th June, not quite knowing what to expect. When we arrived, the church was already quite full and the place was buzzing.

Jane Wilkinson, leader of New Malden Voices (NMV), gave a brief introduction and then it kicked off. The London Korean Choir (LKC) took the stage dressed to the nines in beautiful sparkly purple evening gowns and sang a Korean song, which really highlighted their vocal ranges in perfect harmony. They followed this with an interesting song mix starting and finishing with Amazing Grace.

Next came NMV with three completely different songs, all superbly sung. Then a delightful solo rendition of a song from the musical Wicked by Joy Seo a member of the London Korean Youth Choir, with the full Youth Choir singing A Million

Dreams from The Greatest Showman, with every member of the choir given a small solo spot.

A brief interlude gave the choirs a chance to rest their voices while a raffle took place and guess who won the last prize?

Jane then joined the LKC to sing lead vocal with a bit of Mozart which segued into a K Pop number leading to the Grand Finale with both choirs joining together to sing Why We Sing.

It is amazing the talent we have on our doorstep and this event brilliantly demonstrated how lucky we are to be able to witness such concerts. A big thank you to all involved bringing such talent together at New Malden Methodist Church. Bring on the flutes and the saxophones ...

– Ian Curry



KARL IN PICTURES

ORDINATION DAY – 19 JUNE 2019



A MAN OF MANY TALENTS



SUITED AND BOOTED TO MEET THE KING



BIRTHDAY BOY!

Karl contemplating the stack of birthday pancakes made for him by Lee for his 40th birthday which fell on Shrove Tuesday.



WEDDING BELLS



We were very happy in October 2022 when Karl married Ellie and Tom. It was a wonderful occasion which many of Ellie's friends said was the best church wedding they'd ever been to. This was in no small way down to Karl who made sure it was a relaxed, inclusive and joyful occasion full of fun and love.

– Sarah Moore



ENJOYING A WELL-DESERVED COFFEE



AND A SNOOZE!



SIGNIFICANT DATES IN MAY

1

1838

British scientist Charles Darwin presented a paper to the Linnean Society in London, on his theory of the evolution of species and natural selection.

2

1644

Parliamentarian forces defeated Prince Rupert at the Battle of Marston Moor, their first victory over the Royalists in the English Civil War.

4

1776

Congress accepted the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson, formally ending American links with Britain.

7

1307

English King Edward I, conqueror of Wales and “Hammer of the Scots” dies on the way to Scotland to fight Robert the Bruce.

9

1877

The inaugural Lawn Tennis Championship was played on top of the croquet lawns at Wimbledon, Spencer W Gore taking the men’s singles title.

10

1991

Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office, becoming the first popularly elected president in Russia's thousand-year history.

13

1923

The British parliament passes a law banning the sale of alcohol to under-18’s.

14

1858

Birthday of Emmeline Pankhurst, English suffragette who suffered imprisonment in order to gain the vote for women.

16

1557

Death, from natural causes, of Anne of Cleves, fourth wife of Henry VIII.

17

1918

In the Russian town of Ekaterinburg, former Czar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their five children were brutally murdered by Bolsheviks.

21

1969

The Eagle lands on the moon and US astronaut Neil Armstrong is the first man in history to walk on its powdery surface.

23

1940

The Local Defence Volunteers changes its name to the Home Guard.

26

1978

The worlds first test-tube baby is born in Oldham General Hospital near Manchester.

28

1540

A busy day for King Henry VIII as he has Thomas Cromwell beheaded and then goes on to marry Catherine Howard.

30

1966

England win the Jules Rimet trophy, Association Football’s World Cup, at Wembley beating Germany 4-2 in extra time.

AND THE WINNER IS?

Wesley's Community Hub
been nominated for a
**Community Innovation
Award** at the **Celebrating
Communities Awards**



2026. The event shines a light on the outstanding individuals, teams, and organisations that have gone above and beyond to make Kingston upon Thames a fairer, safer, greener place to live.

This **Community Innovation Award** recognises an individual or organisation that has introduced creative ideas or new approaches to address community challenges or improve services.

The award ceremony takes place at All Saints Church, Kingston on **Monday 29 June 2026** from **6.30 - 9pm**. We'd love to see you there! If you can make it, please book your ticket/s here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdeefptm>

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 27 July**.

DONATIONS

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



Church contact information



www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com



NMMethodists

Rev'd Dr Karl Rutledge (Minister) 07932 242789
n/a Monday

karl.rutledge@methodist.org.uk

Mr Barry Sawyer (Administrator) 020 8942 1288 (Church Office)

nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Lee Monczak (Development Officer)

nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com

Mrs Julia Morton (Steward) 020 8942 2657

juliamorton@virginmedia.com

Mrs Liz Edwards (Steward) 020 8949 4023

lizedwards513@gmail.com

Mrs Julie Haines (Steward) 020 8395 0202

juliehaines53@gmail.com

Charity Registration Number 1176621

NMMC: WHAT'S ON IN JULY

Wednesday 1st	10.30am	Police Community Session
Thursday 2nd	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Friday 3rd	11.00am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 4th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – NMMC
Tuesday 7th	10.30am	Walking and Gentle Jogging
	2.15 – 4.00pm	Wives & Friends Cream Tea
Wednesday 8th	2.30pm	Funeral
Thursday 9th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	10.30am	Police Community Session
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 10th	11.00am	Writers Workshop
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 11th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Princess Alice Hospice
Tuesday 14th	10.30am	Tai Chi
	2.30pm	Bereavement Cafe
Wednesday 15th	3.00pm	Garden Party with Cream Tea (see p3)
Thursday 16th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Friday 17th	11.00am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 18th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – (Available)
Sunday 19th	5.30pm	Karl's Leaving Service (see p3)
Tuesday 21st	10.30am	Walking and Gentle Jogging
Thursday 23rd	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 24th	11.00am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 25th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – (Available)
Tuesday 28th	10.30am	Tai Chi
Thursday 30th	10.30am	Knit & Natter