



New Malden
Methodist Church

At the **heart** of the High Street

SPOTLIGHT

OCTOBER 2026

Message from ALANA

*All praise be yours, my Lord,
through Sister Earth, our mother,
who feeds us in her sovereignty
and produces various fruits with
coloured flowers and herbs.*

– Canticle of St Francis

The 4th of October is traditionally the day St Francis of Assisi is remembered and commemorated in the Church, and this year marks the 800th Anniversary of his death. He was not only the founder of several religious orders, a prophet, and mystic, he was also the first recognized environmentalist. Francis understood that creation is relational, that we human beings are dependent upon the earth, the sun and moon and stars, that animals are creatures just as



humans are, and that we are called to live in right relationship with all creation and with the creator of all, God.

How right he is, as today we face a climate crisis of our own making, one which we are struggling to control.

In October we celebrate Harvest Sunday, the abundance of creation that feeds and sustains us, as we reap the harvest of the earth and the fruits of our efforts.

St Francis' prayer 'Make me a channel of your peace' offers a way to live out our lives aligned to God and to each other.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

In these challenging times we would do well to pin this prayer where we can see it daily, for it turns us outwards and upwards, away from our own needs, worries and cares, towards others and towards God. Our needs are truly met through meeting the needs of others, we are loved by loving others, consoled by consoling others, and understood through understanding others. It is through having compassion for others that we have compassion for ourselves.

It is a deeply comforting prayer.

We are called to recognize and accept that we are all human, and that we have good days and bad days, days of self-giving and days of selfish living, days of hope and days of doubt, places within us kept locked away in fear and places within us given away for others. And we need to be fully human, in order to be fully alive. Let us therefore console and understand, forgive and love. Let us have patience and be compassionate. In response to anger and violence breaking out over people coming to our country in need, and stories of wars around the world, let us show kindness, in response to hatred let us show love.

In this time of harvest, let us respond to those around us in need of support and comfort, those who struggle to pay the bills, to buy food, those who struggle to break the loneliness and isolation that threaten to overwhelm them and not be overwhelmed. Where there's despair let us bring hope, where there is darkness let us bring light, and where there is sadness let us bring love and joy.

St Francis also said, 'start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible'.

May God bless you this October, may his face shine upon you and give you his peace, a peace that transforms your lives, so that living the fulness of life you may love with a fulness of heart and bring peace to all whom you meet.



WELL WELCOMED!

This photo was taken after Alana's Welcome Service held at Kingston Methodist Church on Sunday 13th September. Pictured left to right are Revd Dr Jonathan Dean, the Chair of the London District who preached, Revd Alana Lawrence, the Mayor and Mayoress of Kingston-upon-Thames and Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to both Maddy and Sam Stonehewer who welcomed Ida Rose (pictured left) on 26th August weighing 6lb 5oz, and to Ellie and Tom (and Sarah and Dave) who welcomed Arthur George on 28th September weighing 8lbs 10oz.



Church contact information



www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

Rev Alana Lawrence

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

Mrs Lee Monczak (Development Officer)

Mrs Julia Morton (Steward) 020 8942 2657

Mrs Liz Edwards (Steward) 020 8949 4023

Mrs Julie Haines (Steward) 020 8395 0202

Charity Registration Number 1176621



NMMMethodists

alana.lawrence@methodist.org.uk

nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com

juliamorton@virginmedia.com

lizedwards513@gmail.com

juliehaines53@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

CHRISTMAS FAIR FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

We are proposing to commence collecting items for this in a more staggered and organised way this year so storage is less random if possible. Suggestions are as follows but not set in stone.



OCTOBER

Sunday 11th: Toiletries and make up, etc

Sunday 18th: Soft toys

Sunday 25th: Accessories

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st: Toys

Sunday 8th: Christmas items, decorations, etc

Sunday 15th: Puzzles and games

Sunday 22nd: Books



All donations whenever are most welcome.

SPOTLIGHT'S SAFEGUARDING SPACE

Recently I have heard of distressing situations where people have been scammed. Click on the link below to find information about how fraudsters look to steal whether it's banking fraud, identity theft or even people knocking on your door, find out how modern fraud works, what you can do to guard against it and how to report it.

Advice about personal fraud | Metropolitan Police – bit.ly/4iRIBJ1

Liz Edwards – Safeguarding Officer



The **Methodist Church** 

MUSIC AT NMMC IN OCTOBER

MUSIC IN NEW MALDEN

Sunday 11 October , 3pm



Robin Michael (cello)



Anna Michels (piano)

Schumann Fantasiestücke Op.73
Rebecca Clarke Rhapsody for cello and piano (1923)
Rachmaninov Sonata in G Minor Op.19

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

Tuesday 20 October, 1.10pm

Trios for clarinet, viola and piano

Alan Maries (clarinet) Keith Berry (viola) Peter Bullett (piano)

Trio in E flat "Kegelstatt" W A Mozart | Three Trios by Max Bruch

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, poems, photos, recipes, quizzes, etc, by **Monday 26 October**.

THANKS FROM K-POP

Below is an extract from an email received from Kiyong Kim the Organising Chairman of the New Malden K-POP Awards

On behalf of the New Malden K-POP Awards, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you and everyone at the Methodist Church for your kindness, understanding and generous support for the 3rd New Malden K-POP Awards 2026.

Looking back on this year's event, I

young people who love K-POP an opportunity to come together, perform, challenge themselves and share their passion with others.

This year was particularly meaningful for us. Around 45 teams from across the UK and Europe participated in the main competition, with 25 teams



feel especially thankful. What began as a small idea has continued to grow year by year, and we truly believe that this journey would not have been possible without God's grace, blessing and guidance.

We are also deeply grateful that the Methodist Church has opened its doors to us and trusted us once again. Your understanding and support have given

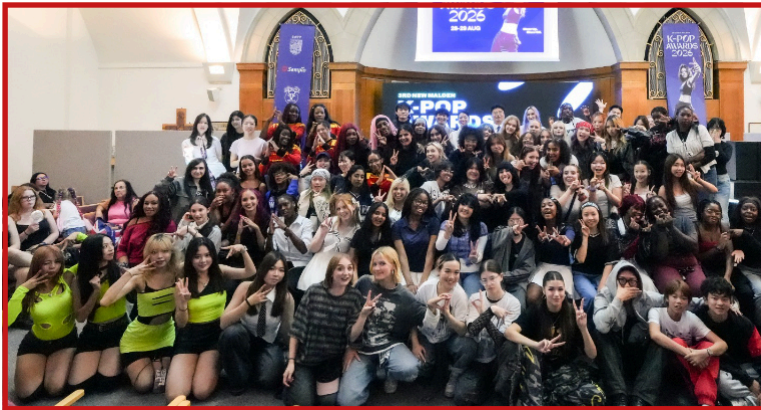
reaching the final. We were also delighted to welcome the British K-POP boy band Dear Alice (pictured top right) for a special performance, which made the event even more memorable for everyone.

Seeing so many young performers, families and visitors gathered together in New Malden was a very special moment for us. We are thankful to God

for bringing all these people together and allowing us to complete the event safely and successfully.

For us, the New Malden K-POP Awards is not simply a two-day event. We hope it can continue to become something positive for young people, families and the wider New Malden community, bringing people from different backgrounds together through music, culture and friendship.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity God has given us, and we pray that He will continue to guide us as we prepare for 2027.



Thank you once again for walking this journey with us. May God bless everyone at New Malden Methodist Church, and all those who have supported this event.



THE HARVEST IS READY

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:37–38

Every year, we celebrate Harvest by giving thanks for God’s provision and remembering those in need. But what if the harvest Jesus spoke about is already right on our doorstep?

At Wesley’s Community Hub & Cafe, people come each week for coffee, conversation, wellness activities, or simply a welcoming place to sit. Many are not regular churchgoers; some may have little connection with any church at all. Yet through friendship, kindness and patient listening, doors can begin to open.

Could this be part of the harvest?

Wesley’s has been blessed with many volunteers who serve generously and help create a welcoming community. We value them not only for what they do, but for who they are. Through genuine friendship, perhaps we can invite them into the wider life of the church and give them space to discover the hope we have found in Christ.

The field is here. The people are here. The opportunities are here.

But a harvest does not gather itself.

Being a worker does not necessarily mean taking on a formal staff / volunteer role. It may simply mean

coming to Wesley’s when you are free, sharing a coffee, joining an activity, welcoming someone you recognise, or introducing yourself to someone new. A simple conversation may seem small, but in God’s hands it can become part of someone’s journey towards hope and faith.

Harvest has a season. Fruit that is ready to be gathered cannot be left hanging forever. If ignored, it can become overripe, fall to the ground and be lost.

The same may be true of opportunities God places before us.

Someone may be ready for friendship today. Someone may need encouragement this week. Someone may be asking questions now. Someone may be waiting for a

welcome, an invitation or a simple conversation that could help them take a step towards faith.

The time to act is now.

Harvest is more than bringing food or donations. It is about people experiencing God’s love through welcome, friendship and care. So this Harvest, let us pray not only for workers – but let us become the answer to that prayer.

The harvest may not be far away. It may be sitting beside us in Wesley’s, sharing a cup of coffee.

Grace be with you.

Wesley’s Lee

***Will We Act Before
It Is Too Late?***

Having featured New Malden Theatre Academy as one of the groups that use our building on a regular basis way back in April's Spotlight here's the next one...

KINGSTON BALLET SCHOOL

Kingston Ballet School is a dancing school in New Malden running classes at New Malden Methodist Church. The school was established in 1995 by its principal, Louise Jefferson and has just celebrated its 30th anniversary. From a foundation of 20 students, under Louise's guidance the school has grown to over 200 students ranging in age from three to eighteen. Pupils can study the different dance genres of ballet, tap and modern/jazz dance. We also offer adult ballet classes on a Monday evening.

The school's ethos is to provide quality dance tuition in an atmosphere in which a child's love of dance can thrive. We aim to inspire children in a happy school with excellent standards.

Through our dedicated teaching of ballet, tap and modern dance we guide children from their first dancing steps to develop coordination and strength, good posture, self-expression and an appreciation of music to become skilled young dancers. We wish to give children the opportunity to have fun, make friends and develop a love and understanding of dance that can be taken into adulthood.



All staff at KBS are graduates and registered teachers of the Royal Academy of Dance being professionally trained to provide high-quality teaching. In our imaginative dance classes, we care for each individual child, giving them the opportunity to reach their full potential in a friendly and safe environment. We facilitate exams for all students and the chance to perform on a professional stage in our tri-annual show. Past pupils include Ebony Thomas, principal dancer with the company Ballet Black and actor Tom Holland, who trained at Kingston Ballet School in the preparation for his role as Billy Elliot.

We love being part of the community at New Malden Methodist Church and welcome new pupils at any time.

For further information about Kingston Ballet School email Louise Jefferson at louise@kingstonballetschool.com

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN *October*

1

1908

Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

3

1990

After 45 years of Cold War division, East and West Germany were reunited.

4

1911

Britain's first escalator opens at London's Earls Court.

7

1920

Women become eligible for admission as full members of Oxford University and are given the right to take degrees.

9

1962

Uganda achieved independence after nearly 70 years of British rule.

12

1984

An IRA terrorist bomb kills 4 people at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, Sussex.

13

1884

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

14

1066

King Harold is killed at the Battle of Hastings in Sussex.

16

1902

England's first prison for Young Offenders is opened at Borstal in Kent.

17

1860

The first professional Golf Tournament is played at Prestwick, in Western Scotland.

21

1805

Admiral Nelson is mortally wounded at the Battle of Trafalgar, near Gibraltar.

19

1781

British general Lord Charles Cornwallis surrenders to George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia, ending the American War of Independence.

24

1537

Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour dies following the birth of the future king Edward VI.

26

1863

The English Football Association is formed.

29

1618

English courtier, writer and explorer Sir Walter Raleigh is beheaded on the orders of King James I.

30

1925

The first television transmission of a moving image is made by Scottish inventor John Logie Baird.

31

1517

Martin Luther nails his '95 Theses' to the church door at Wittenberg, Germany triggering the Protestant Reformation.

150+

East Molesey
Methodist Church



Exhibition celebrating 150 years of East Molesey Methodist Church



**Open daily Monday 26 October to
Friday 6 November
2pm - 4.30pm**
**Late night opening until 7pm on
Thursdays 29 October & 5 November
Saturday 31 October
10am - 4.30pm**

Refreshments available

Entrance is **FREE** **ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK** **FOR A CURE**
Donations in aid of

East Molesey Methodist Church, Manor Road KT8 9JU



NMMC: WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Thursday 1st	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts
Friday 2nd	10.30am	Writers Workshop
Saturday 3rd	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – NMMC
Sunday 4th	10.30am	Harvest – Revd Alana Lawrence
Tuesday 6th	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 8th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 9th	11.30am – 1.00pm	Writers Workshop
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 10th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Cancer Research
Sunday 11th	10.30am	Morning Worship – Revd Alana Lawrence
	12.00pm	Church Council (Lower Hall)
Tuesday 13th	10.30am	Tai Chi
	2.30pm	Bereavement Cafe
Thursday 15th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts
Friday 16th	11.30am – 1.00pm	Writers Workshop
Saturday 17th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Inner Wheel
Sunday 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship – Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden
Tuesday 20th	10.30am	Tai Chi
	1.10pm	Lunchtime Concert
Thursday 22nd	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis (Upper Hall)
Friday 23rd	11.30am – 1.00pm	Writers Workshop
	12.30pm	Cancer Connection Group
Saturday 24th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – M&C Flower Club
Sunday 25th	10.30am	Morning Worship – Matthew Taylor
Tuesday 27th	10.30am	Walking & Jogging Group
Thursday 29th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
Saturday 31st	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Kidney Care UK