New Malden Methodist Church

*At the **heart** of the High Street*

SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER 2026

Message from ALANA

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

November is a time for remembering, for calling to mind those who have died, and giving thanks for their lives, for remembering the fallen in wars, and for remembering times of danger in our country.

Remembering is not a passive thing, it is alive and active with feelings of love and sadness, hope and longing. When we remember we become alive to that which is being remembered, an event, a person, ourselves at another point in time. To remember is to bring back into relationship now that which is being remembered from then and it can both unsettle us and heal and transform our memories and our lives, and the communities around us.



Traditionally, All Saints and All Souls Days are celebrated in Christian Churches on the 1st and 2nd November. The saints triumphant in heaven are acknowledged with hymns of joy and prayers of praise and thanksgiving on the first Sunday of November. All the Souls of the dead are prayed for the day after the Saints and all our loved one are called to mind, we give thanks for their lives and pray that they may rest in God's eternal love.

At 11am on the 11th November the

country falls silent as we remember the end of World War 1, and the millions who died in that conflict, and remember all those who have died in all the wars since 1918. On Sunday 8th November many will come to the cenotaph opposite our church for a service of remembrance. We hope always that in our remembering of the terrible sacrifices made by millions of soldiers, and the deaths of millions of civilians, we might never fall into the habit of war again, that peace might prevail and that all conflicts might cease and wisdom, mercy, compassion and justice prevail. We pray that ways can be found to turn the world away from the gathering storm of conflicts and towards reconciliation and peace.



And this November another kind of remembering comes to mind, of those living with dementia and their loved ones. When a person's memory unravels until they do not know themselves or their loved ones in the past or the present and cannot re-member the future, they are remembered by those who love them, held in their memories, made more whole through their acts of remembering.



So too, we are all held in the love of God, who knows us, as Psalm 139 best articulates, and loves us from the beginning of time and eternally. We live in the memories of God, in the 'membering' and remembering that is the ever being of the one relational and creative God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As I learned during my mother's journey through dementia, even if we forget those whom we have loved, and the self who seems no longer to be, yet in relationship with those who love us, and ultimately with God, all of us are held, known and loved and made whole now and eternally.

God of love and life, Father, Son and Spirit, in you all have their being, there is no past and no death, and nothing that is created ever dies in you. As we remember those whom we have loved, help us to know that you re-member them too, for in you all live and love eternally. Console all who grieve, give them your peace and assurance. We give thanks, remembering the saints in heaven and all who have gone before us and now stand before the eternal throne held in your love divine, all loves excelling, the one all loving God. Amen



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, 4-7PM

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.

PLEASE save the date and sign up to help when the time comes!



NOVEMBER

1st: Toys

8th: Christmas items, decorations, etc

15th: Puzzles and games

22nd: Books

All donations whenever are most welcome.

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 30 November**.

Church contact information

www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com | **NMMethodists**

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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**
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Charity Registration Number 1176621

ORANGE THE WORLD



In 2008 the UN Secretary General launched the campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women". The signature colour of the campaign is orange. As a bright and optimistic colour, orange represents a future free from violence against women and girls.

From 25 November to 10 December every year, UNiTE calls on people everywhere to wear the colour orange and take action to end violence against women and girls in communities, at home, in public spaces, in schools and workplaces, during conflict and in times of peace.

Violence against women and girls is not a women's issue. It is society's issue.

Education on respectful relationships can end the cycle of violence. True prevention starts from early childhood to adolescence. We need to Educate our young generation and Encourage Community based partnerships to champion a "respectful relationships" approach.

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF NEW MALDEN is supporting this campaign by hosting the Charity Bake Sale in Wesley's on Saturday **21st November** from 10-12pm. Do drop in for a coffee and home-made cake. Profits will go to Refuge.

SPOTLIGHT'S SAFEGUARDING SPACE

The Safeguarding Policy was updated and signed by Alana at the Church Council held in October. A copy can be found on the notice board in Wesley's.

Liz Edwards – Safeguarding Officer

The Methodist Church

HARVEST AT NMMC

Thank you to all who decorated the church for our Harvest Festival. The donations of food will be used to supplement our Food Larder.

A retiring collection raised £127.93 for Methodist Homes for the Aged. The proceeds from the Charity Bake Sale raised £233.10 for All We Can.







Donations gratefully received



NOVEMBER MUSIC AT NMMC

LUNCHTIME CONCERT



TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER

1.10 PM

40 MINUTES OF MUSIC

A STRING QUARTET & QUINTET

Rupert Bawden and Friends

Irish Melody by Frank Bridge (1879-1941)
Allegro moderato - for string quartet

String Quintet Op.111 in G major by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Allegro non troppo ma con brio - Adagio - Un poco Allegretto - Vivace ma non troppo presto

Retiring collection to help defray expenses

MUSIC IN NEW MALDEN

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER — 3PM



Jane Wilkinson
(lyric soprano)

THE LOVE CYCLE

Awakening

The loss of love

Women in the modern world

Cautionary tales of love

Songs by Britten Dring
Purcell Quilter Roe
Schumann & Wolf



Ben Costello
(piano)

Tickets £10 (£12 on the door)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm
Wesley's, NMMC
10am – 2pm, Monday - Friday (cash)

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER — 3PM



Brass Masterclass for young players

Come and hear some splendid playing, learn about brass instrument technique and performance, in a master-class conducted by internationally renowned horn-player Ursula Paludan Monberg.

Tickets

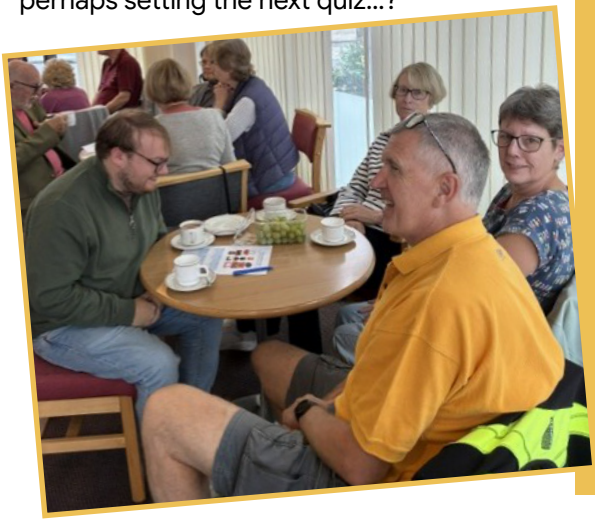
£5 on the door Brass students free

An hour of music, followed by tea and cake

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 3rd October saw the return of the annual church quiz, this year reverting to the popular "back to school" format. Four teams of four, sustained by a variety of snacks, pit theirs wits against each other across six rounds, including a picture round of what were supposed to be well-known brands. Does no one eat Branston pickle anymore? Really?

With one round to go, the scores were tantalisingly close, with two teams tying for first place, but a solid knowledge of economic and political affairs meant the Quiz Quartet (Peter, Alana, Gloria, and Judy) eased to victory. With a retired magistrate and the church's finance officer on the team, it's unlikely there will be Man City-type accusations, but watch this space! There's no silverware for them to return anyway just the kudos of winning. And perhaps setting the next quiz...?





Some observations include:

- **It is impossible to keep Greta quiet if the answer mentions the North East in any way!**
- **Alana is quite a handy person to have on a quiz team.**
- **Chris Haines knows a lot of geography.**
- **As usual, everyone did terribly on the religious studies round. Please do your homework again.**

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2026

FREE ENTRY

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

SATURDAY 12 *to*
THURSDAY 24
DECEMBER

MONDAY TO **FRIDAY**
10am – 2pm

SATURDAY 12 & 19
10am – 4pm

New Malden Methodist Church
49 High Street, New Malden KT3 4BY

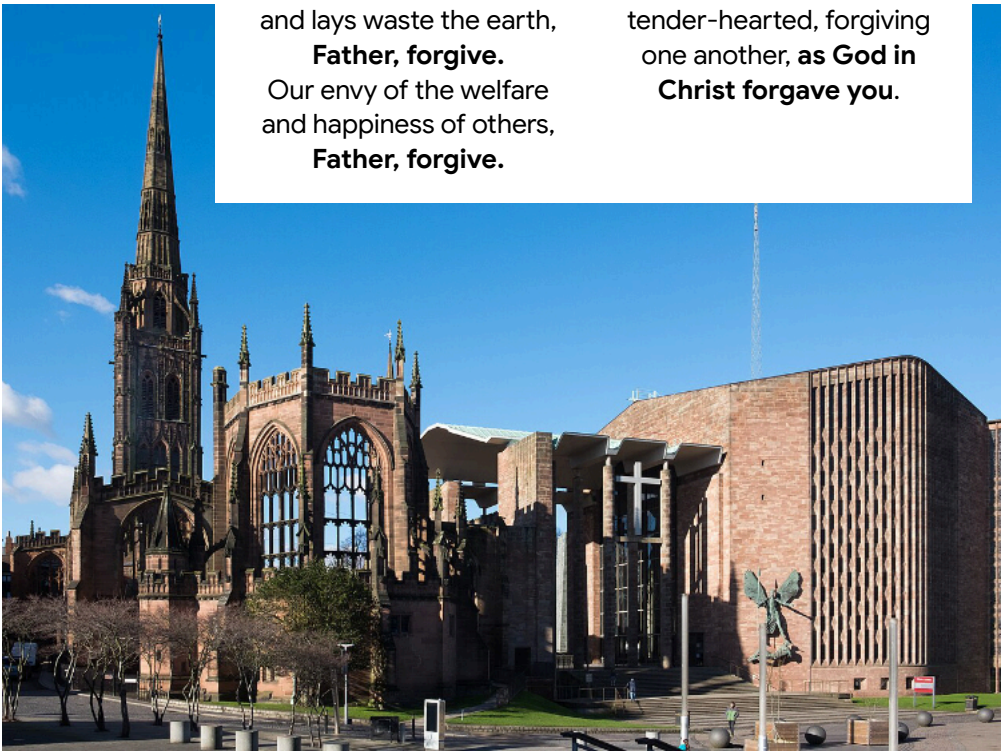
www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

FATHER FORGIVE

Extract from the Order of Service for 25 October, Matthew Taylor (Local Preacher on trial)

LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,
Father forgive.
The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,
Father, forgive.
The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
Father, forgive.
Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
Father, forgive.
Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,
Father, forgive.
The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,
Father, forgive.
The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,
Father, forgive.
Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, **as God in Christ forgave you**.



SERMON

(Based on the gospel reading Matthew 22:34-46)



At the beginning of the month, I went with my wife to Coventry, a small city just outside Birmingham, to visit its magnificent cathedral.

The photo you can see is taken from the ruins of the old cathedral. In November 1940 the city was bombed by the Luftwaffe and the old cathedral destroyed. In time a new cathedral arose, but the ruins of the old were kept as a reminder of the folly of war. Amongst the rubble a cathedral stonemason, Jock Forbes by name, noticed that two of the charred medieval roof timbers had fallen in the shape of a cross. He set them up in the ruins where they were later placed on an altar of rubble with the moving words 'Father Forgive' inscribed on the Sanctuary wall. That's the photo you see.

You'll recall that as part of the litany of reconciliation we said earlier we shared the response "Father, forgive". Well, it's no coincidence! This very litany of reconciliation originated at Coventry Cathedral and continues to be prayed there every weekday at noon, at the shrine you see. I was blessed myself to join the noonday service.

For this sermon I'll be focusing on our gospel reading from Matthew, where

Jesus teaches us about the meaning of love, that the love of God cannot be separated from love of neighbour. Coventry I think provides a dramatic illustration of this principle: God is worshipped and glorified in a new building beside the ruins of the old, sanctified by prayer and reconciliation.

Let's delve into the gospel passage itself from Matthew 22. Jesus is in the Temple, and has been telling parables such as the wedding banquet. The chief priests and Pharisees have become unsettled and want to arrest him. They try and catch him out with some probing questions but He outwits them. And so a lawyer asks him about the very greatest commandment.

In reply Jesus quotes two commandments from the Old Testament. The first, "to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind", echoes Deuteronomy 6:5, a verse that would be very familiar to any practising Jew as it forms part of the Shema prayer recited daily. It's worth considering the original Hebrew words that have been translated as love, heart, soul and mind. The Hebrew for love is 'ahavah', it's a word commonly associated with divine love that's everlasting, a love that is both feeling and driven to action. It's similar to the affection and loyalty a husband might feel for their wife, or a parent for their child. We are therefore being called to imitate God's love with all our heart, soul and mind. These latter three words lose a little in translation into English, but the essential message is that we love wholeheartedly, with every fibre of our being.

The second commandment, "you shall love your neighbour as yourself", comes from Leviticus 19:18. The full verse is: "you shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord". Note that the meaning of neighbour in this original context was strictly an Israelite, but the word love is that same Hebrew word, ahava. In loving our neighbour we are imitating God's love, a love of unconditional grace.

Just who is my neighbour? We'll return to the New Testament in a minute, but for now note a later verse in Leviticus 19, verse 34: "The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God". So love clearly isn't simply tribal and exclusive, it is meant to be universal.

So the two commandments that Jesus cites have deep roots in Scripture. Indeed, a generation before Jesus another rabbi had summed up the Torah, the Law, in a single sentence: "that which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow—this is the whole Torah; the rest is commentary". What is novel though is the way Jesus juxtaposes the two commandments, the way they appear side by side. His message surely is that you cannot say you love God without also loving your neighbour, the two are inextricably linked.

How do we love God? Through worship such as today, and respect for the Sabbath. Through prayer, through thanksgiving, through adoration and of course through loving our neighbour. The Hebrew as we've seen isn't half-hearted: through every fibre of our being no less. Ultimately we are called to reciprocate divine love: (1 John 4:19) "we love because he first loved us".

How in turn do we love our neighbour? In Leviticus the command is preceded by a long list of specific prohibitions (do not steal etc), but in the gospels Jesus is quite clear what this love entails. We have the tale of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) where this very same pair of commands are repeated. We show love by helping those in need, regardless of differences or barriers. We have the sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:44) "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". And this brings me back to that charred cross in Coventry, that daily mantra of reconciliation. Our love as Christians is modelled on that of Christ: full of grace, without condition, full of mercy, asking forgiveness as on the Cross (Luke 23:34): "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Christ of course made the ultimate sacrifice, so Christian love is ultimately a sacrificial love. John 15:13 (King James) "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends".

Of course we may note the qualification in the commandment: we love our neighbour as ourself. This assumes a healthy self-love, not a self-centered narcissism but equally it may be a challenge for those who haven't had great role models, who suffer low self-esteem or have experienced trauma. It's surely hard to love others if you can't love yourself. The message is we all deserve to be loved, as we are all made in the image and likeness of God.

Learning to love, whether oneself, one's neighbour or God, is surely a life-long mission. We are always learning. At the heart of loving is grace and forgiveness, but also humility. If we understand love to mean willing the good of someone else then it's much more than a warm feeling, or simple toleration. It means we are making room, in our hearts and heads, for someone else to matter just as much as we do. And it's a choice, made again and again, in the direction of someone else's well-being. So humility is the midwife of, and gateway to love, and pride the reason why loving can be so difficult. We have to make room.

So friends, let's respond to God's call to love all our neighbours, in all their diversity, just as Christ loves us. In a society that seems increasingly polarised, where politicians speak of them and us, where some sections of society are ignored and devalued, let's break down barriers, within and without, and let the love of God shine forth.

Just as nothing can separate us from the love of God so let nothing separate us from the love of our neighbour.

"Father, forgive" Amen.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Coventry Cathedral is most famously known for being bombed during WW2, which in 1940 left Coventry Cathedral and much of the city centre in ruins. Coventry Cathedral's decision to respond to this destruction with forgiveness and continues to this day to be a living community rooted in reconciliation. Matthew Taylor in the service at NMMC on 25 October spoke about this.

The day after the destruction of the Old Cathedral on the 14th November 1940. Provost Dick Howard made a commitment to not seek revenge, but to strive for forgiveness and, ultimately, reconciliation with those responsible.

After the Blitz, two symbols emerged from the rubble: two charred roof-beams which had fallen in the shape of a cross were bound and placed at the site of the ruined altar.



During the BBC radio broadcast from the Cathedral ruins on Christmas Day 1940 Provost Dick Howard declared that when the war was over we should work with those who had been enemies 'to build a kinder, more Christ Child-like world.'

A service of Remembrance will take place at New Malden Methodist Church on Sunday 8th November at 10.30am led by our minister Rev. Alana Lawrence.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN *November*

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.

19 — 1781

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

21 — 1805

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

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.

NMMC: WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

Tuesday 3rd	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 5th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Creative Arts
Friday 6th	11.30am – 1.00pm	Writers Workshop
Saturday 7th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – NMMC
Sunday 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship – Revd Alana Lawrence
Tuesday 10th	10.30am	Walking Group
	2.30pm	Bereavement Cafe
Thursday 12th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis
Friday 13th	11.30am – 1.00pm	Writers Workshop
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 14th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Kidney Care UK
Sunday 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship – Denis Vernon
Tuesday 17th	10.30am	Tai Chi
	1.10pm	Lunchtime Concert
Thursday 19th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts
Friday 20th	11.30am – 1.00pm	Writers Workshop
Saturday 21st	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Inner Wheel
Sunday 22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship – David Fullbrook
Tuesday 24th	10.30am	Tai Chi
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short Tennis
	7.30 – 9.00pm	Wives & Friends
Thursday 26th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
Friday 27th	11.30am – 1.00pm	Writers Workshop
	12.30pm	Cancer Connection Group
	4.00 – 7.00pm	Christmas Fair
Saturday 28th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Charity Bake Sale – Breakthrough T1D
Sunday 29th	10.30am	Morning Worship – Duncan Lloyd