



New Malden
Methodist Church

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

Annual Report 2018 - 19

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O taste and see that the Lord is good!

Psalm 34:8

As the people of the Methodist Church, we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

Welcome

Greetings!

For over 150 years, a Methodist Church has stood on this site in New Malden, worshipping God, serving the local community and seeking to make a real difference to the world around us. That work continues to this day, and in wanting to share the good news of what happens here, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this Annual Report for 2018 - 19.

Our vision is to be the heart of the High Street, filled with and showing the love of God in all we say and do. Whether you're picking up this Report on your first visit here, or you're somebody who's been coming here all of your life, we hope this will give you an insight into the wide variety of things that go on throughout the year. While we don't have all the answers, we are loving, serving, learning and growing together, and as what follows shows, having fun along the way!

So, I hope you enjoy reading this, and that it gives you a flavour of the warm welcome, love for others, and commitment to God in this place.

Every blessing,

Karl

Rev. Dr. Karl Rutlidge, Minister



The Year in Numbers



96 Members

as of Easter Day 2019



72 Public Acts of Worship

in the 2017-18 liturgical year



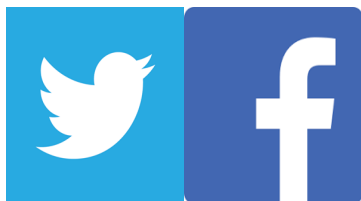
357 Days of Coffee Bar

opening in 2018 - 19 reporting period



63 Charities

supported by the Coffee Bar this year



138 Followers

on Facebook and Twitter



20 Books

sold this year through the Bookstall

The Year in Numbers



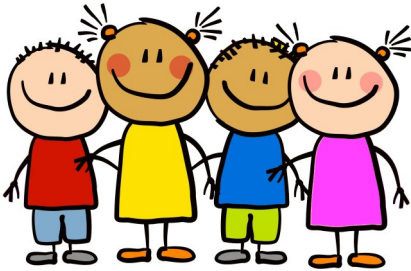
25 Organisations

aided by the Christmas Tree Festival



40 Sheep

on the High Street Sheep Trail



30 Children

having fun at the Toddler Group



1 Minister and 2 Lay Staff

working at the church



4 Key Values

Loving, learning, serving, growing



1 God

at the heart of everything

Our Offering to God: Worship

Worship remains right at the heart of life at NMMC. We have continued to explore new patterns of worship this year, with **Sunday services** including creative ways of praying and exploring God's word together, and making the best use of our projection facilities. Celebrating Holy Communion remains a focal point of our life together; we value gathering as a whole church family to share in



bread and wine. We are grateful to all those who have facilitated the **craft activities** which have enhanced our twice-monthly **all-age services**, and the many dedicated volunteers who enable youngsters in **Junior Church** to grow in faith and have fun.

This year saw the re-launch of our monthly Café Church services, as **Afternoon Tea and Chat**. After enjoying a delicious afternoon tea with scones, cream and jam (and the inevitable debate about which comes first!), tasty discussion topics offer a chance to share thoughts and ideas with one another. We hope this will continue to develop, and provide an opportunity to get to know new friends.

Beyond Sunday, we have enjoyed various **midweek services**, including joining with people from other churches in New Malden during the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. We hope that new developments will emerge in the coming year, enabling us to build relationships with some of the many people who come into the area around the High Street for work. Our **Saturday Prayers** group continues to gather faithfully, holding the prayers posted on the **Prayer Board** throughout the week. For those who cannot make it to church, we rejoice in being able to share in **Home Communions**. If you know someone who would appreciate this, do let us know. We also rejoice in our joining with others in the **Walk of Witness** on Good Friday, and **Praise in the Park**.

Special Services and Events

It has been an eventful year, with so much happening! Here are just a few highlights. Throughout the course of the year, we have taken part in events on and around the High Street, including the **Malden Fortnight** celebrations, where we had a street stall (right). Another of our contributions was the new **Community Celebration Service**. In November, our Minister led the annual **Remembrance** service, this year marking a century since the ending of World War One. We also celebrated the annual **Harvest Festival** (below), and collected items for our local Food Bank.



One of the busiest times of the year for us is Advent and Christmas, and 2018 was no exception. Around forty **sheep** found temporary homes in shops along the High Street, and returned to celebrate the birth of Jesus at the very popular **Christingle** service (bottom left).

We also rejoiced in the beauty of the **Christmas Tree Festival**, which raises money for many good causes, and welcomed hundreds of folk into the church for the **Christmas Fayre** (right).

Music forms an important part of the life of the church, and highlights included the **Lessons and Carols** at Christmas time, and **Music for Good Friday** during

Holy Week. We excitedly await the completion of the organ refurbishment. Other events include the egg-citing **Easter Egg Competition**, the flipping amazing **Pancake Party**, and the celebration of major birthdays for congregation members. On a sad note, we have also said goodbye to several friends within the past year, who are now at rest with God.



Church Life: Music

On Good Friday in 2018, we celebrated the twentieth consecutive year of ecumenical **Good Friday Music** at NMMC with Part 2 of Handel's *Messiah*, a chorus of nearly fifty drawn from all of the churches within New Malden and several beyond, an orchestra and a very full church. In October, several of us joined singers from New Malden URC, Kingston Methodist and United Reformed Churches for a **Hymnfest**, which Peter Bullett (our Director of Music) led, over in Kingston. Old, familiar, and very new hymns and songs were sung; one from the sixteenth century and one written in April last year! All this was in addition to the **Music Group** loyally and enthusiastically leading the singing at Sunday services .



In some ways, this year was very much one of anticipating the refurbishment of the **organ**, the absence of which we have regarded as being an opportunity rather than a problem, using piano and horn in our service of **Lessons and Carols** at Christmas, together with appropriately seasonal music on CD, and a keyboard for the very well-supported **Community Carols** led outside the church. The old organ was becoming

increasingly unreliable, its pitch was too high to be used comfortably with other instruments, and the electrics and organ chamber layout did not meet modern standards. It has been rebuilt across three manuals, some new stops added and digital action installed.



The **rededication of the organ** is scheduled for June, and an **Organ Festival** is planned for July that will feature three leading organists from different traditions, including an accompanied silent film! Consequently, there is much to celebrate, to look forward to, and to give thanks for.

Church Life: Small Groups



The life of the church is not limited to what happens on a Sunday, and a range of small groups and gatherings provide opportunities for study, learning, friendship, sharing the ups and downs of life, and even exercise!

3Fs (Faith, Food and Fellowship) continues to meet in people's homes for delicious food, conversation (and perhaps a glass of something). The focus is on stimulating discussion about issues of concern to our faith, often related to current affairs. For those of an energetic disposition, the church hosts two **Badminton** groups, which meet on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm. The Juniors group welcomes youngsters aged between 11 and 17, and the Seniors welcomes adults. Both have a smashing time!

Several people in the church belong to **House Groups**, which are a great way to get to know others, explore faith and deepen discipleship. Other groups meet regularly at the church, including the **Friday Fellowship** on the first Friday of the month. This is an informal group, who support one another in life's ups and downs over coffee and cake, with a focus on Christian values. Another popular gathering is the **Wednesday Fellowship** led by Donald Finnan, in which members explore the Bible together and learn from one another. In recent months, they have been studying Philipians, and learning more about the Holy Spirit. New members are always welcome!

This year was significant for another of our small groups, as the **Wives and Friends** celebrated their diamond anniversary with a three-course meal and a display of memorabilia and photos. Their fundraising efforts raised £320 for Toilet Twinning - the certificates are in the toilets in the foyer! Their work represents just one example of how working together to make a difference is key to who we are at NMMC. This was, therefore, a year with much to celebrate!



Offering to New Malden: Outreach

NMMC's outreach takes a variety of forms, some of which focus on things very close to home, and some of which encompass concerns around the world.

Perhaps the most obvious when people visit the church is the **Coffee Bar**, which is a place to enjoy a good cuppa, receive a warm welcome and meet friends. This year, the proceeds will be donated to both **Home Start** and **Literacy in a Box**. As part



of the development of our outreach, the Coffee Bar will soon be branded as Wesley's. We are aiming to widen its use by community groups, and to build new partnerships.

Two examples of this are the new **Bereavement Café**, started in conjunction with the Princess Alice Hospice to provide a listening space open to anybody who has been bereaved, and the **Memory Café**, which supports those suffering from dementia and other related conditions. They meet on the second Tuesday and second Wednesday of the month, respectively. Another new initiative is **Make Lunch**, which started in July and provides a hot lunch for school-aged children normally entitled to free school meals, and their families, during the half-term and school holidays. To date, sixty-one lunches have been served, and leftovers are for guests to take home and enjoy.

Through activities like **Charity Coffee Mornings** and the **Christmas Tree Festival**, we have raised money for a range of causes throughout the year, including **Action for Children** and **Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship**. Gifts were sent to the **Food Bank** at both Harvest and Christmas, and a combination of two quizzes, a bread and cheese lunch, and extra coffee mornings, together with a contribution from the Good Friday music event, saw just under £1,700 raised for **Christian Aid**, helping victims of Hurricane Matthew in the Caribbean. Our knitters enabled scarves, mittens, hats and teddy bears to be delivered to the **Wings of Hope** nursery in Johannesburg.

This is just a snapshot of the ways in which faithful service of others shapes our life!

Children and Young People

Our work with children and young people extends far beyond Sunday mornings, but this is a key part of our efforts to nurture and encourage our youngest members. This year, it has been a pleasure to see new helpers join **Junior Church**, which usually runs on two Sundays each month, to complement our **all-age worship**. Their work enables children and young people to grow in faith, and to build friendships. We also encourage children to take part in Sunday services as they feel comfortable - in the last year, the range of activities has covered everything from taking the collection to rescuing 'lost' sheep scattered around the church! During all-age services, **craft activities** are available for anyone who wishes to join in.

Our **Toddler Group** gathers on a Thursday for a busy and happy time of play for toddlers and their carers. Toys are shared, refreshments are eaten, songs are sung and friendships made!



In encouraging children to be involved in God's mission in Britain and throughout the world, **Junior Mission for All** provides an opportunity to serve others. This past year saw over £800 raised for charity, and certificates were presented in February to all of those who had taken part. The **London Generate** gathering for young people within the London District of the Methodist Church was attended by both Julia (our Families Worker) and young people from churches across Kingston.



Several **Uniformed Organisations** meet at NMMC, including two Brownie Packs and one Guides group. This summer marks the final year for the 2nd New Malden Brownie pack. Having enjoyed activities ranging from circus skills to stargazing and a royal tea party, their last event will be a Pack Holiday at Heyswood in July.

Communications

Good communication - both internally and externally - is vital for any organisation if it is to function well, and churches are no exception. One of the key developments in this past year concerns how we communicate with those who are new to the church, and as a result, **new signs** are coming soon to the building, and **new leaflets** will be available to take away. Watch this space for further developments!



With the help of Kingston Voluntary Action, we are also looking to redevelop our **web site** and make better use of various **social media** platforms. This will complement our **monthly newsletter** - which contains details of forthcoming events, write-ups of the things that have recently taken place, church news (in New Malden and beyond!) and the puzzles page - and **weekly notices**, both of which are also available online.

Our paper-based communications will also be available to take away from the new **Welcome Boards**, coming soon to both the front entrance to the building and the rear doors often used by visitors and user groups. We hope this will make it easier for you to keep in touch, and to find out more when you drop in for a cuppa.

If you want to know more about the Christian faith, we have a **Bookstall** with a range of titles for all ages to choose from, including the *Methodist Prayer Handbook* and *Fresh from the Word* (with daily Bible readings). Suggestions for new books to stock and requests for particular titles are always welcome.

Our Thanksgiving

It is inevitable over the course of a year that there are many notes of thanksgiving to be offered, and if everyone were to be listed, this Report would be very long indeed!

However, we would like to offer particular thanks to the following people:

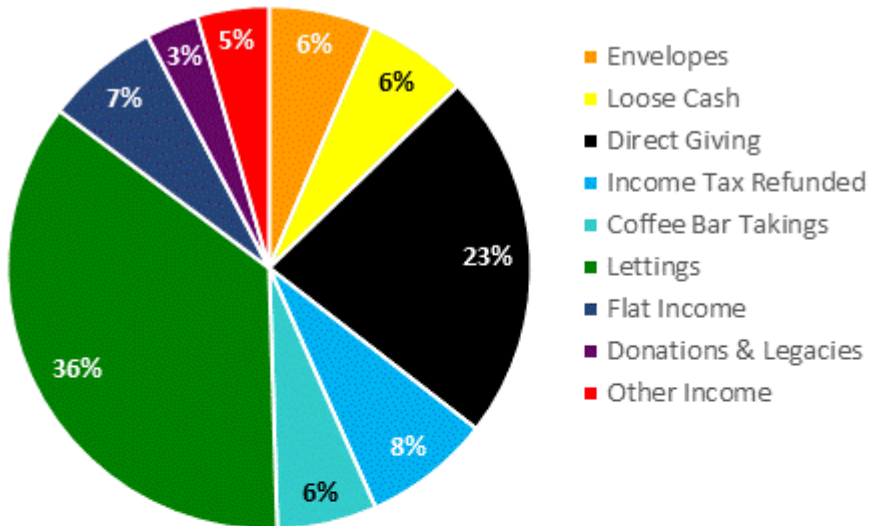
- All those who contributed reports from their groups and activities
- Sarah Moore for collating the information contained in this Report, and Alan Vincent, Peter Bullett and Karl Rutlidge for the use of their photographs.
- Our Pastoral Visitors, especially Jane Bennett, who has resigned as a Visitor after many years of faithful service
- Julia Morton for her leadership in our activities with children and young people, and all who volunteer at everything from Toddlers to Brownies. In particular, as the 2nd New Malden Brownie Pack moves towards its final event in July, we thank Sue Bradley and Julie Haines for bringing much fun and laughter.
- Sue Abell and Doreen Downey for looking after the Bookstall and Card Shop, respectively, and enabling us to offer these resources to the local community.
- All our Coffee Bar volunteers, and those who give up their time to enable the many other outreach activities outlined in this Report to happen. In particular, as she prepares to go to university, we thank Lucy Turner for all her efforts in raising funds for Action for Children through running several coffee mornings.
- Mick Taviner and the Property Committee for keeping the church building in such good condition throughout the year.

We also fondly remember all those connected to New Malden Methodist Church who have died within the past year, and their families and friends. May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.



Income for 2017 - 18 Financial Year

The following chart shows the income breakdown for 2017 - 18:



The figures for each category are listed in the table below:

Income for y/e 31st August	£
Envelopes	10,173.60
Loose Cash	10,008.06
Direct Giving	35,918.79
Income Tax Refunded	12,379.91
Interest Received	191.47
Lettings	56,455.11
Flat Income	11,175.00
Donations	1,205.00
Other Income	1,050.00
Legacies	3,905.00
Coffee Bar Takings	9,724.69
Make Lunch Project	2,550.00
Charity Fundraising	3,236.37

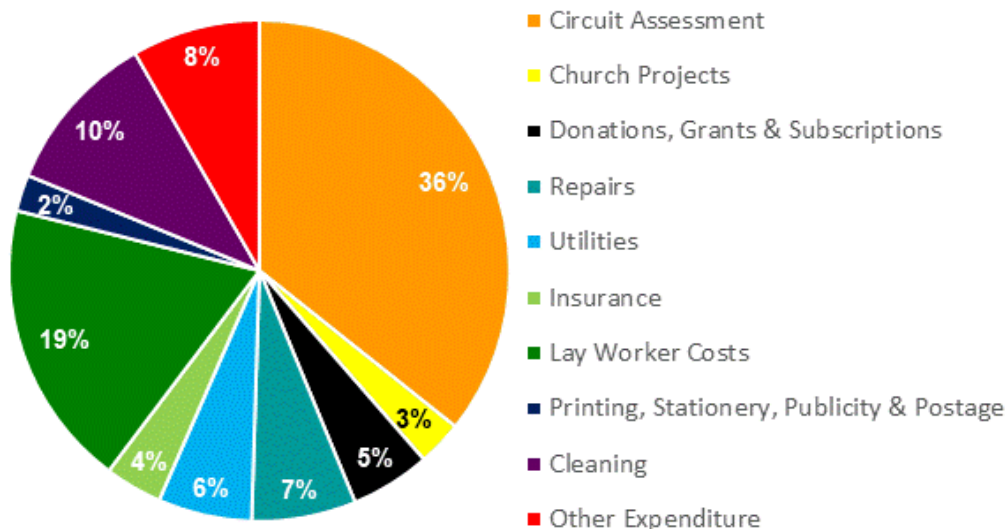
The main sources of our income were congregational giving, and rent from the letting of our property. The majority of giving now comes through direct giving.

Thanks to generous donations from both members and friends, we have raised the funds required for the refurbishment of the church organ, and we therefore look forward to the concerts which are planned for when the work is finished.

We have been able to reclaim around £15,500 through the Gift Aid scheme.

Outgoings for 2017-18 Financial Year

The following chart shows the expenditure breakdown for 2017 - 18:



The figures for each category are listed in the table below. We make a contribution to the stipends of the three ministers in the Kingston upon Thames Circuit, and employ two lay workers, which accounts for the two largest areas of expenditure.

Expenditure for y/e 31st August	£
Circuit Assessment	49,263.01
Church Projects	4,000.00
Donations, Grants & Subscriptions	7,140.00
Repairs	9,304.48
Utilities	8,384.05
Insurance	5,124.19
Lay Worker Costs	25,649.52
Printing, Stationery, Publicity & Postage	3,242.88
Cleaning	14,520.84
Other Expenditure	11,418.81

The church boilers have been in need of attention this year, the redecoration of both the Upper and Lower Halls has been completed, and various routine tasks have been undertaken to keep the building in a good standard of repair. We also received specific funding for Make Lunch.



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The **Methodist** Church 