



**New Malden
Methodist Church**
At the heart of the High Street

Lockdown Life

**Issue 12:
March 2021**

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Church Family News

Nicky Horton

On Wednesday 24th February this message was posted on Facebook from Neil, Adam and Connor Horton:

Nicky came home from the Hospice last week but her condition continued to deteriorate. We're sad to say Nicky passed away peacefully at home this morning.

Those who knew her knew she was an amazing force of nature and left a positive impact on everyone she met. We're heartbroken but we know her memory will live on in those who knew and loved her.

Instead of sending cards and flowers, we have set up a JustGiving page where we would love for you to donate to her favourite charities in her memory. www.justgiving.com/team/NickyHorton

Thank you again for all the love and support in the last couple of months, we know she appreciated all those who reached out and showed love while she was ill.

Covid permitting, we will have a celebration of life later in the year. We hope to see you there.

There are some memories of Nicky later on in this issue.

Jenny Reid

Jenny is about to start radiotherapy on her recently diagnosed brain tumour. Please remember her in your prayers.

Karl Rutlidge

Please pray for Karl on Sunday morning, as he goes for a CT scan on his heart.



This year Christian Aid is celebrating its 75th Anniversary!

'Christian Aid was founded 75 years ago, by real people like you, coming together at the end of World War Two – determined to live out Jesus' teaching to love their neighbour, by offering love and care to those in need. Instead of focusing only on rebuilding their own lives, they raised an incredible amount of money to help refugees across Europe. But this was only the beginning.

Over the following decades this became the inspiration for a movement of people bringing real change right across the world – empowering communities to break the cycle of poverty and look forward to a more hopeful future.'

What an amazing difference Christian Aid has made to so many people over the years but, sadly, the need for help continues. Christian Aid will always be there bringing hope to those in desperate situations and giving communities the means to help themselves out of poverty, as long as we, the ordinary people, continue to support the organisation. So let us see what we can do this Christian Aid Week!

Last year Christian Aid Week was cancelled because of the pandemic but I was still able to send a total of £657.44 to Christian Aid as our church continued to give an annual donation – this time a very generous £500. I also had the proceeds of a coffee morning held earlier in the year before lockdown. This year CA Week will go ahead but in a different format. Those churches who still collect door-to-door will only be able to deliver envelopes and these will have been especially adapted to give notice of a local 'drop off' point for the donations. As far as our church is concerned, we will not be able to have our usual coffee mornings or Bread and Cheese Lunch and, as we no longer collect house-to-house, our challenge is to think up fresh ways of fund raising! Any ideas will be gratefully received!

Just before lockdown last March, under the heading 'Small Change – Big Difference' I distributed a few jam jars for the purpose of collecting any loose change for Christian Aid. I wonder if any of you have continued to save a penny or two over the year? If not, how about starting now? Tony and I will be very happy to collect any full jars during CA Week.

Finally, I have decided it is time for me to step down as Christian Aid Organiser to make way for a younger, more energetic and, crucially, more computer literate person! If anyone would like to take on this worthwhile job, please contact me (020 8942 6867) or Karl for more information – we would love to hear from you.

Many thanks, Jennifer Townsend

Nicky Horton

18th October 1969 – 24th February 2021

From Neil, Adam and Connor

Nicola Ruth Sidding was born on the 18th of October 1969 to Glenda and Ken in Sutton Coldfield.

She grew up in Litchfield with her younger brother Mark and a budgie called Sam.



Nicky aged 3

She went to the Stow School, Chadsmead School and Friary Grange School which she couldn't wait to leave. She was very inquisitive as a young child and Glenda had taught her to read before she started school. Glenda also taught her dressmaking and how to knit. She was very musical and had lessons in the recorder, cello and piano. She went to church for the first time as a baby and joined Sunday school. She did Brownies and Guides through the church. She got bored at Brownies but very much enjoyed the Guides and went on to achieve her Queens Guide Award, not that she told many people. The church had a youth fellowship and with them she regularly went away to Dolgellau (dolly jelly) to a cottage up a mountain. It had a wood burning fire, no electric and the water was from a stream but she loved it. She also would talk about how much she enjoyed MAYC London weekends. She had loads of friends at both church and school and used to spend a lot of her time in 'the burger bar'. On weekends they used to go to Enots sports and social club where live music was played.

One weekend, Nicky's cousin Paul brought his best friend Neil to knock down Nicky's dad's brick shed. This was the first time Nicky, 12 at the time, would meet her future husband, Neil, but they didn't take much notice of each other except for a couple of woolly pom poms fights.

She was a bit of a handful when she was a teenager, she famously got into an after party following an Iron Maiden concert with her friend Claire when she was just 16 without telling her parents she had even gone into Birmingham. She would sometimes have arguments with her parents and one time she was gone for 5 hours because she had got lost after storming off!

At one point she was dating three people at the same time. No one knows who they all were and no one knows how she was able to juggle all those people but she did, she was so damn organised.

She left school after she did O-Levels. Her biology teacher told her she would never get anywhere in biology, so naturally she went to college and got an A-level in it. She managed to get her A-levels despite spending most of her time in the pub.

Paul worked in Birmingham and lived with Nicky for about a year and he would come back to London for the weekend for concerts. Paul had his 21st birthday at Nicky's and his friends came up for his birthday, including Neil. Nicky and Neil would cross paths every now and again but they didn't pay much attention to each other. In 1987 Neil's friends organised a surprise party for his 21st birthday. This is when Nicky would properly meet Neil. They hit it off immediately and from that date they were almost inseparable. Neil would drive up to Litchfield and Nicky would get the train to London, alternating weekends until she finished her A-levels when Neil went to pick her up on Saturday and she moved out. She moved in with her Grandma in London and got a job at a cheese shop on Goodge Street with Beth, a friend from the Sailing club. The whole shop was refrigerated and at the end of the day she'd get on the packed train and would always get a seat because she stank. She joined the church that her family went to in New Malden that summer and made many friends there.

She lived with her Grandma for the summer, working and dating Neil while he was living in his own flat in Stonecot Hill. She moved in with Neil in 1988 and she got a job at East Surrey Hospital working in biomedical science. They didn't have much money but spent most of their free time at Albany Park or out with their friends.

Neil proposed to Nicky at the viewpoint on Boxhill in 1988. Neil and Nicky were married on 4th August, 1990 by her mum Glenda in Castleford in a tin shed on the hottest day of the year.

Her first car was a small black Mini. It was such a knackered car, she drove it to Redhill one day and took the key out of the ignition and it didn't stop running. She enjoyed driving it so much that when she got her second car she got a mini again, yellow this time and her and Neil spent lots of time working on it.

When Neil's family sold Liquid Nitrogen supplies in 1991 they purchased their first house, 51 Walsingham Gardens, Stoneleigh. The house needed a lot of work, all the plumbing and electrics were replaced and it was about 6 months before they finally moved in. The Garden needed a lot of work too and this is where Nicky's interest in plants turned into an interest in gardening.

In 1992 she started a Shell Club at the church in New Malden with Gary Tyrrell and Stella Chattle. It was a massive success for over 15 years. Shell Club were well known for their extravagant Malden fortnight parade floats and the weekend away.

Through work she did a part time HNC course. Once she had completed it she wanted to go to complete the HND but the college didn't have enough students to finish running the course so she was offered a place on the Masters Degree course which she took.

While she was working in East Surrey she often used her own blood as the control for all sorts of tests. On one particular day she used her blood as a control for a pregnancy test and it had just so happened she was pregnant and didn't know.

Her first child, Adam Harry Horton was born in October, 1994. He was a pleasant surprise despite having to cancel a German holiday they had saved up for and buy carpet instead.



The All Things Bright and Beautiful float in 1995 from Katherine Knowles

In 1997 she left Redhill and got a job at King's College hospital in London. She was doing genetic testing, which back then was ground-breaking technology and mainly done by hand. In February 2000, her second child Connor was born. Childcare was expensive so financially it made sense for her to leave work even though she loved it. When Connor got a little older she started working with Virgin Vie. She went from being an agent to being a manager and had at least 15 people under her at one point. She really enjoyed it but as it was a full time business it was quite tiring. As a manager she encouraged her team to exceed their targets which earned her bonuses, including an invite to Richard Branson's garden party and weekends away at Alton Towers and Bath. When Virgin Vie was taken over in 2009 she decided that she wouldn't carry on.



A photo from the late 1990s from Gillian Gillman



with Baby Connor

In 2005 she decided she was going to go back to work. She started at a new job at Blenheim High School just as Adam was looking into secondary schools and Connor had started school. She was a Science Technician for 2 years until she was promoted to the Senior Science Technician role. From there on she was heavily involved with the Science Department, running it from an organisational perspective and her team of technicians were runners up in a National Science Technicians Award 2016. She organised the festival of science, a 2-day event for local primary schools as well as lessons in a box for those schools to use throughout the year. As well as her day job, she also founded and ran the science club, drove the minibus for school trips and sports events, and was heavily involved in the backstage running and make up for the school productions.

In early 2017 she was diagnosed with malignant melanoma. Even though she had been given the cancer free news just 6 months later, the treatments and operations meant that she was too tired to work and so decided to retire in December 2018.

She spent most of her time meeting up with friends for lunch, going to Wisley, helping out at church, going on walks and going to the gym. She was never home.



In 2002 at Helen Currie's 40th birthday party



Dressed up for her Halloween Walk

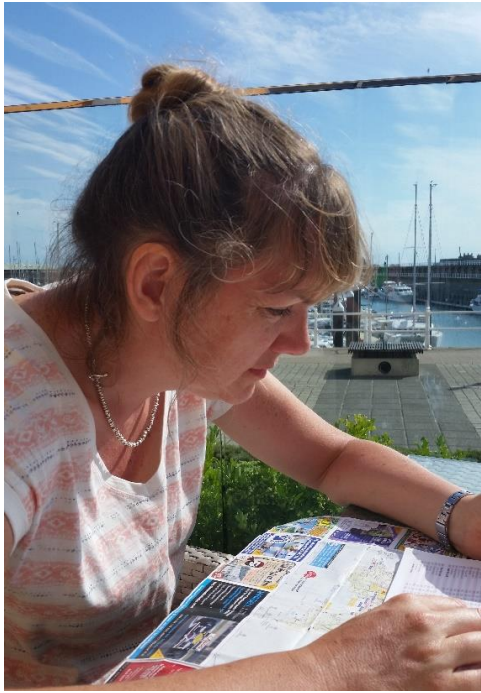
Nicky enjoyed walking which was something she did more and more once she retired. She often would complete organised walks and raise money for charity. She completed 4 Marsden Marches, 7 Action Challenge challenges some of which were over 50km long. She also did walking challenges like the melanoma 1000 challenge where she walked over 1000 miles in under 6 months. Even when her events were cancelled she would still set herself challenges like walking 100km in just a month to raise money for charities that were close to her.

Nicky and Neil enjoyed going on holiday together. They went to Paris, Jersey, Barcelona, Canterbury, Cambridge and Rye just to name a few. Nicky had planned to go on a road trip around New York and Boston over her 50th birthday, mainly to avoid a large party. Unfortunately, things didn't work out but her and Neil did go on a cruise

which they never shut up about. They had an amazing time and made some really good friends. They saw the Northern Lights, went to Lapland and saw reindeer, they very much enjoyed the unlimited food and entertainment on the ship. They did many excursions to Norwegian towns and enjoyed walking around and exploring them.



Sitting in a big chair in Jersey on 25th wedding anniversary



Always planning

Then Covid happened. She was told to shut herself away which was very unlike Nicky but that didn't stop her walking. She would walk laps around the garden to the point where she wore a path around the grass. 40 laps to the mile and she'd walk just over 2 miles a day. As lockdown started to be lifted she went on sneaky night walks around the local area and socially distanced driveway meetups. Once things opened up more she was back out, mainly for lunches and walks and definitely made the most of the eat out to help out scheme. Neil and Nicky were also going to the cinema at least once a week and even managed to go on holiday to Cambridge and Lyme Regis before lockdown happened again. In the small gap in December between



She hated having her photo taken!

lockdowns she managed to organise a trip to London in a friend's black cab to see the Christmas lights. Nicky and her family had a great evening with drinks and snacks in the cab and not getting home until midnight. She began feeling ill the following day and passed away on the 24th February 2021.

Nicky always had a positive outlook and remained positive until the end.



Wearing the jumper that she had just finished knitting and the medals from her many walks.

Nicky – Snapshot of a friend - Sue Abell

Around 30 years ago, I was Sunday school teacher in the Primary Department, and needed someone to run the sessions with me. A church member, Liz Swift mentioned that her niece was looking for a church to attend, and would be happy to join me on a Sunday morning... And so I met Nicky. We made a good partnership; Nicky loved organising the activities for the group - crafts, model making etc, and I enjoyed telling the story of the week, so there was never any debate over who should do what!

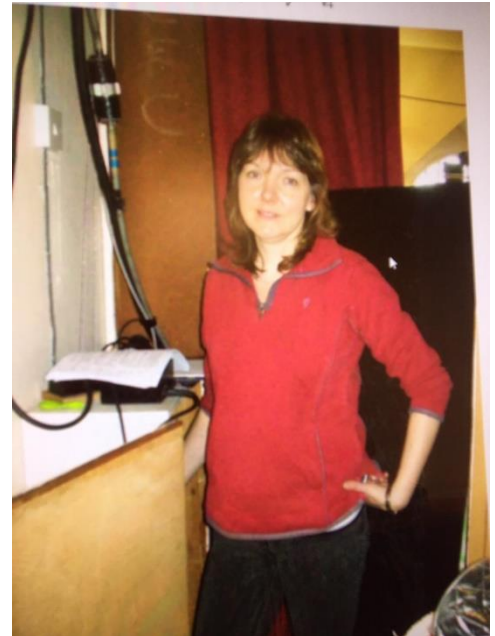
From that time, we became friends. Having children around the same time meant that we shared experiences - we became regulars at creche, and Nicky's warm and welcoming nature meant that as others gave creche a go, they would stay. Our friendship group expanded, and we all often went out for trips with our children as they grew up.

She was part of the 'Young Mums' group, although Nicky insisted on calling it 'Friday Fellowship' when she felt the name was no longer applicable (I can't think why she thought that!). It has been great that we have continued to meet weekly throughout lockdown by zoom, and I'm so glad Nicky was able to join us right up to a couple of weeks ago.

Nicky has been such a key part of Church life; setting up Shell Club, managing backstage at the Pantos, organising Junior Church, to name just a few of the many activities she has supported.



Panto Crew



Over the years, I have known Nicky to be a positive person, who never let aspects of life get her down, and I am full of admiration for the way she faced her illness – she never complained, but handled each new development without any self-pity. She used her enjoyment of long walks to raise money for her favourite charities – most recently cancer-based charities that were so important to her.

Lockdown was a bit of a challenge to her positivity, as she missed seeing people in person, so as soon as we could meet outside, she made sure that we did; and we transferred our weekly Friday Fellowship chat to group members' gardens, starting with hers (just to set the standard of her beautiful garden and providing home-made cakes!)

Nicky was a lovely friend – warm, accepting, and inclusive. She loved to chat, but she always had time for others. Sarah reminded me that the last time we saw Nicky face to face was when the three of us went out for lunch to celebrate her birthday last October. As usual we had a bottle of 'pink' wine – Nicky's favourite. We miss her, and will raise a glass to her together as soon as we are able.

Sue Abell



With church friends in Devon - Sarah Moore, Jennie Morton, Sue Bradley, Sue Abell, Charlotte Fitzgerald and Kelly Jackson. At a Christmas afternoon cheese tea in 2019 with Sue Bradley and at Becky Edwards' wedding



From Greta Curry

Nicky was a person who was always willing to have a go at something new. We first worked together when I was a church steward and she was invited to be a junior steward. This was a new appointment suggested by the Reverend Robert Jones to train younger members of the church just for one year, their idea being they had experience in the vestry when they had the time and commitment to become a four year steward.

Another job she took on was editor of the church newsletter, when Peter Catford was minister. He phoned her a month ago and they both told me what a good chat they enjoyed.

What Nicky will always be remembered for will be Shell Club. With the help of Gary Tyrell, Stella Chattle, Margaret Sydney and I in the background, we had great times together. Not only did we meet each week but we would have the odd day out on a Saturday, visiting special places. Every November we had a weekend away, staying in a church and enjoying working, learning, playing, walking and just having a fun time together.

Another group Nicky has been involved in for many years was the Young Mums, who later changed its name to Friday Fellowship. Nicky has been a loyal and valuable friend ever since she started coming to the group. Despite having a demanding job she arranged her hours to attend each Friday morning. It has meant so much to me to see the girls in church on Sunday mornings.

It is sad to think we will never see Nicky again, but we all have happy memories of the fun and fellowship she brought into our lives. Well done Nicky.

Greta Curry

From Sarah Moore



These photos were taken at a Shell club weekend away in 2006, one of Nicky typically busy with a crafty activity – hama beading - and a group on a walk. Both my girls were on this weekend. They enjoyed Shell Club hugely and made lifelong friends. Gillian Gillman is going to contact Elvis and Elvira as Shell Club meant so much to them in the four years they lived in New Malden as refugees from Albania.

I was always amazed at Nicky's energy and drive. She was constantly on the go and had a huge thirst for knowledge and a joy in being with young people in many different activities. She was always interested in everything. Even when sitting down, she would always be doing something – a puzzle, some knitting or reading a book. She devoted many hours to her beloved garden and she was a great baker as well - her chocolate cake was legendary.

We bonded over shared interests, our children and our love of the rock band Queen. She is one of the few people I have ever met who drank as much tea as I do and I will miss drinking many cups of tea with her whilst we put the worlds to rights.

Peter Catford said that Nicky was a joy to know and be known by, a fitting tribute.

Nicky's family have set up a JustGiving page where they would love for you to donate to her favourite charities in her memory. www.justgiving.com/team/NickyHorton

This page has raised £2858 so far for the three charities.

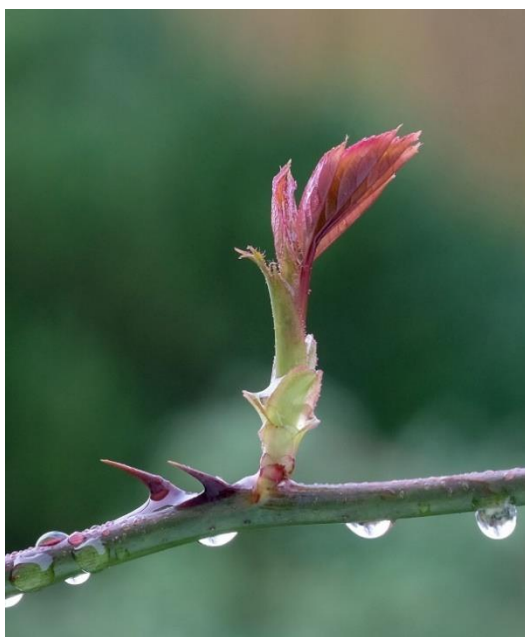
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT


Princess Alice
Hospice


MELANOMAUK

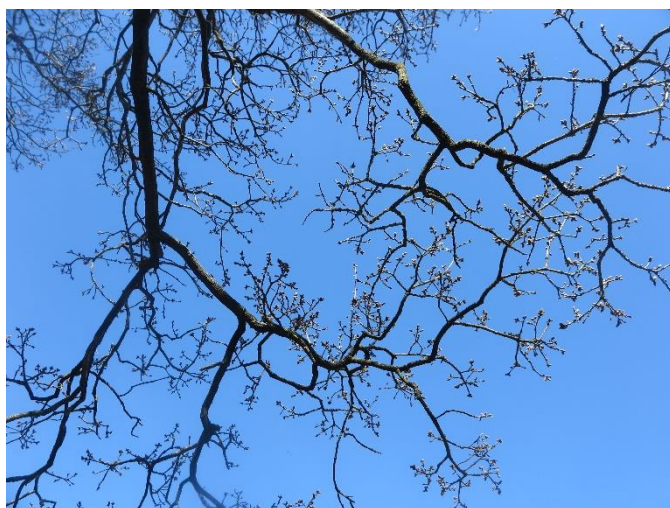
New Life Photography Competition

The winner is this beautiful photograph by Alan Vincent



A huge thank you to everyone who sent a photo. They are all printed here as they give such a wonderful display of many types of new life which hopefully will cheer people with a taste of Spring.

From Eleanor Roberts, some lovely nature pictures





Here are two generations of the Bullett family enjoying the Spring. On the left is Alison and Peter's daughter Vicky and on the right is Vicky's daughter Otilie.



Barbara Cavalier sent these wonderful signs of Spring from her garden.



The next photos are from Jenny Bray who writes,

They were taken by my youngest daughter Etta Miller (eight-years-old) of our new puppy, Nellie. We got Nellie at eight-weeks-old on 23rd January. She is a Golden Retriever.

We named her Nellie as it means 'shining light'. Not only is she light in colour but we hoped she would bring light to our lives after a pretty bleak year - and she has certainly done that! Even though she has only been with us less than a month, Etta and her sister Alice (now nine-years-old) adore her already. And they got the added bonus of getting to take her out in the garden in the sprinkling of snow we had recently!

Etta especially has wanted a dog practically since birth! In fact, I am pretty sure her first word was 'dog'! Her favourite breed has always been the Golden Retriever. So getting Nellie is like a dream come true for her!

Etta and Nellie



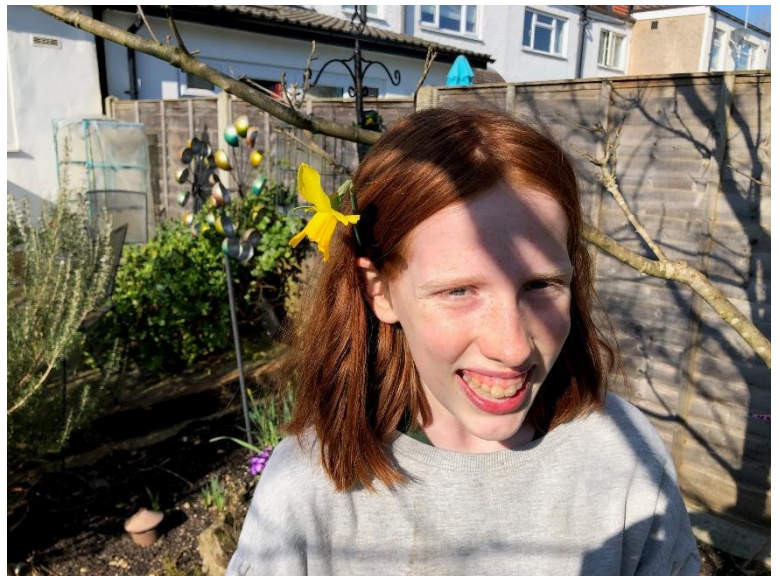
Alice and Nellie





This is Karl's contribution, from the bank of the Thames near Teddington Lock

And finally Isabel sporting a lovely spring hair accessory!



Mental Health Tips

I recently came across a BBC video clip talking about looking after our mental health during lockdown. I was rather taken by it and thought others might find it useful. In it Dr Radha Modgil from BBC Radio 1 shares her top five tips on how to stay mentally and emotionally well during the coronavirus lockdown.

Hilary Warner

1. Control

Work out what you're in control of and what you're not in control of. We can control some things so for example following expert medical guidance around hand washing, social distancing and self-isolation. These things are really important and by being proactive about them and feeling like you're in control of those things it will help you feel better.

Then work out what you're not in control of and write a list of those things down. Every time one of those things comes into your head, recognise it as something you can't control and try to let go of it to maintain your emotional energy.

2. Care

By this I mean self-care so making sure you're getting up at the same time, you're washing, you're getting dressed, you're brushing your teeth, you're having a good sleep, you're getting active and doing some exercise. These are all things that will help your mental and emotional wellbeing right now.

3. Continuity

In a world that's changing very rapidly we need to find our grounding, our normality. So watching the same programmes you watch normally, listening to the same radio shows you always listen to. This will all help you with that sense of normality and groundedness right now.

4. Creativity

Creativity is really, really going to help us right now. So hobbies like crafting, painting, singing, drumming, dancing, DIY, whatever it might be, just get into that because it will help take your mind away from all those worries and anxieties.

5. Compassion

This last C is really important – it's compassion and by this I mean kindness. So kindness to yourself if you're having a difficult day by talking to someone and asking for their support. But also kindness to other people – we need to look after everyone in our society and we can all do that by being kind. So do what you can to be kind to others. Take care and stay safe.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/newsbeat-52411394

Music in New Malden Sunday 14th March 2021 at 3pm

This month's MiNM concert comprises a single work

Mozart's *Kegelstatt* Trio in E-flat K.498
played by Ensemble DeNOTE



Jane Booth – clarinet

Peter Collyer – viola

John Irving – fortepiano

It is a streamed recording of this marvellous work, anecdotally composed by Mozart in a skittle alley!

If you would like a taster, you can hear something about the work and a snippet by following this link
<https://youtu.be/IfCmDjxVmn8>

If you are not on the MiNM E-mailing list, you can find the concert from 3pm on Sunday 14th by searching on YouTube for "Music in New Malden".

We also wanted to let you know of Music in New Malden's involvement in the forthcoming **Ruth Gipps centenary celebration** online which is taking place on Monday 8th March at 17.45, marking International Women's Day.

This centennial symposium, features an hour of musicmaking and discussion marking 100 years since the composer's birth. You may register for this event using the following link. A small donation is required, anything from £1. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ruth-gipps-a-centennial-symposium-tickets-141989499415>

Next Issue

The Easter weekend is right at the beginning of April so please send in anything relevant to Easter.

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at nmmc@hotmail.co.uk (or in longhand through my door or the church door 😊), no later than Wednesday 31st March. I am happy to receive anything you think might be of interest: memories, lockdown experiences, news of members, advice for life, etc.
