



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

Lockdown Life

Issue 17

September 2021

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Invitation from Neil, Adam and Connor Horton

We would like to invite you to a celebration of Nicky Horton's life, at the church on Saturday September 11th at 2pm.

If you would like to be there please email neil_horton@ntlworld.com or 07939111043 just so that we have an idea of numbers.

We would also like to invite you to an evening party which will be at Claygate Village Hall so please let us know if you would like to come along to that too. We are planning on doing a Covid friendly buffet or something similar so please let us know if you have any special dietary needs.

Do you have any photos of Nicky or any stories of your time together, no matter how short they are or how long ago it was? Please would you share them with us? We are attempting to put together a mini biography of Nicky's life and really need your input to complete it. Also, if you would like to say a few words at the celebration service, please let us know, as we would like that very much.

Nicky's final fundraiser, has raised a total of £5700 (£4537 plus gift aid plus a few direct donations) for MacMillan, Princess Alice Hospice and Melanoma UK. I know Nicky would have found this quite astounding! The fundraising page is still open if you didn't quite get around to it

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/NickyHorton>

Best wishes to everyone, Neil Adam and Connor

Congratulation to Sung-Hyui and Richard who were married by Karl here on Saturday 21st August.

The couple were delighted with their special service which was small and personal.

Both families were clearly very happy to celebrate the union of two special people.



Julie Haines

Most of you will know by now that Julie had a fall on Wednesday 4th August and broke her hip. The break was so serious that it took two weeks for a team and a “selection of bolts and joints” to be put together to repair Julie’s very badly damaged joint. Now a week after surgery, Julie has sent us a description of her day ...

Day 20. 6am, ward starts to wake as nurse does rounds of blood pressure and temperature. Quiet again for about 45 mins then the day begins with the vampire lady (!) who comes to take blood for testing. Then the meds trolley with the painkillers, vitamins and all other drugs, plus the second needle of the day, a blood thinner so no blood clots whilst you are lying on your back.

Now breakfast choice - fruit salad, porridge or a small section of cereals, scrambled egg and toast and marmalade (not as good as mine!!). Then the ‘wash and brush up’ before the doctors rounds. Well, the ‘top Dog’ is Mr Chilli with his Entourage. He wears shirts to rival my Chris’s waistcoats. He is the medical one who keeps us all well, our pain low and our bowels moving whilst the next are the relevant surgeon’s group who just fuss they have done some neat sewing and let you know either when they plan to cut you open or how well they think they did and when they think you might be weight baring on that leg. For me this will perhaps be 1st Sept which will have meant 4 weeks since the fall. (hip replacements have you on your feet in 2 days.)

So the day goes on. Canulas for drips (more needles) and physios to get you exercising even if you can’t get off your bed, stretching calf and thigh muscles etc.

Ohh it’s 12 30pm lunch bell quite a good choice of basic soup, main and desert but the menu is only for a week so when writing this I am starting my 4th week rotation.

Then more blood pressure, temps and oral meds then visiting time. Only one person a day for 45 mins and the physios are back.

Being on the top floor of the hospital I look out over towards Roehampton estate flat on Putney Hill and well beyond on a good day and great sunsets in the evening.

The afternoon rolls on. The 3pm tea lady arrives - she knows exactly what I will want and just places the mug of coffee down. There is very nice cake I am told but I have been very good and ignored that.

5 30pm dinner bell (now try to remember what you ordered this morning. I would recommend the hot quiche and side salad + ice cream).

Now it's more meds and blood pressure time. Then a staff handover when they all vanish for feedback on the day's events. 8pm new team in and they are grumbling about all the chores the day team have not done and where they have left things differently to how the night team would prefer. It is so amusing to watch these events as staff want to get us all finished and comfortable for lights out at 10pm.

More blood pressure and meds and the second blood thinner jab at 9 30 pm and a hope for 8 hours sleep.

Thought you might like a glance of my left arm where they have taken blood daily - great colours!

Many thanks to all for prayers and texts and emails. Hoping to be with you in time for the Harvest service even just on crutches. Julie



Karl's Lockdown

To say that the past eighteen months has been challenging for me is somewhat of an understatement! When 2020 began with pictures from Wuhan of deserted streets and talk of lockdowns, none of us knew quite how it would impact on us in the fullness of time.

The week in which the first lockdown began back in March 2020 was a really difficult one, with having to make decisions about whether to have church buildings open for private prayer and if so, how to safely administer this, something which gave me a couple of sleepless nights. We closed down Wesley's Coffee Bar on the Wednesday, having learned later that same day that the Methodist Church nationally had ordered all buildings to be closed, which actually was something of a relief, as it took the decision-making out of my hands.

There followed something of a scramble to work out how best to stay in contact with people, and especially those without internet access. Given we had no idea whether a UK lockdown would be as strict as the virtual house arrest in Spain, meaning that hand-delivered pastoral letters would not be an option, or more open as turned out to be the case, it was more than a little stressful. I remember one afternoon sitting alone in the Church Office, in an eerily quiet building, feeling more than a little overwhelmed by the enormity of what was happening as I grappled with producing my first online service.

The week after that, I found myself developing the symptoms we were told to watch out for – a fever, a persistent cough and breathlessness when moving around. In those early days, when the government restricted testing to those in hospital, it wasn't possible to officially confirm Covid as the diagnosis. Yet, I seemed to progress along the path being described on the news. It is hard to describe the fear I felt around the day seven to ten mark, when the evidence to that point suggested that I would either start to recover or find myself staring at the prospect of ending up in hospital. Thankfully, things went in the first direction, even if my first trip to the Tesco's by the roundabout after my self-isolation ended felt like it would polish me off!

What was very hard to deal with, in a period well before Long Covid was recognised, was finding that I kept getting chest pains and breathlessness, and bouts of fatigue that forced me to stop what I was doing and rest there and then. As you can imagine, that was very frustrating! In the midst of that, I was coming to terms with how my job as a minister had changed overnight. No longer could I do things like pop into Wesley's to chat with people, or drop in on church groups. Gone was almost all face-to-face interaction, and Zoom went from being something I'd never used before to an essential tool for continuing to work.

I actually quite enjoyed the challenge of switching to online services, which offer different creative possibilities to what is possible with in-person worship in the Methodist system, with preachers moving around the Circuit a lot. I filmed the first *Windows on Worship* with my phone balanced on a pile of books balanced precariously in the lounge, but quickly graduated to owning a tripod and putting the ironing board to new use as a laptop stand! Preparing worship had taken around eight hours a week on average before the pandemic, and now I am preparing both online and in-person services, it takes more like twelve hours because of the filming, editing and uploading components involved in YouTube and/or Zoom services.

Easily the hardest aspect of ministry during lockdown has been funeral ministry. Since we went into the first lockdown, I have conducted twenty-seven funerals and been involved in a few others, which bearing in mind that

four or five a year is more typical, has been a heavy load to carry. This has all proven particularly difficult, and not just because of their sheer volume.

Many funerals involved significant levels of trauma, especially in the early days of the pandemic, when families were unable to be with loved ones if they died in hospital. Arranging funerals by phone, as was necessary most of the way through, meant there was little I could do when people became distressed; I could not even pass the tissues. Having limited numbers able to attend meant many families faced heartbreaking deliberation about who to invite, and people not being allowed to sit together and comfort each other during services was highly upsetting to witness. Many of us were moved by the sight of the Queen sat all by herself in the vastness of Westminster Abbey at the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral; I witnessed many similar things.

In the midst of this situation, it is unsurprising that I was asked some particularly anguished questions. Why did God allow this to happen, and why didn't God answer our prayers for healing? How can a God of love permit so many to die alone in hospital like that? It is hard even now to know how to answer such questions, and I cannot deny that all of this has taken something of a toll on my mental health at times, leaving me with little energy for much else at points.

The other major aspect of my ministry has centred around community work. This has included things I had never done before like helping people apply for Universal Credit who were having to navigate the benefits system for the first time, and more routine things like shopping for people unable to get out and about, and a good bit of just being there and listening to people over Zoom. I've supported people who've contacted me specifically because they know I am both trans and a minister, and I have been developing a relationship with Citizens UK which I hope will lead to both New Malden and Kingston churches becoming mental health hubs.

Add to this the fact that administration and governance still needed to be done, and though some meetings stopped for a while, others increased in frequency (we had monthly Church Councils at Kingston and weekly staff meetings before Mark Wakelin arrived in the Circuit, for example). Much of the behind the scenes things I do, such as line management, supporting volunteers, working with pastoral visitors, and fulfilling my obligations to the Circuit, District and Connexion all needed time. I was also roped into fundraising work for Christian Aid, walking ten-thousand steps a day in 2020, and in May this year carrying buckets around Kingston!

Add all of this up, and it has been an extremely busy time. It has also been quite an isolating period, and I am very grateful for the support of Sarah and Hilary, as my closest colleagues, in particular. They did things like help me implement the Covid-19 risk assessment I wrote, amidst regulations that (rather unhelpfully!) seemed to keep shifting as we went along, and cheered me up on those days when it was all a bit too much. I hope I never have to make decisions about closing buildings again, as the weight of responsibility this brought was very heavy indeed.

I hope this gives you a flavour of how lockdown has been for me and the sorts of things I have been up to. This isn't comprehensive by any means, but does give you an idea. Please pray for me as we go forward, for renewed energy and good health, so that I can continue to serve.

Church Garden

Stella would appreciate help with the maintenance of the church garden. Please talk to her if you think you can help her with maintaining this lovely garden which is appreciated by church people and the community alike.

Jam Sales & Wesley's

£151.80 was raised on Saturday 7th August from a sale of jams, preserves, books and puzzles. We will continue to hold a sale like this on the first Saturday of every month with proceeds going to the Church.

Wesley's is also now open every Saturday morning with a cake sale so any cakes or offers of help would be gratefully received. We are starting to take bookings from different organisations to run a charity coffee morning on a Saturday so if you would like to book one and raise funds for your favourite charity, please see Sarah.

In the meantime, weekdays in Wesley's are picking up. We are open from 11am until 1pm and would welcome any additional help that you are able to give.

A Farmer Remembered

Donald Finnan recently lost a very dear friend of his. Arnold was a sheep farmer in the high fells of North Cumbria, an area which has been dear to Donald's heart for many years. He has many fond memories of helping out on the farm in all weathers and many varied situations. At Arnold's funeral service the following two poems were said and we felt they deserved a wider audience. Donald has just returned from a visit to Caldbeck: many thanks to Andy Roberts who drove and made this special trip possible for him. There is also a beautiful photo of the breathtaking scenery.

The first poem is by an unknown author. The second is by Henry Brewis who was a sheep farmer in Northumberland but also a prolific writer, poet, artist and cartoonist.

I heard your voice in the wind today
And I turned to see your face,
The warmth of the wind caressed me
As I stood in that silent place

I felt your touch in the sun today
As its warmth flooded the sky,
I closed my eyes for your embrace
And my spirit soared on high

I saw your eyes in the window pane
As I watched the falling rain,
It seemed that as each raindrop fell
It quietly spoke your name

I held you close in my heart today,
It made me complete and free,
For you may have died but you are not gone;
You will always be part of me

As long as the sun shines and rain falls,
As long as the wind still blows,
You will live on inside me for ever,
For that is all my heart knows.



Any Fool Can Be a Farmer - Henry Brewis

Any fool can be a farmer
in fact it helps no end
to be a little crazy
and half-way round the bend
it's not essential to be crackers
good gracious not at all
but it's no good being normal
while you're climbing up the wall...
if you can't meet these requirements
no need to break your heart
'cos you'll quickly get the hang of things
once you get a start
if the weather doesn't beat you down
it'll be an awkward yow
or a brainless politician
or an old demented cow
or a collie dog that's useless
one that drives you quite insane
but you'll get there if you're lucky
and you'll feel the pain
you'll have diseases in your barley
and pigeons on your wheat
temperamental old machinery
and a Labrador on heat...
but by now you'll be conditioned
you'll accept that you're just mad
and you'll never swop the townie
for his posh suburban pad
let him keep his indexed pension
and his room without a view
but be sure to marry someone
who is crazy just like you....

*Note for southerners: a 'yow' is a ewe.

And finally one by Nancy Kraayenhof on the same theme which comes from the same website .

Close the Gate

For this one farmer the worries are over, lie down and rest your head,
Your time has been, and struggles enough, put the tractor in the shed.
Years were not easy, some downright hard, but your faith in God transcended,
Put away your tools and sleep in peace. The fences have all been mended.
You raised a fine family, worked the land well and always followed the Son,
Hang up your shovel inside of the barn; your work here on earth is done.
A faith few possess led your journey through life; a jagged and stony way,
The sun is setting, the cattle are bedded, and now is the end of your day.
Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin; the stories flow like fine wine,
Wash off your boots in the puddle left by rain one final time.
You always believed that the Lord would provide, and He always did somehow,
Take off your gloves and put them down, no more sweat and worry now.
Your labour is done, your home now is heaven; No more must you wait,
Your legacy lives on: your love of the land, and we will close the gate.

Nancy Kraayenhof.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 24th September 11 am – 1pm

Donations of cakes, jam, chutney etc all most welcome.

If you could help serve coffee or sell the cakes for half an hour or more,
please contact Julia Morton directly or leave a note in the office.



AND

come and support this event with a friend!



Harvest Festival Decoration

Please can you help with this on Saturday 25th September 10.30 onwards?

The more help we have, the more we can achieve.

Donations of dry goods will be taken to the foodbank and fresh items
auctioned off after the service.

Let's make the church festooned with the goods and really celebrate this
special event

Harvest Lunch

This will take place on Sunday 26th September after the
morning service.

It will be in the form of a cheese ploughman's and apple
based desserts



To ensure we do not over cater please sign the sheet on the notice board in Wesley's by Monday
20th September.

We include some apple dessert recipes (at the end of this issue) so if you can make one please let
Julia Morton know and we will distribute some of the manse apples to you!

Christmas is Coming!

As you will be aware I sometimes come up with different ideas as to how we can engage with the wider community during advent (Sheep trail, angels etc). I know it is a long way off but this way we have plenty of time to achieve this one.....

It's to knit/crochet a pillar box top similar to the one pictured below but we have a **knitted nativity** on ours! We can pop it onto the one by Tudor Williams and then note the delight of those passing whilst having a coffee!



So, if you would like to participate in this venture please let the office know – we have patterns for the figures and we will assign your character!

We also still have the angel patterns from last year so can start producing them for either the Christmas Fair or distribution to the community.

Julia Morton



The History of a Dolls House by Jane Bennett: crossing continents



This small wooden dolls house now belongs to our daughter Lois and is in Ironbridge in Shropshire. It was made for me during the Second World War by my father while he was in Italy recovering from eye injuries received in the North Africa campaign. The parts were made piece by piece and sent by forces Mail to my grandparents' home in Winton, Bournemouth where I lived during the war, along with two teenage aunts and sometimes a naval uncle on leave. My mother was working in the Ministry of War I think, as a qualified typist/stenographer - I rarely saw her! After my father was demobbed and came home, he assembled the house and my mother decorated and furnished it, and we bought and made doll occupants. It had tiny light bulbs, lit from a battery fixed outside on the back. When she was nine, my daughter had it as a Christmas present: her eyes lit up at the wonder of the little lights in particular, and many a happy hour was spent playing with it.

I sawed a neat hole in the gable end of the roof, to pack items in when David and I were sent to work in Southern Rhodesia – now Zimbabwe – in 1975, and took our children with us.

Many church workers – missionaries – left their children in their home countries while they worked overseas, but we chose to keep our family together and they went to local schools, where the education was in English. The elder two, Michael and Lois, had to attend boarding schools in a city when we were working in mission schools and clinics in rural areas, with no English high schools nearby. This was no different to their friends in the small mining town where we lived, so they travelled with their friends and caught up with others in the holidays.

We could have chosen to home-school them, but decided they needed to mix with other youngsters and have real qualified teachers, which we weren't! – and we needed to do our work! Or they could have attended boarding schools in England, partly at the expense of the Methodist Church. Our own parents would not have been able to house or care for them, or organise their education and our siblings had their own youngsters and were not near other family members, nor had space.

In later years, we asked our offspring whether they felt they had suffered disadvantages because their education had not been 'normal' but they all completed post-sixth form education and gained qualifications

I have shared the full history of the dolls house with Lois, only recently, and she was just amazed.

Editors Note: I asked Lois if she wanted to add anything else, and as well as a bit about boarding school, this is what she said:

"My mum shared the full history of the dolls house with me only quite recently, and I was just amazed. Not at my Grandad George's woodwork, which was legendary, but at literally how it all fitted together: his time in Italy, the fact that he was in Poland too, the fact that Forces Mail delivered it piece by piece, and how much it must have comforted him knowing he was making something for the daughter he had barely seen.

From my point of view, I could have been the daughter my parents barely saw, had I stayed in England and only seen them on furlough (yes that was a thing a long time ago). Instead, I grew up with them, and my little brothers, saw the most wonderful wildlife and scenery in my time there, and now cherish how much of this family history I can share with my own daughters. My mum has neglected to say that she made me a little wooden chair, which now sits in my daughters' room, so her carpentry wasn't too shabby either!"

Live Classical Music in New Malden Autumn, 2021

It seems rather hard to believe, but you will be able to attend a full programme of live concerts in New Malden this Autumn. NMMC and NMURC have just released details of their lunchtime and Sunday afternoon concerts and there are no fewer than eleven to choose from before Christmas! Fuller details to be published in due course.

Although legal restrictions have eased (for the moment?), both venues will ask you to bring a face covering and procedures will be in place to mitigate risk so as many as possible feel comfortable to attend.



The musicians are delighted to be performing again and the spirits of the audiences will be raised after the dearth of opportunities over the past fifteen months or so.

Do have a look through the schedule and pencil as many concerts as possible into your diaries. There really is something for everyone!

Peter Bullett

Date	Time	Venue	Concert
Tuesday 21 September	1.10 pm	NMMC	Brass Trio
Wednesday 29 September	1.10 pm	NMURC	Emily Hester (viola)
Sunday 10 October	3.00 pm	NMMC	Katriona Taylor Jazz Trio
Tuesday 12 October	1.10 pm	NMMC	Diana Hoy (mezzo soprano) and Wendy Watts (piano)
Wednesday 13 October	1.10 pm	NMURC	Horn Trio
Wednesday 27 October	1.10 pm	NMURC	Jonah Spindel (cello) and Roman Lytwyniw (violin)
Sunday 14 November	3.00 pm	NMMC	GSMD Historical Performance Students
Tuesday 16 November	1.10 pm	NMMC	Norman Starritt (cello) and Peter Bullett (piano)
Wednesday 24 November	1.10 pm	NMURC	Laura McDonald (cello)
Sunday 12 December	3.00 pm	NMMC	Harmonie Choir and Orchestra
Tuesday 21 December	1.10 pm	NMMC	Music for Christmas

Vera's Literary Quiz

Taken from 'On the tip of my tongue' by David Gentle.

First lines of popular novels.

1. In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.
2. One day, when Pooh Bear had nothing else to do, he thought he would do something, so he went round to Piglet's house to see what Piglet was doing.
3. It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.
4. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair....
5. Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy.
6. The mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home.
7. Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote / The droghte of March hath perced to the roote.
8. It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.
9. A wide plain, where the broadening Floss hurries in between its green banks to the sea and the loving tide, rushing to meet it, checks its passage with an impetuous embrace.
10. Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again.
11. At the age of fifteen my grandmother became the concubine of a warlord general.
12. "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.
13. Dr Iannis had enjoyed a satisfactory day in which none of his patients had died or got any worse.
14. Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.
15. I fell in love with football as I was later to fall in love with women: suddenly, inexplicably, uncritically, giving no thought to the pain or disruption it would bring with it.
16. 1801 – I have just returned from a visit to my landlord – the solitary neighbour that I shall be troubled with.
17. Like the brief doomed flare of exploding suns that registers dimly on blind men's eyes, the beginning of the horror passed almost unnoticed; in the shriek of what followed, in fact, was forgotten and perhaps not connected to the horror at all.
18. The Time Traveller (for so it will be convenient to speak of him) was expounding a recondite matter to us.
19. The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon.
20. The drought had lasted now for ten million years, and the reign of the terrible lizards had long since ended.
21. Renowned curator Jacques Saunière staggered through the vaulted archway of the museum's Grand Gallery.
22. Samuel Spade's jaw was long and bony, his chin a jutting v under the more flexible v of his mouth.
23. On an evening in the latter part of May a middle-aged man was walking homeward from Shaston to the village of Marlott in the adjoining Vale of Blakemore or Blackmoor.
24. Early in the morning, late in the century, Cricklewood Broadway.

Circuit Plan

		KINGSTON 10.30am	SURBITON HILL 10.30am	NEW MALDEN 10.30am	CHESSINGTON* 10am
05 September	am	Rutledge	Stan Brown	Linda Davis	Mark Wakelin: HC
12 September	am	Brown	Judith Wakelin	Karl Rutledge ACM	Jilly Bridges
19 September	am	Rutledge ACM	Brown PLD HC	Davis	J&M Wakelin: C
	pm		5pm Brown zoom		
26 September	am	Denis Vernon	Brown ACM	Rutledge HF	Duncan Lloyd
03 October	am	Rutledge HF	Brown HF	Bridges	M Wakelin: HC
	pm		4.30pm Brown PP		
10 October	am	Bridges	Rutledge	Brown	M Wakelin
17 October	am	Davis	Brown JC	Rutledge	Sally Rush
	pm		5pm Brown zoom		
24 October	am	Rutledge	Brown HC	Graham Cocking	Bridges
31 October	am	M Wakelin	Webb	Rutledge	Brown
	pm		4.30pm Brown PP		M Wakelin: AS
07 November	am	Brown	Hannah Chun	J Wakelin	M Wakelin: HC
	pm		5pm Brown SR		
14 November	am	Rutledge R	Brown R 1 0.45am at war memorial	Davis R	M Wakelin: R
21 November	am	M Wakelin	Brown HC	Rutledge	J Wakelin: C
	pm		5pm Brown zoom		
28 November	am	Rush	Vernon	Rutledge	Brown
* Korean Language Service at Chessington on Sundays at 12.00 noon led by Rev Paul Han					
Online services (follow links) Chessington: 10am Sunday: chessingtonmc.online.church ; YouTube: Chessington Methodist Church Kingston: Sundays & You Tube: Windows on Worship New Malden: Sundays & You Tube: Windows on Worship Surbiton Hill: 10.30 Sundays YouTube: Surbiton Hill Methodist Church					
Worship Books	Methodist Worship Book (Holy Communion only)	Methodist Worship Book (complete)	Methodist Worship Book (complete)	Methodist Worship Book (complete)	Methodist Worship Book (Holy Communion only)
Bibles	GNB	NIV	NIV	NRSV	NIV
Music (Projection by arrangement)	Singing the Faith Songs of Fellowship 1-3	Singing the Faith Hymns & Psalms Let's Praise 1-2	Singing the Faith	Singing the Faith	Hymns & Psalms Songs of Fellowship 1-3
Notes & Abbreviations ACM: Annual Church Meeting; AS: All Souls Service; C: Contemporary Service; HC: Holy Communion; HF Harvest Festival; JC Junior Church re-launch; LA: Local Arrangement; PLC: Pastoral Leaders Dedication; PP Praise Party; R: Remembrance; SR Service of Remembering Holy Communion: to be arranged locally at the discretion of each church and minister					
Ministers' Day Off: Stan: Saturday; Karl: Monday. Mark works part-time and can usually be contacted Sunday, Monday and Tuesday					

Diary Dates

Saturday 4 th September	10am – 12 noon. Coffee morning and cake sale at church including sale of jams, preserves, books and puzzles. Proceeds to the church.
Saturday 11 th September	2pm. Nicky Horton's celebration service.
Sunday 12 th September	Annual Church Meeting after the morning service. This meeting elects new members to the Church Council, and if you would be interested in getting involved in the running of the church in this way (you can sign up for one year to try it out!), please get in touch with Karl for a nomination form. Please attend if you can – everyone is welcome.
Tuesday 14 th September	7.30pm. A special Service of Lament in the church building. This will be an opportunity to hold before God, and one another, the losses we have experienced during the past eighteen months (including, but not limited to, bereavements).
Friday 17 th September	10am – 5pm Camera Club Exhibition
Saturday 18 th September	10am – 5pm Camera Club Exhibition
Tuesday 21 st September	1.10pm Lunchtime concert – Brass Trio
Friday 24 th September	11am – 1pm Macmillan Coffee Morning
Saturday 25 th September	10am – 12 noon Inner Wheel Coffee Morning
Saturday 25 th September	10.30am Church decorating for Harvest Festival
Sunday 26 th September	10.30am Harvest Festival followed by cheese ploughman's lunch
Saturday 2 nd October	10am – 12 noon Women's Institute Coffee Morning

Next Issue

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 29th September.

I am happy to receive anything you think might be of interest: memories, lockdown experiences, news of members, advice for life, poems, photos, etc.

Apple Fudge Crumble

2 lb apples, peeled and sliced
Grated rind and juice of 1 orange
3 oz sugar

For the fudge crumble

4 oz butter
4 oz demerara sugar

6 oz digestive biscuits or ginger nuts crushed into crumbs
1 rounded teaspoon ground cinnamon

HOT OVEN

1. Put the apples in an ovenproof dish with the grated rind, orange juice and sugar.
2. Melt the butter in a saucepan. Stir in the demerara sugar, biscuit crumbs and cinnamon. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring from time to time.
3. Cover the apples with the crumble mix and bake in hot oven for 15 -20 minutes.
4. Serve with cream or ice cream.

Mrs Claire Unsworth

Spiced Toffee Apple Cake

Worth the effort and works well even with GF flour.

Makes: 16 squares

Preparation time: 45 minutes

Cooking time: 1 hour inc cooling

Ingredients:

200g dates, roughly chopped
200 ml milk, plus a splash
250g butter, softened
280g self-raising flour
200g light soft brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking powder

4 large eggs
1 tbsp mixed spice
3 small red apples
squeeze lemon juice
handful of toffees

Method:

- Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/Gas Mark 4.
- Grease and line a 20x30cm tray with baking parchment.
- Put the dates and milk in a small pan and bring to simmer.
- Remove and set aside for 15 minutes to cool.
- Whizz the date mixture to a puree in food processor or blender and scrape into a large mixing bowl.
- Tip in the butter, flour, brown sugar, baking powder, eggs, mixed spice and vanilla and set aside.
- Quarter and core the apples, then slice quite thinly, tossing them in a little lemon juice as you go.
- Quickly beat the cake ingredients together until smooth, then scrape into baking tray.
- Arrange the apple slices in rows along the top of the cake (3 rows lengthways).
- Bake for 45 - 50 minutes until a skewer poked in the centre comes out clean. Cool in the tray.
- Put the toffees in a small pan with a good splash of milk and gently melt, stirring until runny. Drizzle all over.
- Cut into squares or slices and serve.

Vicky Bullett

Eve's Pudding

This recipe has been handed down by Ruth's mother, who was a cook in a large family house in Scotland

Serves: 6

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: 2 hours

Ingredients:

1lb apples
6oz white breadcrumbs
6oz currants
6oz caster sugar
2 large eggs
grated nutmeg

Method:

- Grease pudding basin.
- Peel and chop apples.
- Mix with dry ingredients.
- Add beaten egg.
- Transfer to pudding basin, cover with pudding cloth and cook in pan of boiling water for 2 hours.

Ruth McLeod