



# New Malden Methodist Church

*At the heart of the High Street*

## Lockdown Life

Issue 10:

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### NMMC News

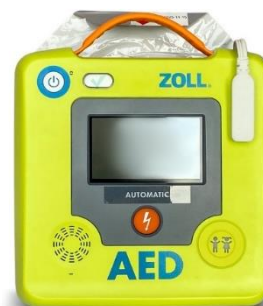


You may remember that before Covid took over we were raising funds for Christian Aid, aiming to achieve £5,000 in 2020. Our fund-raising efforts were rather curtailed but we have still been able to send £3,540.74 for the Lebanon and Iraq Community Partnership which is a great achievement given the climate last year. This will also be matched 6:1 by an organisation called Bread to the World which amounts to £24,787.

The donation has gone towards strengthening the resilience and social cohesion of young refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities in Lebanon and Iraq. The project has focused on helping children and youth and people with disabilities gain access to the services they need to survive and flourish. This has been done by providing education, psychosocial support, and vocational skills training. Donations help them assist displaced individuals and give them a chance to rebuild their lives after the loss of their homes.

### Defibrillator

Another recent fund-raising goal has been to buy a defibrillator. We are very happy to report that we have now bought a Zoll defib as pictured. The machine is currently in the photocopying office at church. The next stage for fund raising is to buy a heated cabinet which will house the defib on the outside of the building so that it can be available to anyone at any time.



We have been approached by Alison Finch, Reg's daughter, whose family would like to contribute to this in Reg's name and also the Rotary Club of New Malden will be making a donation towards it as well. Their generosity means that soon we should be able to have the defib available to the community in New Malden.

## Jam Sale Plus

To coincide with the Street Market on the 5<sup>th</sup> December Julie, Sarah and Hilary held a stall outside the church and filled four tables with jams, knitwear, books and DVDs. With the help of good weather and a prominent location on the corner of Cambridge Road they raised a total of £323.10 for the church.

## Make Lunch

We are continuing to provide Bags of Hope for 7 or 8 families once a week. The supplies come mainly from The Dons Trust who are very generous with supplies of tinned and fresh food. So should you see a collection point please make a donation. will continue once a week throughout the lockdown.

Over Christmas we supplemented the bags with gifts for the children and their families.

As schools were sent into lockdown we are continuing to supply these food parcels and today one recipient said " This is so generous, I could cry".

Thank you to Julia and Judith for continuing this invaluable service and to Alison for her help.



Bags ready for collection



Fruit and veg bags

## Sheep Trail

Despite the restrictions which prevented us holding our normal Christingle Service, our famous knitted sheep made their annual outing to various shops and cafés in and around the High Street. Thank you to all those places that hosted a sheep and well done to all the young people who collected their names without hope of a chocolate reward this time.

## Christmas Trees for Crisis

In the absence of our usual Christmas Tree Festival this year, Julia Sarah and her husband Dave set up eight Christmas trees around the windows of Wesley's with the knitted nativity front and centre. The trees were donated by the usual supplier who held his tree sale on the forecourt with the

profits going to local schools and scout groups. We hope that you managed to see them, but here are some photos if not.

They created a wonderful display and certainly cheered up our end of the High Street. The photos don't do them justice!





Dave felt that we should try and find a way to collect donations, should people wish to show their appreciation. He devised a coin chute, the end of which went through the letterbox in the front door. The coin then whizzed down the chute into a big jar making a very gratifying chink. I was in the office a few times when people used it and it caused much delight for them.



We were pleased and amazed that the coins in the jar amounted to £235.76. We also received a few other donations. One generous but misguided person put a £20 note down the chute which required emergency surgery to clear the blockage! All in all, £334.56 was raised for Crisis. Dave works for Vodafone who offer matched funding so we hope to augment that total and will report next month.



A huge thank you to Julia who decorated most of the trees (colour coded of course – pink, blue, purple, gold, silver, green, white and red, plus another tree in the Sanctuary!) and who also came and undecorated them, a rather less exciting job, and hoovered up a million pine needles. We were helped in this by Sarah's daughter Hannah who wound up 20 sets of Christmas lights and helped with the clear up. Thank you to Dave for his ingenuity in devising a way to raise money and for the initial preparation and standing up of the trees.

Hopefully next year we will back to holding the tree festival in the church though I have a feeling that coin chute Mark 2 is already in the initial stages of development.

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## Church Family News

### Isabel Elves

Congratulations to Isabel Elves who has passed Grade 5 Violin and Grade 5 theory, both with Merit, and Grade 4 piano with Distinction. All the more remarkable as all three were done within a 2-3 week period.

Isabel was an early pioneer of the new-style Performance exams. She had to learn four pieces for each of the practical grades and record herself introducing them and then performing them all in one take, as if in an exam. The recording was then sent to the Board for examination and assessment, thus preserving both social distancing and high standards. The theory exam was taken online, so Isabel had to run the gauntlet of High Tech as well as all the little black dots.

By the way, I wonder if anyone realised that the last piece of music played in a service before the Lockdown was Isabel playing 'Ashokan Farewell' on the violin (March 15). How prescient was that!

We look forward to hearing more of Isabel's playing in Church before too long.

### Winnie Fry

We had news at the beginning of December that Winnie Fry had gone to live with her daughter

Susan in Alton. Unfortunately, almost immediately she was taken into hospital with a UTI and chest infection. Thankfully, Winnie is now back with her daughter and Susan reports

“Winnie is so pleased to be back with her family after seven weeks in hospital, when we were not allowed to visit because of Covid. We are so pleased that she is now living with us in Alton and we can talk to her at last.

She was able to see all her grandchildren and great grandchildren on Christmas day either in person or on face time.

Winnie is still very frail and sleeps a lot but she is enjoying seeing her carers when they visit four times a day. The carers are wonderful and I wouldn't cope without them.

Winnie still enjoys her daily crosswords with help and likes to watch television. She can only manage to sit in a chair for short periods of time.

She would like to thank all the people who have sent messages and cards.”

### **Tony Townsend**

Tony is at home and recovering well after a stay in hospital with a blood clot on the lung.

### **Ruth McLeod**

Ruth had a fall at home in December and broke her wrist. She has now had her plaster removed and can get back to her knitting ! She was very pleased to be offered - and given - the first dose of the vaccine when she was in the hospital.

### **New Home Owners**

Both Emma Haines and Jennifer Morton have recently bought their first homes with their respective partners. Emma and Olly are in Byfleet Village and Jennifer and Miguel are in Horsell near Woking. Congratulations to both couples! Addresses available from me if anyone wants them, Sarah.

### **Nicky Horton**

I'm afraid, some very bad news from Nicky whose cancer has returned. Following a period of feeling very unwell over Christmas she went to St George's A&E on 4<sup>th</sup> January and was admitted to a Covid-free Oncology ward. Her Oncologist says that the cancer has returned to both her intestines and liver. There are no more treatment options available to her at St George's so her care will be transferred to the Marsden.

Nicky says “I'm not giving up just yet, I still have too much I want to do. I'm currently working on getting well enough to go home. Morphine is an amazing drug”! She would very much appreciate your prayers.

**The Staggs** are continuing to isolate, and celebrated big birthdays around Christmas time.

**Stella** is her cheerful self in spite of the news about Nicky. Keeping busy.

**Shirley Stewart** tested positive for Covid-19 and was quite poorly in Kingston Hospital but is now back in her Care Home and gradually recovering strength.

**Donald** is delighted to have been signed off at last by the doctor, with regard to his ulcerated legs, although this does mean that he will no longer get visits from a variety of nice chatty nurses! He is doing sterling work, continuing to send out his Bible Study notes to members of the Wednesday

Fellowship every week. They are apparently embarking on a study of Galatians. In between whiles he enjoys Pointless, Last of the Summer Wine and The Antiques Roadshow – when he is not emptying ice cream containers full of water from his leaky radiators!

**Pam Wardley** had her hip operation just before Christmas and was last seen singing enthusiastically on the Zoom Carol Service while her dinner was being prepared for her by her daughter!

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## Music

You might not have heard enough Christmas music this year. With shops being closed and churches not allowing carol singing I assume everyone didn't get their fill of Michael Bublé or Hark the Herald. Lucky for you, Robert and Isabel were both involved in an online musical project run by Kingston Music Service. You can see the results here with Robert singing in a very fetching elf hat and Isabel playing the violin.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFTvX2Jlo3MhAr-yge\\_E2XGYz4QISNov](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFTvX2Jlo3MhAr-yge_E2XGYz4QISNov)

A very rousing version of It's the Most Wonderful Time, I think you'll agree.

Fun to do but there was also a serious side to the project. It's no secret that families have been hit hard in the pandemic in many different ways including struggling to pay for music lessons. Friends of Kingston Music Service runs a hardship fund to tie eligible families over by paying up to half of tuition costs for those that find themselves unable to pay the full amount. You can donate £5 by texting FKMS to 70085 or another amount by emailing [musicservice@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@kingston.gov.uk).

Music lessons are expensive but so worth it in terms of musical development (obvs), social skills, and general all round educational attainment and they shouldn't be the preserve of an elite. So do have a listen and if you can give a little, please do!

Many thanks

Caroline Auty

PS I'm not going to make the obvious joke about staying in your Bublés this Christmas.

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## Music in New Malden Membership Subscription

We hope you have enjoyed the three free, streamed professional concerts posted on our YouTube Channel so far this season! We have been very encouraged by the number of views and likes, plus the appreciative comments we have received. These concerts are still available to view if you. Just look up Music in New Malden on YouTube. Maintaining the excellent quality of music-making you have come to expect and providing work for a few of the many musicians whose engagements have all but evaporated as a result of Covid-19 has also been very worthwhile, but has inevitably eaten into our reserves with no donations at concerts to replenish them.





In order to plan and provide further streamed concerts in the New Year, and in order to plan for a future with 'live audiences' we need to secure a firm financial basis, so we are launching a Membership Subscription scheme.

For just £5 a year, you will continue to receive news about, links to and programmes for our concerts, receive an invitation to an event illustrating our outreach work and the right to vote at our General Meeting. This, combined with the opportunity to donate on-line having viewed a concert (equivalent to our cash collections at our live concerts) would enable us to go forward positively.

Please do consider seriously taking out a Membership Subscription and donating something towards the costs of providing the three concerts so far this season. It would make all the difference to our future. This and much more content can all be accessed on our website [musicinnewmalden.com](http://musicinnewmalden.com)

Peter Bullett, Hon Treasurer MiNM

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## Redevelopment of Tudor Williams

We still do not have any confirmed plans for the redevelopment of Tudor Williams though the developer who has bought the site wants to build a further 7 storeys on to the current building which would then provide 10 storeys of flats with retail on the ground floor.

If you would like to sign-up to receive updates, register for future events, and let the developer know your initial thoughts on what could come forward, please visit their website at [53-59newmaldenhighst.co.uk](http://53-59newmaldenhighst.co.uk). You can also get in touch with them by calling 020 7871 3565 or by sending an email to [community@53-59newmaldenhighst.co.uk](mailto:community@53-59newmaldenhighst.co.uk)

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## A Memory from Jane Bennett

Did I stop a child embarking on a life of crime? Possibly not, but I did prevent him succeeding on one occasion! In Bilston High Street, West Midlands 1988, I was walking along the pavement when I saw a boy of about 7 or 8 pick up an orange from the display outside the shop opposite and start putting it in his pocket as he walked on.

Being keen to let him know he had been seen stealing, I shouted to him to put it back – he was so surprised that he did, plus another one I hadn't seen him take! Then the greengrocer came out, shouted after the boy and rearranged the fruit. He also waved to me in thanks.

This kind of opportunistic theft probably takes place quite often and is considered insignificant or covered by insurance, but I hold out the hope that my verbal intervention (or interference?) may have influenced this lad to steer clear of a criminal life. We can never know the outcome of many of our actions, but at least we can try to help others if the opportunity arises. Let's not forget that prayer is an opportunity we all have – alone or in groups.

Keep safe, Jane Bennett.

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## Quarantine Quiz from Nigel Stagg

This is a quiz for people who know everything!

I found out in a hurry that I didn't. These are not trick questions.

They are straight questions with straight answers...

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several or more growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name six or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

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## Next Issue

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at [nmmc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nmmc@hotmail.co.uk) (or in long hand through my door or the church door 😊), no later than 3<sup>rd</sup> February. I am happy to receive anything you think might be of interest: memories, lockdown experiences, news of members, advice for life, etc.

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