



**New Malden  
Methodist Church**

*At the heart of the High Street*

# Lockdown Life

**Issue 5: August  
2020**

## Contents

Introduction

Individual musical contributions and  
recommendations

Cats Chats and 88 Keys

Zoom Quiz

The National Archives

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2020/21

Creative opportunity & a travel opportunity

Next Issue



## Introduction from Alison Bullett

The Focus of this edition of Lockdown Life is Music. This has prompted a great response, and so many of you have commented on the importance of music in your lives, especially in recent times. Some people have turned to familiar and well-loved music as a comfort in times of stress or loneliness, while others have enjoyed discovering new things. There are many recommendations here and I hope everyone will find something new to enjoy.

Just about everyone laments the loss of live music- making, both professional and amateur. No concerts, no choirs, no orchestras. Some groups have tried to bridge the gap by mounting distanced combined performances, where everyone records themselves individually at home, and some poor person has to merge it all together to create a performance that is more or less the sum of its individual parts yet different in so many ways. The performers would be the first to say it is Not the Same, but it is better than nothing. We did this in a small way recently 'In House' when past members of the Junior Choir worked together – apart - under the direction and inspiration of Sarah and Katherine Knowles, to produce a version of 'Come and Join the Celebration' to mark Julia's retirement (we will be broadcasting this at a later date but if you have access to the Internet, please email Sarah and she will send it to you). Katherine's choir at St Bart's Church in New York produces streamed distanced anthems each week for their Sunday services and many of our congregation have enjoyed 'tuning in' to these. (See a performance of the St Barts choir

<https://www.facebook.com/stbartsnyc/videos/183616922826655>

Another casualty of recent times has been Music exams which in many cases were cancelled at a stroke back in March. There have had to be alternative 'adapted' exams set up to cope with the demand and the backlog of candidates, particularly those who need the UCAS points attached to the higher grade exams for their University entrance applications. These adaptations involve recording your performance in a single take, to be assessed remotely by an examiner, and there is the option of playing more pieces in lieu of scales and sight reading, which I can see is going to be popular long beyond Lockdown! Venues for rehearsal and the old- style

exams remain an unsolved hurdle, particularly for singers and players of wind instruments who need extra distancing and possibly Perspex screens as well. Exams in private houses have had to be discontinued for the time being.

On the positive side, it has been wonderful to explore all the resources of You tube as well as streamed performances from such distinguished sources as The Royal Opera House, the National Theatre and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. There are also countless more 'wacky' performances out there - melodies pinged out on wine glasses, families doing their own covers of well-known songs, people dancing on huge 'keyboards' out in the street – as well as flash mobs who turn up and tune up one at a time, gradually adding their instruments or voices to a distanced and seemingly spontaneous performance in a town square or shopping centre. Everything you click on leads to dozens more suggestions. And so the time passes....

Whether or not you have internet access, however, many people commented on how Radio is a vital and constant friend and support, accompanying work or leisure hours. Some people have been going through their collections of CDs, tapes (reel to reel!) and vinyl, re-discovering, discarding or re-formatting as they go.

TV has done its bit too, broadcasting 'historic' Prom concerts on BBC4 and promising that later on we may get live performances – albeit with no audience. Beverley Knight has made it on to the stage at the London Palladium, in an experiment to see how theatres would cope with restricted seating. Let us hope it won't be too long before our building resounds once more with Songs of Praise and our hearts and souls are once more gladdened by the return to something like 'Normal Service.'

## Individual contributions and recommendations

We know Karl has a wide and eclectic taste in Music. His services are sometimes enhanced by his personal music choices and he is often to be seen in the back row at Lunchtime concerts or at the Music in New Malden concerts on Sunday afternoons. He reports that he has been discovering the music of **Joni Mitchell** during Lockdown - not merely the well-known covers of her songs but her own performances, including two very different versions of All Sides Now, available on **Spotify**.

Molly Simmonds has been trying to sing distantly with her various choral groups but has often been confounded by technical difficulties. You are not alone, Molly! She recommends a chance 'find' on You tube; a 19th century composer **Johann (or Jakob) Heinrich Lutz** 1823-1899 who I think will be new to everyone. He wrote some beautiful choral music, especially a setting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

Jenny Titterton mentions the **Requiems**; choral settings of various Biblical and liturgical texts, which she has always found spiritually inspiring, uplifting and full of hope. The most famous and frequently heard examples are by **Faure, Mozart, Brahms, Durufle and Verdi**. All are very different in style and scope, from the small and intimate Faure to the hugely dramatic and operatic Verdi.

Angy Stagg is a big fan of Classic FM and has a particular fondness for the music of **John Rutter**, particularly **The Lord Bless you and Keep You**. Rutter also wrote a **Requiem**, as did Andrew Lloyd Webber, for those preferring a more contemporary feel to their sacred music. Angie is another keen singer who sorely misses her choir and the singing group at Church. Nigel has sent a link to a short video recording of **Ennio Morricone's** music for the film 'The Good the Bad and the Ugly.' Morricone wrote hundreds of film scores <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxvD3CpB3l4>. His recent demise prompted me to rediscover **Gabriel's Oboe**; his beautiful music to the film The Mission, starring Jeremy Irons as a Jesuit priest. It has a very powerful historic storyline and some stunningly beautiful South American scenery too.

Hazel Crossley is greatly missing playing the organ and her violin with friends and orchestras although she has been practising regularly. In case you think string quartets are a bit boring, she has sent this amusing video link.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKKezUd\\_xw20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKKezUd_xw20)[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKKezUd\\_xw20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKKezUd_xw20)

Pam and Laurie Bugeya enjoyed watching some **Andrew Lloyd Webber** musicals at the start of Lockdown, on YouTube. Certainly cheaper than going to the West End! Likewise opera from Covent Garden and also Glyndebourne, which shows a different opera each week. They have enjoyed watching **The Magic Flute** and **The Barber of Seville** recently, but were a bit dubious about something called '**Vanessa**'. I hadn't heard of this so I looked up a review:

"If *Vanessa* has a fault it's the lucky-dip style of a musical language whose gentle waltzes and catchy folk tunes stand toe to toe with schmaltz and horror. As for Menotti's libretto, it starts as *Sunset Boulevard* and ends as *The Cherry Orchard*. That's way too much baggage. Yet I loved it." You can make up your own minds!

### From Judith Jewell

I recently came across an article entitled "Church with no hymns is hard to contemplate", by Ian Bradley, emeritus professor of cultural and spiritual history at the University of St Andrews. He makes various points about hymns and hymn-singing, but I was particularly struck by this:

"Humming has been suggested as a rather safer option while singing is off bounds. Although it seems a rather poor substitute, this more muted form of musical participation may, in fact, bring worshippers closer to the way in which the world was created.

Astronomers have recently recorded the harmonic notes that rang out like a bell in the first fraction of a second after the Big Bang. Cosmologists believe that these ripples of sound became the seed of matter, eventually leading to the formation of stars, galaxies and planets. The phenomenon known as cosmic background radiation suggests that the whole universe started with sound waves compressing and rarefying matter and light. All matter seems to have its origin in vibration and sound.

It does, indeed, seem to be the case that in the beginning was not so much the Word, as the opening of the Book of Genesis suggests, as the hum. Did God bring the world into existence by sounding out that first deep harmonic hum, or om, the vibration that is the source of all matter?"

Humming I can just about manage - I'm really not very musical at all. I'm much more likely to have a play or a podcast on in the background than songs or a symphony. But I have enjoyed listening to a few old CDs during lockdown, particularly early on when I wanted to remember concerts and holidays, which all seemed so far off. Here are two from my playlist:

Anything by **Leonard Cohen** (that's not an album title – I mean *anything* by Leonard Cohen!) I'm a huge Cohen fan, and beyond thrilled that I saw him live at the O2 and Wembley arena. People unkindly (and wrongly, in my view) say his is "music to be depressed by". In fact there is plenty of joy and even humour in his poetry and his songs. In *The Tower of Song* he writes "I was born like this, I had no choice, I was born with the gift of a golden voice".

Ian, Amy and I have had many happy holidays in Menorca. Early on we came across a little museum and café run by archaeological students, to help fund their dig. They put tables out under the olive trees, and played local music through the sound system. Enjoying a beer or an ice cream, cooled by the scented breeze across the heath, while listening to Menorquin band **Cendraires** became one of the highpoints of our holiday every time.

Of course, something like normal life will resume at some point. Even then, my lovely Leonard Cohen CDs will have to stand in for seeing him live, but eventually you'll find me sitting underneath those olive trees in Menorca.

### From Anne Bedford

When I am planning to lead worship, the choice of hymns to fit the theme is very important to me – one wonders if the listening congregation notices, except perhaps if one chooses a tune that the people don't know! There are hymns suitable for all moods but sometimes it can be the unexpected ones which will stir a memory that brings tears. My Mum loved music and she would love to listen to a CD entitled "**Divine Deco**" which included such titles as 'Shall we dance?' and "I've got rhythm". Hymns were important to her too and we enjoyed listening to the Morning Service on Radio 4 as well as worship at 8.10 on Sunday mornings. Mum

sang the hymns; no need for a book, and if her carer was here she loved to hear her sing. Vida liked Mum to play the piano for her too which she was able to do even earlier this year. Night time hymns around her bed settled us all down for sleep too.

On Saturday 4th July, my niece Ruth was married to Adrian in Oxford. There were four hymns in our orders of service. The Vicar told us that we were going to stand for these hymns with music on a CD and that he understood there might be quiet humming. We did just that, and by the last hymn "Tell out my soul" all fifteen people in the congregation were humming and it sounded very melodic.

I know that singing is not allowed at the moment and we MUST obey the guidance if we are to be able to open for worship but I hope we can still have music in the service and maybe we can close our eyes and listen or even hum!

## "The day the music died" Peter Bullett

This striking strapline, originally a lyric in *American Pie* by Don McClean commemorating the untimely death of Buddy Holly in 1959, might also perhaps appropriately refer to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March this year when live music in Britain effectively stopped. The last concert at Church was at lunchtime the day before when Douglas Tang gave a virtuoso organ recital which hugely raised our spirits and certainly blew any remaining dust out of the pipes of our refurbished organ!

Lockdown has been a difficult and tragic time for many of course, but professional musicians face particular problems: Government support for the self-employed being phased out in coming weeks, engagement diaries with concerts which in the immediate future won't, and in the longer term, may well not go ahead, face-to-face teaching impossible until very recently and for chamber and orchestral musicians, difficulties of rehearsal and impracticalities of performance. Attempts have been made to mitigate some of this by streaming, most notably by daily lunchtime broadcasts from The Wigmore Hall (I refuse to drop the definite article) and the opening of archive performances (The Berlin Phil and The Proms). Some choirs and orchestras have been compiling virtual performances; my orchestra produced a pretty reasonable recording of some of Schubert's incidental music to *Rosamunde* purely for our own entertainment and is about to embark on some Haydn.

In a small way, Music in New Malden has played its part by streaming two short programmes to keep in touch with our loyal audience, and from September will stream recorded concerts on its YouTube channel from 3pm on the second Sunday in the month so providing some work. We hope that concerts necessarily postponed in the lunchtime series will be streamed at 1.10pm on the third Tuesday of the month, again pre-recorded until it is possible to have some live audience.

The Church being closed for public worship and Wesley's for coffee has been difficult, but some essential activities have been able to continue with suitable precautions, including a considerable amount of property maintenance work. The final stages of the organ refurbishment have also been able to make some progress: the new pipe chest for the display pipes and the decoration of three of them (by the Connexional Advisor, Malcolm Starr) has enhanced the appearance (as you can see) and we hope to place the contracts for the re-gilding of the grilles in the side arches shortly. On a personal note, I have been playing the organ regularly on the recommendation of Malcolm Starr; I think largely to make sure everything is kept working properly, but perhaps also to improve my playing - which I think it has!



to  
R3

I fear it is still going to be some time before you will be able to hear the organ in the church again, though I may try to post a video on YouTube. Under present Government regulations for public worship I am advised not to attend because of my advanced years, even if other restrictions and requirements, which are considerable, can be accommodated – and of course congregational singing is not permitted. In the meantime, I hope you have found various ways to enjoy listening to music and have also been singing in the shower, and indeed all round the house!

(Check out the Website for Musicinnewmalden )

## Virtual Choirs - the wonders of technology Jenny Reid

Since retiring from Wimbledon Choral Society last summer, I have missed the exhilarating experience of singing in a large choir.

In November I and a few others from the church went to Cadogan Hall to hear WCS perform *Carmina Burana*, and we had hoped to attend the spring concert at Southwark Cathedral for a performance of Rachmaninov's All-night Vigil. We were disappointed, though not surprised, when this was cancelled due to lockdown. However, the choir had rehearsed and were ready to sing, so the decision was taken to record a favourite item from the Vespers: *Bogoroditse Devo*. Thanks to the skill of Michael Higgins, the accompanist to WCS, members of the choir were able to sing and record in their own homes and a virtual choir was created.

Rehearsals continued during lockdown under the baton of Neil Ferris with members of the choir singing at home and joining in together through Zoom. Michael then created a final virtual performance of *Bright Morning Stars* from his Appalachian Songs, that was commissioned and performed by WCS in last year's summer concert. (Published by OUP). The soloist in this performance is Roderick Williams, whose voice is wonderfully rich.

Listening to these two wonders of modern technology with headphones I felt as if I was back in the midst of the choir, singing pieces I know well. Each time I have done this during lockdown my spirits have been raised in a truly amazing way.

If you would like to listen, go to YouTube and search for:

#VirtualWCS-Rachmaninov Bogoroditse Devo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InMhSNBllg8>

#VirtualWCS 'Bright Morning Stars' by Michael Higgins <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WixTdxzOM58>

and if you would like to hear the choir in full voice together with Cardiff Polyphonic Choir, in Guildford Cathedral, search for:

Wimbledon Choral Society Vaughan Williams 'Let All the World in Every Corner Sing' (Des, Jill and I were singing in this one). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxioTcxWKgl>

## From Isabel Elves

During lockdown I have carried on learning all of my musical instruments (violin, saxophone and piano) online. The first week, we had to find a good place to put the iPad camera e.g. a music stand or ironing board. I am taught piano with Alison Bullett on Zoom. For my violin and saxophone I am normally taught by the local music service (Kingston) at school. Now we have been using Google Meets which is slightly less reliable than Zoom. As well as my online lessons the music service has also set up some online orchestras and bands. The first one was for all of their students and we played **Circle of Life** from the Lion King. Here is the link to our video <https://youtu.be/JQ6133vlyzg>. We had a meeting and practised, then we all videoed ourselves playing our instruments and then they put it all together. Later on in lockdown they decided to form different bands. I joined the string orchestra where we played **La Bamba** but didn't record it. I also joined the intermediate band where we played **Mr Blue Sky**. For this one I played piano and saxophone and will record it later. Overall, online music lessons are almost as good as the real thing



## From Caroline Auty

Music has always been a big part of our lives and this hasn't really changed with COVID. What's changed is the way it's done. Isabel's music lessons have all gone online using either Zoom or Google Hangouts and they seem to be pretty successful. As an observer I've been impressed by the level of detail and technical instruction that teachers can impart across an internet connection. What's tricky is any attempt to play together due to the latency issue which is pretty crucial if you're a musician...as a horn player, lagging behind everyone else is just inconceivable 😊

I've had a bit more time to practise as I'm not commuting so I've polished up a few pieces I'd only ever looked over scantily (who knew the **Beethoven horn sonata** had 3 movements?) and picked up a few new things too. Isabel bought me some new music for my lockdown birthday which was a nice surprise. Not commuting means I can also sit in on someone else's practice and offer advice which is always, always welcomed - as you can imagine. In terms of playing with others my orchestra hasn't played a note since March but we had a quiz and a couple of committee meetings over Zoom so we have kept in touch. It doesn't seem like we will be able to play together again anytime soon and there seem to be particular issues with wind and brass instruments: apparently we are particularly dangerous. In addition to this it might be that regular rehearsal venues like schools and churches might remain closed to outside groups and, as it goes on, will anyone actually want to venture out to an indoor concert any time soon assuming we can actually rehearse?? Hopefully the pandemic doesn't signal the end of amateur music making but we might be on an extended break.

In terms of watching live music this pretty much ended in March but I've enjoyed the LSO Thursday and Sunday broadcasts of pre-recorded concerts. Someone asked to stay up for **Mahler 2** and then talked all the way through it, but I've had similar in concert halls. Someone else managed to switch channel during my favourite horn moment in **Shostakovich 5** but we're both ok now. Other orchestras and bands have put snippets on Facebook and Twitter and there was a very entertaining rendition of the opening theme to Wimbledon done remotely by the BBCSSO to coincide with what would have been Wimbledon fortnight. I'm going to miss going to the Proms this summer - when we walked out of the Albert Hall for the last time last year I had no idea that the whole of the 2020 Season would be scuppered in the way it has been. BBC Radio 3 and BBC4 are rerunning some previous concerts and there is a talk of some live concerts with no audience at the end of the season but we'll see.

Working from home I always have the radio on and now we have internet radio we can be a bit more diverse. We've had good fun finding new channels with different playlists. I'm a big fan of **Radio Swiss Jazz** but there's also **Classic Praha** (based in the Czech Republic obv's) and **Radio Classique** in France. **Radio 3 in Italy** is also reassuringly classical. (I've also heard good things about a European station called **Accent 4**). It's interesting to listen to foreign language news and work out the odd word. I see COVID in French and Italian is feminine but Coronavirus is masculine. I would get out more but there's a lockdown on.

Anyway I'd better get back to **Composer of the Week** - it's **Beethoven** every second week this year due to the 250th anniversary of his birth. Something else rather blown out of the water by events...

## From Robert Elves

My lockdown life has been framed by music. As COVID-19 began its spread across the globe I was rehearsing **Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle** with the Kingston Grammar School community choir. Our rehearsals were progressing well towards a mid-March concert but conversations at tea break were increasingly turning to the pandemic. First one rehearsal was cancelled and then the news that the concert itself would not be going ahead.

Whilst Isabel has been busy with online lessons and ensemble playing via Google I have been trying to squeeze in some piano practice. This was not as successful as I hoped as work has been even busier than usual despite working from home. At least I can have Radio 3 on in the background.

As we moved into the summer, thoughts would normally be turning to which Proms we might be going to see. However the Proms programme has been mostly cancelled. As I write this the future of live music is still uncertain but there are glimmers of hope on the horizon. The Wigmore Hall has had some short lunchtime concerts with the radio announcer and producer being the only audience in the room, John Irving (MINM) has entertained us with Bach streamed from his home and some outdoor concerts may be possible in the near future.

### Musical Lockdown - Pam Wardley

It is strange how lockdown has given us so much free time but severely limited what we can do with it.

I listen to a lot of music anyway having given up on political and news programmes some time ago, but being at home has given me the chance to hear more. I much prefer Classical music - popular music of the sixties excluded - and I have listened to a greater variety lately than usual. I try and listen to **This Week's Composer on Radio 3** and have been introduced to many I had not heard of before. The programmes also deal with the lives of the composers and I am constantly amazed at how committed they were and how many difficulties they encountered. So many died young. What could Mozart and Chopin have produced had they lived longer?

For those of you who like Desert Island Discs can I recommend "**Private Passions**" at **12.00 on Sundays**. It is one of my favourite programmes and features diverse guests from all walks of life, from Prince Charles to Rufus Wainwright.

I constantly have tunes running through my brain. Many of those tunes are hymns. We are so lucky as Methodists to have such a wonderful wealth of hymns, many with wonderful tunes. Of course there are those occasions when we get the "wrong" tune to a set of words or a new hymn sung to a secular tune. Of course my "wrong" tune will be someone else's right one and I even have disagreements with my daughter over this!

I am not sure I will be able to cope with a church service without hymns. Somehow a service seems to need to have the whole package: prayer, a sermon, readings and hymns and I worry that however good all the other elements are, it will not be fully satisfying without the music.

It was the wife of the organist at Barnes Methodist Church - a professional singer with the most beautiful voice - who gave me my first singing lesson when I was a teenager. Apart from always singing in the schools' choirs my whole life of singing started in Church and has taken me through so many types of music. It enriches life and there is always a piece of music to fit the mood.

I hope I have a voice left when we finally get to sing our hearts out again.

### From Doreen Downey

We all know the saying 'If music be the food of love, play on' but I prefer, as Arthur Schopenhauer said, 'Music is good for the soul'. During Lockdown I have listened more to Magic Radio, Classic FM (depending on the mood) and to several recitals and concerts on You Tube where you can pick up almost anything. However what I have missed more than anything has been the 'Live' opportunities to share in all the aspects of music offered in the life of the Church and it has made me appreciate more than ever, those who work so hard to make this possible. Music has the ability to raise our spirits, fill us with joy, helps us to relax, promotes feelings and emotions and has proved to be good for our health. For me the fact that I have not been able to sing corporately for 4 months, particularly hymn singing, has left an aching void and is something not experienced in my lifetime here. Singing gives me a spiritual, emotional and uplifting experience, both through words and music and is the No.1 means of expressing my faith. Not to say that prayer, reading of the Bible and preaching of the Word is not important; it is, but we all experience faith through different means. For me it is singing and I **cannot** comprehend worship without being allowed to sing hymns. I can only hope that joining in 'Songs of Praise' on TV on Sundays will keep what voice I still have, oiled enough to at some time in the not too distant future, return to sing praise to God.

## From Judy Hopkins

I can't live without music, and I have a CD player in my galley kitchen with discs ready to put on when Radio 4 gets too annoying ! Of course I love the usual "classics" and the old fashioned hymns to their traditional tunes. I am not a fan of modernising or changing things just for the sake of it. The familiar is comforting, particularly in "lock down", when those of us who live alone need Support more than Challenge. I spent nearly 100 days alone before my daughter and her partner were able to come and help me celebrate my birthday. I think the strain of being alone, particularly when one has been outgoing and involved in many activities is having long term effects on me and many others.

I have often thought about Desert Island Discs, but these are my 'Anti-Covid' songs: mostly long time favourites.

The words, and chord combinations, especially in the Country/Western music, send shivers down my spine.

1. Carly Simon - You're so Vain
2. Dan Hill - Sometimes when we touch
3. Peter Sarstedt - Where do you go to my lovely
4. Ralph McTell - The Streets of London
5. John Schneider (A recent Country and Western singer, new to me. I have 3 of his CDs which I sing to daily)  
Country Girls/I've been around enough to know/Take the long way home  
One song I found on line which I can only get on You-Tube and I play it because of the words, "Where ever she is, I hope She Stays there !!". It is brilliant!
6. David Gates            The Goodbye Girl ( from 1978) a "Bread" song.
7. Alannah Myles        Black Velvet (the song is about Elvis Presley, and the You Tube "film" is "whew" !!
8. Elaine Page and Barbara Dickson duet from Chess. I know him so well
9. Roy Orbison            Pretty Woman
10. Tina Turner            Simply the Best !!

I went to Dr. Hook's original concerts 40 (?) years ago at Hammersmith Palais. Now "Dr Hook" is dead but his co-lead singer, Dennis Locorriere, had a concert in Bromley about 4 years ago and my sister-in-law and I went. He composed a beautiful song called

"Shine Son" which always brings tears to my eyes

"Sometimes I ask a little too much, Sometimes I push too hard, Trying to see what you will be, I lose sight of who you are .."

"What can I give him, poor as I am" also draws forth tears. When I die, even if it is in mid-summer, I want "In the bleak mid winter" at my funeral. Actually, however hard we try, all we can give is our "heart".

## A Childhood musical memory from Donald Finnan

It was a beautiful summer evening. The year was 1939 – I was 8 years old. My parents and I were enjoying a cycling holiday in North Wales. Mother and father had the old fashioned "sit up and beg bikes". I had a "fairy cycle" which meant pedalling at least twice as fast as my parents! We travelled about 20 – 25 miles each day, and stayed in youth hostels overnight. We had reached the town of Llanwrst, on the banks of the River Conwy. The youth hostel stood on high ground with a beautiful view across the town to the hills on the other side of the river. After the evening meal we went out and sat on the lawn. There was no sound except the occasional bleating of a sheep, and one cow that mooed constantly. I learned in later years when I worked on a dairy farm that the cow had probably had its calf taken from her that day and was naturally in distress.

In the common room there was a worn out old piano, and someone started to play it. All the hostel windows were open. We had never heard music like that before – and don't mean because of the condition of the



piano! Even on that piano the music was beautiful. We went inside and asked the pianist about the music he had played. He told us it was the opening of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1.

On reaching home again, we scanned the Liverpool Echo for weeks. The new Philharmonic Hall had been opened in June of that year. Eventually we saw a concert advertised that included the piano concerto, booked seats, and for the first time ever we went to a concert. That, for me, was a life changing experience, and I have loved what people call "classical music" ever since.

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Thanks to all these people for their carefully considered choices. We hope you will enjoy discovering something new from this wonderful array of musical possibilities. Alison.

## Cats, Chats and 88 Keys

A new series of weekly concerts and talks given by John Paul Ekins

The **launch concert of Schubert's meaty D960 sonata** is now available to watch via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVmV0pal044>

John Paul Ekins, who has frequently performed in our church, has released a tribute video to the great film composer, **Ennio Morricone**, . You can watch it here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4xxEnVGj8s>) and there are more on the way...

**The concert from Friday 17th July** features a wonderful work by the American female composer Margaret Bonds ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret\\_Bonds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Bonds)). Based on the spiritual "Wade in the Water" its performance was requested in the wake of the recent BLM protests.

Alongside it will be Debussy, Rachmaninoff, and Chopin.

The concert can be watched at your convenience on YouTube (better quality) and Facebook via the following links:

**YouTube (better quality)** - <https://youtu.be/wfc183AG98s>

**Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/ch88k/live/>

This concert series is in partnership with Help Musicians UK, raising money to support musicians in lockdown. If you enjoy the concert please consider buying a ticket, at a price of your choosing:

<https://www.jpekinspianist.com/buytickets>

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## Zoom Quiz

The next in the series of Zoom quizzes hosted by the Elves family, which are gaining increasing popularity, is on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 2.45pm for a 3pm start. Here are the Zoom details:

Topic: New Malden Methodist Church 3rd Lockdown Quiz  
Time: Aug 16, 2020 15:00 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87104103988?pwd=MkUvNzc4dUxNckxxVUIZaXg0MEZIQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 0410 3988

Passcode: CbCyF7

Pit your wits against previous winners! Everyone welcome for an hour of entertainment and fun!

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## The National Archives – A Treasure Chest of Hidden Gems



Some of you may know that during last year I was helping out, once a week, on a project at the National Archives based in Kew. This involved something I actually had no experience of at all! – seals (as in documents, not the animal kind). What was needed was some experience in spreadsheets and photo editing, and somehow I managed to be taken on as part of a small team to scan and upload images of the Archives collection of 7,000 seals. Over the past 100 years these had been preserved as plaster cast moulds in a large number of dusty drawers, inaccessible to the public. I quickly came to learn the different categories – Armorial (with a shield), non-Armorial, Monastic, Ecclesiastical and Equestrian. Particularly poignant was coming across references to many documents relating to the dissolution of the monasteries.



I really enjoyed my weekly visits to the Archives building, just 10 minutes walk from Kew tube station. Members of the public were free to enter to do research, many I think on their family trees. Small exhibitions were staged, one on Suffragettes and another on the Cold War for example. Add in the pleasant grounds, a good café and gift/book shop and it all made for an enjoyable day out. Sadly my visits came to an end in March with the lockdown, but I found an online project with the Archives which anyone could sign up to – transcribing the Ecclesiastical Census of 1851.

Quite a large team of people have got involved from home in helping transcribe this census of church attendance from 170 years ago. So far I have wandered through parishes on the Isle of Wight, around Bedford and Gloucestershire. Methodism arrived in the Isle of Wight thanks to Mary Toms from Tintagel, a member of the Bible Christian movement which later united with the Methodists. I came across many Bible Christian chapels on the Isle of Wight as I worked through the census returns. In Bedford I found chapels founded by John Bunyan, also by the eccentric Rev. Matthews who summoned his congregation to church by blowing his bugle through the town. In Gloucestershire who would have known that the village of Hartpury was named after the hard pear tree that the congregation used to meet under?

# A RETURN

## OF THE SEVERAL PARTICULARS TO BE INQUIRED INTO RESPECTING THE URGENTIONS

### PLACE OF PUBLIC RELIGIOUS WORSHIP

[X] *Return shall be submitted from the Clergy of the Church of England, and also from the Ministers of every other Religious Denomination (excepted from the Act of 1801)*

I.	II.			III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.		VIII.					
Name or Title of Place of Worship	Where Situate, specifying the Parish or Place	Diocese	County	Religious Denomination	When Erected	Whether and whether not originally erected for the Worship (Religious) of the People	Whether and whether not originally erected for the Public Worship of the People	Estimated Number of Persons attending Divine Service on Sunday, March 30, 1861	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	
(1)	(2)	(3)					(A) (B) (C)	(D) (E) (F)							
Anglican - Methodist - Baptist	Church of St. John the Evangelist			Anglican Presbyterians	In the Year 1859	Yes	Yes	60	60			General Congregation	38	5	43
	Church of St. John the Evangelist											Female	38	5	43
	Church of St. John the Evangelist											Male	38	5	43
	Church of St. John the Evangelist											Total	76	10	86
	Church of St. John the Evangelist											Female	38	5	43
	Church of St. John the Evangelist											Male	38	5	43
	Church of St. John the Evangelist											Total	76	10	86
	Church of St. John the Evangelist											Female	38	5	43
	Church of St. John the Evangelist											Male	38	5	43
	Church of St. John the Evangelist											Total	76	10	86

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct Return to the best of my belief. Witness my hand this 30th day of March 1861.

X. (Signature)..... John Smith

(Official Character) Justice of the Peace of the County of Middlesex

(Address by Post) Little Green, Bedford.

Check out the National Archives web-site to see some of their collections (under Images), or if you would like to try some transcription go to Menu, Get Involved!

Sue Duckering

## Methodist Prayer Handbook 2020/21

The Methodist Prayer Handbook for 2020/21 ("The Earth Is the Lord's") will be published in August.

In previous years the Circuit has offered to order copies of the handbook as part of a bulk order for individual church members. That will be problematic this year because the current restrictions will make it very difficult for people to pay for them, and for the Circuit to distribute them (in the past people have been able to pick them up at the church or the Circuit Office, and pay for them in cash). Unfortunately, the Circuit is therefore unable to offer to purchase the handbooks for individual members this year.

The Handbooks will be available from Methodist publishing from August, and people can pre-order them now from: <https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/CON-PHKSTD-20/methodist-prayer-handbook-20202021>

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## Creative Opportunity

Could you design next year's London District Christmas card? Here is your chance!



**CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN COMPETITION**

Show the Christmas story in words, photo or drawing.

Design the London District's 2020 Christmas card cover and let everyone experience the Christmas story through your creativity, drawing or writing. This competition is part of the Woven Project, the London District's theme for 2019 – 2021, a theme centred on the power of storytelling to transform and renew us in our lifelong discipleship as followers of Christ.

**To submit your entry**

Visit [methodistlondon.org.uk/christmascard](https://methodistlondon.org.uk/christmascard) for more information on how to submit your entry and for terms & conditions

All entries must be received by Sunday 20 September 2020

**Open to all ages**

**Woven**  
God's Story. Your Story. Every Story.

LONDON DISTRICT  
OF THE  
METHODIST CHURCH

  @LondonMethodist  020 7654 3850



# A Pilgrimage To The Holy Land

With the Chairs of the  
London District



**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 | 8 Days Based in Jerusalem & Galilee** | Cost: £1,795 (shared) and £2,220 (single). Cost includes return flights, full board and en suite accommodation except travel insurance

You are invited to join the London District as part of Woven, its theme for 2019 – 2021 to discover for yourselves the setting of some of the most important events in the life and ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ: in Jerusalem, the surrounding area and further north in Galilee.

To make a reservation, visit [methodistlondon.org.uk/pilgrimage](http://methodistlondon.org.uk/pilgrimage) or contact Fola Oyeleye on **020 7654 3845**.

*In the event of cancellation due to Foreign Office advice, our group will be offered an alternative date to travel or the opportunity for a full refund.*



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## Next Issue

The next issue will focus on another subject close to everyone's hearts – and stomachs – and that is food! Have you discovered any new recipes in Lockdown, or re-discovered some old ones? Have you a food related memory you would like to share? The stories have all been so good so far, please keep them coming! Please send all submissions for the next issue to Sarah on the church email [nmmc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nmmc@hotmail.co.uk).

Please submit your contributions for Lockdown Life 6 no later than 26<sup>th</sup> August.

PS. Did you get the extra two baby photos in last month's issue? They were Mick and Gloria Taviner.

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