



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

Lockdown Life

**Issue 8:
November 2020**

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The Wings of Hope 2007 – 2020

Welcome to the Neighbourhood

The children in our care come from the inner-city, Jeppestown /Belgravia neighbourhood of Johannesburg. They come from homes plagued by poverty. Most of them lack language, and social skills, as well as gross and fine motor skills. Some do not even have the words to express themselves in their own home language. By the time these children leave the Wings of Hope School they will have overcome a number of challenges of their past, and will be ready to enter Grade 1.

Extract from school brochure

I wanted to write a piece to thank all the wonderful knitters in the church who started knitting for the Wings of Hope nursery school in the Summer of 2007.

Let me start the story at the beginning – Maurice and I went out to Johannesburg to spend a month's holiday in February 2007 with my school friend, and also my nephew's family.

The pictures you see were taken that year. In planning the trip with my nephew, he had told me all about the Wings of Hope and the fact that he was the Chair of the Governors. He told me about Sister Natalie, an inspirational Roman Catholic nun who had been the Headmistress of the Secondary School in Jeppestown.

Sister Natalie had always been disturbed by the poverty in that area and conscious of the arrivals of refugees from all over Africa, and their little ones. She realised if these under 6s did not get into a nursery school before they were 6 they would not be known or registered and therefore denied an education. Her vow was to open a nursery school on retirement and to win over the governors of the Secondary School to give her a group of abandoned buildings within the Secondary School grounds.

Her wish was granted and in the early part of 2000-2004 the school came into being – very very basic, starting with 40 4 year olds from the poorest of the poor. Talking to Mark, I told him about his Great Aunt here in Wimbledon who knitted lovely bears for a charity called Teddies for Tragedies. I said I might be able to get hold of 40 bears and did he think this was a good idea? He thought it was, so we duly took out 40 bears with us and also 40 cotton bags to keep them in. From the pictures you can see how wonderfully they were received. Sister Natalie told the children that the bear could be their friend. They could learn songs about teddy bears (which they have always done and sung to us when we visit). Talking to the teachers after the distribution, they asked if we could knit hats, scarves and mittens for the school. As we drove away I said to Maurice that it was a big ask of the church. 120 knitted items needed for the following year – school year starts in January.

The rest is history – every year you have knitted and sewed so that each January the next consignment was ready to go, and now 60 little ones begin each year.

Of course Maurice and I did not go every year, but usually every second one until 2019 when he was too unwell to go and I went on my own that year and this. When we did not go, every item was posted and the generosity of the church, New Malden Rotary, The New Malden Golf Club and strangers who came to our many coffee mornings (I cannot count how many cakes have been made for me! Thank you for those) provided the postage.

We have never missed a year.

I said that the first year we required 120 items. I hope you are good at maths and can work out how many items we have been able to give out. Everybody who has taken this project to heart has been wonderfully generous, I hope you do not mind if I mention a few names.

Ruth McLeod has knitted 80% of the bears and is still knitting! Birgit Cowan has made the majority of the bear bags. She has 120 now made for 2021 and 2022. Andrea Mooton has probably made 80% of the hats and mittens. She has just completed her 63rd hat for this year. Joy Clarke and Jean Bedford have knitted so many of the scarves, delivering to me 10 at a time. To everybody else, your knitting has been just as valuable and I thank you so much.

Now as in every walk of life Covid 19 changes everything and I am not able to go out in January to South Africa. All the items will be posted for the class of 2021. Nobody is to worry about the cost of that, guess how much I have saved by not buying a Premium Economy ticket with Virgin Atlantic?

This past January was the first time I have travelled in such style and it was not only because our two daughters insisted that I needed more comfort but most importantly, I could double my luggage allowance – I did need some clothes for my stay!!

As I have said Covid changes everything and I do not know what the future holds. So sadly I have had to make the decision that we have knitted our final hats, scarves and mittens. These were not knitted this year because we now need 60 of everything.

I am hoping the bears and bags will continue, we now have bags for 2022 and a friend in the Cotswolds is knitting bears and also Wells Methodist Church in Somerset. Ruth never stops, as she approaches her 100th birthday this month, and I have recently delivered her more brown wool and stuffing.

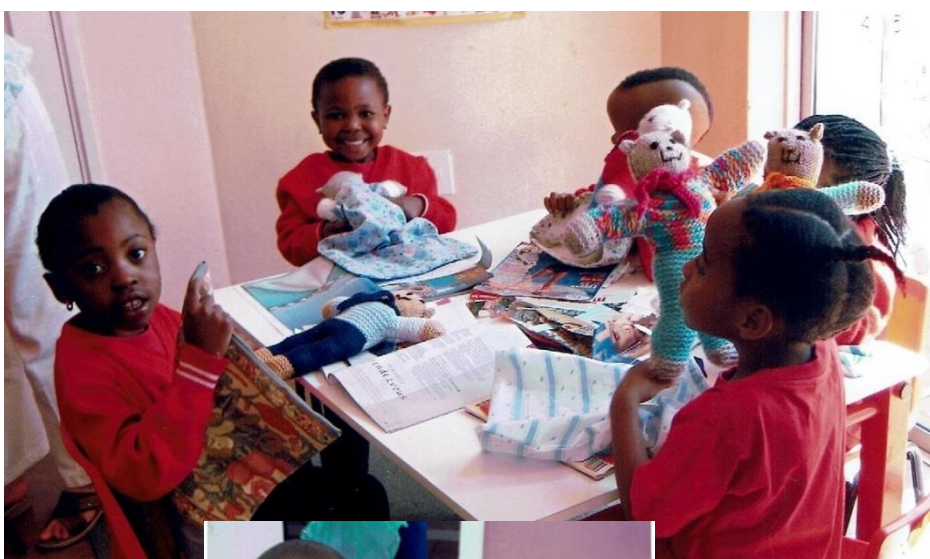
Hopefully one day I will fly back to Johannesburg taking the bears with me and the love and prayers of New Malden Methodist Church.

With love and grateful thanks, Stella Chattle

With grateful thanks to Stella for her indefatigable coordination of this fantastic cottage industry. Sarah



Sister Natalie explains what a 'friend' Teddy can be to the children.



Methodist Guild Holidays

Why yes, of course Alison! I couldn't have described it as well as you but I recognise **every** aspect of your experiences. We as a family were lucky enough to have holidays in Guest Houses by the sea in different parts of the country, particularly Norfolk, where my mother came from, & Eastbourne. This was partly because in my young days it was very difficult to book into a Methodist Guild Guest House as they were very popular and everybody wanted August in the school holidays. I think I only went to one, Willersley Castle (probably the easiest to book into as it was not by the sea but in Derbyshire so not as popular as Treloyn Manor, St Ives or Highcliffe, Swanage). I remember all the things Alison mentioned but there is one experience which remains with me and probably always will! It relates to the Sunday evening concert. I recall I was around 12 years of age and somehow it was discovered I could sing and I was 'persuaded' to take part even though I didn't have anything to sing. Obviously being a Methodist establishment there was no shortage of Hymn books so they said 'sing a hymn'. So I did. Unbelievably, and to this day I shall never know why, I chose no.392 from the 1933 hymn book, then it became 695 in Hymns and Psalms, now currently dropped from Singing the Faith, 'I bind unto myself this day'. Of all the hymns to choose! but I was only 12 and didn't have the knowledge of hymns that later years afforded me. 5 years later the story would have been very different. However I ploughed my way confidently through it and received great applause at the end, probably because the audience were glad to hear the final verse but I think from their reaction afterwards they were appreciative of the rendering of what could be described as a difficult hymn, by a 12 year old. I shouldn't now ever have to sing that again! Although I only experienced one holiday, I have all the enjoyable memories described by Alison.

I later, when able to travel solo or at least with a friend, progressed to Methodist Guild Continental Holidays and later still when married, to Raymond Cook Holidays, a Methodist Travel company and thereby hangs many memorable experiences. Later it was Saga for many years and as life has hit the top end it has been Shearings coach holidays, virtually door to door, as one no longer wants to drive or have the airport hassles! They have now been taken over during Lockdown by Leger Holidays, although keeping the Shearings name and hotels but not the coaches, so we will see what the future holds if anything!

Doreen Downey

Letter from Anne Bedford

Dear Friends

Paul and I would like to thank you for your friendship and care for our parents Basil and Audrey Bedford for many years.

We have had a special relationship with the Church as Mum and Dad lived next door to your Manse for 43 years and we know they were supportive of all the Ministers and their families who have lived there in times of joy and sorrow.

Mum and Dad made their commitment to Christ and became Church members in New Malden Congregational Church during their teenage years and they retained that membership until their deaths. However, for more than 20 years Mum shared in worship and the life of this church and got to know many of you well and we recall the great Thanksgiving service we had for Dad in 2001.

Mum loved to be useful but did not want to intrude but you will recall her behind her £1 stall even sitting for a little while with Mick and Alan in 2019 and serving a customer or two! As a family we know how much she enjoyed such events.

Music was important too – she loved to sing and to play the piano when she was able. When I went shopping, she was content to be left with her dance music CDs and her footwork remained good even when she could dance only with her trolley!

Thank you for your caring cards and letters remembering her smile and the twinkle in her eye which was commented on some 54 years ago when she retired as Captain of 2nd New Malden Girls' Brigade. We are so glad that she maintained this to the end.

Thank you all and we send our love in these challenging times. May the work of God's Kingdom continue through the lives and service of you all. Anne

Greetings from the Lake District

The Bulletts made it to the Lake District with Donald and as you can see, all was going very well!



Some Good News

David and Gillian Gillman were blessed with a third grandchild in August when Beth gave birth to a 9lb 3oz baby boy who they have called Dillon. Susannah's children, Freddie and Evelyn who are now 10 and 7 respectively, are thrilled to have a cousin.

David and Gillian have a new address. Please contact me if you would like it. Sarah

Remembrance Sunday 2020



Due to current Covid safety guidelines it will not be possible to hold the usual public Commemoration Services, March Past or Parades that would normally take place across the borough on Remembrance Sunday (8 November). A couple of representatives of the Malden & Coombe branch of the British Legion will lay a wreath at the New Malden Memorial at 11am.

Wreaths can be placed privately by individuals throughout the Remembrance period but residents and organisations must ensure they keep to current Covid safety guidelines.

All being well, a special effort will be made next year. 2021 marks the centenary of the formation of The Royal British Legion. Malden & Coombe was also established so is a founder member.

Gardening through 2020 with Nicky Horton

COVID has set so many restrictions on our lives this year, but this has lead to some bonuses, one has been being able to spend more time in our gardens and allotments.

This year my garden has been my happy place and I've enjoyed taking many photos of it during the year. Here are some of the pictures that show the changes as the seasons have changed.



Veg beds ready to go. Netting to stop the squirrel digging them up



Fuchsia pots still sleeping waiting for the warmer weather (above)

Sweet peas just beginning to make an appearance



Colour starting to appear after the long winter months

As we are no longer able to visit the garden centre, packets of seeds have been found and sown.

So reassuring to see them start to grow.



More spring flowers brightening up the garden.



Fuchsias are starting to show signs life. Always a worry with hardy ones that have stayed out all winter, which ones have survived.



Summer is on its way. The grass has been mown, though the path well trodden while we are on lockdown is still visible. Flowers are returning and bringing colour to the garden.



It did actually rain during June.



Keeping busy with lots of seeds germinating and growing.

So many tomatoes.

Beautiful marigolds rubekia and nicotiana

Even some of the busy lizzies seeds grew.



Late summer and the garden is enjoying the unexpectedly warm weather.

The borders have been a riot of colour all from a few packets of seeds.

The roses keep on flowering and berries are starting to form



Autumn has arrived, the leaves are falling and beautiful red and orange hues fill the garden.



Preparations being made for colour next year in the garden. One of three trays full of aquilegia grown from seeds collected earlier this year. And the second set of fuchsia cuttings hoping to make it through the winter.

The earlier ones are already in pots on the patio.



I hope you have enjoyed seeing my garden through lockdown. I am always so grateful to have such a lovely outdoor space. Hopefully things will return a little more to normal next year and I will be able to share my garden in person with any of you who wish to venture over to Stoneleigh.

A Lifetime of Gardening

It is widely considered that gardening is good for both physical and mental health and over the years whilst working full time I found it relaxing to get in the garden even though time was very limited. Now that I have retired I have more time available (especially this year) and enjoy looking after the garden with my husband who does the digging, mowing and big pruning jobs. So my mental health received a little boost in July when Alan Downey walked past on his way to a pastoral visit and said that we would win a prize for Best Front Garden in the street, although to be fair he didn't walk the full length of the street. He did, however, pass by when the garden was at its best with bedding plants and flowering shrubs such as hydrangea.

I didn't have much practical experience of gardening prior to acquiring my own garden when in my 40s apart from helping mum in the flower garden when I was a girl. Living in a farm cottage in Lincolnshire we also had a large vegetable garden which was dad's area of expertise though occasionally when in my teens I dug the potatoes for dinner if dad was not available. He grew potatoes, cabbages, sprouts, cauliflowers, onions, runner beans, broad beans, carrots, parsnips, peas, beetroot, rhubarb and gooseberries that I can remember. We generally had a good supply of vegetables (caterpillars and bees also) and every now and again a few surplus cauliflowers went to the village shop for sale there. I wonder how he fitted it all in as working on a farm he did 12 or 15 hour days when harvesting corn and peas. Then when grandad got less mobile he started helping with his garden also. In their 60s my parents moved to a retirement bungalow where there was only a small back garden but he occupied himself with shrubs and bedding plants.

Dad served his apprenticeship Digging for Victory in the school garden as a 12 and 13 year old which no doubt he preferred rather than lessons in a classroom. He didn't volunteer for the job but was selected because he was quite a big lad and being from a farming background was likely to be capable and interested. Being an August baby he left school and started work on his 14th birthday.

Eventually dad became too old and unwell to look after his small garden and it fell to my generation to carry on the work. Sadly he died last year aged 90 but our loss is someone else's gain as in that great big garden in the sky I think he will be helping to create and tend All Things Bright and Beautiful.

Kathleen Linehan

Garden Quiz

Do you know your plants?

Here are a selection of plants from my garden, but do you know what they are called?

Just the common or latin name of the genus, not the species as I don't know all of them myself. For example, I'm just looking for Daffodil or Narcissus as the genus, not tete a tete which would be the species.

Also, I'm after the main plant in the picture not any of the ones in the background.

Good luck, Nicky.





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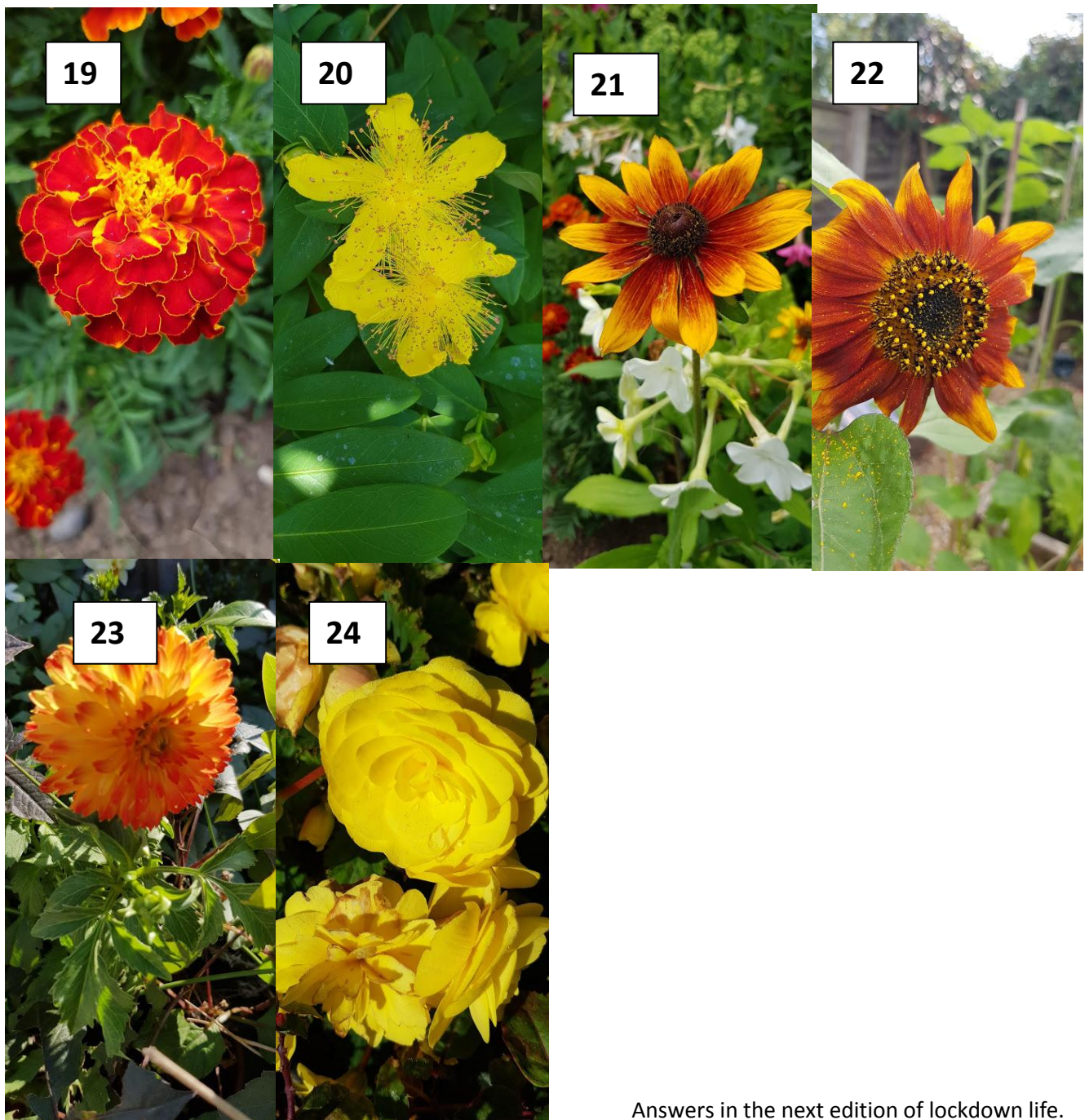
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Answers in the next edition of lockdown life.

‘The Glory of the Garden’ by Rudyard Kipling

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,
You’ll find the tool- and potting-sheds which are the heart of all
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dung-pits and the tanks,
The rollers, carts, and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the planks.

And there you’ll see the gardeners, the men and ‘prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise ;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows ;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing:- 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!

Christmas is approaching

What a different Christmas we will have this year with none of the usual services and celebrations that we love and that mark this special time for Christians worldwide.

We have been thinking of ways we can adapt our customary events. The Sheep Trail will still happen in the High Street with a downloadable form which will appear later in November.

Sadly, we will not be able to put on the Christmas Tree Festival but plan to be able to put up a few trees in the windows of Wesley's to provide a cheery display for the High Street.

In lieu of the Christmas Fair, we will be setting up stalls outside the church on Saturday November 7th and December 5th (10am-12 noon) to sell jams and chutneys and possibly a limited number of other crafts and bits and pieces.

Karl is preparing an outdoor nativity in New Malden and Peter is exploring how we might offer Christmas carols in some form this year, in lieu of Community Carols not being possible in the normal format.

Next Issue

Clearly the only theme for the December issue is Christmas! Past, present, future. It would be great to have a bumper Christmas issue so please send me any articles and photographs of interest.

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at nmmc@hotmail.co.uk (or in long hand through my door or the church door ☺), no later than 25th November.
