



New Malden Methodist Church

*At the **heart** of the High Street*

The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church

November 2019

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Message from Reverend Karl

Back in the mists of time, the National Lottery programme on Saturday nights featured the character of Mystic Meg, who claimed to be able to predict the future. She clearly wasn't very good at it, despite all the theatricals accompanying her slot; she famously predicted that Nottingham Forest would win the league, in the year they were relegated! However, while it's easy to see through the spuriousness of somebody claiming to tell the future while waving their hands over a crystal ball, it is nonetheless tempting to wish one did have such powers at the moment.

At the time of writing, it simply isn't clear how things will 'pan out' in terms of the situation with Brexit, beyond recognising that whatever happens toward the end of October, some of you reading this will be absolutely delighted, others will be deeply dejected, and others will be feeling just as bamboozled as ever. In the midst of uncertain and anxious times, the risk is that we end up reacting to events as opposed to responding calmly and with a clear head. Evidence from numerous such occurrences in many different contexts shows that anxiety all too readily leads to scapegoating

and hostility, and in that kind of environment, it's vulnerable minorities that suffer the most.

Thus, while I have no desire to do my own impression of Mystic Meg, it seems not unreasonable to assume that the weeks following the 31st October will be tense ones in pretty much any scenario we might anticipate. As Christians, we have a responsibility not to lose sight of the fundamental truth of all people mattering in the eyes of God regardless of any way in which they may differ from us, which in turn means we have a responsibility to model what it means to love our neighbours as ourselves. Consequently, racism and other forms of prejudice (too often justified by appealing to notions of free speech without any accompanying responsibility) must be called out.

This is especially important on those occasions which have the potential to become flashpoints, and hence, I was encouraged to see the material produced by the Royal British Legion for Remembrance this year. The focus is on how one nation alone could not have stopped the march of fascism across Europe in the 1940s, and in particular, Britain needed the support of her allies both on the Continent and across the Commonwealth. Given how government data highlights how it's Far Right extremism that now poses the greatest risk to security, it's important that nationalistic, and deliberately divisive, lies are countered with the facts. No nation is truly an island; we need each other.

Perhaps most importantly of all, however, is the need to offer hope. Now, I appreciate that this might sound like a hand-waving exercise of its own, and to be clear, I'm not advocating sticking our fingers in our ears whilst whistling 'every little thing's gonna be alright'. Rather, hope is something concrete; it starts when we put God's love into practice by standing up for marginalised people, when we hold those in power to account, and when we show that basic kindness and civility are still possible, even when we disagree with one another.

So, whatever November brings, may we be people of hope. God knows, our world needs it.

Around the Circuit

There were no notices for inclusion this month.

Next Newsletters

If you have any news or a forthcoming event you would like to share with the Circuit, please forward details to Michael Axton at the Circuit Office so that it can be included in each Church's next newsletter or magazine. Please send contributions to:
circuitoffice@kingstonsircuit.org.uk

Summary of October Notices

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Maggie Homer has moved to Surbiton Care Home which is on Park Road in Berrylands. Maggie's daughter Sue has said:
"Thanks to all of you for your support to me and mum. I know mum doesn't remember people well anymore but I do believe it impacts her positively to see people who know her, so anyone who wants to visit her would be most welcome to do so."

DANCING MEMORIES

A chair based dance/ exercise session especially suited to people with restricted

movement or who do little exercise. A place where you can enjoy the beautiful, fun music from the years gone by, socialise and meet new people as well as mobilising the joints and toning muscles.

We meet every Friday at 2.10pm in Wesley's. There will be no charge. If you would like any further information please contact me on 07712 152 801 or emily@edadance.co.uk

I look forward to seeing you there!

Emily Hampton

FILMS WITH FRIENDS

Our next meeting will be Monday 11th November. This month we will meet at 10.30am for a cuppa and cake then the film will begin shortly after we have observed the 2-minute silence at 11am for Remembrance Day. All welcome, so come along if you can. 9 Connaught Road, KT3 3PZ.

Eleanor and Andy Roberts

DONATIONS REQUIRED

There are currently 1200-ish refugees sleeping rough in Calais/Dunkirk. They have no fixed camps to live in as French riot police (CRS) regularly force them to move on, and conditions will only get worse as we move into winter.

Donations are mainly used to provide vital humanitarian assistance to these refugees. When donations can't be used locally they are sent on to other relief charities supporting refugees, for example in Paris, Greece or Lebanon.

List of items needed:

- Clothes. Particularly warm/waterproofs for winter, and small men's/unisex clothes.
- Toiletries. Including women's sanitary products, tissue/toilet paper, soap and razors.
- Tents/tent parts (broken is fine).
- Sleeping bags.

Many thanks, Karl

WAITROSE CHARITY SCHEME

The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed that one of the Waitrose 'Community Matters' causes this month is the NMMC Memory Café

so if you are shopping in Waitrose, please put your green counter in our slot so that Glynis can purchase craft supplies and resources to help her make the Memory Café even more splendid.

VACANCY FOR ACTION FOR CHILDREN REP

Would anyone be willing to take on this voluntary role? It will involve being the church's contact for any Action for Children news and publicity and being the focal point for any individual collection boxes that church members may still have and perhaps running one coffee bar a year. It is not an onerous task but also, could be expanded if you're keen! Please see Julia or Sarah.

THANK YOU STELLA.

Some people just beaver away quietly and determinedly, without any fuss. So this month we all wanted to say a very grateful thank you to Stella, who lovingly tends the urban garden and the flower

beds outside the church. Thanks to her magic 'green fingers' and sheer hard work, we have



a constant display of beautiful colours all the year round to enjoy. The flowers also give enormous pleasure to the public - flowers at the heart of the community. Aren't we lucky! Thank you Stella.

PANTO

Good news! The date for the panto next year has been set for Saturday 4th April.

Please let me know ASAP if you would like to contribute in any way and what you would like to do if not acting! There is a sign-up sheet on the Notice board.

Rehearsals will be Thursday evenings and we will begin on Jan 3rd with a read through. It will be fun I promise! Oh yes it will!!

Many thanks *Julia*.

THANK YOU

Thank you all for jam jars, for fruit, for cakes and for your support for the Preserves Market on October 19th. Proceeds have been divided between Christian Aid and the Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease charity. This disease affects the nerve signals to the muscles. Pam has a form of this and as yet there is no cure. The magnificent sum of £420 has been split between the two charities.

Julie and Pam

HARVEST THANKSGIVING 2019

"All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above, so thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love"

During the harvest weekend we had many reasons to be thankful. The church was decorated beautifully and during worship on Sunday morning baskets full of gifts for the Food Bank were received and dedicated.

On Saturday evening the Church Hall was bright and a delicious supper was enjoyed thanks to the culinary skills of many friends and this was followed by entertainment with music on the piano, the violin and the horn plus a rousing selection of songs from the first forty years of Hollywood musicals – a truly memorable evening thank you to all who made it possible.

We must not forget either those who washed up, cleared the church after service and took our gifts to their appropriate distribution points.

Thank you all. *Anne*

FROM STELLA

One evening as I was sorting out a drawer at home I came across a small Poetry Address Book by Eileen B. Johnson. I opened it up and there was this poem "The Man Boy". I want to share it with you to thank you for all your love and care for me and Maurice. It is also to ask for your prayers for the carers at Bourne House Surbiton who now look after him. Many are so young and from all over the world. When I have despaired at

Maurice's anger and frustration they have said from the beginning "He is a little child un-learning all he ever knew and we are here to love and care for him".

Stella

The Man Boy

The powerfully-built man,
With muscles so strong,
Has the ability,
To show his agility,
And to prance around with ease.

But he moves around,
With his shoelaces undone,
Because he can't do it.
And with shirt buttons that are
haphazardly done,
Because he can't do it.

It makes one wonder,
What is wrong?
And then you'll begin to understand,
That he is just a little boy child,
In the body of a man.

"Laughter is the best medicine."



**New Malden
Methodist Church**

At the heart of the High Street

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newmaldenmethodistchurch.com



New Malden Methodist Church

Friday 29th November

4.30-7.00pm

Cakes, Refreshments
£1 Stall, Toys, Games,
Crafts, Raffle, Books,
Puzzles, Face Painting
Decorations to Make,
Santa in his Winter
Wonderland

and so much more!

Free Entry

**All proceeds to the
Christian Aid project and a
local charity**

Donations for fair, please- books, puzzles,
CDs, DVDs (no videos), home made items,
cakes, toiletries, toys, cuddly toys, chocolate
(for chocolate tombola), items for £1 stall
(no bric-a-brac), manpower!! Thank you

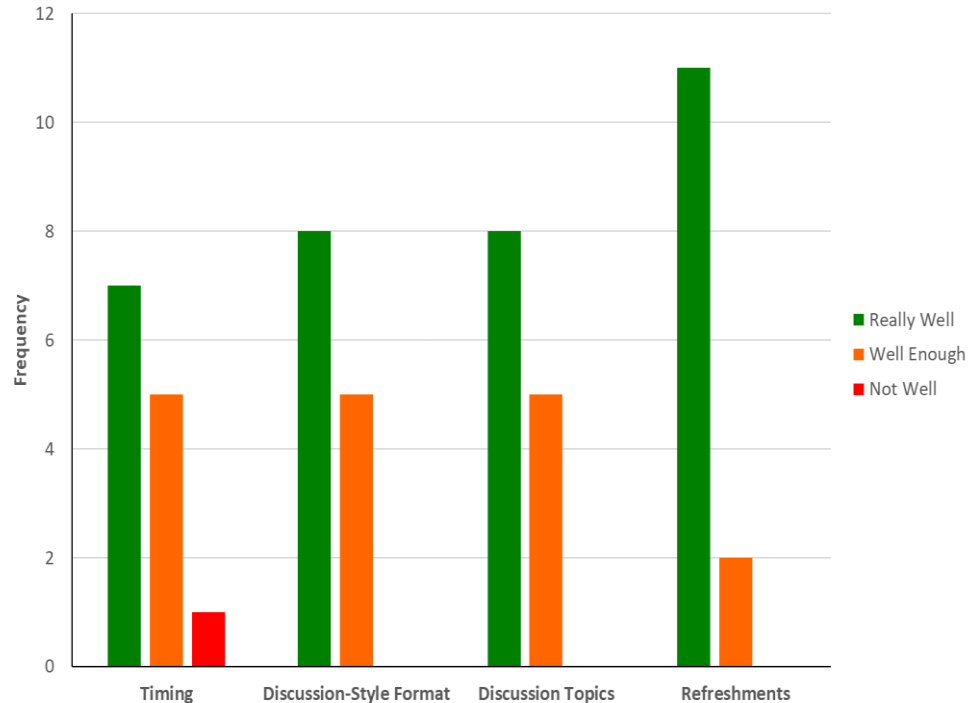
Sunday Afternoon/Evening Worship Survey

The results are in from the congregational survey, conducted in Autumn 2019, into the future pattern of afternoon and evening worship on Sundays.

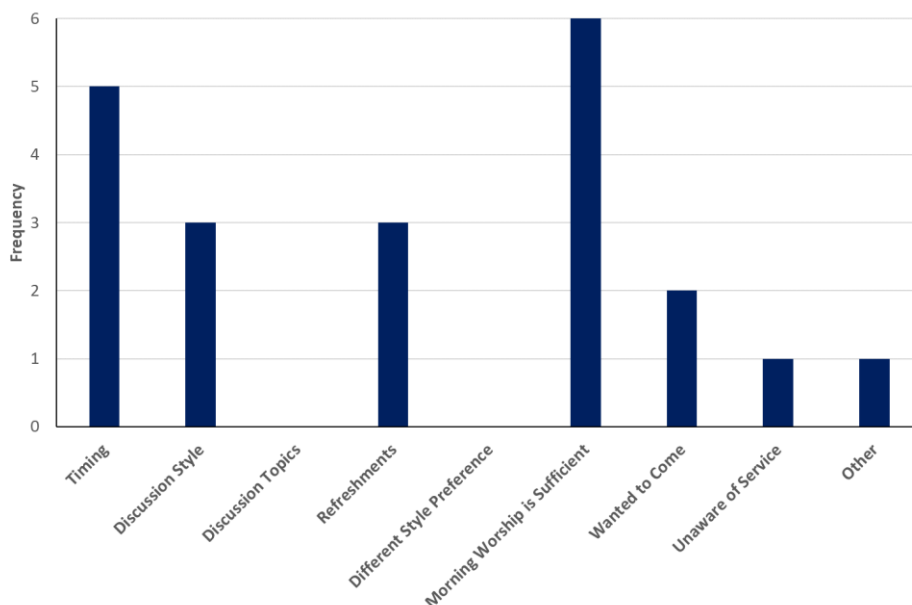
For the last year, we've been running Afternoon Tea and Chat once a month at 3pm, with afternoon tea followed by a discussion around various topics, often related to current affairs. The feedback in the survey from those who had attended this service (thirteen people) was very positive:

In particular, it seems that the refreshments provided (usually teas, coffees, and both fruity and plain scones with jams and cream) were very popular!

However, the timing of the service didn't work for everybody and one person suggested that we offer up a seasonal pattern, with an earlier service time (say 3pm) in the darker months of the year and then later service times while the days are longer.



Asking people who hadn't been before about what put them off was revealing. The two main reasons given were that Sunday morning worship was sufficient and that the timing of the service didn't work:



It is worth noting that the level of response to the survey was not high, despite copies of the questionnaire being placed in the weekly notices bundle.

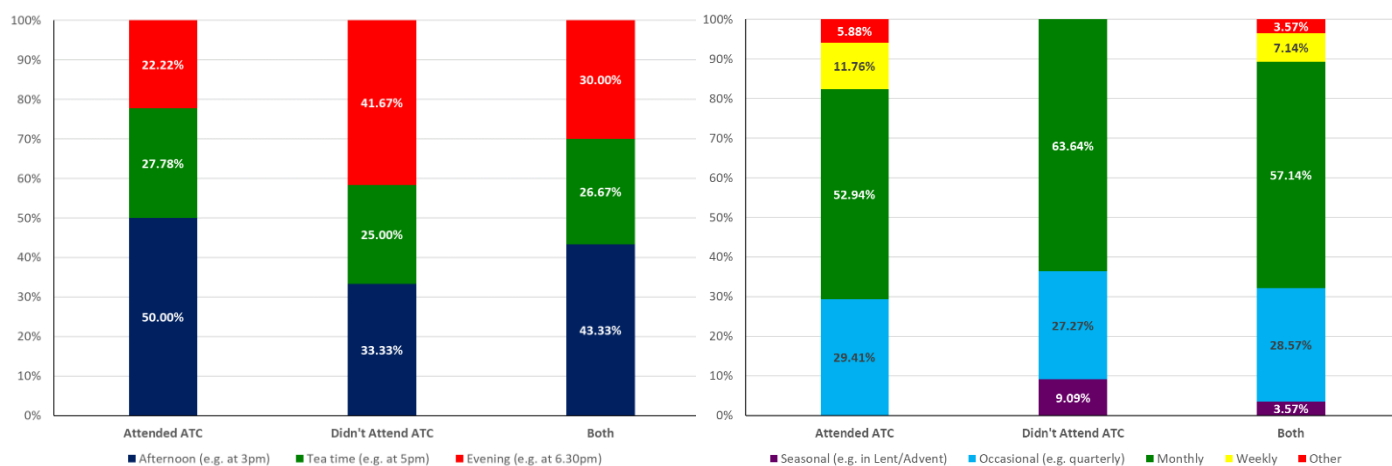
One interpretation of this may be that the percentage of the congregation who are content with morning worship alone is high, and thus that people felt the subject matter didn't

apply to them. Of course, it could be simply that many people don't look at the notices!

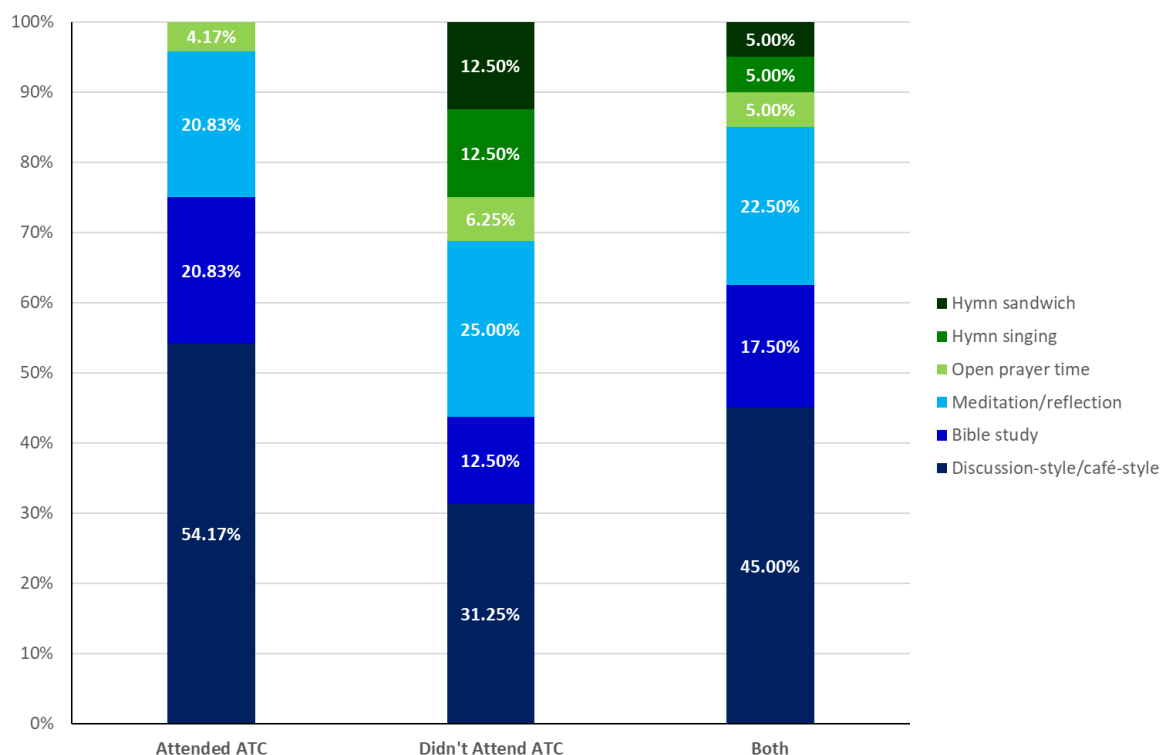
The pressure of busy lives, a lack of time for working people to get tasks done without making good use of Sunday afternoon, transport issues and needing dates further in advance were all highlighted.

Respondents were also asked about what their preferences would be if they were to attend an extra service of some sort on a Sunday.

Not surprisingly, those who came to Afternoon Tea and Chat were more comfortable with the service being at 3pm, but the overall sample was more mixed (below left). The vast majority of respondents wanted to see either monthly or occasional (e.g. quarterly) services (below right):



Those who had attended Afternoon Tea and Chat valued the presence of refreshments much more than those who hadn't done so, but the option to at least have teas and coffees to drink was popular. However, the most interesting responses came when considering the format, with more of those not drawn to Afternoon Tea and Chat seeking a more meditative service or Bible study:



NEXT STEPS

The results of the survey will be considered by the next Worship Consultation. For the meantime, it is suggested that Afternoon Tea and Chat continues at 3pm, as this would fit with the implementation of a seasonal pattern. Thus, from March onwards, there is space for something new to emerge.

Diary Dates for November 2019

Fri 1 st	10.00am	<i>Friday Fellowship</i>
	2.15pm	<i>Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton</i>
	7.30pm	<i>3 Fs at the home of Liz & Rob Edwards</i>
Sat 2nd	10.00am	<i>Coffee Bar – Christian Aid – Hilary Warner</i>
	10.00am	<i>Safeguarding Training at Surbiton Hill MC, registration 9.45am</i>
Mon 4th	7.30pm	<i>Safeguarding Training at NMMC, registration 7.15pm</i>
Tues 5th	7.00pm	<i>Badminton</i>
Fri 8th	2.15pm	<i>Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton</i>
Sat 9th	10.00am	<i>Coffee Bar – Kingston Vale Theatre Group</i>
Sun 10th	3.00pm	<i>Music in New Malden. Anna Jamsek and Min Young Bae.</i> <i>Virtuoso sonatas for violin and piano by Tartini, Bartók & Prokofiev</i>
Mon 11th	10.30am	<i>Films with Friends (at the home of Eleanor & Andy Roberts). The later time allows for observing the minute silence at 11.00am</i>
	7.30pm	<i>Wives & Friends – Crafts for Christmas Fair</i>
Tues 12th	2.30pm	<i>Bereavement Café</i>
	7.00pm	<i>Badminton</i>
Wed 13th	2.00pm	<i>Memory Café</i>
Fri 15th	2.15pm	<i>Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton</i>
Sat 16th	10.00am	<i>Coffee Bar – Women’s Institute</i>
Mon 18th	7.30pm	<i>Kingston District Chamber Music Society concert</i>
Tues 19th	1.10pm	<i>Lunchtime Concert – Some of our favourite songs.</i> <i>Diana Hoy, mezzo soprano, & Wendy Watts, piano</i>
	7.00pm	<i>Badminton</i>
Wed 20th	7.00pm	<i>Malden Fortnight Meeting</i>
Thur 21st	2.00pm	<i>Arts Group</i>
Fri 22nd	2.15pm	<i>Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton</i>
Sat 23rd	10.00am	<i>Coffee Bar – Korean British Cultural Exchange</i>
Mon 25th	7.30pm	<i>Wives & Friends – The Antarctic - Sheena Osborne</i>
Tues 26th	7.00pm	<i>Badminton</i>
Fri 29th	4.30pm	<i>Christmas Fair</i>
Sat 30th	10.00am	<i>Coffee Bar - Inner Wheel</i>

Services in November

3rd Local Arrangement

10th All Age Worship
Remembrance Service
Ms Sally Rush

17th Mrs Linda Davis
3.00pm Afternoon Tea & Chat
Revd Stan Brown

24th Holy Communion
Revd Dr Karl Rutledge

The deadline for the next (December) issue is Friday 29th November. Please leave contributions in the editor’s pigeon hole or email them to john.cronin@unix.net

Thanks, John C

Hi

There used to be a cartoon series (and still may well be) called Love is..... It showed 2 people and had a caption underneath. It was quite cute.

I discovered some thoughts about what love is according to some children all aged under 10 and wanted to share some of them with you.

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over to paint her toenails any more. So my granddad does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too."

"Love is what makes you smile when you are tired">

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other well."

If you want to love better, you should start with a friend you hate

However much you love someone God loves us even more than this. We know that because he sent Jesus to earth and let him live among us to show us just that. Isn't that amazing!

I leave you with one to remember next month too.

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

Yours through Jesus

Julia

