



New Malden
Methodist Church

At the heart of the High Street



Spotlight

April 2025

Message from Karl

Back in March, I attended the Churches Together in England Forum, which takes place every three years and includes representatives from a wide range of churches and para-church organisations. It took place in Swanwick, at a retreat centre which apparently used to be a prisoner of war camp – make of that what you will! – but the focus was on unity and living well together even, or perhaps most especially, when we disagree. As we were reminded, unity and uniformity are not the same thing, but there are nonetheless important theological commitments we all share as Christians. It was against this backdrop that the Forum marked the 1700th anniversary of the formulation of the Nicene Creed, which is one of the great statements of the Church's faith and that emerged from the very first ecumenical council in 325 CE.

I found myself reflecting upon how we don't make much use of the Creeds in our worship in the Methodist Church these days, even though the later Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed of 381 CE is included in the Holy Communion services in the Methodist Worship Book. Perhaps this is because most such services turn straight to the Prayer of Thanksgiving when we use the Worship Book, but do not tend to draw on the content preceding it. Maybe it is because there's something about standing together and proclaiming our shared faith that somehow makes us uncomfortable. Certainly, I know some people who would really struggle with being asked to do so, precisely because it can feel like the Creeds leave insufficient wriggle room for questions and for doubts.

With that in mind, it is important to note that although the Creeds were attempts to pin down what could be agreed upon by the earliest bishops – a real mixture of the privileged folk of the Roman Empire, people pushed to the margins of society who found their worth in Christ, survivors of brutal persecutions that took place just a few years before the conversion of Constantine made Christianity one of the official religions of the Empire, and others – they were never intended to be the last word on key questions such as the nature of Christ. As Rowan Williams puts it in his classic book 'Tokens of Trust', the Creeds are holding formulae that point, however imperfectly, to the experience of God in worship centred on the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In him, the early Church encountered the

fullness of God in human form, and in particular discovered new life as they prayed together and shared in bread and wine.

I find it fascinating, particularly in the context of this season of Lent and the approach to Holy Week, that very little is said about the cross and atonement. We are simply told that Christ was crucified, died and was buried, before rising again three days later in accordance with the Scriptures. As was suggested during the discussions at the Churches Together in England Forum, the understanding of salvation which comes through appears to have been centred on the fact of the incarnation, of Jesus Christ being both fully God and fully human. To turn again to Williams, what is not assumed is not saved, and it matters that we are freed from the power of sin (both our own and the impact of the sins of others upon us) by one who shared our human nature, even as we cannot save ourselves and needed God to open up the path to redemption and new life. This is the focus in the Creeds, and it puts centuries of competing ideas about the cross into perspective.

There is much to be said, I think, for reflecting on both what is said in the Creeds and the silences they leave unfilled by words, perhaps wisely as none of our words can truly touch the heights and breadth and depth of God's nature as unceasing love. Perhaps recognising the latter in particular could help us as Methodists to get over the psychological barriers to embracing the Creeds in worship, because they are (at least in our modern contexts) not there to exclude those who doubt and question and wonder; if that were the case, meaningful faith would be impossible. Instead, they provide a scaffolding upon which to build, and invite us into the mystery of God's immense love for all creation. As we come to the foot of the cross and celebrate the resurrection, may we follow in the footsteps of our forebears and embrace that love with everything we've got.

Every blessing, Karl

Spotlight's Safeguarding Space

Small cards with safeguarding advice and relevant telephone numbers are available. I have plenty to distribute and I will be giving them out on Sunday mornings in April and May should you wish to have one.



Liz Edwards, Safeguarding Officer

Church Family News

Congratulations to David and Gillian Gillman on the birth of their fourth grandchild. Beth has had her second child, a 7½lb daughter called May. We wish all of them lots of love.

Long Service Awards

Recently three members of our Flower Ministry Team have received certificates for their dedication over many years. The certificates are produced by ArtServe Christian Creativity, an organisation to which we subscribe. Jan Harry received a Gold Award recognising more than 40 years' service and both Doreen Downey and Pam Bugeya received Silver Awards for 25 years' service. Thank you and congratulations!



Doreen in February and Pam in March after being presented with their certificates by our minister Karl.

The flower arrangements we enjoy every Sunday to enhance our worship are created by a member of the team. After the service the flowers are distributed to those in our church family community with love. Should you wish to contribute in any way to this part of church life please see Julia Morton.

Baptism

We were thrilled to have the church full on March 16th for the baptism of Tina Mensah's niece Caira Afriyie Claxton. It was lovely to catch up with Caroline and Robert, Carmel and Raphael and their friends and family.

Caroline sent this message and it seemed fitting to record how much the church flowers are appreciated.

“I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you both and to the church for such a wonderful baptism. It was a tremendous day. Our family and friends enjoyed every bit of it.

Thank you also to the church for our hand delivered flowers which I saw yesterday when I returned from work. They are beautiful. Thank you ever so much. Caroline”



Easter Weekend

Walk of Witness

The New Malden Wal of Witness will take place on Good Friday, starting from Jubilee Square at 9.30am.

It's Bread Week on the NMMC Bake Off

Some good quality bread flour has been donated to the church and we thought it might be nice to have a communal baking session and then to sell the produce in Wesley's with proceeds going to a church charity. We aim to do the baking Good Friday morning with the sale (for which we will need cakes as well!) on Easter Saturday 10-12 noon as usual.



We knead (sorry) 10 to 12 bakers to sign up and get their hands dirty. The church will provide the basic ingredients but bakers might want to bring things to add to their loaves such as olives, sun-dried tomatoes, dried herbs, seeds et cetera et cetera. We could also do with a few more baking trays and loaf tins.

There will be a signup sheet in Wesley's so rye (sorry again) don't you give it a go? We aim to make a variety of loaves, rolls/cobs/barms/baps and plaits in different flavours and Julia and I will be doing our best Prue Leith and Mary Berry impressions, giving sage advice so there are no soggy bottoms.

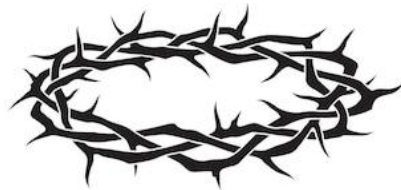
Please dough (really sorry) sign up for what promises to be a fun morning. We are sure you can rise (apologies) to the challenge.

Please note that we did not title this piece 'get yer baps out for the church'.
We would never stoop so low.

Caroline and Julia

Good Friday Music

HAYDN Seven Last Words



Good Friday 18th April 2025
at 8pm NMMC

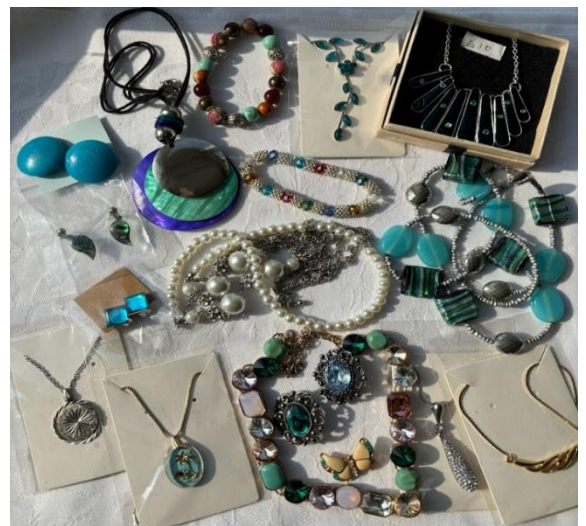
This year, we are presenting Haydn's extraordinary setting of The Saviour's Seven Last Words on the Cross for solo quartet, large classical orchestra, plus semi and main choruses.

The music is accessible and a powerful reflection on the events of Holy Week. As usual, proceeds of a retiring collection will be given to charity.

Easter Saturday morning

As well as selling bread and the usual cakes on Easter Saturday, this will be the next jewellery sale outside Wesley's, weather permitting, 10am – 12.00. A huge choice of necklaces, bangles, bracelets, beads, pendants & brooches. Also earrings for pierced ears as well as clip-ons. Silver, boxed items will be sold at realistic prices. On this occasion money raised will be for church funds.

Liz Edwards



Easter Breakfast?

Traditionally, the church has hosted an Easter breakfast between the two services on Easter Sunday. Sometimes this has been a sit-down occasion in the lower hall furnished with bacon sandwiches and such or, like last year, a cheerful cereal and croissants affair in Wesley's.

We need someone to organise this year's breakfast in whatever way and level of ambition they want. If you think this is something you can do, please have a word with one of the stewards.

The world is your oyster.

Put on your Sunday best for Easter Sunday



I wondered if we could really celebrate this year with "dress up Sunday".

The idea is to dig out your posh frock, suit or tie, accessorise with jewellery, etc, maybe a hat or fascinator. And shoes, à la Liz.

Let's really have fun.

If you'd rather not of course still come if only to see some of us looking glamorous!

Julia Morton

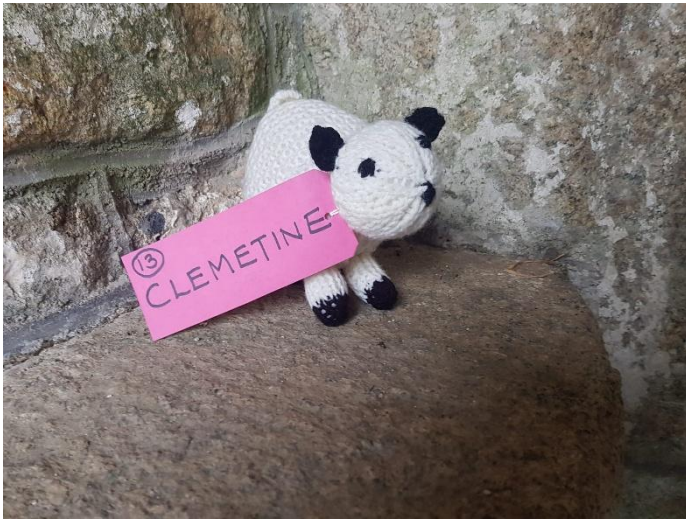


Sheep Exchange

Three of the sheep from the NMMC Christmas Sheep Trail have gone on an adventure.

Inspired by our Sheep Trail my sister-in-law started an Easter trail in her village Bridestowe in Devon. Early last week Georgina got her sheep out to deliver them to their trail destinations and discovered that three were missing – I'm sure there's a sermon in there somewhere. Rather than her having to knit three sheep in three days, I suggested that she borrowed some of ours. So on Wednesday I posted the sheep off to her and they look like they are very much enjoying their countryside exchange.

We hope they enjoy their holiday and maybe Georgina will send a different three back to get a taste of life in 'the smoke'.



One foster sheep in the church porch and another at the village book exchange.

Sarah Moore

Wesley's

Wesley's is becoming very well known in New Malden and the surrounding area as a community hub. Please see the end of this issue for the April calendar of regular events in and around Wesley's which continues to be busy. There is another Digital drop-in this month on 29th April so please come along if you have any questions about your devices. Please let Lee know if you would like a one-to-one session.

More volunteers are always welcome so that we can help this vital resource thrive and grow. Going into the Summer months there will be a need for more volunteers as the regulars have holidays.

For the latest updates and more information, follow Wesley's on Facebook and Instagram:

👉 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wesleysnewmalden/>

📷 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wesleysnewmalden/>

Email nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com

Fundraising in Wesley's on Saturday

The Wesley's Saturday morning coffee and cake sales continue to make substantial amounts for different charities. Please see Sarah if you would like to book a Saturday morning to raise funds and awareness for your charity.

£293.36 was raised on Saturday 22nd February for the King's Trust – a great result. Many thanks to all who contributed.



From Sarah Evans and the whole Garrett Family

A huge thank you for coming to our Bake Sale on Saturday 1st March!

All those cups of coffee/ tea you drunk and the cakes (Welsh)! eaten and other goodies contributed helped us raise an astounding sum of £427!!

My daughter Sarah Evans has a place in the London Marathon this year to raise funds for Diabetes UK.

This charity is very close to our heart as Violet, Sarah's daughter, has T1D (Type 1 Diabetes).

The amount raised has been transferred to Sarah's Just Giving page and will mean she is well on her way to reaching her target!

Your support matters to us and is very much appreciated. The New Malden Methodist Church has always been encouraging to me personally, thank you so much for all your warmth and blessings.

Mary Garrett

We all wish Mary's daughter Sarah good luck for the London Marathon.

The London Air Ambulance Coffee Morning

I wish to thank all those who baked, sold, bought or donated on 8th March, at the Coffee Bar. A special thank you to Liz Edwards for donating the proceeds of the sale of jewellery. All together £420.22 was raised for the London Air Ambulance.

THANK YOU EVERYONE Pam Bugeya



Wesley's at 30

Events planned for the Celebration weekend are:

Friday 13th June -10am-2pm – At Wesley's - coffee /tea 30p a cup when paid in cash.

Friday 13th June – 5pm - Thank you and celebration event for Volunteers and church members. Bring and Share supper.

Saturday 14th June - 10am - Wives & Friends' sale in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind

(Wives and Friends would like to invite you to donate any unwanted gifts for their sale which we be set up outside Wesley's that morning. A basket will be in Wesley's from Sunday 25th May. Donations of cakes also very welcome.)

Saturday 14th June - 6pm - Family Quiz hosted by Robert, Caroline & Isabel

(Look out for the sign -up sheet in Wesley's at the beginning of June.)

Sunday 15th June – 10.30am –Service led by Rev Dr Karl Rutledge & Rev Robert Jones followed by Bring & Share Lunch. After lunch there will be a final celebration by singing 30 hymns!

Did you know that there is a time capsule in the foundations of Wesley's? This article from the *Kingston Guardian* newspaper was published 30 years ago on April 20th 1995 and provides some detail. The report in the *Methodist Recorder* includes more information.



Did you buy one of the pews? If you did please send a photo to Sarah for inclusion in next month's Spotlight.

March's Lunchtime Concert

The Lunchtime Concert held on Tuesday 18th March, consisted of 2 pianos, 4 pianists, and 8 hands and began with a most exciting performance of Rossini's William Tell Overture (not to be confused with the Loan Ranger theme tune!!) which delighted the almost capacity audience. This was followed by the equally entertaining Beethoven's Scherzo from Symphony No.3, Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite No.1, and Liszt's Grand Galop Chromatique. These pieces were performed by the pianists with incredible skill and versatility. These most talented pianists took it in turn to introduce each piece and explain the history behind it. This concert made it a most enjoyable lunchtime.

Many thanks to the four pianists; Peter Bullett, Alison Bullett, Linda Bridges and Anthea Fry.

With Thanks, Pam Bugeya

Tricia Howard and Sue Knowles sent some photos of this lovely event



The next lunchtime concert is on Tuesday 22nd April when our friend Stephen Westrop will be treating us to an organ recital.

Circuit News

Letter from Lorraine Webb

You may have noticed that I have not been around or on the preaching plan for a while. I have missed you greatly, and missed the privilege of sharing worship with you, but exciting plans have been afoot. You may know that I moved to Surbiton from the Isle of Wight, where I had started my local preacher training, and went on to be accredited in January 2012. I moved to East London when I met the man I wanted to spend the rest of my life with, but kept my membership in Kingston circuit. Last year, after a rather traumatic time trying to evict tenants from my former home, (which coincided with other family stresses too!) we discovered that the property needed completely renovating and so since then we have been spending almost every weekend there, making the place habitable again. And in so doing, realised that we didn't want to let it out again, or even sell it, but decided to move

back there. I am taking early retirement at the end of March and will be spending increasing amounts of time there until we move completely in 2026.

I have been welcomed into my old circuit there, now attending the church my parents went to as my old church has closed. In time I shall be transferring my membership and will finally be in a position to fulfil my calling as a preacher once again. I have a funny feeling I may already be being lined up for some children's ministry too!

So it is with sadness that I say a fond farewell and a thank you for all the love and fellowship I have enjoyed at each of the four churches of Kingston Upon Thames circuit. Such a small circuit but with four such different congregations and worship styles! I wish I could have come to say goodbye properly – I hate just disappearing - but sadly the circuit plan just would not work out to make it possible. If you want to keep in touch, please do message me on Facebook or drop me an email – or call round for coffee if you're passing!

With every blessing. Lorraine (Webb)

The Weaver

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me
I cannot choose the colours
He weaves so steadily.

Oft times he weaveth sorrow
And I, in foolish pride,
Forget he sees the upper
And I the underside.

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God roll back the canvas
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skilful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.



Next Spotlight Issue

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at nmmc@hotmail.co.uk (or in my church pigeonhole). Please send me anything you think might be of interest: memories, news of members, advice for life, poems, photos, recipes, etc, by **Wednesday 23rd April**.

NMMC Diary Dates – April

Tuesday 1 st	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 3 rd	10.30am	Knit & Natter in Wesley's
Thursday 3 rd	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts
Friday 4 th	11.30am	Writers' Group
Saturday 5 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Inner Wheel
Monday 7 th	7.45 – 9.45pm	Good Friday Music Rehearsal
Tuesday 8 th	10.30am	Tai Chi Qigong
	2.30 – 4.00pm	Bereavement Café
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Sayings & Phrases
Thursday 10 th	10.30am	Knit & Natter in Wesley's
	1.00 – 3.00pm	Short tennis in the Upper Hall
Friday 11 th	11.30am	Writers' Group
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 12 th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's – Kingston Association for the Blind
Tuesday 15 th	10.30 – 11.30am	Walking Group
Wednesday 16 th	7.00 – 10.00pm	Good Friday Music Rehearsal
Thursday 17 th	10.30am	Knit & Natter in Wesley's
Friday 18 th	09.30am	Good Friday Walk of Witness starting from Jubilee Square
Friday 18 th contd	10.30am	Bread baking in the back kitchen
		Wesley's CLOSED
	8.00pm	Good Friday Music
Saturday 19 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – NMMC – Bread sale
Monday 21 st		Wesley's CLOSED
Tuesday 22 nd		NO Tai Chi
	1.10pm	Lunchtime Concert – Stephen Westrop
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Tai Chi with Angy
Thursday 24 th	10.30am	Knit & Natter in Wesley's
	1.00 – 3.00pm	Short tennis in the Upper Hall
Friday 25 th	11.30am	Writers' Group
Saturday 26 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – currently vacant
		Please contact Sarah if you would like to book
Tuesday 29 th	10.30am	Tai Chi Qigong
	11.30am – 1.00pm	Digital Workshop
Thursday 1 st May	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts
Saturday 3 rd May	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – currently vacant
		Please contact Sarah if you would like to book
Monday 5 th May		Spring Bank Holiday Wesley's CLOSED

Circuit Plan

Plan Details for the Churches					
Date	Time	Chessington	Kingston	New Malden	Surbiton Hill
06/04/2025	AM	LA	S. Lloyd	Rutlidge: AA	T. Coveney
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	4.30pm PP
13/04/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden	Rutlidge: 10am SJ	D. Lloyd	LA
	PM	No Service	Rutlidge	No Service	No Service
17/04/2025	-	7.30pm MT	Rutlidge: 6pm MT/HC	No Service	Maraj-Ogden: 7.30pm MT
18/04/2025	-	9.30am WoW	Rutlidge: 10am WoW	9.30am WoW	Maraj-Ogden: 10.30am
20/04/2025	AM	Han: 8am HC	No Service	Rutlidge: 8.30am HC	No Service
	AM	Han: 10am AA/HC	Rutlidge: AA/HC	Vernon: 10.30am AA/HC	Maraj-Ogden: 10.30am HC
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
27/04/2025	AM	D. Lloyd	Stonehewer	Tarrant	Bridges
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
04/05/2025	AM	Rutlidge: HC	Maraj-Ogden: HC	S. Lloyd: AA	LA
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	4.30pm PP
11/05/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden: ACM	Bridges: AA/CA	Rutlidge: CA	Stonehewer
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
18/05/2025	AM	D&S Lloyd: C	Rutlidge	Maraj-Ogden	Cocking
	PM	No Service	Rutlidge: HC	No Service	No Service
25/05/2025	AM	LA	LA	Vernon: HC	Maraj-Ogden: HC
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service

Notes
AA = All-Age Worship
CA = Christian Aid Service
HC = Holy Communion
LA = Local Arrangement
MT = Maundy Thursday
PP = Praise Party
SJ = Joint Service with St John's
WoW = Walk of Witness

Ministers' Day off:
Karl and Vindra
Monday

Chessington (10am)	Bible: NIV MWB: HC Only Music: StF, H&P, SoF 1 - 3 Korean Language Service 12.30pm
Kingston (10.30am & 6pm)	Bible: GNB MWB: HC Only Music: StF, SoF 1 - 3 Online: Windows on Worship
New Malden (10.30am)	Bible: NRSV MWB: Complete Music: StF Online: Windows on Worship
Surbiton Hill (10.30am)	Bible: NIV MWB: Complete Music: StF, H&P, Let's Praise 1, 2 Online: Live Stream

Church contact information – website www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com



NMMethodists

Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge (Minister)

07932 242789 karl.rutlidge@methodist.org.uk

n/a Monday

Mrs Sarah Moore (Administrator)

020 8942 1288 (Church Office)

(Mon & Wed 10am - 2pm, Thu 12 – 4pm)

nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Lee Monczak (Development Officer)

nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com

Mrs Julia Morton (Senior Steward)

juliamorton@virginmedia.com

Mrs Liz Edwards (Steward)

lizedwards513@gmail.com

Mrs Julie Haines (Steward)

juliehaines53@gmail.com

Charity Registration Number 1176621

Signs of Spring!



Carpets of daffodils at
Claremont Gardens





Our Spring Post Box Topper and the beautiful tree outside the church coming into blossom and therefore lots of sneezing, another sign of Spring for some of us!



Month: APRIL 2025

Date	Day	Time	Wellness Activities & Connection	
31/03/25	Monday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe		
01/04/25	Tuesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Walking Group	
02/04/25	Wednesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe		
03/04/25	Thursday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Knit & Natter	2-4 Creative Arts Group
04/04/25	Friday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	11:30 Writers Workshop	
05/04/25	Saturday	10-12 Charity Bake Sale - Inner Wheel		
06/04/25	Sunday	10:30 Morning Worship		
07/04/25	Monday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe		
08/04/25	Tuesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Tai Chi	2:30 Bereavement Cafe
09/04/25	Wednesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe		
10/04/25	Thursday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Knit & Natter	1-3pm SHORT TENNIS
11/04/25	Friday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	11:30 Writers Workshop	2-4pm Board Games
12/04/25	Saturday	10-12 Charity Bake Sale - Kingston Association for the Blind		
13/04/25	Sunday	10:30 Morning Worship		
14/04/25	Monday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe		
15/04/25	Tuesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Walking Group	
16/04/25	Wednesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe		
17/04/25	Thursday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Knit & Natter (TBC)	2-4 Creative Arts Group
18/04/25	Friday	Cafe CLOSED	Good Friday	8pm Good Friday Music
19/04/25	Saturday	10-12 Charity Bake Sale - NMMC Caroline Auty		
20/04/25	Sunday	10:30 Morning Worship		
21/04/25	Monday	Cafe CLOSED	EASTER Blessing	
22/04/25	Tuesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	!!! NO TAI CHI (back on 29th)	1pm Lunchtime concert
23/04/25	Wednesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe		
24/04/25	Thursday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Knit & Natter	1-3pm SHORT TENNIS
25/04/25	Friday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	11:30 Writers Workshop	
26/04/25	Saturday	10-12 Charity Bake Sale		
27/04/25	Sunday	10:30 Morning Worship		
28/04/25	Monday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe		
29/04/25	Tuesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Tai Chi	11:30-1pm Digital W/shop
30/04/25	Wednesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe		

For the latest updates, please scan to check What's On <https://www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com/calendar/>

**"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said.
Come and see the place where He lay." Matthew 28:6**

This verse beautifully captures the hope, victory, and new life that Easter represents.

Wesley's Community Hub & Cafe

for more information please contact Lee on nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com
 New Malden Methodist Church, 49 High Street, New Malden KT3 4BY
 Church Admin on nmmc@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 0208 942 1288

