



Spotlight December 2022

Message from Karl

When I was growing up, I remember dreading December because it felt like the waiting period which is Advent went on forever, and all I wanted to do was get my hands on the new toys I'd chosen from the Argos catalogue, but which for some mysterious reason needed to be delivered by an old man with a beard in a red suit on a specific night. However, in adult life, I've come to the conclusion that it is my favourite time of the Christian year, because what we're waiting for is nothing less than God's love embodied in human form, showing up in our neighbourhood and transforming the world forever.

What can feel strange, however, is the gap between the Church's understanding of Advent as a time for reflection and slowing down, and the mad rush which goes on in the world beyond its doors, that seems to start earlier each year. It can be hard work to make time for God when we're told Christmas is already here, Noddy Holder's dulcet tones can be heard in (far too many) shops, and there seems to be so much to do. Things are even harder if, for whatever reason, it's difficult for you to embrace the mood of joy that almost seems to be compulsory in December, reinforced by advertising and the pressure for the 'big day' to be perfect. For many, Christmas comes with mixed emotions.

However, whatever our feelings about Christmas, Advent still affords us a vital opportunity to take a deep breath, and to reflect on how things are in terms of our relationship with God. We're invited to ask what might happen if we allowed Jesus into our lives that bit more fully, that bit more radically, and to experience the difference that might make. It won't necessarily be easy, because stepping out of the darkness into God's light may well show us things about ourselves we rather wish weren't there, but we do so safe in the knowledge that we are loved without any conditions attached. The truth of Advent is the faithfulness of God in the midst of our messes and muddles.

I'd like to encourage you, therefore, to take a few minutes each day to ponder these things, and to read for yourselves those great prophecies of Isaiah and others that point forward to

the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. Writing to a people struggling in exile, they brought Israel promises of hope and new beginnings, which crystallised hundreds of years later as God's initiative and Mary's 'yes' coming together to change everything. God's love now has a human face, because God showed up, and took the risk of entering into this broken world, loving us to the end. Thanks be to God! Blessings, Karl

Spotlight's Safeguarding Space

Having accepted the role of Safeguarding Officer I have begun the online training. The first part was a reminder that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and the following is part of a prayer that was shared. I am sharing it because I thought it particularly appropriate during Advent.



The Methodist Churc "Lord of Light, we remember that you came into the world to banish darkness. We hold before you those people whose lives have been overshadowed by abuse. Open our hearts to find ways to make safe space for all people. Amen."

Thanks, Liz Edwards, Safeguarding Officer

November News

Thank You

Pam Bugeya would like give a huge thank you to anyone who supported the coffee morning last Saturday, either by baking, helping or attending. A magnificent £183.90 was raised for Toilet Twinning.

Lessons and Carols Sunday 18th December at 10:30am

We are repeating last year's successful Sunday morning carols and will again be welcoming everyone to be part of the Music Group. The only attribute needed is to be able to sing reasonably in tune.

There will be rehearsals on the two previous Saturday mornings (10th & 17th) and we will be singing a wide range of Christmas music between congregational carols and traditional readings. If you would like to take part, please speak to me or E-mail p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk. Peter Bullett

Flower Rota

I am about to produce the Flower Rota for the next year, commencing in January. Please can you let me know if you wish to sponsor the flowers on a specific date, even if it is the same date you had this year. I will do my best to accommodate your request. Please can you also advise the stewards of anyone you think would appreciate the flowers after the Sunday service for any reason. A note in the Steward pigeonhole is sufficient. Thank you, Julia Morton.



Church Family News

Julie Haines is now on the waiting list for her hip operation. We will keep you posted about when it is and we all hope that Julie won't have to wait too long.

Micky Philpot died peacefully on Sunday 13th November. His wife Sheila who died in 2016, was a stalwart of Wives, the coffee bar and the flower arranging team.

Hilary has decided to resign from her job with us with effect from December 17th in order to focus on her family. We are sorry to see her go and hopefully when the health of her parents improves, she will once again be able to return in volunteer mode at Wesley's. Our prayers are with Hilary, Dell and Andrew.

Congratulations to **Ruth McLeod** who celebrated her 102nd birthday on 22nd November. These lovely photos were taken at Ruth's party at The White House Nursing Home where she now lives. They were sent to me by Alison Finch, Reg's daughter. It looks like a good time was had by all and it is wonderful to see Ruth looking so well.



Wives & Friends Tuesday 13th December

On Tuesday 13th December, the Wives and Friends Fellowship will have Jayne Stockdale teaching us basic CPR with a Defibrillator. She will be bringing one with her for us to practice on. As we have one on the front wall of the church, we felt we should all learn how to use it.

Our meeting is from 7 30 pm until 9 pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be on offer. If you would like to learn please come and join us.

Stella on behalf of the Fellowship

Sunday Morning Children's Group

It is now one year since I offered to set up something for our children on a Sunday morning. How time flies! This is a quick overview of what we have been up to.

At the start of the year I began by putting some activity sheets out for the children to take into the service, based on the lectionary readings which the rest of the church was following. These are helpfully provided on the website Sermons4kids, so it is a question of looking ahead for a few weeks and downloading from the website whatever looks appropriate. The website offers colouring sheets, word searches, fill in the blanks from a bible passage, words written in code to decipher and such-like.

To add variety I have also tried to have a craft activity to develop our creative skills, more so since we moved onto a table in the Wesley entrance area rather than just doing things in church. Being in that area seems to work well for us, we can hear what is going on in the service, children can see where their parents are and latecomers don't disturb the congregation. With our new members from Hong Kong we need a large table each week, and sometimes a second one as well.

Some of our craft activities are home-made eg. Advent candles and collages. Coloured tissue paper has helped create Moses' burning bush, Zaccheus's tree and Remembrance Day poppies. Other activities are bought in from craft company Baker Ross, eg. Advent calendars and scratch art.

We now start with a short reading from a children's bible, both the Beginners Bible and Lion Bible give child-friendly accounts of the stories with lovely illustrations. We also have a large set of story books provided by Liz Edwards.



The lectionary readings seem to generally come from the New Testament, if the readings don't seem very child-appropriate I tend to look at some more of the Old Testament stories. So far we have looked at Moses but there are many more characters to look at in future weeks.

Thank you all for your interest and support, and to those who kindly come out to help as our numbers grow.

Sue Duckering

Our buildings and how we depend on them at NMMC

When I walk into a public building (one which is not someone's home), I tend not to give a second thought to all the practical considerations and maintenance which allow me to use it efficiently, safely and comfortably. Perhaps you are the same?

Our premises support the community which is NMMC – us, our hirers and visitors – and the activities we use them for. They are somewhat like a domestic house, but on a much larger scale. Total floor area about 1200 m2 (some 10x that of a 3-bed semi), height of ceilings from 4m to 14m (domestic typically 3m), number of light bulbs (nearly 50 in Wesley's alone, not to mention over 50 fluorescent tubes elsewhere), 10 wcs, 13 basins and sinks, 8 consumer units (electrical distribution boards), 5 gas boilers (including the one giving trouble at the moment) and goodness knows how many metres of drain and soil pipe, electricity cable and guttering and numerous tiles on our roofs. If you factor in the people who come onto our premises each week – about 1000 person hours – you see that not only do we have extensive premises, but they are used about three times more intensively (and sometimes less carefully) than a domestic house.

We also have health and safety duties (including fire, gas, electrical, child and vulnerable person protection, working at heights etc.), plus insurance requirements and employment legislation which do not apply in our homes, but which have consequences for how we operate, the standards to which we work and issues around security.

It is a tribute to the diligence and skill of my predecessors and their committees that the structure and fabric of our buildings are in such a good state of repair and that five-yearly Connexional and various H&S inspections have not thrown up any major causes for concerns recently.

So why do I want to share this background with you? Well, because we all have our part to play in helping to ensure that the present satisfactory state of affairs continues and that our premises can continue to support us in the work we want to do "at the heart of the High Street" and go on providing a level of rental income which makes this possible.

How you can help . . .

If you see something which is damaged, broken, unsafe, or needs replacing, please report it (if it is just a bit dirty or untidy, you may be able to deal with it yourself!). There is a book in the Property pigeon-hole where you can record the issue or you can E-mail NMMCProperty@hotmail.com. State the issue and give your name, so it can be followed up appropriately. Please bear in mind that not everything can be put right immediately, but you will have done your bit.

- If you see an external door or window open, close it. If it is too warm in a space, turn down the thermostat (by a few degrees only) and reset it when you leave. Turn off lights if they are unlikely to be needed for some time. This will help conserve our limited resources.
- Perhaps you would like to be involved directly in this work by joining the Property Committee? Please speak to me or E-mail me if so!

Peter Bullett, Property Co-ordinator

Wassail! Wassail!

Why not come along to Speirs House (at The Chesters , off Traps Lane) on Wednesday 14th December, 3-4pm, for 45 minutes of carol singing followed by tea and mince pies. Please note change of date. There is no requirement to have any particular sort of voice; it is just a chance for the residents to see some different faces and join in a pleasant festive occasion. Please dress festively! Please note there will be no Communion on this occasion. Parking is very limited so please speak to Alison or Doreen if you would like a lift from the Church at 2.30.



Here are a couple of photos of last month's session.

Some familiar faces!

In the library, with a hymn book!



As ever, there are several other opportunities to sing carols in the coming weeks. (See Notices in Wesley's and here in Spotlight for details of Christmas Services). Do please come along to the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on the Morning of Sunday 18th December and please speak to Peter if you would like to join the Singing Group at the front of the Church. You only need to be able to sing in tune. There are two rehearsals in the Choir Vestry on the two previous Saturdays, December 10th and 17th, at 10.15.

Community Carols happens in Wesley's, and hopefully outside, on Saturday 24th December from 11am, so please come to swell the sound and support for this. We collect for charity and it is always fun and very informal. Party hats and tinsel welcome!



Colours of Freedom Concert for Ukraine (NMMC 27th November)

'Moving', 'Astonishing', 'Overwhelming, '– these were just some of the comments floating around after this unique event. Some people came out of loyalty, some out of curiosity, some even perhaps with a slight sense of obligation, but all left with a keener sense of what it means to be Ukrainian at the moment; transported or stranded here and watching their country being slowly torn apart.

Five outstanding Ukrainian musicians gave us not just a programme of unusual, virtuosic and poignant music, but also conveyed a powerful sense of love of their beautiful country, of loss and bitterness and an inspiring spirit of determination and confidence in eventual victory. It was uplifting to see the church so full. Large banners and Ukrainian flags helped to set the stage, with beautiful costumes on display together with sunflowers, some traditional artefacts and some blue and yellow themed confectionery.

People were generous in their appreciation and with their donations, and over £2000 was raised for The Babusya Galyna Fund, set up by Oksana Mullen in memory and honour of her mother who tragically died on the journey here from Ukraine. Oksana writes:

'We provide targeted humanitarian aid, supporting children and young people as well as their guardians whatever their needs, in communities in the UK and back home.'

Rising operatic stars Oleksii Zasiadko and Dariella Moskalyuk were featured in last month's Spotlight and are beginning to be familiar faces around Wesley's. Together with Julia Komyshan and the mother and son duo of Anastacia Tolstonog and Maryan van Prooijen, they put together a delightful and varied programme of traditional folksong and contemporary Ukrainian music. Oleksii compered the proceedings with charm, warmth and professionalism, and subtitles on the screen behind him provided translations so that everyone could feel involved in the emotions being expressed in the songs.

A 'first' surely for almost everyone was the chance to hear the Bandura, a large traditional Ukrainian stringed instrument played with expertise and utmost sensitivity by Julia Komyshan to a silent and awestruck audience. She opened the concert with the Ukrainian national anthem, - a reflective rendition expressing heartfelt national pride.

Dariella, resplendent in National Dress, and Oleksii brought the concert to a close with a very moving unaccompanied duet: Spirit Anthem of Ukraine - a quiet but fervent prayer for peace. This followed the only non- Ukrainian piece in the programme - 'Do you hear the people Sing' from Les Miserables, the words of which were particularly poignant and appropriate to these politically-charged circumstances, and drew a standing ovation. ('It is the Music of a People who will not be Slaves again.')

In between, Anastacia dazzled us with her brilliant piano playing, drawing lovely sounds from the piano in her solo items and in the sensitive accompanying of the singers and of her highly talented young violinist son, who is studying at the Menuhin school.

Thanks to everyone involved in bringing such a special and worthwhile event to our Church, and to everyone who supported it. We are already looking forward to the next one! Alison Bullett

Circuit News

Circuit Superintendent Minister

The Circuit Stewards are delighted to inform you that Rev Vindra Maraj-Ogden has accepted our invitation to serve in the circuit as Superintendent and minister for Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, from September 2023.

Vindra has been a Methodist minister since 2005 and brings a wealth of experience to this role. She is currently Chaplain at Queenswood School in Hatfield.



Subject to Conference approval in July, we look forward to welcoming Vindra to our Circuit next September.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please speak to the Circuit Steward, Julie Haines.

The following link leads to Vindra talking about her story and that of her family. <u>https://www.queenswood.org/chapel-news/chapel-monday-29-june-2020-revd-vindras-story/</u>

Surbiton Hill Children and Families Worker

Bron Coveney has been appointed as the new Children and Families Worker at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church (to follow Sharon Lloyd). She has been a lay worker in the Teddington Circuit for a number of years and also works part time as a children's entertainer. Bron brings a range of experience and creative skills to her role. She is also a Local Preacher - and will continue her preaching ministry in Teddington. There will be a service of welcome and commissioning at Surbiton Hill on Sunday 4th December.

Why an Advent Wreath?

Advent is the first season of the Church's liturgical year and includes the four Sundays and weekdays before Christmas.

We prepare our hearts and thoughts during the Advent season for Christmas, which commemorates the anniversary of the birth of the Lord.

In the Middle Ages, Christians began using the Advent wreath and candles as a part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The candles and wreath are rich with Christmas-related symbolism. The wreath itself, which is comprised of many types of evergreens, represents unending life. The wreath's circle, which has no beginning or end, stands in for God's eternities, the soul's immortality, and the everlasting life we discover in Christ.

Christians use a wreath with five candles to represent many spiritual stages of preparation over the four weeks of Advent. The three colours of the Advent candles—purple, pink, and white—represent the fervent expectation that Christians experience as they get ready for the birth or second coming of Jesus Christ.

The candles also have a unique meaning of their own. One candle is lit every Sunday to symbolise each of the four weeks of Advent. Because the colour violet is a liturgical one that denotes a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice, three of the candles are purple.

Hope is represented by the first candle, which is purple. In honour of the prophets, particularly Isaiah, who prophesied the birth of Christ, it is occasionally referred to as the "Prophecy Candle." It symbolises the eagerness felt in anticipation of the Messiah's arrival.

The second candle, which is purple as well, stands for faith. Because it serves as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, it is known as the "Bethlehem Candle."

The third candle is pink and represents happiness. Because rose is a liturgical colour for joy, it is known as the "Shepard's Candle" and is pink. Gaudete Sunday, which falls on the third Sunday of Advent, is intended to serve as a reminder of the joy that the world felt upon the birth of Jesus as well as the delight that the faithful have arrived at the midway of Advent.

We burn the last purple candle during the fourth week of Advent to symbolise the last week of fasting and prayer before the birth of our Savior. The "Angel's Candle," the last candle, stands for peace. It makes us think of the angels' proclamation of "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

On Christmas Eve, the white candle is set in the centre of the wreath and lit. The "Christ Candle" as it is called symbolises Christ's life. Because Christ is our sinless, sinless Savior, the colour white stands for purity.

Advent celebrations are a wonderful way to get yourself mentally and emotionally ready for Christmas.



Recycling opportunities in New Malden

You can now recycle the following at the Kingston Environment Centre by the Fountain Roundabout:

Bread Bags Crisp Packets Coffee Pouches Plastic Bottle Tops

Waitrose also have a 'bin' by the tills for any bags labelled with this symbol which also includes crisp packets and the inner bags from cereal boxes.



Superdrug will also recycle any empty pill plastic packaging.

Please take them there directly! We do not wish to become a collecting point!

Music in New Malden

11th December 2022

The Harmonie choir directed by Peter Bullett, Music for Autumn and Christmas including Fantasy on Christmas Carols by Vaughan Williams, Blest pair of Sirens by Parry and Autumn Sketches by Bond.



Cat Fostering

During the Summer we were able to help reunite a cat and their owner by displaying a poster in Wesley's. The cat was temporarily housed with Ginger Cat House Rescue who have asked if anyone would be interested in becoming cat fosterers with them (short, medium or long term). It is great for people who might be living alone and would love a companion cat. As it is foster care, they pay all the expenses so there are no worriesy about food or vet bills if that is a concern.

GCH need people who live locally to Worcester Park and who have access to a car. Cat experience preferred but not essential. There are copies of the GCH foster form in the leaflet stand in Wesley's. Please fill one in if you would like to know more.

Creative Arts - January

Please note that Creative Arts will NOT meet on Thursday 5th January. Their first meeting of 2023 will be on Thursday 19th January and thereafter on the first and third Thursday of the month at 2.00pm. Please feel free to come and join an afternoon of art, crafts, fellowship and tea. The last meeting of 2022 will be on Thursday 15th December.

Next Spotlight Issue

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at <u>nmmc@hotmail.co.uk</u> (or in my church pigeonhole).

I am happy to receive anything you think might be of interest: memories, news of members, advice for life, poems, photos, recipes etc.

The new A5 printed layout seems to have been popular so it's here to stay!

The deadline for the January issue will be Wednesday 4th January.

Christmas Services

Sunday 11th December 10.30am Pop-up Nativity

A 'scratch' service telling the familiar story in a fun and informal way.





Sunday 18th December

10.30am

Lessons & Carols

The traditional Nine Lessons & Carols service, but as the Sunday morning service.

Wednesday 21st December 7.30pm Blue Christmas A quiet contemplative service for people finding Christmas difficult due to disappointment and bereavement.



Saturday 24th December

5.00pm (

Christingle



A lively family service. Fun for all the family.

Saturday 24 th December	
Sunday 25 th December	

8.00pm

10.30am

Communion Service

Christmas Morning Family Service

Other Events

Sheep Trail

The knitted sheep will once again be 'lost' in the High Street and will all return to the fold for Christingle.



Christmas Tree Festival

Saturdays 10th, 17th & 24th December: 10.00am - TBA Weekdays: 11am – 1pm when Wesley's is open

Please come along and bring your friends to enjoy this lovely Christmassy event which raises money for over 20 charities and shows the church off beautifully.



Coffee & Carols



Saturday 24th December 11.00 Coffee & Carols Carol singing in the High Street. Festive headgear welcome!



You are warmly invited to join us for

Blue Christmas

A service for those who find Christmas difficult, due to bereavement, other losses or loneliness

Wednesday 21st December 7.30pm to 8.30pm New Malden Methodist Church



Diary Dates – December

Thursday 1 st Saturday 3 rd Friday 9 th Friday 9 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm 10.00am – 12 11.00am – 1.00pm 2.00pm – 4.00pm	0
Friday 9 th	11.00am – 1.00pm	
Saturday 10 th	10.00am – 12	Wesley's – NMMC – Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 10 th	10.00am – 4.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 11 th	3.00pm	Music in New Malden – The Harmonie Choir
Monday 12 th – Fr	riday 16 th	
	11.00am – 1.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Tuesday 13 th	2.30pm – 4.00pm	Bereavement Café
Tuesday 13 th	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Basic CPR with a defibrillator
Wednesday 14 th	3.00pm	Hymn Singing at Speirs House
Thursday 15 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Saturday 17 th	10.00am – 12	Wesley's – Malden & Coombe Flower Club
Monday 19 th – Fr	iday 23 rd	
	11.00am – 1.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Tuesday 20 th	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Christmas carols & readings
Saturday 24 th	10.00am – 12	Wesley's – NMMC – Christmas Tree Festival Sunday
Saturday 24 th	10.00am – 1.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 24 th	11.00	Community carol singing in the High Street

Wesley's Christmas Closures

Wesley's will be closed on the following Bank Holidays as well as Saturday 31st December.

Monday 26th December Tuesday 27th December Monday 2nd December



Wesley's Vacancy Saturdays January onwards!!

Please contact Sarah Moore if you would like to book Wesley's on a Saturday morning to hold a coffee morning and cake sale to raise funds for your favourite charity. There are plenty of vacances for 2023!

Circuit Plan

	CHESSINGTON		N	KINGSTON	NEW	MALDEN	SURBITON HILL		
		10.00 am		10.30 am; 6pm	10.30 am		10.30 am		
		Korean Language Service at Chessington on Sundays at 12.30 led by Rev Paul Han							
04 December	am	Vernon: HC		Rutlidge: HC	Bridg	es	Brown		
11 December am		M Wakelin		Rutlidge: N	Brown: N		Rush: G		
	^{pm} No Service			No Service	No Se	ervice	4.30 Brown: CC		
18 December	am			Chun: CA	Rutlidge: CA		Brown: HC		
	pm			Rutlidge	No Se	ervice	4.30 Brown: CL		
21 December	pm				7.30pm Rutlidge: Blue Christmas				
24 December	pm	11.15: M Wa	kelin:	No Service	5pm	Rutlidge: CG	4.30 Brown: CB		
		НС				utlidge: CE/HC	8.00 Brown: HC		
25 December	am	M Wakelin		Rutlidge: AA	Rush: AA		Brown		
31 December	pm	11.15: Han		No Service	No Service		No Service		
01 January	am	Brown		Local Arrangement	Rush		Bridges		
08 January	am	M Wakelin: (CV	Rush: AA	Rutlidge: CV/HC		Brown: CV		
	pm	No Service		No Service	No Se	· · · ·	4.30 Brown: PP		
15 January	am	M Wakelin: (-	Rutlidge: CV	_	Arrangement	Brown		
20 5011001 9	pm	No Service		M Wakelin	No Service		No Service		
22 January	am	M Wakelin		Fullbrook	Lloyd		Rutlidge		
29 January	am	J Wakelin		Davis	Rutlidge: AA/B		Brown		
05 February	am	M Wakelin: HC		Rutlidge: AA/HC	Brown		J Wakelin		
ob reprediry	pm	No Service		No Service	-		Brown 4.30: PP		
12 February	am	Rutlidge		Brown	No Service Chun		Davis		
19 February	am	Webb: C		Vernon	Cocking		Brown: HC		
10 1 001001 y	pm	No Service		Brown: HC	No Service		No Service		
22 February	pm	7.30: CT		No Service	7.30: Rutlidge: HC		No Service		
26 February	am	M Wakelin		J Wakelin	Rutlidge: HC		Brown		
201001001	pm		6pm: Circuit Service at New Malden				Diotti		
B: BaptismCE: ChC: Contemporary ServiceCG: ChCA: Carol ServiceCL: CaCB: Crib ServiceCT: Ch			CG: Ch CL: Car CT: Chi	stmas Eve Service HC: Holy Com		gement			
Worship Books Methodist Worship Bool (Holy Communion only)			Methodist Worship Book (Holy Communion only)	Methodist Worship Book (complete)		Methodist Worship Book (complete)			
Bibles NIV			GNB	NRSV		NIV			
Music Hymns & Psalms (Projection by arrangement)		iip 1-3	Singing the Faith Songs of Fellowship 1-3	Singing the Faith		Singing the Faith Hymns & Psalms Let's Praise 1-2			
Online service Chessington: 2 Kingston: Sund New Malden: Surbiton Hill: 2	10am days & Sunda 10.30	Sunday: YouTu & You Tube: <u>W</u> ays & You Tube Sundays. You ⁻	<u>indows</u> e: <u>Winc</u> Tube: <u>S</u>	lows on Worship Surbiton Hill Methodi	ist Chur	<u>ch</u>			
Ministers' Day Sunday, Mond		•	/; Karl:	Monday. Mark work	s part-ti	ime and can us	sually be contacted		

Finally

A seasonal tongue twister to try, perhaps after Christmas dinner?

To begin to toboggan First buy a toboggan But don't buy too big a toboggan. Too big a toboggan Is not a toboggan To buy to begin to toboggan.

