



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

Spotlight

February 2022

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Message from Karl

February is often a busy time of the year for me, not least as it is the month of my birthday. This time around, I am looking forward more to a rest than anything else, as a lot has already been packed into 2022! Many people have found themselves working especially hard over the past two years, particularly those key workers who have kept us going – supermarket staff, care workers, refuse collectors, bus drivers, and all the many other groups whose work is not always obvious or acknowledged.

As a church, we are currently collecting luxury items to send to staff at Kingston Hospital, to thank them for their tremendous efforts and to show that we are thinking of them in this challenging time for the NHS. It is a small something we can do to express solidarity and care for those who have put themselves at risk and endured incredibly difficult conditions to keep the rest of us healthy. It is also important that we pray for all those who work in healthcare – including the porters, cleaners, technicians, and others who do not always get noticed – as both practical care and prayer are expressions of our commitment to living out God's love.

With this in mind and looking ahead to the brighter days of Spring, we will continue to explore what it means to be at the heart of the High Street, and thus to find further ways to support others in our locality and beyond. In the coming weeks, you will hear more about the Community Audit that has been taking place, and I look forward to sharing the fruits of that with you. For now, however, I hope that you will have a peaceful month, and enjoy this issue of Spotlight.

Every blessing,
Karl

Church Family News

We are very sad to have to tell you that **Pam Wardley** lost her battle with cancer on Thursday 30th December. There will be a thanksgiving service here on Wednesday 2nd February at 12.30 following a family cremation. We send much love and prayers to her daughter Justine, and all the family.

Summary of January Sunday Notices

A Message from Donald Finnan

Donald wants to send “enormous thanks” for the so many Christmas cards and presents he received. He wanted you to know that he found your generosity extremely moving and he wishes everyone a happy and healthy 2022.

Christmas Card Tree

The Christmas card tree on the noticeboard in Wesley’s raised £66.42 for Crisis.

Flower Rota

There is a small band of dedicated flower arrangers who provide the beautiful arrangements we are treated to in church every week. After the service, the flowers are distributed to people we know who would appreciate them. The money for the flowers is provided by different people every week, sometimes more than one person. There are several vacancies available for sponsoring the flowers so if you think this sounds like something you would like to contribute to, please speak to Julia Morton. Sadly with the death of Pam Wardley we have lost one of our most talented flower arrangers so if you feel that you would like to have a go at arranging the flowers, we would love to hear from you. The stewards are also grateful for suggestions of who might appreciate the church flowers after the services.

NHS Care Packages

In conjunction with Churches Together, we are putting together small parcels for members of NHS staff at Kingston Hospital to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication. We would be very grateful for your donations of edible treats plus nice toiletries and anything else that you think would be appreciated – what would you like to receive? A basket for donations is in Wesley’s and proceeds from the coffee morning on 15th January which amounted to £115.05 will be used to buy further items. Thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative with donations of time, money or goods. We will be collecting until Wednesday 9th February.

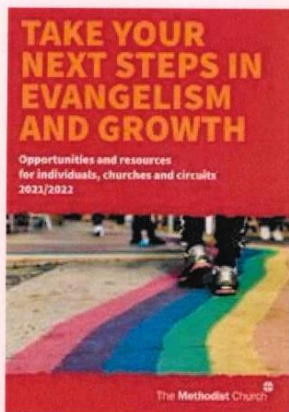
Bereavement Café

We are looking to expand our team of volunteer listeners for the monthly Bereavement Café. This is a valuable service to the local community and the pandemic has made it even more so. Training is provided by Princess Alice Hospice in Esher. If you would like to know more please speak to Hilary.

Services at Kingston Methodist Church

Kingston church has decided to resume Sunday evening services. They will take place once a month, on the third Sunday of each month, beginning with the service on Sunday 16th January. Please note that the start time will be 6pm, not the old time of 6.30pm.

The evening services will be more traditional, with the organ rather than the music group. Anyone from around the Circuit is welcome to attend.



God for All

Evangelism and Growth in
the Methodist Church

7.30pm Tues. 22nd February

A Kingston Circuit Workshop With [Abi Jarvis](#) of the Evangelism and Growth Team

*Learn about how the Methodist
Evangelism and Growth Strategy
can work for your church*



Workshop open to all:

Encouraged to attend: *Circuit Meeting Members, Church
Council Members, Leadership Teams, Anyone interested in
mission and outreach*

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/99683968900?pwd=ZU5KMGIuK3h4Tk5STWdBOE5LK1ISZz09>

Meeting ID: 996 8396 8900 Passcode: 346411

Surbiton Hill Methodist Church has a vacancy for a Church Administrator

The job involves general secretarial duties, management of room lettings and basic bookkeeping.
18 hours a week (times negotiable) £14, 850 a year.

Further details are available from shmc.office@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

Applications deadline Monday 14th February.

Next Spotlight Issue

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at nmmc@hotmail.co.uk (or in longhand through my door or the church door 😊). I am happy to receive anything you think might be of interest: memories, lockdown experiences, news of members, advice for life, poems, photos, recipes etc.

The deadline for the March issue will be Wednesday 23rd February.

Safeguarding, “Creating Safer Spaces” Foundation Training

On the initiative of the London District of the Methodist Church, a revised **version** of the 2016 Foundation Safeguarding Course was made available in 2021.

It was agreed that the Teddington and Kingston circuits should work together to organise a series of events delivering this updated programme for members of the church communities, to be facilitated by Grahame Snelling (Teddington) and Judith Jewell (Kingston).

The first of these was held at East Molesey Methodist Church in November 2021 and the second on Zoom in January. The third event will be here at New Malden on 7th February.

The initial target group for these three courses was those who have roles and specific responsibilities in relation to which attendance at this Foundation level course is strongly recommended and who have not previously undertaken the course. There is then a second group comprising those who are also in leadership roles in the church, but have not done a course since 2018/19.

The overall objective is to enable members more generally of the church communities to have the opportunity to engage in this Foundation/Refresher Safeguarding Course, which will be repeated at Churches in both circuits and also by Zoom, later this year.

The aims of the Safeguarding “Creating Safer Spaces” Foundation Training sessions are;

- to appreciate that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and fundamental to the culture of a flourishing church
- to have a better understanding of good safeguarding practice within the Methodist Church to create a safer space for all
- to promote awareness and extend an inclusive welcome to those who have experienced abuse
- to recognise, respond, record and refer relevant concerns about the safety and welfare of a child or adult, and recognise blocks to good practice
- to learn from evidence from the Methodist Past Case Review (2015-17) and note the current national context, eg, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

When we have dates for sessions later in the year they will be circulated in this Newsletter and weekly church notices with an invitation to members of our church community to participate in one of the sessions. The 7th February session is now full.

If you have any questions about this ongoing programme of safeguarding training, please contact me at Church or by phone (020 8549 5963) or by email (d.knowles2008@gmail.com).

David Knowles
Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Creative Arts Group

January saw the rebirth of our monthly Arts Group after a long break. A dozen of us gathered in Wesley’s for a very companionable afternoon and enjoyed activities which included knitting, colouring, watercolour painting and calligraphy plus of course drinking tea! There’s plenty of room for more people and if you are interested in any particular arts or crafts, feel free to bring along whatever you are working on at home or speak to Doreen about the materials we have available here and the teachers we have in our midst. Card making and pergamano (no, I hadn’t heard of it either!) are among Doreen’s specialities and I’ve seen some very impressive painting-by-numbers pictures by Stella. Who knows what other talents we may come across!

In fact it went so well that it was unanimously agreed to hold sessions twice a month from now on. These will be the first and third Thursdays between 2pm and 4pm. There will be a nominal fee of £1 each time so that we can build up funds for arts supplies. The group is open to anyone who would like to come along as and when they have the time.

Many thanks to Doreen and Stella for organising the group and getting us off to a splendid restart.

Hilary Warner

Tamil Festival

Eleanor Roberts took some photos from New Malden's first Tamil Cultural Festival in St George's Square on Saturday 22nd January. The festival was organised by the Sri Lankan communities of New Malden and Kingston and celebrated Pongal, giving thanks for the harvest. There were also samples of Sri Lankan food and an exhibition in the church and a sign was unveiled to mark the twinning of Kingston Upon Thames with the city of Jaffna.



A joyful experience to see the drumming, dancing, and display of martial arts.



Music in New Malden – Lunchtime Concerts

Tuesday 8th February at 1.10pm

Otto Mani Music for two pianos eight hands

Linda Bridges, Alison Bullett, Peter Bullett, Anthea Fry (piano)

Music by Nicolai, Schubert, Humperdinck, Saint-Saens and Grainger

Tuesday 15th February at 1.10pm

Alice Bishop (soprano) and David Elwin (piano)

Some of our favourite songs

Tuesday 22nd March at 1.10pm

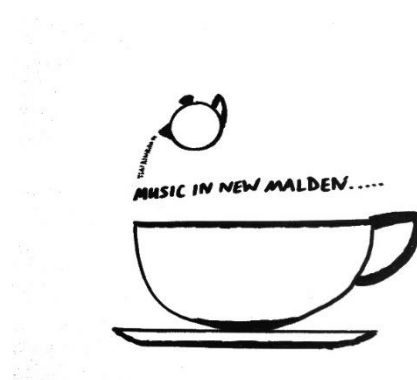
Music for piano trio

Stefan Brown (violin), Andy Coleman (cello) and Peter Bullett (piano)

Concerts are from 1.10 to 1.50pm with hot and cold drinks available from Wesley's until 1.00pm.

Free entry with retiring collection. Audience members may arrive and leave between items.

Distanced audience with face coverings.



Parakeets

Love them or hate them, parakeets are now a common site on our garden bird feeders, often keeping the smaller birds away!

Sarah was prompted by these lovely photos from Eleanor Roberts of parakeets in her garden, to do a little research on these familiar exotic visitors to our gardens. An article from the Independent in December 2019 provided the following:

The origin myths around Britain's burgeoning parakeet population have finally been busted in a new scientific study.

Thousands of the lurid green birds live in the UK, despite being native to places such as Australia, Africa and Latin America.



For years, fanciful stories about where they came from have abounded, but now researchers claim to have debunked all of them. Using geographic profiling, the scientists – writing in the *Journal of Zoology* – were able to disprove claims the entire population grew from a single release at a specific place or time.

One popular theory they have now dismissed suggested the parakeets were escapees from the Humphrey Bogart film 'The African Queen' which was shot in Ealing in 1951. Others claim the first birds were released by Jimi Hendrix on London's Carnaby Street during the swinging 1960s. A third suggestion is that the Great Storm of 1987 damaged aviaries so badly that hundreds of the small parrots were able to get into the wild.

However, the truth is less exciting, the researchers from Queen Mary University, University College London, and Goldsmiths have concluded. They believe Britain's booming population of the brightly-coloured birds grew from numerous individual releases of pet parakeets, both intentional and accidental. Their spatial analysis of 5,000 unique records shows the birds did not spread from a single spot such as Carnaby Street or the Worton Hall Studios in Ealing.

Furthermore, there have been newspaper reports of the phenomenon dating back to the Victorian era, thoroughly debunking most of the modern origin myths. There may also have been two spikes in releases – 1929-31 and 1952 – caused by sensationalised media coverage of human deaths from "parrot fever" outbreaks.

From 1929, the study's authors found a string of lurid newspaper stories of people dying from psittacosis infections, which could have frightened parakeet owners into letting their birds go. "It is easy to imagine the headlines of 1952, such as 'stop imports of danger parrots' leading to a swift release of pets," said Sarah Elizabeth Cox, from Goldsmiths University. "If you were told you were at risk being near one, it would be much easier to let it out the window than to destroy it."

The study's geographical profiling methods were first developed for detectives to create lists of suspects in multiple crimes, overlaying locations of murder victims and the places suspects live and work.

But when applied to biological data the model can also identify sites of origin for invasive species, such as parakeets.

"The ring-necked parakeet has become a successful invasive species in 34 countries on five continents," the study's lead author Steven Le Comber said.

"The fun legends relating to the origins of the UK's parakeets are probably not going to go away any time soon.

"However, our research only found evidence to support the belief of most ornithologists: the spread of parakeets in the UK is likely a consequence of repeated releases and introductions, and nothing to do with publicity stunts by musicians or movie stars."



Desmond Tutu – In his own words

“We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness.

We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know.

We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders.

All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all.

We all belong to this family, this human family, God’s family.”

“All over this magnificent world God calls us to extend His kingdom of shalom – peace and wholeness – of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy and of reconciliation.

God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.”

“We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven.

God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low.”

“Enemies are always friends to be made.”

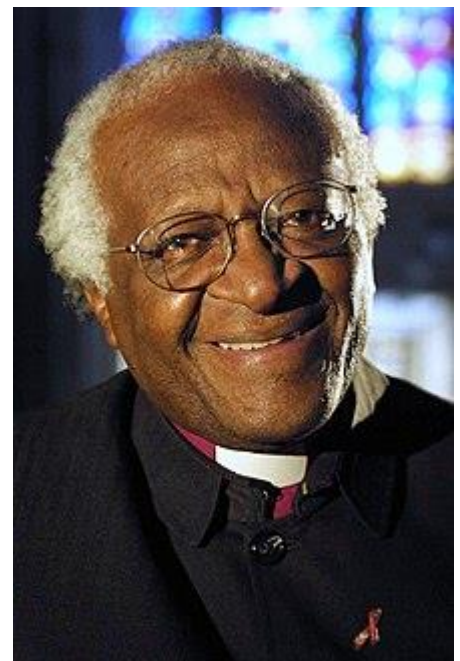
“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

“If you want to keep people subjugated, the last thing you place in their hands is a Bible. There’s nothing more radical, nothing more revolutionary, nothing more subversive against injustice and oppression than the Bible.”

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.”

“I wish I could shut up, but I can’t, and I won’t.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
7th October 1931 – 26th December 2021



Diary Dates – February

Tuesday 1 st	7.30pm	Church Council Meeting (on Zoom)
Wednesday 2 nd	12.30pm	Thanksgiving service for Pam Wardley
Thursday 3 rd	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Saturday 5 th	10.00am – 12 noon	Wesley's – Women's Institute
Monday 7 th	7.15 – 9.30pm	Safeguarding Training
Tuesday 8 th	1.10pm – 1.50pm	Lunchtime Concert
	2.30pm – 4.00pm	Bereavement Café
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Meal 'In'
Saturday 12 th	10.00am – 12 noon	Wesley's – VACANT
Sunday 13 th	3.00pm	Music in New Malden
Tuesday 15 th	1.10pm – 1.50pm	Lunchtime Concert
Saturday 19 th	10.00am – 12 noon	Wesley's – Kingston & Malden Scout & Guide Band
Monday 21 st	7.30pm	Kingston District Chamber Music Society Concert
Tuesday 22 nd	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Italian Foods – History & Myths
Saturday 26 th	10.00am – 12 noon	Wesley's – Inner Wheel

Circuit Plan

		KINGSTON 10.30am	SURBITON HILL 10.30am	NEW MALDEN 10.30am	CHESSINGTON* 10am
06 February	am	David Fullbrook	Stan Brown	Karl Rutledge	Paul Han: HC
	pm	No Service	4.30pm Stan Brown PP	No Service	No Service
13 February	am	Stan Brown	Judith Wakelin	Lorraine Webb	Mark Wakelin
20 February	am	Karl Rutledge: HC	Stan Brown HC	Hannah Chun	Mark Wakelin: C
	pm	No Service	5pm Zoom Service	No Service	No Service
27 February	am	Mark Wakelin	Stan Brown	Karl Rutledge: HC	Denis Vernon
* Korean Language Service at Chessington on Sundays at 12.00 noon led by Rev Paul Han					
Notes & Abbreviations					
AA: All Age Worship; BC: Blue Christmas; C: Contemporary Service; Ca: Carol Service; CE: Christmas Eve Service; CG: Christingle; CL: Carols by Candlelight; Cov: Covenant Service; G: Gift Service; HC: Holy Communion; LA: Local Arrangement; M: Membership Service; N: Nativity; PP: Praise Party; S: Short Service/Morning Prayer; WS: Watchnight Service					
Ministers' Day Off: Stan: Saturday; Karl: Monday. Mark works part-time and can usually be contacted Sunday, Monday and Tuesday					

Lent Course

A Lent course is being organised by Churches Together in Malden. St James Church will host the course which will take place every Thursday evening from 7:30 to 8:30pm and run for six sessions starting on March the 3rd. Each session will be led by a different church and the speaker will talk about their favourite chapter of the bible. More details will follow including the chapters that have been chosen.