



New Malden  
Methodist Church

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



# Spotlight

## February 2025

### Message from Karl

We hear a lot these days about Artificial Intelligence (AI), and its potential for improving our lives. In particular, there are some who see it as the catalyst to economic growth, even as concerns about human beings being replaced by machines, and meeting the challenges of re-skilling people whose current roles become redundant, are very real. Watching a programme about AI showed a somewhat dystopian vision of the future, with even ministers being replaced by robots designed to trot out platitudes and a pre-written blessing in place of clergy. Now, while some might consider this an improvement(!), I think there is still something to be said for human beings.

As we read the Gospel accounts of the stories of Jesus, one thing which comes through time and again is the way Jesus was moved to act by empathy, compassion and care. We see this when he meets people in desperate need of healing and who are seeking wholeness, as well as when confronted with large crowds of directionless and anxious people, acting like sheep without a shepherd. Perhaps most movingly of all, we find Jesus weeping at the tomb of his good friend, Lazarus, when faced with the stark reality of his death. Perhaps because of the way we read the Scriptures in church primarily for clarity of hearing, we don't always get the full force of the emotion present, but it is there and is key.

Part of the reason for developing AI is to mirror, if not surpass, the human brain in problem-solving and creativity. However, one thing that differentiates the two is the centrality of emotion. Research with people who have experienced brain damage has provided some fascinating insights into how the mind works, and in particular, on the importance of emotion in enabling us to act. I remember reading about a sample of folk who had been left unable to feel any emotion following accidents or illnesses that had impacted their brains, even as they could still rationally see and describe what might be required in a given situation. The lack of emotional impetus rendered them unable to take that action, however; it wasn't that they did not care, but feeling was the crucial bit of the jigsaw that was missing.

We are a complex mixture of thoughts, feelings, genetics, environmental factors and impulses we cannot always understand, and indeed some claim that our knowledge of the brain is still less than what we know about the dark side of the Moon. Now, whether or not that is true, it seems to me that there are some things machines will never be able to do as well as a human being, as much as they do already have great potential to improve our lives and make things easier. I cannot deny being impressed with the summary of a recent Zoom meeting that its AI produced for me, and with a bit of tweaking, I could probably have passed off the words of Microsoft Office's AI as my own and saved myself the time it took to type this. Yet, our capacity to love one another, to have empathy and care, to be moved by beauty and kindness, to cheer with those who cheer and weep with those who weep, cannot be replicated by a piece of machine coding, however sophisticated. Alexa is great, but she cannot give us a hug or sit with us when we need a friend.

I suppose the upshot of all this is that we need to recognise the value of these things, so often taken for granted and overlooked. In these troubling times, in which we see 'Christian' pastors genuinely appalled at the idea that someone might act with empathy and ask for mercy for the vulnerable and marginalised, we risk losing some of the very humanity that is God's great gift to us. Our capacity to feel and be moved, to be motivated to act, to embrace the care and compassion modelled by Jesus in our own lives, is precious. The Enlightenment of the 18th and 19th centuries emphasised our capacity for rational thought, and that is obviously important, but so is our ability to feel, and we should not undervalue the emotion without which we are stuck.

May we embrace the fullness of who we are, then, so that there might be that bit more love in our world, and others might catch a glimpse of God's infinite care for them.

Every blessing, Karl

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## Spotlight's Safeguarding Space

Some DBS checks need to be updated soon. I will email details to those to whom this is relevant this month.

I rather like the following words taken from the Foundation Safeguarding Trainer's Manual because I believe our church, including Wesley's, reflect them.



"The church's witness to God through Jesus Christ involves it seeking to be a community marked by love and care for one another and for all whom it encounters."

Liz Edwards, Safeguarding Officer

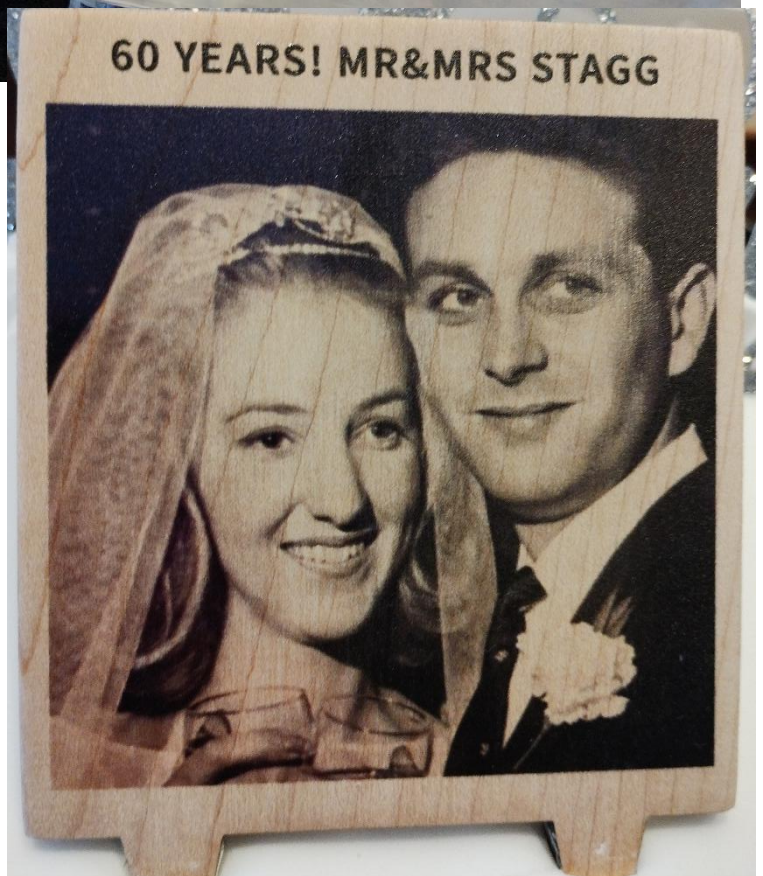
## Church Family News

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December we were treated to cake to celebrate **Angy and Nigel Stagg's** Diamond wedding anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Very many congratulations to them both.



Would you have recognised them?

Sadly, **Angy Stagg** has recently been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus. She is awaiting a treatment plan and would very much appreciate your prayers and hugs.





**Alan Vincent** is pleased to announce the arrival of his new Great Granddaughter, Mila, who arrived on Boxing Day, 2024, weighing in at 8lb 11oz (about 3.9kg to younger people!).



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### **Request from Julie Haines**

Within the next 6 months I hope I will be in hospital for at least 2 weeks having my hip and knee replaced, and then probably on crutches for a further 2 week at least. The church will therefore need others to be able to work the projection and sound if Tony is away at the same time. If you think you could take on this role for one or more Sundays I would be happy to show you how to set it all up. Please talk with me after a service and we can spend 15 mins going through the task.

(Even in hospital I can prep the power point so that is not the task).

Julie

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### **Summary of December & January notices**

#### **Kingston Churches Against Homeless Night Shelter**

KCAH will aim to open the Winter Night Shelter from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Running for 3 months, we will offer a place of sanctuary, safety and warmth for those who may otherwise have to rough sleep.

We need volunteers to get involved to ensure we can provide the safe space for those that need it. If you are not in a position to sign up, please support us by sharing this ask far and wide. We are also recruiting additional paid staff, if you or someone you know would like to apply please see our website for more details ([kcah.org.uk](http://kcah.org.uk)).

This winter we are offering space for up to 30 people, twice as many as last year and a direct response to the demand. To enable this we have been fortunate to have support



from the Local Authority and a local landlord of a currently disused space in the centre of Kingston.

This past year we have seen a record number of new approaches to KCAH, of those that find themselves in a situation beyond their control and face homelessness or significant financial hardship.

Sleeping rough and homelessness has become normalised and yet there is nothing normal about being homeless in a modern, wealthy society. Please help us to intervene in the local issue by sharing this email or signing up to volunteer. Thank you.

Georgie                      georgie.f@kcah.org.uk

### **Mother and Baby Homes**

As you may be aware, religious institutions ran mother and baby homes in the 1960s and 1970s. The Methodist Church is seeking to understand if any of our churches had connections with these services, as part of its wider efforts to address historic safeguarding issues. If you are aware of anything in this regard, please contact Vindra.

### **Churches Together Praying Together**

You are warmly invited to join a monthly prayer group.

This group would pray together for blessings over every community, family, business and Church in Malden. We will place all firmly under Christ's authority care and guidance.

Please do consider whether you could spend just 40min, once a month, praying together with people from other churches in Malden, in faith. We will look in anticipation for the fruits this will bring.



Venue and time: St James, Bodley Rd, KT3 5QE. 7.30pm

Dates: 26 February, 26 March, 30 April, 4 June, 2 July, 30 July, 3 September, 1 October, 29 October, 3 December

The dates are chosen to precede 'Prayer on the Streets' which takes place on the first Saturday of each month.

Churches involved: New Malden Baptist Church, New Malden URC Church, New Malden Methodist Church, St Joseph's Catholic Church, St Pius X Catholic Church, Christchurch Anglican Church, St John's Anglican Church, St James' Anglican Church

#### **Church contact information – website [www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com](http://www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com)**



NMMethodists

Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge (Minister)

07932 242789 [karl.rutlidge@methodist.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:nmmc@hotmail.co.uk)

Mrs Lee Monczak (Development Officer)

[nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com](mailto:nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com)

Mrs Julia Morton (Senior Steward)

[juliamorton@virginmedia.com](mailto:juliamorton@virginmedia.com)

Mrs Liz Edwards (Steward)

[lizedwards513@gmail.com](mailto:lizedwards513@gmail.com)

Mrs Julie Haines (Steward)

[juliehaines53@gmail.com](mailto:juliehaines53@gmail.com)

Charity Registration Number 1176621

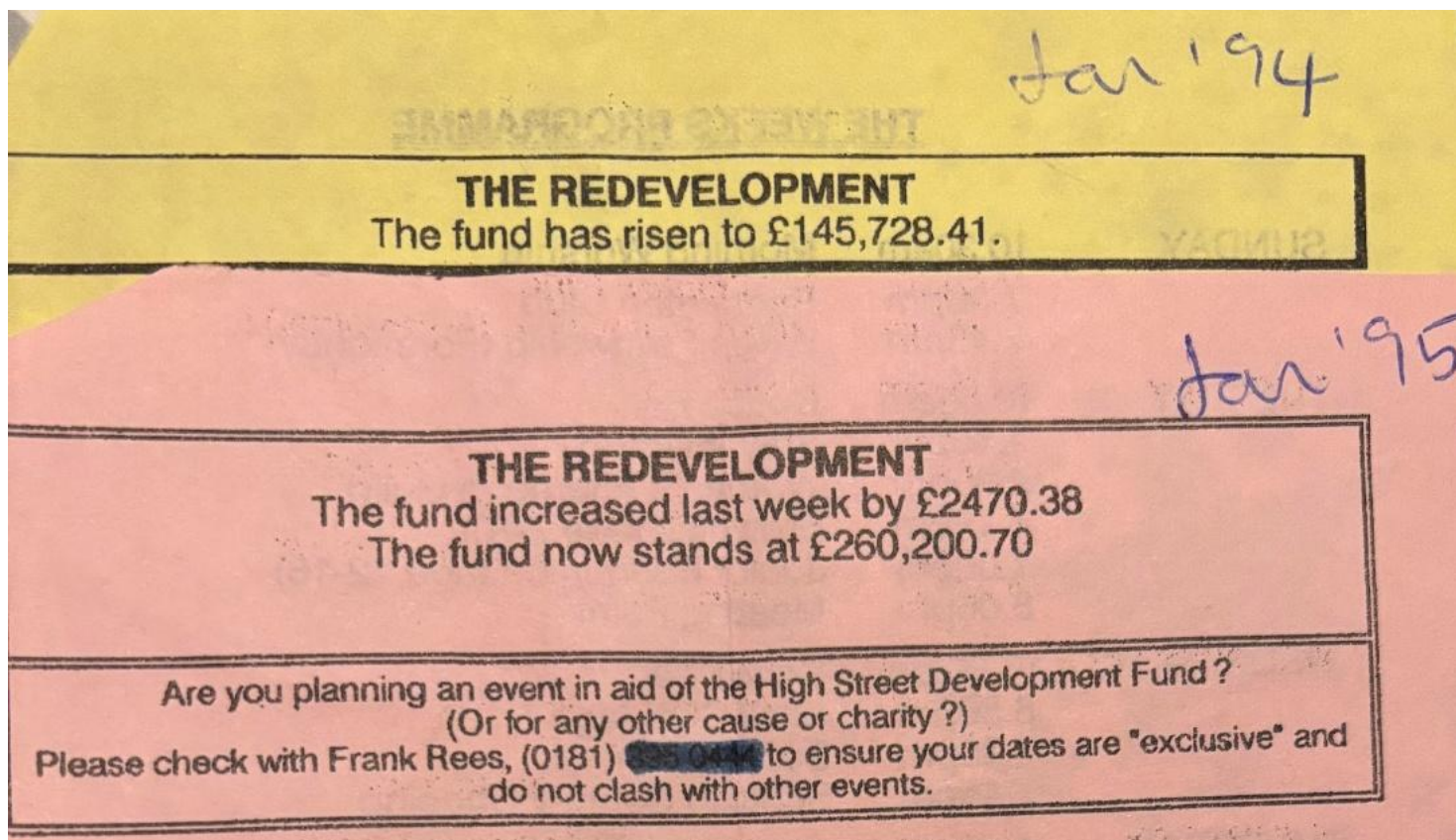
## 30th Anniversary Celebration

# Wesley's at 30

There are exciting events happening this year to celebrate 'Wesley's at 30' through reconnecting & recollecting. Please make a note & do come to as many as you can. Further details nearer the time.

Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	5pm	Thank you and celebration event for Volunteers
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	10am	Wives & Friends' Sale in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind
	6pm	Family Quiz
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30am	Celebration Service led by Rev Dr Karl Rutledge & Rev Robert Jones followed by Bring & Share Lunch.

30 years ago £260,200.70 had been raised for the 'High Street Development Fund'. 30 years ago I must have anticipated writing this article as I had kept these snippets from the notice sheets which, to my surprise, I recently found when searching for something else!



The equivalent sum today is in the region of £528,785.

## Wesley's Community Hub

The Digital Drop-In in December in conjunction with Superhighway was very well attended and a workshop took place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. We hope to be organising more targeted sessions to help people get the most out of their devices so keep an eye out for the details.

Wesley's continues to thrive so please see the February calendar at the end of this issue for details of what is happening during this month including Tai Chi, the Walking Group, Knit & Natter and Short Tennis.

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](mailto:nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com)

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## Music at NMMC

Please join us for our first concert in 2025 on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February given by the Wu Shin Duo (Violin & Piano).

This will be a lovely concert, presenting works by Schubert and Grieg.

Jeff Yunzhe Wu was born in China in 1998 and began playing the violin at the age of 6. He attended the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin School from the age of 12 to 19 before continuing his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama on a full scholarship. Jeff completed his Guildhall Artist Masters with Professor David Takeno and his Bachelor of Music with Professor András Keller.

Jeff has performed as a soloist, concertmaster, and chamber musician in leading concert venues and music festivals worldwide, including the Barbican Centre, Wigmore Hall, the Konzerthaus Berlin, King's Place London, and The Menuhin Hall.

SunHye Shin, born in South Korea in 1997. After attending Pohang Art High School, she pursued studies at Kyunghee University before making a pivotal decision to transfer to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, where she was accepted directly into the third year of the undergraduate program. During her studies at Guildhall, she was awarded scholarships, including support from The Norman Gee Foundation, and refined her artistry under the guidance of Ronan O'Hora and Carole Presland – a transformative step in her musical journey. Her exceptional skills have been recognized internationally, with accolades including prizes at prestigious competitions such as the Gustav Mahler Prize Piano Competition in Prague and the Seoul Art Competition.

SunHye has performed in some of the world's most iconic music venues in London, New York, and Seoul.





The next two concerts will be on consecutive Sundays in March. On Sunday 9th March we will be hearing singers, string players and pianists from the outstanding Music Department at Tiffin Girls' School.

On Sunday 16th March, thanks to a generous donation to support our outreach work, we will be hosting the first of a projected series of Masterclasses for young performers from the vicinity. This will be a piano masterclass given by internationally-renowned pianist, examiner and teacher, Julian Hellaby. Some of you will recall that Julian kicked-off our 2023-24 season with a stunning solo recital - it is good to welcome him back to work with young pianists from our area. The masterclasses will be open to the public - please come and support the development of our young performers!

All our concerts are at 3pm in New Malden Methodist Church, 49 High Street KT3 4BY.

More information and booking via our Ticketsource platform

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm>

NB. tickets also available from Wesley's coffee bar at the church, Mondays to Saturdays 10am-2pm or on the door.

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## **NMMC Lunchtime Concerts**

Tuesdays at 1.10pm. 40 minutes of music with a retiring collection to help defray expenses.

18<sup>th</sup> February Clarinet & Piano.

Clare McEvoy and Michael Bevan will be treating us to a programme in which the principal work will be Brahms's wonderful Sonata Op.120 No.2 in Eb – a staple of the clarinet repertoire, full of melodic and expressive gems.

Full details in due course, but make an entry in your diary now.

18<sup>th</sup> March. Two pianos eight hands

The ensemble of Linda Bridges, Alison & Peter Bullett and Anthea Fry has provided an annual concert show-casing works for this popular but rather unusual scoring. They will be playing arrangements of overtures, symphonic movements, orchestral suites and nineteenth century galops.

Make a note of the date – not to be missed.

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## **Costumes**

As many of you will be aware we have small but perfectly formed costume cupboard or two. However if you need a specific costume or outfit have you tried the Costume Store based at the Lantern Arts Centre housed at Raynes Park Methodist Church?

It is an Aladdin's cave of period, panto, ethnic and show items for all ages.

Book Day? A period play? A full cast for a musical? A full pantomime? A uniform?

A summer ball? A matching hat or wig? Formal wear for weddings? Fancy dress party?

No problem at all and for reasonable hire rates.

It's open on Tuesday 10am-3pm where a lovely team of volunteers will assist (including myself as it's where I have found a home from home to keep me active).  
The 131 bus stops outside!

Julia Morton



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## William Walker saves Winchester Cathedral

I can thoroughly recommend a trip to Winchester for an excellent day out. We went on one of the many extremely wet days we've had this month and so spent a lot of time in the cathedral. We were fortunate to have an excellent guide all to ourselves so were able to ask plenty of questions and exploit her extensive knowledge. (Incidentally, we also had lunch at The Ivy and were surprised to find you could get out of there for under £25 for 2 courses, including service but no vegetables.)

All History is here, of course, but amidst the Saxon remains and the Norman architecture, the Elizabethan mortuary chests and the ravages and restoration of the Civil War, nestling amongst the better-known names of King Alfred, King Canute, Saint Swithin and Jane



Austen is a statue to one William Walker, a deep-water diver whose name will be forever associated with the continued existence of this great cathedral.

Winchester is built on a very high water table, partly as a result of early settlers diverting the River Itchen to give themselves more land to build on. The land is peat and although the foundations

of thousands of beech trees held up the cathedral for hundreds of years, cracks had started to appear in the walls by the turn of the 19/20th centuries. It was clear the building was listing to one side – sinking into the peat and in danger of collapse.



To enable bricklayers to build supporting walls, the groundwater had to be lowered. Without intervention, the removal of the groundwater would have caused the building's collapse. So to give temporary support to the foundation walls, 235 pits were dug along the Southern and Eastern sides, each about 6 metres deep. Walker went down under the water in full diving gear and shored up the walls by removing the peat, handful by handful, and setting concrete underneath them. He worked 6 hours a day, alone in complete darkness, with air being hand- pumped to him from the surface, for five and a half years from 1906-1911. He would take a lunch break above ground, removing only his helmet, and smoke a pipe which he thought might help protect him from whatever germ-ridden horrors might be lurking beneath the waters.... bones and bodies at the least.

After Walker finished his painstaking work, the water could be pumped out and the concrete bore the weight of the foundation walls. There are some quite staggering statistics here: He used 25,800 bags of concrete, 114,900 concrete blocks and 900,000 bricks. He was honoured for his amazing dedication and achievement by being awarded the MVO, and by a special service of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral where he was presented



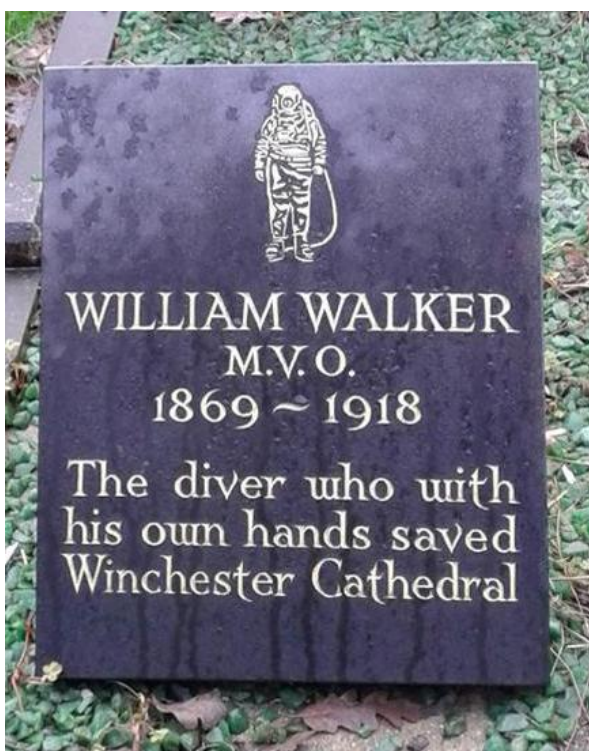
with a rose bowl by their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary. (This was their second encounter; see below.)

He is supposed to have said that the work was not difficult but had to be done carefully. His chief reward was the knowledge that he had almost single-handedly saved the fabric and unique heritage of this fascinating building for generations to come. He certainly caught my imagination and we will definitely be going back. The Gift shop was shut by the time we emerged from this very special place to view William Walker's second statue in the Cathedral garden.



More interesting facts about William Walker's life:

- He was also involved in work on the Blackwall tunnel 1891-97 and was Foreman on the construction of the new naval docks in Gibraltar.
- He did important work on developing linear decompression tables. Water pressure was the main problem facing underwater divers and many died in their work. (Ask a physicist.)
- He was diving instructor to George V when the latter was a naval cadet.
- At some points during his Winchester work he cycled the 70 miles home to South Norwood at the weekends, returning by train on the Monday.
- Perhaps somewhat ironically, William Walker died in the Spanish flu outbreak of 1918.



Alison Bullett  
(with acknowledgements to Wikipedia)

## Circuit Plan

	CHESSINGTON 10.00 am	KINGSTON 10.30 am; 6pm	NEW MALDEN 10.30 am	SURBITON HILL 10.30 am
	Korean Language Service at Chessington on Sundays at 12.30 led by Rev Paul Han			
02 February	Maraj-Ogden HC	Rutlidge HC/PV	S Lloyd AA	Vernon 4.30 B Coveney PP
09 February	Stonehewer	D Lloyd	Rutlidge HC/PV	Maraj-Ogden HC
16 February	D&S Lloyd CO	LA AA Maraj-Ogden HC	Vernon	Maraj-Ogden
23 February	Maraj-Ogden	Rutlidge	LA	LA
<b>Abbreviations</b> AA: All Age Worship C: Carol Service CC: Choir Café CF: Café Church CG: Christingle		CO: Contemporary Service CV: Covenant Service G: Gift Service HC: Holy Communion LA: Local Arrangement MH: Midnight Holy Communion	MN: Messy Nativity N: Nativity PP: Praise Party PV: Pastoral Visitors Rededication RS: Remembrance Sunday Service SJ: Carols at St John's	
<b>Online services (follow links):</b> Kingston: Sundays & You Tube: <a href="#">Windows on Worship</a> New Malden: Sundays & You Tube: <a href="#">Windows on Worship</a> Surbiton Hill: 10.30 Sundays. You Tube: <a href="#">Surbiton Hill Methodist Church</a>				

## Circuit News

### Alpha Course

We are really excited to announce that at Surbiton Hill we are going to run an Alpha course, based at the Church Tennis Club after Easter 2025 and this brief article is to give the whole Circuit and Church family a background to the course and to begin to know what it is all about.



#### What is Alpha?

Alpha is a multi-week course that helps people explore the essentials of the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening and friendly atmosphere. It runs as a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. Each session includes a short film and a discussion where you can share your thoughts.

Alpha is aimed at people who want to take some time to think & talk about the meaning of life alongside other interested people.

It's a course that helps people explore the essentials of the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening and friendly atmosphere. We will enjoy a meal together, listen to a talk then spend time chatting about the talk.

Alpha is open to anyone across the Circuit, whether you consider yourself a Christian or not. If at any point you decide Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure, no follow up and no charge.

What Can You Do?

Most importantly:

You can begin to think about who you would like to invite to the course or even if you wish to attend yourself and Alpha branded invitation cards will soon be available for you to begin discussions with people and issue.

You can begin to pray for the Course and all involved, leaders, group hosts, caterers and that people hear the call to attend. There will be special Alpha prayer cards and course launch early in 2025 which will enable us to all pray as a Circuit and Church for this exciting evangelistic venture.

In the meantime if you have any questions about this wonderful opportunity please do not hesitate to contact me.

David Fullbrook

## Letter from Bron

Dear friends,

For the last couple of years I've had the enormous privilege to be part of many things at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church. My absolute favourite has been Open the Book, a national program that shares Bible stories in an exciting and interactive way.

Sadly, I am moving on from Surbiton Hill in the spring, and this has put our Open the Book project at risk of ceasing. We are appealing for extra volunteers to come on board and be part of the project. We meet every Thursday morning for an assembly at a junior school in Surbiton. The children are always thrilled to see us (they voted Open the Book as the best thing about collective worship!) and to take part, and the staff are always genuinely happy to see us too.

This is perfect for anyone who enjoys working with children or who wants to take part in schools ministry, or anyone who enjoys acting or performing.

Having an update to date DBS certificate and safeguarding training is essential for this role.

If you are interested please contact me at [bron.shmc@kingstoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:bron.shmc@kingstoncircuit.org.uk)

Blessings, Bron





## GDPR Training

Please email Sarah (nmcc@hotmail.co.uk) if you would like an electronic copy of this poster with the links.



# BITESIZE DATA PROTECTION TRAINING

Join us for our 30 minute training sessions on data protection. Trainers will be available after the session for any further questions.

 **STARTING WEDNESDAY 05 FEBRUARY**

 **12PM - 12:30PM**

 **SESSIONS WILL BE HELD ON ZOOM**

### WEDNESDAY 05 FEBRUARY

#### What is data protection and why do we need to do it?

This will cover:

- Checklists – demonstrate compliancy |
- Basic overview of data protection – what is it
- Ensuring compliancy with volunteers – how can you make volunteers follow DP practice
- Privacy Notice – what is it and how to use it

[Register here](#)

### WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY

#### What data do you hold and what should you do with it?

This will cover:

- Map it/audit it
- How to store it
- Keeping it up to date

[Register here](#)

### WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH

#### What legal requirements am I holding data against?

This will cover:

- Consent – what is it and what does it cover
- Legitimate Interest – what is it and how do I use it properly
- Other lawful basis for holding data – what other basis might the Methodist Church use
- What to do if you have data that doesn't fall into any category

[Register here](#)

### WEDNESDAY 04 APRIL

#### Data Protection in the context of the Church

This will cover:

- Prayer requests
- Photos in church/newsletters
- WhatsApp groups
- CCTV
- Directories

[Register here](#)

### WEDNESDAY 07 MAY

#### Wrap up session

Ask any question on data protection and the team will answer

[Register here](#)

## NMMC Diary Dates – February

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Rotary Club NM
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Walking Group
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Writers' Group
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Cancer Research
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Music in New Malden concert (see page 7)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Walking Group (two weeks in a row as Lee is away)
	2.30 – 4.00pm	Bereavement Café
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Old Time Music Hall
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am – 12.30pm	Knit & Natter in Wesley's
	1.00 – 3.00pm	Short tennis in the Upper Hall
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Writers' Group
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's – Vacant Please contact Sarah to book
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 11.30am	Tai Chi Qigong
	1.10pm	Lunchtime Concert (see page 8)
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.30am	Writers' Group
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Vacant. Please contact Sarah to book
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 11.30am	Tai Chi Qigong
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends - Left hand/right hand - Alan Vincent
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am – 12.30pm	Knit & Natter in Wesley's
	1.00 – 3.00pm	Short tennis in the Upper Hall
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Writers' Group
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Diabetes UK. Mary Garrett & her daughter Sarah will be raising sponsorship in aid of Sarah's London Marathon run in aid of Diabetes UK.
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	3.00pm	Music in New Malden concert (see page 7)
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	3.00pm	Music in New Malden piano masterclass (see page 7)

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## Next Spotlight Issue

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at [nmmc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> February**.

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## Protect your house from being stolen

In recent years there have been a few reports of people arriving home from holiday, or a long stay away, to find their house occupied by someone else who claims to have recently bought it. On calling the police, the police find that the occupier is named on the Land Registry as the legal owner of the property. This unfortunate situation seems to arise from a fraudulent identity theft but the Land Registry offers a free service that can help prevent the transfer of house ownership. This is called HM Land Registry's Property Alert service. If you ask for the service, you need to give them your name and address and the Title number of your house; the registry then monitors the title number and notifies you of any enquiries or changes to the entry on the register.

Contact details are:

Property Alert Support team  
propertyalert@landregistry.gov.uk  
Helpline number: 0300 006 0478



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## Save your stamps

### **Collect stamps for RNIB and make a difference to blind and partially sighted people.**

If you receive cards and letters through the post, could you save the stamps to send to us? We will recycle them into much-needed funds for our services, such as our Letter from Santa in accessible formats for children with vision impairment to help them feel included at Christmas.

### **How stamps make a difference**

By collecting stamps you're helping to break down the barriers that stop people with sight loss living life to the full. We accept all stamps: new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs or albums. Stamps are sold by weight and we raise £20 per kilogram of stamps, so it's a brilliant way to raise money.

This is just a reminder that we have a collection box in Wesley's (to the left of the pigeonholes) so you can bring your stamps in and when the box is full, I will send them off to the RNIB.

For stamps to be worth anything to the RNIB it is really important that they are not damaged in any way, so, don't try peeling the stamp off the envelope, leave it on and cut around it leaving at least a 1cm margin around all sides.





For more information visit their website.

<https://www.rnib.org.uk/donations-and-fundraising/fundraising-your-community/stamps-appeal>

Here is the box in Wesley's.



Sarah Moore

## Christmas Round-up

Christmas now probably seems a distant memory but I thought it would be nice to share some photos of various events and of course you need the answers to the Festive quiz!



There was a good turnout for community carol singing on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – on both sides of the road!



Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the 2024 festival from setting up and decorating through stewarding and donating, to un-decorating and clearing up the pine needles!

It was a very successful event, delighting regulars and new visitors alike. The combined proceeds of the coffee bars on Saturdays 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December, the carol singing outside the church on the 21<sup>st</sup>, the collection at the Lessons & Carols and Christingle services and donations direct to the moneyspinner, amounted to just over £1700, giving each of the 25 charities £68.50. A very good result!

The 25 charities represented many areas of need in our world:  
Abacus Pre-school  
All We Can



Centrepont  
 The Children's Society  
 Corem  
 Debra  
 Disaster Emergency  
 Committee  
 Fircroft Trust  
 Guide Dogs for the blind  
 Kingston Association for  
 the Blind  
 Kingston Churches Action  
 on Homelessness  
 Kingston Foodbank  
 Lunchbowl Network  
 Macmillan  
 Mind  
 New Malden Partnership  
 Parkinsons  
 Pets as Therapy  
 Princess Alice Hospice  
 Prostate Cancer  
 RNLI



Rotary Charities  
 Sudan Relief Fund  
 Surrey Deaf Children  
 Wesley's Projects.





After the service on 15th December, we were treated to a performance from Christ Church Primary School Choir, led by Lucy Bond. They sang a lovely programme of festive songs and carols accompanied by some fine recorder playing, and had pulled out all the stops with the Christmas jumpers and hats.





Sadly, all good things must come to an end and on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December there was no service but instead a fantastic group effort to restore the church to its pre-Christmas state, ably led once again by Keith Hampton.



Here is Keith with Alison Bullett and (I think) Sue Bradley



Julie Haines and EunJung. Winding up the lights is always tricky!



David Knowles and John Meredith piling the trees on to the patio. They have now been collected by the council, not before they were added to by many others from neighbours!



**But now that Spring must surely be on the way ....**

### **The Gardeners' Hymn**

All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention though  
gardeners know the truth,  
Is when He made the goodies He made  
the baddies too.



All things spray and swatable  
Disasters great and small  
All things paraquatable  
The Lord God made them all.

The green fly on the roses, the maggots in the peas  
Manure that fills our noses, He also gave us these.  
All things spray and swatable etc.

The fungus on the goose -gogs, the club root on the greens  
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines  
All things spray and swatable etc.

The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds  
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds  
All things spray and swatable etc.

The midges and mosquitoes the nettles and the weeds.  
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.  
All things spray and swatable etc.

The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,  
How black the gardeners' outlook, though green may be his thumbs.  
All things spray and swatable etc.

But still we gardeners labour midst vegetables and the flowers  
And pray what hits our neighbours' will somehow bypass ours.  
All things spray and swatable etc.



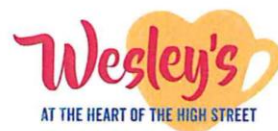
## Flower Quiz

All these cryptic clues lead to the names of flowers

1. Box clever and warm up your hands
2. East with parts of your mouth
3. Basic cook ~~e~~ a
4. American golfer and British cricketer
5. When you are sad, give me a ring
6. Auntie and mother to Christine
7. Flog it and go out to lunch
8. Remember me
9. Colour of your eye
10. Join together and get rich
11. Cattle, sheep, pigs
12. Christmas decoration and wine
13. ~~M~~ore children
14. Deceptive stone
15. Vegetable no backwards knee
16. Starburst gill
17. Comic jungle animal
18. A Tea lady, an insect and me
19. Extremely unpleasant house no longer available
20. Cat musical ~~man~~ia
21. Musical instrument
22. Prudish, not me, musical note
23. A noose and sewing aid
24. A bird swearing
25. Do give me your answer
26. Lots of birds
27. A bovine tumble
28. The queen never stops
29. Frozen waterfall
30. Part of a watering can



## Month: FEBRUARY 2025



Date	Day	Time	Wellness Activities & Connection
01/02/25	Saturday	10-12 Charity Bake Sale - Rotary Club NM	
02/02/25	Sunday	10:30 Morning Worship	
03/02/25	Monday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	
04/02/25	Tuesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Walking Group
05/02/25	Wednesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	
06/02/25	Thursday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	2-4 Creative Arts Group
07/02/25	Friday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	11:30 Writers Workshop
08/02/25	Saturday	10-12 Charity Bake Sale - Cancer Research UK	
09/02/25	Sunday	10:30 Morning Worship	
10/02/25	Monday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	
11/02/25	Tuesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Walking Group 2:30 Bereavement Cafe
12/02/25	Wednesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	
13/02/25	Thursday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Knit & Natter 1-3pm SHORT TENNIS
14/02/25	Friday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	11:30 Writers Workshop 2-4pm Board Games
15/02/25	Saturday	10-12 Charity Bake Sale	
16/02/25	Sunday	10:30 Morning Worship	
17/02/25	Monday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	
18/02/25	Tuesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Tai Chi Qigong 1pm Lunchtime concert
19/02/25	Wednesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	
20/02/25	Thursday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	2-4 Creative Arts Group
21/02/25	Friday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	11:30 Writers Workshop
22/02/25	Saturday	10-12 Charity Bake Sale	
23/02/25	Sunday	10:30 Morning Worship	
24/02/25	Monday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	
25/02/25	Tuesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Tai Chi Qigong
26/02/25	Wednesday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	
27/02/25	Thursday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	10:30 Knit & Natter 1-3pm SHORT TENNIS
28/02/25	Friday	10-2pm Wesley's Cafe	11:30 Writers Workshop

For the latest updates, please scan above or check <https://www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com/calendar/>

**Make every effort to live in peace with everyone ...  
(Hebrews 12:14 NIV)**

### Wesley's Community Hub & Cafe

for more information please contact Lee on [nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com](mailto:nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com)  
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Church Admin on [nmmc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nmmc@hotmail.co.uk) Tel: 0208 942 1288

