



New Malden
Methodist Church

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



Spotlight

June 2023

Message from Karl

It is hard to believe that it is already June, and for me, the first part of the year seems to have rushed by incredibly quickly; it feels like two minutes since Christmas! Another thing that seems to be in a hurry at the moment is the manse garden, which has more than kept me busy with both planting and dealing with an explosion of new growth. Given that the weather pattern has been somewhat unusual in 2023 thus far, with one of the driest Februarys on record and then an exceptionally wet Spring, perhaps this goes some way to explain what I have seen happening with the lawn, bushes and shrubs.

The changing climate presents challenges which are substantially more profound than enthusiastic grass growth! This year's Christian Aid Week focused upon the difference which concentrating on crops resilient enough to cope with drier conditions can make to communities, with the example of pigeon peas replacing wheat flour as the main ingredient of bread for a collective supported by them in Malawi. Something so small as a single pea was part of transforming the life of Esther, featured in their fundraising film, giving her financial stability after her husband's death and providing enough spare money for her daughter to set up a carpentry business. Little things can make a big difference.

Jesus told a story about the Kingdom of God which made the same point. Mustard seeds were among the smallest seeds available to the people of Israel at the time, but the resulting bushes grew tall and wide, spreading out in a way which could be described as weed-like, offering a home to birds needing a place to make their nests. Like some of the plants in the front garden of the manse, upon which I am less than keen, they were irrepressible and would fill any space in which they were planted. However, unlike my weed problem, the spreading of the Kingdom of God brings love, hope and transformation, and the seeds of this new life are often something small and unexpected that has made a big difference in God's hands.

The challenge of climate change is huge, and is having an impact right now. Christian Aid is one of various organisations working with partners in regions affected and altered by

extreme weather conditions. My own small contribution towards this work involved joining with other local clergy in Kingston to take part in a group flash dance outside the Bentall Centre. Anyone who has seen my dancing will know that I have two left feet and it is not my strongest talent, but it was nonetheless good to take part and help raise money to fund more transformative work in communities across the world.



Friends, we cannot single-handedly solve all of the world's problems, but we can do our small part in bringing the Kingdom of God that bit closer, planting seeds of love, hope and transformation here in New Malden. Sometimes, we can look at the varied and many things we accomplish and miss their value because they are small and can seem insignificant. Yet, like the pigeon peas in Malawi and the mustard seeds of Jesus, small things can make a big difference.

Blessings, Karl

Spotlight's Safeguarding Space

Did you know?

Did you know that anyone who hires our building is provided with a summary of our Safeguarding Policy?

Did you know hirers confirm that all leaders/helpers have the necessary DBS checks?

This is because we want everyone who uses our premises to feel safe.

Liz Edwards, Safeguarding Officer



The **Methodist** Church 

Church Family News

You will be sad to hear that **Jean Bedford** died peacefully at home in Speirs House on the morning of Wednesday 31st May. Our thoughts and prayers are with David and Lorna and all the family.

May News

Many thanks to all who helped raise an impressive £291.85 at our Coffee Bar for Christian Aid on Saturday 20th May, whether they were tea coffee & cake makers, servers or customers. Julie



There will be a bread and cheese lunch after the service on Sunday 25th June with donations going to Christian Aid. Look out for a sign-up sheet on the noticeboard.

Speirs House

We shall be singing hymns at Speirs House on Weds June 7th (with Communion) and July 5th. All are welcome to join this informal group, regardless of vocal ability. It is nice for the residents to see some new faces! We have been asked to come 2-3pm, which is less convenient from some points of view but I have said we'll give it a try. More details, and lifts from Church, available from Alison.

Circuit Meeting Vacancies

NMMC has 3 vacant seats on the Circuit meeting. It is important that we appoint 3 new people to these posts. Circuit meets once a quarter at one of the 4 churches starting around 7 30pm and is usually over by 9 30pm. I have to attend as the Circuit Steward for NMMC and the Church Treasurer and Secretary also have places. With Reverend Mark Wakelin from Chessington retiring next September 2024 and the new Circuit Superintendent Vindra Maraj-Ogden starting in September there are lots of issues to be discussed and it is important that we are fully represented. Any new representatives must be approved at one of our two special meetings on June 4th and July 2nd.

Please speak to me about the role which would be for up to 3 years.

Julie Haines

Thank you Greta

This lovely photo of **Greta Curry** is from the service on Sunday 21st May when Alison presented an orchid from all at NMMC to Greta to thank her for her many years of offering the warmest of welcomes to everyone through our doors on a Sunday morning.

It is good to see that the special smile is not diminished.

Next Spotlight Issue

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at nmmc@hotmail.co.uk (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 deadline for the July issue will be Wednesday 28th June.

Farewell to Stan

Reverend Stan Brown will preach his last service at NMMC on Sunday 25th June. It would be nice to have a good turnout that morning. Stan and his wife Mary worshipped with us for a number of year whilst he worked at Kingston University prior to becoming the



Superintendent of the Circuit. We have always enjoyed his leading our worship over the past years and will wish him well in his retirement and their new home in Gloucestershire.

There will be a special service, tea and a dance in July, full details of which will be in the next Spotlight.

Thank you Stella

These pictures of our lovely Church gardens reflect the hard work that Stella has been putting in over many recent weeks. She works at all hour, particularly the very early mornings, battling the weather, overcoming the litter louts and triumphing over even those occasional visitors who actually sometimes destroy or remove plants. We are so grateful to Stella for her tireless and devoted work which so enhances our surroundings. It is good to see people using the garden, enjoying the occasional sunshine in spite of the noise, flooding and general 'entertainment', provided at the old Tudor Williams site.

Happy Birthday Stella, for last week, and THANK YOU. We all appreciate your hard work.

words Alison Bullett, pictures Alan Vincent





Malden Fortnight Boiler Fund Raising

Saturdays 1st and 8th July are the two main Saturdays in the Malden Fortnight when the high street will we hope be busy with people enjoying the parade (on the 1st) and the stalls in the high street (on the 8th).

We would like to have stalls on both Saturdays, but need help to run them and Wesley's.

What is needed is 2 people to run the coffee bar and at least one person to sell the Cakes and Jams so 3/4 people inside from 10am until hopefully 4pm. You

can of course volunteer to help for some of this time if you can't commit to all of it.

There will also be a need for 2/3 people to staff the stalls outside, for periods throughout the day (seats provided).

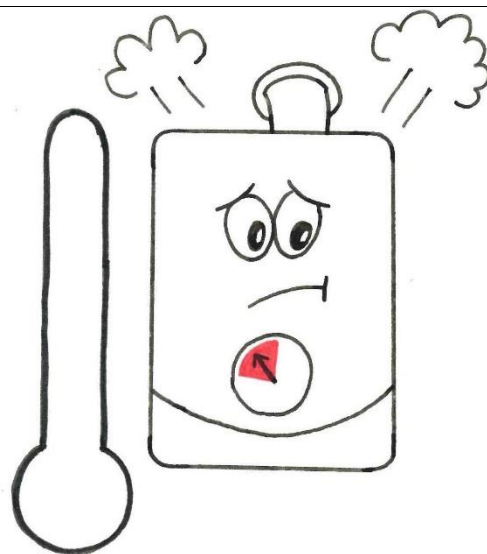
On the stalls we might sell any plants not sold in June, books, jigsaw Puzzles, CDs & DVDs, jewellery and bric-a-brac so start turning out your cupboards, lofts, cellars, garages and sheds.

In previous years, we have also provided cream teas on the second Saturday between 2 and 4pm. Please contact me if you are keen to organise this for this year.

In the past we have raised £800 over the 2 days so this year can we push it to £1000 or more.

How can you help.

- Please sign up on the sheet that will appear in mid June to be on coffee bar, cakes or stalls.
- Make a cake(s) or scones or sausage rolls.
- Have a great turnout and deliver the items to church **no earlier** than Sunday 25th June.





I will be selling 'vintage' jewellery at all possible opportunities in aid of the boiler fund beginning during Malden Fortnight. Please do let me have any of your pre-loved (or even 'quite-liked') necklaces, rings, beads, brooches, bangles, bracelets. These can be left in my pigeon hole.



Many thanks, Liz Edwards

Reverend Donald Finnan

Further to my article in February's Spotlight about the funds collected in memory of Rev Donald Finnan, (see final paragraph below) the sum of \$2162.70 (US dollars) has been successfully transferred to Bethania Kids, a charity working with nearly 1000 impoverished children, women and families in an area of South India close to where Donald served.

We have received grateful messages of thanks from the charity itself: ('We are excited and honoured that you have chosen to support our work in this way'), and from the President of the overseeing organisation in Winchester, Virginia, USA.



Our grateful thanks to Rev Bonni- Belle Pickard, who has personal links to this charity, for persevering with the difficulties and delays in the various banking systems involved.

Bethania Kids supports 6 residential homes for children, 9 care centres, 2 rehabilitation centres and 6 women's empowerment programmes in Tamil Nadu and in 2 remote tribal areas of South India. The people they help are desperate, and have often suffered in unimaginable ways by the time they come to the charity. The organisation starts with rebuilding their lives through providing immediate needs: medical attention, shelter, safety, food and clothing, and then oversees the holistic development of each child, developing his or her physical, spiritual, emotional and educational needs as appropriate. The ultimate aim is to enable them to learn the keys and skills necessary to break the cycle of poverty into which they were born, in order to be able to build productive lives for themselves, their families and for future generations.

More details can be found at <https://bethaniakids.org/what-we-do>.

(Donald served as a missionary, pastor and teacher in the desperately poor rural area of Tirunelveli, in Southern India, for 5 years from the late 1950s, learning the Tamil language and living the humble and frugal existence of the people he served. In spite of terrible hardship and tragedy - his infant daughter died from disease while they were there - India remained an essential part of his heart and his mind. He yearned to return there and managed to do this at least once in later life. Donald would be absolutely thrilled to know that his legacy lives on in this way, and I'm sure he would like to thank everyone for their generosity in enabling this to happen. This is a happy final outcome, remembering a remarkable man who lost so much during his life but gave everything he had in the service of his congregations, his friends and his God.)

Alison Bullett

Francis Keith Curas-Thompson

How many of you have looked at the detail of this stained glass window at the rear of the church?

I must admit to sitting near to it regularly through the 40 plus years of our membership of this church community, but only rarely giving it more than a glance.

But recently, taking time to look at it properly, I reflected on what might have been the backstory of Francis and wondered if anyone reading this piece in Spotlight might add to what is evident.

The name – I do not recognize from my time here.

PO and RN – I presume Pilot Officer, but in the Royal Navy rather than the RAF.

Died May 6th 1954 serving his country – I am not a modern historian but I am unaware of any armed conflict that year in which the Navy might have been engaged

The Boy Scouts badge – I presume that Francis was a member of a boy scout pack here at New Malden

So if you know something of the story of this man who died prematurely and who was probably part of a family that worshipped in this church, please tell me.

If more comes to light, I will do a supplementary piece for a future edition of Spotlight.

David Knowles



Praying Hands Albrecht Durer 1471-1528

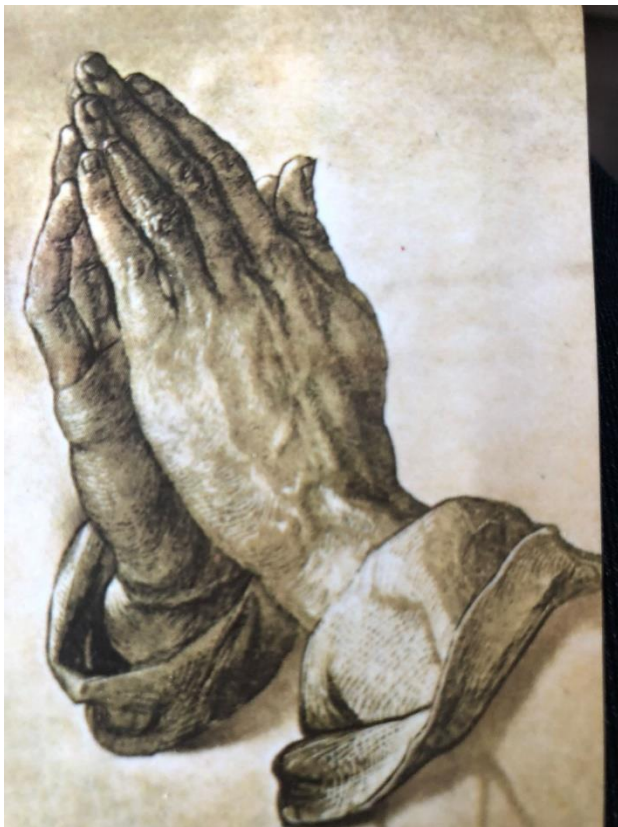
Praying Hands, created in 1508, is one of the world's most reproduced images, and has become an international symbol for piety and for Christianity, up until and including the present day. The image has appeared on bibles, T-shirts, tea towels and even on Andy Warhol's tombstone and it was used in connection with the Women's World Day of Prayer in recent times. This sketch is made with ink and pencil on blue paper that the artist made himself and was produced as a preliminary drawing for an altarpiece commissioned by Jacob Heller in 1507 for a church in Frankfurt, depicting the coronation of the Virgin Mary. The altarpiece was destroyed in a fire in 1729, although Jobst Harrich made a close copy in the 1600s which is on display in the Albertina Museum in Vienna.

Around the 1930s, a fable arose about the hands in this sketch, suggesting they were the work-worn hands of the artist's brother, or of a friend and fellow apprentice who worked as a labourer to support Durer's artistic studies. However, it is much more likely that the artist modelled the drawing on his own hands; similar hands can be seen throughout his work.

"These floating, praying hands are extremely significant in the history of religious symbolism and remain so popular due to the way they might belong to almost anyone - with the rough shirtsleeves suggesting a worker or everyday man, as opposed to an important priest or scholar. Even though the artist did not intend this to be a standalone work of art, it is an excellent and enduring example of the combination of theological, humanist, and naturalistic interests in Dürer's work."

Ink and pencil on paper - Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna

Alison Bullett



If you are unable to make it to Vienna, the tea towel can be seen in Wesley's 😊 Sarah

Wesley's

We are still in need of more volunteers during the week if you are able to help.



At time of writing Saturdays 17th and 24th June are not booked by any persons or group to run Wesley's from 10am to 12 noon.

The past couple of months have shown that it is possible to raise about £200 on a Saturday.

Do you have a favourite Charity you would like to support, or an organisation you know of who might like to book the venue?

All you need is 3 people to run it and a few people who might like to bake cakes, scones and or sausage rolls. Then spread the word amongst your friends and neighbours and best wishes on a successful morning.

Please contact Sarah to book these dates or others during the coming months.

Music in New Malden

Sunday 11th June 3.00pm

The final concerts of the summer feature a welcome return for violinist, Andrew Roberts (of the Fitzwilliam String Quartet). Andrew has previously appeared several times on classical violin in recitals with local fortepianist, John Irving.



This time, he will be playing modern violin in a duo recital with pianist Rachel Fryer in a programme that includes two of the real gems of the classical literature by Beethoven and Brahms - the ideal way to relax on a summer's afternoon!

Beethoven Sonata in C minor, Op.30 no2

Kurtag "Three pieces" Bartok Rhapsodie no1

Joachim Romance in C Brahms Sonata in D minor, Op.108

An hour of music followed by tea and cake.

Tickets £10

www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicinnm

or Wesley's NMMC 11am – 1pm M-F

(c
ash)





Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship

Building Bridges | Changing Lives

Dear members, volunteers, friends and supporters of KCRS, here is an update on the resettlement progress of the refugee family that KCRS, with your help, has been supporting and also some requests.

The Kanas family are now almost half-way through their second year as Kingston residents. KCRS is intentionally letting them look after themselves as much as possible. Our English language volunteers have been meeting with them to supplement their formal classes at Kingston College and we also have volunteers standing by to help them navigate the NHS when they have need for this. Other than this we have much less contact with our sponsored family than was the case in their first year in the UK. This is as expected by the guidelines for Community Sponsorship, reflecting the ambition that the family we are sponsoring will be fully independent by the end of their second year in the UK.

Looking ahead, however, there are two major events in their family life for which they may well need some help.

First, there is the exciting news that they are expecting a third child to be born in July. They have asked whether we can help them on two major items of expenditure – a cot bed and a baby buggy. If you know of anyone with a cot-bed or baby buggy, still in good condition, that is no longer needed and could be offered to the Kanas family then please let KCRS know by email to vdaly@kingston.ac.uk.

Their current accommodation has two bedrooms – one for the parents and one shared by the two children. A newborn baby will be able to share the parents' bedroom for a while but in the medium term the family will need accommodation with three bedrooms – not only because of the expected addition to the family but also because the son and daughter will reach the age where it is no longer appropriate for them to share a bedroom. The family needs to find this accommodation before their current tenancy agreement expires in November 2023. If you know of any 3-bed accommodation that might become available for rental at the Local Authority Housing Allowance rate then please let KCRS know by email to vdaly@kingston.ac.uk.

Finally, a request on behalf of KCRS itself. As a registered charity we must hold an Annual General Meeting. We are looking at 20th June as a likely date for the AGM and plan to run it as a blended meeting where members can choose whether to attend in person or online. Please, if you can, reserve the evening of 20th June for this AGM. We expect it to last from 6pm to 7pm.

Thank you for your support,
 Vincent Daly
 Chair of trustees, Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship

NMMC Diary Dates – June

Thursday 1 st	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Saturday 3 rd	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – NMMC Plant Sale for Boiler Fund
Sunday 4 th	12.00	Extraordinary church council meeting
Wednesday 7 th	2.00 – 3.00pm	Hymn singing at Speirs House
Friday 9 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Board Games Afternoon
Saturday 10 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Wives & Friends for RBKares
Sunday 11 th	3.00pm	Music in New Malden
Tuesday 13 th	2.30pm – 4.00pm	Bereavement Café
		Wives & Friends Meal 'out'
Thursday 15 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Saturday 17 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Currently vacant – please contact Sarah to book
Tuesday 20 th	1.10 – 1.50pm	Lunchtime Concert
Saturday 24 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Currently vacant – please contact Sarah to book
Sunday 25 th	12.00	Christian Aid Lunch

Circuit Plan

		CHESSINGTON 10.00 am	KINGSTON 10.30 am; 6pm	NEW MALDEN 10.30 am	SURBITON HILL 10.30 am
<i>Korean Language Service at Chessington on Sundays at 12.30 led by Rev Paul Han</i>					
04 June	am	Brown	LA	Bridges & S Lloyd: AA	Rutledge 4.30pm Coveney: PP
11 June	am	B&S Mosedale: CA	Rutledge: AA/HC	Webb	Brown/Chun: HC
18 June	am	M Wakelin: C	Brown	Rutledge: HC	Stonehewer
	pm	<i>No Service</i>	Rutledge: HC	<i>No Service</i>	<i>No Service</i>
25 June	pm	M Wakelin	Bridges/S Lloyd	Brown	Vernon
02 July	am	LA/CO	Webb: CC	Rutledge: AA/B	Brown 4.30pm Coveney: PP
09 July	am	M Wakelin: HC	Rutledge: AA/HC	J Wakelin	Brown
16 July	am	Bridges & S Lloyd: C	Stonehewer	Rutledge: HC	Brown: HC
	pm	<i>4.30pm Circuit Farewell Service & Social for Rev Stan Brown at Surbiton Hill</i>			
23 July	am	J & M Wakelin	Webb	D Lloyd	Bridges
30 July	am	Han	Cocking	Vernon	LA
06 August	am	M Wakelin: HC	Rush: AA	LA	Rutledge: HC
13 August	am	Cowgill	Rutledge: AA/HC	Cocking : AA	D Lloyd
20 August	am	Han	Vernon	Rutledge: AA/HC	Stonehewer
27 August	am	M Wakelin	Cocking: AA	J Wakelin: AA	Rutledge
Abbreviations					
AA: All Age Worship B: Baptism CA: Church Anniversary CC: Café Church C: Contemporary Service		CO: Church Outing HC: Holy Communion LA: Local Arrangement PP: Praise Party			

Ministers' Day Off: Stan: Saturday; Karl: Monday. Mark works part-time and can usually be contacted Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

CRYPTIC TOWNS AND CITIES



This was one of the rounds in the recent Church Family Quiz. There may be more than one answer to each clue!

1	Join to the next one	Lincoln
2	Tub full of water	Bath
3	Mat insect	Rugby
4	Tend fire	Stoke
5	Where the steer crossed the river	Oxford
6	Mother's garden entrance	Margate
7	Old car	Bangor
8	Part of a ship	Hull
9	Colourful car	Redcar
10	Cook's meadow	Sheffield
11	Noah's home rebuilt	Newark
12	Chef's advice	Bakewell
13	People's rock	Folkstone
14	Bing's town	Crosby
15	Look for a bargain	Sale

Fun British Shop Names

Sue Knowles sent in these great examples of imagination and ingenuity in naming shops and businesses. Are there any near you? Please send them in!





The caption competition

We have had several suggestions for this photo of Karl at the Kingston Walk of Witness.



- And now we will sing hymn number 481
- Is that me or is that Vicky Pollard?
- Karl wasn't convinced that Rock 'n' Roll Church was quite his cup of tea.
- Looking at the colour, I think L'Oreal's new Myrrh, honey and lions poo formula looks very promising!
- Tina Turner's new hair treatment range was "Simply the Best".

More captions required

Continuing in the series of 'Interesting photos of our Minister'



And finally,

And on the 8th day God created seniors. Now most seniors never get enough exercise.

In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, & other things, thus doing more walking.

And God looked down & saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need.

In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, & stretch.

And God looked down & saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders & decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise.

God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find, as you age, you are getting up & down more, remember that's the way God designed us. It's in your best interests, even though you mutter under your breath.