



New Malden
Methodist Church
At the heart of the High Street



Spotlight

May 2025

Message from Karl

Each month, I try to think of something sensible to say, but right now, the honest truth is I feel much too overwhelmed.

Following the Supreme Court judgement about the meaning of 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010, and the announcement from the head of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) on 17th April that trans people will soon be forced out of any gendered space, from hospital wards to toilets in cafes, it feels like my life has suddenly been turned completely upside down.

Despite the Court's judgement not mandating the automatic exclusion of trans people from spaces we have been using for decades without issue, the Labour government has decided to go much further and take this route. Thus, when the Equality Act Statutory Guidance is updated shortly, as a trans man, I will not be able to access facilities I have been using for years without issue, such as public toilets, making it extremely hard to live a normal life in the UK.

The only thing I can compare this to right now is the overwhelming rollercoaster of grief when my mother had her brain haemorrhage. When we see stories about this in the media, with anti-trans campaigners toasting with champagne and children's authors puffing on cigars like wanabee Andrew Tate, it is so easy to forget that the impact is on real human beings, made in the image and likeness of God, like me, who do not have anything like the same platform, power or influence.

I therefore will just leave you with this poem by Pastor Martin Niemoller, which in the midst of this – and seeing innocent people imprisoned in brutal prisons in El Salvador without trial, even when the Supreme Court in the USA unanimously rules they should be brought home – feels apt. Please pray for me, for wisdom as to where my future now lies, and for all trans people (especially trans women who cannot readily go under the radar) who are frightened and hurting right now. If you would like to know what else might be done, please come and have a chat with me.

Every blessing, Karl

First they came for the Communists,
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the Socialists,
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I did not speak out
because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews,
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me,
and there was no one left
to speak out for me.

Pastor Martin Niemoller

Spotlight's Safeguarding Space

You may have attended one of the Digital Workshops that have taken place in Wesley's. It is important to be informed about how to use technology and the following link, to the London District Safeguarding website section, may provide you with information about scams which you may find useful.



[Safeguarding, Staying Safe Online Resource](http://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/news/safeguarding/staying-safe-online-resource)

(www.methodistlondon.org.uk/news/safeguarding/staying-safe-online-resource)

Liz Edwards, Safeguarding Officer

Donations

New Malden Methodist Church now has a donations page set up with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

Please scan this QR code if you wish to donate online.



Church Family News

Please pray for a speedy recovery for **Ian Curry** who is having a heart by-pass operation on 24th April, and of course for **Greta** who celebrated her 96th birthday on 5th April.

Update from Ali Walsh about Megan

Thank you for your prayers for Megan. She saw the neurosurgeons again just before Easter and it is confirmed that she is to have an op to increase space for fluid to flow from her brain to her spinal cord. Waiting lists permitting, she will have an op in 6-8 weeks time. She will spend the first night in the high intensity ward and be in hospital for a week.

Please can I ask for your continuing prayers. Will send updates as and when. Thank you all for your prayers.

We all send love and prayers to all the Walsh family.

Update from Gretta White

Last August I ran a coffee morning for “Big Up Communities”, a charity running a day centre in south London for under-privileged children where a replacement roof at a cost of £30,000+ was urgently needed.

Your donations helped to raise £4779.00 and this impressive figure secured corporate sponsorship with an organisation called The Informer Group who have offered not only to meet the cost of a new roof but also to refurbish the upstairs area of the building.

Thank you to everyone who helped towards this, both at the coffee morning and also the lunch at my home. Gretta

News of Jane Bennett

Jane has sent us several cards recently covered with her lovely handwriting telling us about her life in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, with her son and tales from her long life (she was 97 on 1st April). Please ask me if you would like to read them but here is a snippet:

“Greetings from the West! Hope normal life is carrying on as usual – miss it and you all! I do see life in all its guises from my low-silled bay window over-looking the grassed front garden (with trees and low hedges) across a main road to the large grassed area opposite – with full-sized goalposts (but no nets). The whole area is well-used for games and dog walking/exercising.

“I have just spent a quiet morning watching people across the road planting up 2 large wooden troughs on 3 legs with spring bulbs – but I couldn’t read the bags, so it will all be a lovely surprise when they flower – hoping they do!”

“.....I’m occupying my days with the odd bit of knitting or crochet if I can tear myself away from all the books in the well-stocked bookcase in my room! Plus we go to a well-stocked library in the local café, so I can always find something I haven’t read B4! However, I do keep my fingers flexed – don’t intend my hand joints to seize up!”

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Julie Haines on becoming an Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. The citation on the certificate says the honour is awarded in recognition of the “eminent service that she has rendered to the Council as a past Member”



Next Spotlight Issue

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at nmmc@hotmail.co.uk (or in my church pigeonhole). Please send me anything you think might be of interest: memories, news of members, advice for life, poems, photos, recipes, etc, by **Wednesday 28th May**.

Easter Weekend

Blessed are the Breadmakers

On Good Friday morning an intrepid group of 9 bakers assembled in the church kitchen armed with only 2 Kenwood mixers and their bare hands. Their mission was to turn 7 kilos of flour into bread to sell in Wesley's on Easter Saturday. Their deadline was 12 noon when a second crack team would take over the kitchen for a hot cross bun buttering mission. The pressure was on but supplies in the form of coffee and more hot cross buns kept spirits and energy levels high.

The results were quite amazing - as they say on Masterchef: the team were soon turning out loaf after perfect loaf. In fact we didn't stop at loaves, we also made plaits and twists and boules and rolls and added rosemary, caraway seeds, olives, etc etc.

Thanks to those who turned up and baked and also those who baked cakes for the Saturday morning. We raised just over £300 and hope to put this towards a new tea urn for the church. Mission accomplished and we such a good time was had we might do this again!

Caroline Auty



Pam, Robert, Julia, Nigel, Angy, Sue and Melody



A selection of the bread that was baked.

One loaf baked by Robert was used for Easter Day Communion.



Pam and Julia having far too much fun



Melody getting the measure of Caroline and Nigel and Angy proving that breadmaking is a serious business!



After the blessed breadmakers, the holy hot cross bun spreaders (Alison, Doreen and David) took over the catering tag to prepare 200 hot cross buns for consumption on Good Friday evening after the performance of Haydn's Seven Last words.



The concert involving approximately 60 singers and musicians was very well received and a retiring collection in aid of the Myanmar Earthquake appeal raised approximately £700.00.



Easter Sunday

The call to wear Sunday best for Easter Sunday was heeded by many and we all very much enjoyed dressing up. Hats, fascinators, wedding outfits and great shoes featured highly. Thank you Julia for the suggestion which persuaded some of us out of our jeans!



Angy & Carol in heavenly hats



Julie in her bonny bonnet

Pam & Sarah in fetching fascinators





Julia, Liz, Alison, Julie and Greta and some great shoes on show

The Greta and Megan mutual appreciation society (below).



Wesley's

Cancer Connections Group

Wesley's will be hosting this new group which will meet on the fourth Friday of the month starting on Friday 23rd May 1.00-2.00pm. In conjunction with Kingston and Richmond NHS Foundation Trust and Macmillan Cancer Support, it is aimed at people who have completed active cancer treatment or are in remission as well as caregivers. The group will provide a safe space for people to share stories, listen, connect, and find comfort with others who understand, in a relaxed and supportive gathering over tea and coffee.

If you think you could volunteer to help with this new initiative, please see Lee.

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

Please look out for the May timetable of activities.

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

Introducing Baabie

Following the recent challenge to knit a few more sheep to sell at the Christmas Fair, I decided to give it a go. I found a nice ball of sheepish wool in the boxes, dug out my old needles and was all set to go. A few weeks later and here is Baabie!

We are already feeling rather fond of her, but hopefully she will be happy in a new home later in the year.

Sue Duckering



Please see the March issue of Spotlight for the patter if you would like to make your own version of Baabie! Or see Sarah or Julia.

Wesley's at 30

In preparation for next month's celebrations there will be an invitation, by sign-up sheet, to prepare Wesley's for the occasion. This will involve tidying up & cleaning the chairs.

Events planned for the Celebration weekend are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Circuit News

“And they're off !!”

Our ALPHA Course starts this week on Tuesday 29th April at 7pm (and finishing at 8.30pm) and is running at Surbiton Church Tennis Club 11-13 Manor Drive KT5 8NE.

Each evening starts with a meal and we would love you , your family or friends to join us for an enjoyable time of fellowship and challenge learning more about God in today's world and how to reenergise their faith or to commit anew or just to ponder.



You do not have to come to all the sessions (there are 8) whether that is for just one or few evenings or for the rest of the course.

So don't be shy.....

Just in case you don't know what it is all about !!

Do you or people you know have questions about how and where the Christian faith fits into everything in today's fast and confused World? If that is the case then taking part in the course is certainly for you.

Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, faith or no faith, you're invited.

I can't stress that final point enough-it is genuinely for everyone .

We are always happy to talk about the weather or the latest sports events but sometimes we have a block about talking about the Christian faith and its place in today's world and our lives (if it yet has one), and so please use this opportunity to come yourselves, or to invite friends or family .

The sessions will be relaxed, informal and fun and will consider the following topics

- Is there more to life than this?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How can I have a faith in today's world?
- How is a Christian faith relevant to me?
- Why should I read the Bible and is there any truth in it?
- How can God help us in our lives?
- What is this thing called the Holy Spirit

If you are unable to come then please pray- We have enough helpers to run the Course (more are always welcome) but the success of it relies on prayer support

Why you may ask

- 1) To support all of the elements in running the course but most importantly to ask God's holy spirit to move in the hearts and minds of the attendees so that they can either refresh their faith or come to a new life in Christ
- 2) To discern from God whether you should attend the Course to relook at your faith and also to pray about who should invite to come to the Course from amongst your family , friends and contacts. There will be invitation cards available to help with that.

3) Finally it has been statistically proven that an ALPHA Course is significantly more powerful in terms of its impact if it is surrounded by prayer.

This is an incredibly important opportunity to offer the ourselves and others time and place to reflect on life and faith in it.

Please contact me if you would like to come or if you have any questions about it – davidmfullbrook@gmail.com

Confused?

We fear that the Coombe Vale Police may have been expecting a different clientele to attend their session on 10th April – or maybe not?

Kingston Police reposted

 **Coombe Vale Police** @MPSCoombeVale · 3h
Coombe Vale Community Engagements for April.



Coombe Vale - Community Engagements for April

- **10/4/2025** – Thursday at 10:30am – New Malden Methodist Church – Crime Prevention Stall – and Knit&Nutter event
- **11/4/2025**- Friday- 14:30-15:30 - Bike Marking event in Dickerage Sports & Community Centre
- **20/4/2025**- Sunday- 13:00-14:00- Walk and Talk Event in Dickerage Park.
- **25/4/2025**- Friday- 14:00-15:00 Bike Marking event in front of Norbiton station

Church contact information – website www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

 NMMethodists

Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge (Minister)
n/a Monday

Mrs Sarah Moore (Administrator)
(Mon & Wed 10am - 2pm, Thu 12 – 4pm)

Mrs Lee Monczak (Development Officer)

Mrs Julia Morton (Senior Steward)

Mrs Liz Edwards (Steward)

Mrs Julie Haines (Steward)

Charity Registration Number 1176621

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juliamorton@virginmedia.com

lizedwards513@gmail.com

juliehaines53@gmail.com

Proverbs

Julie Haines sent these in. A primary school teacher collected well-known proverbs and gave the first half of them to her class, asking them to fill in the rest. Do you know what they should say?

Here's what they came up with:

Better to be safe than... punch a 5th grader.

Strike while the... bug is close.

It's always darkest before... daylight savings time.

Never underestimate the power of... termites.

You can lead a horse to water but... how?

Don't bite the hand that... looks dirty.

No news is... impossible.

A miss is as good as a... Mr.

You can't teach an old dog... maths.

If you lie down with dogs, you... will stink in the morning.

Love all, trust... me.

The pen is mightier than... the pigs.

An idle mind is... the best way to relax.

Where there is smoke, there's... pollution.

Happy is the bride who... gets all the presents.

A penny saved is... not much.

Two is company, three's... The Musketeers.

Children should be seen and not... spanked or grounded.

If at first you don't succeed... get new batteries.

You get out of something what you... see on the box.

When the blind lead the blind... get out of the way.

There is no fool like... Aunt Edie.

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you. Cry and... you have to blow your nose

NMMC Diary Dates – May

Thursday 1 st	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts
Friday 2 nd	11.30am	Writers' Group
Saturday 3 rd	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Scouts
Monday 5 th	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY - WESLEY'S CLOSED	
Tuesday 6 th	10.30am	Walking with Nature Group
Thursday 8 th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short tennis in the Upper Hall
Friday 9 th	11.30am	Writers' Group
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 10 th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's – Christian Aid
Monday 12 th	5.00pm	Property Committee Meeting
Tuesday 13 th	10.30am	Tai Chi
	2.30 – 4.00pm	Bereavement Café
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Isabella Plantation visit
Thursday 15 th	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts
Friday 16 th	11.30am	Writers' Group
Saturday 17 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Kingston & Malden Scout & Guide Band
Sunday 18 th	11.45am	Church Council Meeting (after morning worship)
Tuesday 20 th	10.30am	Walking Group
	1.10pm	Lunchtime Concert
Thursday 22 nd	10.30am	Knit & Natter
	2.00 – 3.30pm	Short tennis in the Upper Hall
Friday 23 rd	11.30am	Writers' Group
	1.00pm	Cancer Connections Group
Saturday 24 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – NM Rotary Club
Monday 26 th	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY - WESLEY'S CLOSED	
Tuesday 27 th	10.30am	Tai Chi
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Volunteering at Westminster Abbey – Jill Lee
Friday 30 th	11.30am	Writers' Group
Saturday 31 st May	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Cancer Research UK – Bowel Baby Campaign

Circuit Plan (overleaf)

Plan Details for the Churches				
Date	Time	Chessington	Kingston	Surbiton Hill
02/03/2025	AM	Fullbrook	Rutledge: HC	Maraj-Ogden: B
	PM	No Service	No Service	B. Coveney: 4.30pm PP
05/03/2025	-	7.30pm AW	No Service	No Service
	AM	Han	Rutledge: AA	Maraj-Ogden: HC
09/03/2025	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service
16/03/2025	AM	D&S Lloyd: C	Maraj-Ogden	Fullbrook
	PM	No Service	Rutledge	No Service
23/03/2025	AM	Han: HC	LA	Vernon: LM
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service
30/03/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden	Rutledge: AA/CC	Dean
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service
06/04/2025	AM	LA	S. Lloyd	T. Coveney
	PM	No Service	No Service	4.30pm PP
13/04/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden	Rutledge: 10am SJ	LA
	PM	No Service	Rutledge	No Service
17/04/2025	-	7.30pm MT	Rutledge: 6pm MT/HC	Maraj-Ogden: 7.30pm MT
18/04/2025	-	9.30am WoW	Rutledge: 10am WoW	Maraj-Ogden: 10.30am
20/04/2025	AM	Han: 8am HC	No Service	No Service
	AM	Han: 10am AA/HC	Rutledge: AA/HC	Maraj-Ogden: 10.30am HC
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service
27/04/2025	AM	D. Lloyd	Stonehewer	Bridges
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service
04/05/2025	AM	Rutledge: HC	Maraj-Ogden: HC	LA
	PM	No Service	No Service	4.30pm PP
11/05/2025	AM	Maraj-Ogden: ACM	Bridges: AA/CA	Stonehewer
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service
18/05/2025	AM	D&S Lloyd: C	Rutledge	Cocking
	PM	No Service	Rutledge: HC	No Service
25/05/2025	AM	LA	LA	Maraj-Ogden: HC
	PM	No Service	No Service	No Service

Ministers' Day Off: Karl and Vindra - Monday **Circuit Meeting:** 25th March at Kingston

Notes
AA = All-Age Worship AW = Ask Wednesday B = Baptism CA = Christian Aid Service CC = Café Church HC = Holy Communion LM = Leprosy Mission MT = Maundy Thursday PP = Praise Party SJ = Joint Service with St John's WoW = Walk of Witness

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