

# MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER, JUNE & JULY 2000

**Minister: The Revd David M. Chapman**  
**29 Poplar Road, Merton Park, LONDON SW19 3JR    Tel. 020 8542 4758**

### *MINISTER'S LETTER*

Dear Friends,

I guess this will be my final letter in this church's newsletter. The five years in which I have been minister have passed very quickly. Suddenly our removal date is looming large on the horizon. So I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for the way in which my ministry has been received. I am enormously grateful for the support given by you all during my ministry in this church. You have been patient and tolerant when I have made mistakes. I have always felt uplifted when leading worship and sustained by your prayers. It is a privilege to be a Methodist minister, and I have thoroughly enjoyed being minister of this church.

As a matter of conviction, I have tried to maintain a balance in worship between modern and traditional styles. No doubt I have not always succeeded in getting the balance right. So I am grateful to the loyal members of the congregation who attend worship regularly even though they may not warm to the style of worship on a particular occasion. As a congregation, we need to keep on reflecting on our worship and consider what makes it worthy of God and appropriate for the present day. Such thinking is often uncomfortable and challenging but it is essential.

The Church never stands still; indeed it would be wrong for it to do so. Informed by the excellent response to the property questionnaire earlier this year, the church council is beginning to look ahead and turn the congregation's thoughts and comments into a clear vision of the kind of worship area we would like to develop for the future. In 2008 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the present church on 10 May 1958. I should like to think that we will have achieved our vision in time for the 50th anniversary celebrations. Whilst there is plenty of time in hand, much careful thought will be required. Meanwhile, soon it will be time to welcome my successor, The Revd Anne Rusbridge. My prayers will be with you all as together you seek to develop the life and mission of this church. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*David M. Chapman*

### **CHURCH GARDEN**

Thanks to Ted Ashwood for his work in the church garden, and also for the two seats he has made for the patio from old pews. Ted would like help to clear the weeds between the paving stones on the Martin Way side of the Church before they take over the beds!

### **BON VOYAGE**

Our sincere good wishes to David and Sue as they leave us to go to Horsham. We are grateful for all that David has done in all aspects of the church in the five years he has been with us. We shall also miss Alexander, Sophie and Abigail, and wish them happiness in their new home, church and schools.

### **NEWS FROM ARTHRITIS CARE**

*Irene Goldsmith, Secretary of Arthritis Care writes:* 'Since January 1998, the Merton Branch of Arthritis Care has been holding its monthly meetings at Martin Way Methodist Church. The car park is alive with seven or eight large purpose-built vehicles as an average of 70 members disembark to enter the spacious entrance hall. Our team of helpers is ready to assist them and every facility is available. In the well-equipped kitchen another team prepares refreshments. Access for disabled people has improved beyond recognition over the past two decades but nowhere is awareness of their problems better illustrated locally than in this extended building. Safe parking, level entrance, specially designed

toilets and space for good manoeuvrability have all been provided. Great demands must have been made on the church's resources and we deeply appreciate the consideration that has been demonstrated. Our meeting place is the envy of many branches. Attendance in the church itself for the carol service which precedes the Christmas party has been a delight for members who have so much enjoyed the welcome and care extended to them by the minister, David. On behalf of the branch, I should like to extend grateful thanks to the church for the wonderful facilities you have provided.'

### **CIRCUIT STUDY EVENING ON HOLY COMMUNION**



The Wimbledon Circuit Meeting in February requested an opportunity to explore the significance of Holy Communion. In response to this request, the circuit leadership team have arranged for a study evening on the Sacrament of Holy Communion to be held here at Martin Way Methodist Church on **Wednesday 21 June** at 8 pm.

### **CHURCH PICNIC**

Our annual church picnic will be held in Nonsuch Park on Sunday 2 July following the morning service. Bring a picnic lunch and something to sit on. After a leisurely afternoon there will be a cup of tea at 4 pm followed by a short service. Everyone welcome.

## **STRAWBERRY TEA**



On **Saturday 17 June** at 4 pm there will be an informal strawberry tea on the church patio (or in the coffee lounge if wet). This is usually a very enjoyable occasion for the whole church family, young and old.

## **42nd CHURCH ANNIVERSARY GIFT DAY**

Thank you to all who contributed to last month's Church Anniversary Gift Day in aid of church funds. Donations are still being received. The total so far received is the very good sum of £4680, which is a magnificent effort.

## **FROM THE FELLOWSHIP**

*Eileen Handy writes:* 'The Fellowship meets very Monday (except for Bank Holidays and during August) at 2.45 pm until approximately 4 pm. We enjoy a variety of speakers and end our meeting with a cup of tea and a chat. All are welcome — both ladies and gentlemen. Newly retired? Missing the company of friends and colleagues? Come and visit us for one or two Mondays, you will be warmly welcomed.'

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Our prayers and best wishes to the following: **Lee and Becky Summers** following their marriage on 13 May; **David and Lindsey Mason** following the blessing of their marriage on 28 May; **Barry and Wendy Evans** following the blessing of their marriage

on 10 June; **Alan and Joan Steffenson** who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 20 May; **Douglas and Jean Gear** who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 29 July. They were married in this church (or rather in what is now our church hall!) on 29 July 1950; Our previous minister, **Rev. Philip Moore**, who celebrated his 70th birthday on 9 June.

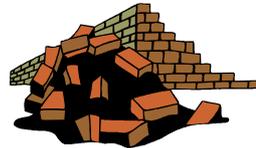
## **BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER GROUP**

Meets on **Tuesday 13 June** and **Tuesday 11 July** for the last time before the Summer break: exploring Acts of the Apostles chapters 11 and 12.



## **PROPERTY NEWS**

To encourage good stewardship of our property, The Methodist Church of Great Britain requires all church buildings to receive a thorough inspection once in every five years by a qualified architect. This quinquennial property inspection took place on 16 May by Mr John Hedges, ARIBA. The previous inspection was in July 1995 following the completion of Phase 1. We received an excellent report from John Hedges with no significant defects identified for remedy. Various small items of maintenance will now be progressed by the property stewards to keep our premises in sound condition for future years.



## **CHURCH BUILDING**

### **CHURCH DIARY FOR JUNE**

Mon	12	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Fiona Simpson, Repairs & Heating Grants)
Tues	13	8.00 pm	Bible Study and Prayer Group (Acts 11)
Wed	14	10.30 am	Holy Communion
		7.45 pm	Midways (Audrey Ward — Barn Owls)
Thurs	15	8.00 pm	Church Council
Sat	17	4.00 pm	Strawberry Tea
Sun	18	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Sue Griffiths
		6.30 pm	Celebration Praise
Mon	19	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Jean Gear)
Tues	20	7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club (Barrie Tabraham, HMS Warspite)
Wed	21	8.00 pm	Circuit Study Evening on Holy Communion
Fri	23	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	25	10.30 am	Holy Communion led by Rev. David Chapman
Mon	26	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Revd David Chapman)
Wed	28	7.45 pm	Midways (Fish & Chip Supper)

### **CHURCH DIARY FOR JULY**

Sat	1	7.30 pm	Performance of <i>Hopes and Dreams</i> at Merton Abbey Mills
Sun	2	10.30 am	Family Service and Parade led by Revd David Chapman followed by church picnic in Nonsuch Park
Mon	3	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Mavis Oswald, Friends of Wimbledon Theatre)
Fri	7	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	9	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Revd Rodney Hill
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion led by Revd David Chapman
Mon	10	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Peggy Hunt from St Mary's)
Tues	11	8.00 pm	Bible Study and Prayer Group
Wed	12	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Sun	16	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Revd David Chapman
		6.30 pm	Celebration Praise
Mon	17	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Speaker to be arranged)
Tues	18	7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club
Fri	21	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	23	10.30 am	Holy Communion led by Revd Barrie Tabraham
Mon	24	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Pat Lloyd, Poetry Reading)
Sun	30	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mr Martin Brown
Mon	31	12.30 pm	Fellowship Lunch

**Please refer to the Sunday Notice-sheet for additional information**