

MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2000

Minister: The Revd Anne Rusbridge
29 Poplar Road, Merton Park, LONDON SW19 3JR Tel. 020 8542 4758

MINISTER'S LETTER

Greetings from the Rusbridge family.

We are looking forward to our move to Merton. My training for the ministry has meant many changes for our whole family, and now that we are packing to move some major decisions are taking place about what to keep and what to get rid of! Toys and games evoke many happy memories but are also a reminder of the way we grow and move on to new things.

I feel very privileged to have been given this opportunity to serve God through the Methodist Church and have really enjoyed my training at the Urban Theology Unit in Sheffield. It is inevitable that my ministry will be different from David's. You have been well served by David and I wish him and his family well in their move to Horsham. I have a love of the creative arts which I hope to share with you. I am involved in the training of youth and children's workers, and very interested in work with children in the church. I am also doing research into the spirituality of older people.

To tell you a little of the family — Michael works for the Legal and General in Kingswood. He has worked there for many years and is pleased to be able to continue with his work whilst living in Merton. Ian works as a surveyor in the West End and is studying at South Bank University. In his spare time Ian enjoys cricket and cars. Fiona is a student at the London College of Fashion and has a great love of dance and the creative arts. Fiona is a member of 'New Creations' at Raynes Park and enjoys performing with them. Emma has chosen to continue living in Sutton to be nearer to her work as a nursery nurse in Carshalton Beeches and her church. Emma is a warrant officer in the Girls' Brigade at Sutton Baptist Church.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the welcome tea on Saturday 2 September and the Family Service on the Sunday morning.

With best wishes,
Anne

THANK YOU

David and Sue Chapman write: 'Thank you to everyone at Martin Way Methodist Church for the lovely gifts that we received at the Strawberry Tea in June to mark our move from the Wimbledon Circuit to the Dorking and Horsham Circuit. It was a surprise and a thrill to receive such lovely presents. David has been learning how to use his new digital camera; and the metronome will be useful for Sue at school and with her music groups. The children were delighted with their books. We are grateful for the cheque and for all the many kind words of appreciation that we have received. We will miss living in Merton and being part of the church family at Martin Way. We look forward to keeping in touch.' From August our new address is:

**23 Rycroft Drive
HORSHAM
West Sussex
RH12 2AW
Tel. 01403 253915**

E-mail address:

david@chapman-24.freemove.co.uk



LOOP FOR CHURCH HALL

For several years the hard of hearing have benefited from a loop system in the church. Anyone who wears a deaf aid can switch it to the 'T' position during services and hear input from the microphones via the loop system. Now this provision is being extended to include the church hall. During the month of August, when the hall is not in regular use, an induction loop sys-

tem will be installed for the benefit of the hard of hearing during concerts and other activities that take place in the hall. The new induction loop will provide a welcome addition to our facilities for the disabled as part of our ongoing policy of making the church premises fully accessible to all. We are indebted to a member of the congregation who has given an anonymous donation of £1000 to cover the cost of a purchasing an induction loop system for the church hall. Thanks also to Mike Mortley for obtaining and installing the equipment.

WELCOME TEA

In the church lounge on **Saturday 2 September** at 4 pm there will be an informal opportunity to welcome the Rusbridge family over a cup of tea.



Everyone is invited to come along and meet Anne, Mike, Ian, Fiona and Emma.

CIRCUIT WELCOME SERVICE

There will be a Wimbledon circuit service of welcome for The Revd Anne Rusbridge on **Tuesday 5 September** at 8.00 pm in this church. It is an important occasion in the life of the church and all members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. The service will be led by The Chairman of the London Southwest District of the Methodist Church, The Revd R. Martin Broadbent, and the Superintendent of the Wimbledon Circuit, The Revd Barrie Tabraham.

HARVEST FESTIVAL & LUNCH



This year the Harvest Festival service will be on **Sunday 1 October** when Revd Anne Rusbridge, will lead a family service and parade. As usual, the service will be followed by a harvest lunch. Tickets for the harvest lunch will be on sale in September from our catering co-ordinator, Sylvia Baxter.

PASTORAL NEWS

Please remember in your prayers the following people:

Joan Steffenson and **Jean Butland** who are making good progress after recent surgery; Congratulations to **Nora Wyeth** who is 90 on 1 August; **Sue Griffiths** as she begins training as a Methodist minister in Manchester; **Win and Percy Edwards** who are now resident at Alexander House.

CHURCH WEB SITE

There have been a number of overseas visitors to our church web site since it first went on-line a few weeks ago. A Methodist minister from the USA enquired whether he might arrange a four week exchange with our own minister in the Summer of 2001. A Methodist family from Sweden (who visited us with their church youth choir in 1995) also got in touch. Remember, the easiest way to access our church web site is via the link from the Methodist Church web site: **Methodist.org.uk**.

FROM MARTIN WAY TO MANCHESTER

Sue Griffiths writes: 'I wanted to take this opportunity to write a few lines before I go to Manchester in September to begin Foundation training and to say thank you for all your support and generosity over the last two years. It has been wonderful to be part of Martin Way Methodist Church and to have shared in the fellowship and the friendship. Unfortunately, my job as Seed Team Pastor with Rob Frost and my local preaching have meant that I haven't been as involved as I would have liked at times; but I have really appreciated all your encouragement for me as a local preacher in training and also for my future.

The move to Manchester is looming fast and I am beginning to feel a sense of excitement and apprehension about this next step in my life. During the foundation year I'll be candidating for the ministry and if I'm accepted I'll stay at the college and continue to study for a degree in contextual theology. The "powers that be" in the Formation in Ministry Office have suggested that I could be sent into circuit as a probationer as early as 2002 and then finish my degree as a probationer. If not, then it will be 2003. Watch this space!

Items for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter (dated October) should be with the editor, Rosemary Keen, by **Sunday 17 September** at the latest.

CHURCH DIARY FOR AUGUST

Tues 1 10-12 Coffee and Chat
Sun 6 10.30 am Morning Service led by Revd Robert Jones
Tues 8 10-12 Coffee and Chat
Sun 13 10.30 am Holy Communion led by Revd Michael Meech
Tues 15 10-12 Coffee and Chat
Sun 20 10.30 am Morning Service led by Revd John Dakin
Tues 22 10-12 Coffee and Chat
Sun 27 10.30 am Morning Service led by Mr Bill Cox
Tues 29 10-12 Coffee and Chat

CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Sat 2 4 pm Welcome Tea for the Rusbridge family
Sun 3 10.30 am Family Service led by Revd Anne Rusbridge
Mon 4 2.45 pm Fellowship (Linda Rayner and Kathleen Senior entertain)
Tues 5 8.00 pm Circuit Welcome Service for Revd Anne Rusbridge
Wed 6 7.45 pm Midways
Sat 9 10.30 am London Southwest District Synod, Westminster Central Hall
Sun 10 10.30 am Morning Service led by Mr Bob Hamblin
6.30 pm Holy Communion led by Revd Anne Rusbridge
Mon 11 2.45 pm Fellowship (Bill Cox)
Tues 12 8.00 pm Bible Study and Prayer Group (Revd Anne Rusbridge)
Wed 13 10.30 am Midweek Service of Holy Communion
8.00 pm Wimbledon Circuit Preachers' Meeting at Martin Way
Thurs 14 8.00 pm Meeting of Churches Together in Merton Park
Sun 17 10.30 am Morning Service led by Revd Anne Rusbridge
6.30 pm Celebration Praise
Mon 18 2.45 pm Fellowship (Lace Knitting)
Tues 19 7.30 pm Men's Supper Club (An Evening with Graham Currie)
Wed 20 7.45 pm Midways
Sun 24 10.30 am Holy Communion led by Revd Anne Rusbridge
Mon 25 2.45 pm Fellowship AGM (Revd Anne Rusbridge)
7.30 pm Wimbledon Circuit Meeting at Upper Tooting
Thurs 28 8.00 pm Finance and Property Committee
Fri 29 & MAYC National Event 'Breakout'
Sat 30

Please refer to the Weekly Notice-sheet for additional information