

**MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH**  
**NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2000**

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

Dear Friends

Firstly I would like to say a very sincere thank you to you all for the wonderful welcome we have received here at Martin Way, for your personal greetings and for the Welcome Service which was a very happy occasion. We have settled in well and are beginning to find our way around the area.

I would also like to thank you for your patience in allowing us time to settle in before getting involved in all the activities of church life. I hope to visit all the groups shortly, and to begin to get to know many of you personally. If you would like me to call in and see you, or if you know anyone who would appreciate a visit, please let me know.

*As long as the earth lasts,  
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day  
and night, they will never cease.*  
*Genesis 8, v.22*

This month we celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving. As we enjoy the displays of flowers and produce, representative of the harvest of life throughout the world, we are thankful for all the gifts God has given us. We remember the importance of a good harvest to maintain life, and pray for those people for whom the next year will be a real struggle for survival. In our Bible Study Group last month, as we began to explore the book of James, we were reminded that the harvest of our lives is the result of living the Christian life. We thank God for all the opportunities to hear and share the Gospel.

Peace and joy in the month ahead.

Anne.

## WELCOME BACK

It's good to have the monthly newsletter back on a regular basis. I have missed it and I know that others have too. One or two people have been kind enough to say that they have missed the bits I write. That's encouraging because sometimes I wondered whether anyone actually did read them!

As I am away preaching somewhere nearly every Sunday, it's very easy for me to lose touch with what is going on and the newsletter helps to keep me informed. I think I missed out on the last Big Brunch because I did not know the date and devotees of the Big Brunch will know what a tragedy that was! (When's the next one, by the way?)

There's a "sermon" in all this, of course. Soon after my dear wife June died, I came across a sentence which hit me hard at the time and has stayed with me ever since. It was quite simple but, like many seemingly simple things, it provided food for thought. It said "Make the most of what you have while you still have it". What a reminder that is! We take so many things for granted, monthly newsletters included, but how much more are we guilty of taking precious PEOPLE for granted. When I first came upon that sentence I immediately translated it mentally to "Make the most of those you love while you still have them".

Those of us who lived through the last war can remember the time when to have an orange or a banana was a rare treat. (June's mother saved two oranges to give us to take on our honeymoon in September 1948, long after hostilities had ceased!) Nowadays such fruit is easy to come by so we take oranges and bananas for granted like so many other things.

One of the greatest gifts that we can ask God for is a truly thankful heart and above all we should be thankful for those nearest and dearest to us. Make the most of those you love while you still have them.

*Bill Cox*

## **BIBLE LANDS**

Copies of the Summer edition of the Society's "Star in the East" magazine are ready for collection in both vestibules for anyone interested, so please help yourselves.

The Annual Meeting in London this year is on 17 October at 12 noon and 6.30pm at Westminster Chapel.

The Society still needs your foreign stamps especially high value, as well as Channel Islands, Isle of Man and all British stamps except ordinary first and second class.

*Mary and Derek Heaton*

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES**

*Jean Butland writes:*

My sincere thanks to my many friends who showered me with flowers, cards, letters, phone calls, visits and prayers during the very painful time with my left leg and my two sessions of hospitalisation over the past four months. It was all very much appreciated. Also thanks to Edie who carried on 'Coffee and Chat' alone!

Congratulations to Olive Martin who celebrated her 90th birthday on 11 September. She would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their cards and good wishes. It was good to see her at the Welcome Tea.

Congratulations also to Beverley and Basil Knight who celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary on 3rd September.

Our sympathy to Margaret Bourne whose mother, Ada Miles aged 92, died in September.

*Valerie Rogers writes:*

I would like to thank the many friends who have helped me so much over recent weeks especially enabling me to get to church services and activities. I'm slowly "getting there". I don't know what I would have done without your "helping hands".

## **WORLD MISSION WEEKEND**

Come along to the World Mission event on Saturday 28 October and have fun while raising funds for a good cause. There will be a Bring and Buy, a Raffle and Games for all the family. Snack lunches will be served. From 12 noon to 3pm.

On Sunday the guest speaker at the Morning Service will be Brian Ellis of "Spectacles to Third World Countries" fame who will be talking of his experiences.

## **WOMEN'S SUNDAY: CHOIR**

Would any ladies who would be willing to join the choir for Women's Sunday on 15 October, please come to rehearsals on Mondays 2 and 9 October at 3.45 pm and on Wednesday 4 October at 7.15pm.

## **FROGS CLUB PEDAL PUSH**

On 14 June the church car park was reorganised so that 15 of the Frogs' Club could take part in a Pedal Push for the charity Childline. A good time was had by all and the grand total of £430 was raised for Childline's work.

Items for the next issue of the newsletter (November) should be with the editor, Rosemary Keen, by **Sunday 22 October** at the latest.

## CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

Sun	1	10.30 am	Harvest Festival led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
Mon	2	02.45 pm	Fellowship (Ted Ashwood)
Wed	4	07.45 pm	Midways (Revd Geoffrey Owen - My Life before the Dog Collar)
Thu	5	08.00 pm	Pastoral Committee
Fri	6	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	8	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mr David Morgan
		06.30 pm	Holy Communion led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
Mon	9	02.45 pm	Fellowship (Mrs Champness - Friends of Cannon Hill Common)
Tue	10	08.00 pm	Bible Study and Prayer Group
Wed	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Thu	12	08.00 pm	Church Council
	14-16		Women's Anniversary Weekend
Sat	14	10-12 am	Coffee Morning in aid of Lightforce (working in Albania)
Sun	15	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mr Martin Brown
		06.30 pm	Celebration Praise (Mrs Wendy Meech)
Mon	16	07.45 pm	Rally (speaker Rev Anne Rusbridge)
Tue	17	07.30 pm	Men's Supper Club (Brian Goldsmith - An Artist's Life)
Wed	18	07.45 pm	Midways (Tom Davis - Bow Street Runners)
Thu	19	08.00 pm	Church Family Committee
Fri	20	12.30 am	Lunch Club
Sun	22	10.30 am	Holy Communion led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
Mon	23	02.45 pm	Fellowship (Mrs Lily Dakin)
Sat	28	12-3 pm	World Church Weekend: Overseas Mission event
Sun	29	10.30 am	World Mission Sunday led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
Mon	30	02.45 pm	Fellowship

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