

# MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2001

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Dear Friends

It will be very exciting to share our first Easter with you at Martin Way. As I prepare for the Easter services I am reminded of an occasion last year when Mike and I attended a performance of 'The Passion' in Gatton Park near Reigate. The play took place outdoors in this delightful parkland and the audience followed the actors around the grounds from one scene to the next.

There was a real feeling of being amongst the crowds following Jesus, wanting to get towards the front to see all the action, sensing the fear as the guards kept a check on the Palm Sunday crowds, feeling the pain as the crown of thorns was pressed on to Jesus' head. By the crucifixion scene it was getting dark, which added to the atmosphere. And then when we moved to the tomb in a beautiful rock garden, the floodlights gave a very realistic impression of the dawn. The impact of being part of the action was tremendous, rather than watching a performance on stage.

After the winter months, which sometimes feel cruel and lonely, the Easter message brings a real sense of hope and anticipation. Resurrection is all around us in the bright colours of spring flowers, in new leaves uncurling from tight buds on trees and shrubs, and blossom on the trees. Resurrection is also a feature of our lives as we allow the Easter story to touch and inspire us in a personal way. As you journey through Holy Week and Easter in the familiar readings of scripture try and imagine you are there in every scene, aware of the emotion, a very real part of the action.

May God bless you in a special way this Easter,

Anne

## **Bible Study And Prayer Group**

April brings us to the fourth in our series on the Life and Teachings of Jesus and the theme for this session is "Who is Jesus?". During our discussion we will look at some of the titles given to Jesus and their relevance to our faith today. We meet on Tuesday 10 April which is in Holy Week and so the session will last for one hour from 8pm to 9 pm and will be followed by the Holy Week meditation in the church at 9pm. If you do not normally attend the Bible Study Group but would like to join us you will be very welcome.

## **The Children's Trust Appeal**

Many thanks to those who have already given a Tenner for Tadworth. Any further tenners or any donations, however small, can be directed to me via Derek Heaton or Fred Warren. I hope that you have noted 16th June down in your diary. Stalls already planned are Bric-a-Brac (Jean Gear), Toiletries (Mary Davis and the Keep Fit ladies), plants (Mary Heaton), Good as New (Joan Arnold), a 50p stall (Gwen and Moira) and a Cake stall (I must be nice to Maralyn and the ladies of Midways) and my bookstall. If anyone would be willing to organise a stall with children's clothes and toys please let me know. Contributions to any of the stalls will be welcome. Derek Heaton will be in charge of refreshments. There will also be a raffle so prizes will be needed. My daughter Chris Endean and Sister Geraldine Sharpe who both work at Tadworth Court hope to be with us on the day. Please do all you can to support the effort.

Bill Cox (8540-6630)

## **Book Review**

The return of the prodigal son: by Henri J. M. Nouwen

A story of homecoming, the author is inspired through Rembrandt's depiction of this powerful Gospel story, and probes several movements of the parable; the

younger son's return, the father's restoration of sonship, the older son's vengefulness and the father's compassion. The themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation will be newly discovered by all who have known loneliness, dejection, jealousy or anger as God's infinite compassion, unconditional love, forgiveness and joy greets the wayward home. Price £8.95 available at the next Book Sale after the Family Service on 6 May.

## **2nd Merton Park Guides**

**Proudly Present**

### **OLIVER TWIST**

The performance is on Wednesday 28th March at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Donations will be collected after the performance in aid of Comic Relief. Hopefully everyone taking part in the production will also earn their Entertainers Badge. Please show your support by coming along to this unusual show. The script has been written by the girls themselves and it promises to be a FUN evening.

## **Rainbows**

A great big 'thank you' to Anne Rusbridge and Gwen Wildman for volunteering at our Covenant Service to help me with the Rainbows, enabling us to enrol more girls. The new members were very pleased and excited to be able to join.

We would also like to congratulate the Rainbows and say well done. A few weeks ago a blind friend (Hilary) who has a guide dog came to talk to them. Gwen collected her and her dog Earl and the Rainbows were able to play with Earl and talk to Hilary about what it is like to be blind. They were given badges, balloons and book marks and they had a lovely time. Hilary enjoyed her visit so much that she wants to come again and we will be delighted to see her. The previous week they had made money boxes which they took home and I am pleased to say that they have collected over £50 for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Hilary was very grateful and we are very proud of the girls. Well done!

Geraldine Ellis

## **Biblelands**

A very big thank-you to those of you who kindly responded to the pre-Christmas Holy Land Emergency Appeal. Over £400,000 was received enabling immediate grants for emergency medical supplies to be rushed to five of the hospitals in Nazareth, Nablus, Jerusalem and Gaza.

Mary and Derek Heaton

## Holy Week And Easter

- ✝ on **Palm Sunday** Jesus enters Jerusalem and during the following week we spend time each evening at 9pm with the disciples listening to Jesus' teaching:
- ✝ on **Monday** at the house of Lazarus when Mary anoints Jesus' feet with a costly perfume
- ✝ on **Tuesday** in conversation with Philip and Andrew
- ✝ on **Wednesday** as Jesus is betrayed
- ✝ on **Thursday** evening we re-enact the washing of the disciples' feet at our Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion at 8pm
- ✝ on **Good Friday** the ecumenical service will be held at Martin Way at 10.30 a.m. This will be all-age worship and will be followed by coffee and hot cross buns.

After this our own church family will be meeting for a picnic lunch in Hurst Park followed by a walk along the river following the tow path to Kingston. If wet, we shall have lunch at the church followed by an afternoon of games and activities for all ages. Full details will be posted on the notice board.

### **Jesus Christ is risen today!**

Come and celebrate Easter Day with Holy Communion at 8am followed by breakfast and a Family and Parade Service with Holy Communion at 10.30am.

## Letter To The Editor

Would you please pass on my sincere thanks to the producer, the cast and all those taking part in the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Everyone was excellent in the part or parts they were given and must have worked hard at rehearsals to have produced such a good show. I very much enjoyed it.

One thing I would ask of Anne, may I please borrow the cow that can produce eggs, butter, bread and other items. **Well done Anne**, break a leg and here's to the next one.

Arthur Knight

[The pantomime raised £1250]

## Tadworth Tanners And Donations

At the Supper Club Anniversary Service £207 was raised for the Children's Trust, but then someone at the service gave Bill a wonderfully generous cheque for £1000 (so he has changed the target to £2000). The Big Brunch (on 10 March) has donated £50 and the Pantomime have given £500 and this with the Tanners makes the present total £1877.

## Thanks

Thanks to all those who contributed £220 to the retiring collection for the appeal for the earthquake in India.

The Senior Youth Club thank everyone who supported the March Big Brunch. It raised £114. Next one on **9 June**. Book the date now.

## Dates For Your Diary

The General Church Meeting will be held on **Thursday 26 April** at **8pm**. Extra stewards would be welcome and anyone who would be interested in finding out what is involved should speak to Tony or Anne.

Coffee and Chat celebrate their 8th birthday on **Tuesday 3 April**. The cake will be cut at 11am. Do come and join us.

## Advance Notice

Midways Coffee Morning will be on **12 May** and the proceeds will be for our own church funds

**23 June**: Sweet and Low Concert to raise funds for the Church. The music will include songs from Lesley Mortley and Jean and Douglas Gear. They will be joined this year by Margaret Hunter whose early career was with the BBC World Service - she will certainly entertain you and make you smile. More details later.

Items for the next issue of the Newsletter (May) should be with the editor, Rosemary Keen, by **Sunday 15 April** at the latest.

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