

# Martin Way Methodist Church

Newsletter – November 2003

Minister – Rev John Nyota

Dear friends,

Let's check this from the last letter. You know "Hakuna matata" means there are no worries, "Rafiki" for friend and "Karibu" means welcome. To these we added "Jambo!" (Swahili for 'how are you') and I expect you to answer "Sijambo" (Swahili for 'fine'). Then there was "ahsante sana" ('thanks a lot'). An awful lot for a single letter.

So what was our conclusion? A simple one, if you like, Harambee which stands for pushing or pulling together. This was in relation to our theme that God is about to birth a new thing in our church, a sense that all we do is all about him. For this birth to take place we agreed that we got to do some harambee, some pushing. Some one has defined the word PUSH as PrayUntilSomethingHappens. The word something may not be the best but that aside there is basic Christianity expressed in this simple definition. Pray, said Jesus, without ceasing. It is in prayer that our intimacy with our maker is expressed. And you see that is the only reason that God created us, to have fellowship with Him. Jesus knew this. How many times do we read in the Bible 'and Jesus went to pray'? That means the central thing that God expects from us is to pray. Sure God in his abounding grace and magnanimity will certainly come calling from time to time, and we can then sing God is here as we his people gather. But for him to remain, I mean for him to pitch a tent and dwell with us we ought to be in constant prayers.

How easy is this said than done! How easy it is to give a wonderful talk in the church and receive a hundred per cent attention. Only begin a prayer and if you go on for more than ten minutes you can be sure that half the audience will be dozing off, the other quarter already making other plans and calling you names of domestic and wild animals or grumbling and only a fraction will be with you. How easy to be involved in all other aspects of church life than to respond to a prayer ministry. Have you ever considered why? Because in prayer there is no hiding from our maker, we go and appear to him as we are. Our body does not like it because it is an

enemy of God's will. This is right there in the Bible. Check out Jesus' word at Gethsemane, 'The spirit is willing but the body is weak'. So selfish of the body because just as it cannot live without food so the spirit cannot do without prayer. Thus the body is the first thing to master. And lest you mourn 'oh I am doomed for I am the only one who cannot master this', let me flash your memories back to Gethsemane again. The very disciples of Jesus! He asks them at his greatest hour of need to tarry pray for him. Only to return an hour later and guess what they were all dead asleep. He rebukes them, "Can't you keep vigil even for a little while."

I say prayer takes us back to the very ABC of Christianity. The first thing we learn as we grow up or in Sunday school or when we first come to church is that we belong to him who caused us to be and his name is God. Then we learn that we can talk to him daily through prayer. That we can tell him all our needs and he will listen and give us what is best for us. It is only much later that we learn that he did speak to some people like us in the past and his words are recorded in a book known to us as the Bible. Then we join the church and learn women's, men's, youth fellowship plus numerous other stuff. Yet unfortunately, the temptation as we grow up is to give more attention to what came later whilst giving little attention to that basic item, prayer.

The message is simple: If God is here, which I believe the last few days have confirmed to me that he is, if he is to make Martin Way his dwelling place, we ought to Harambee, PUSH, we ought to pray without ceasing. Then this place will never be the same again, as we come to celebrate answered prayer through your daily fellowship with your maker. Anyone coming in will also witness that God is in town. Oh I love that, don't ya? What else does this PUSH business entail? Watch this space.

*John*

### **Quote - Unquote**

True humility is not to be found in denying that you possess the particular gifts that are yours. It is to be found in acknowledging those gifts to the full, glorying in them, developing them, and handling them back to God who gave them to you, to do what he will with them.

*Bishop Dr. Donald Coggan 1977*

## Reflections

The other day I was looking after one of my grandsons, Jacob, for a few hours. He is nearly four years old. We decided that we wanted to go to the park and play on the swings and slides. Now, Jacob knows the way to the park. He has been there many times before when he has stayed with us. So we slowly walked the well-trodden path until we came to the playground. He then played on the swings, rocking horse, roundabouts and climbing frame. After which he decided that he had had enough and wanted to go home. So we did. But I started to go home a different way, at least a way not previously known to him. He said "You can't go that way" to which I replied "Oh yes we can. I am going to show you a new way back to the house". So we came home along the "New" route. I led and Jacob followed. He had a few doubts along the way and questioned whether I knew where we were going. I assured him that I did and before long we came to somewhere that he recognised and all was well. His confidence restored, we strode the last part together.

Now that simple story made me realise that life is like that. We all tread well-trodden paths, rarely deciding to do something new for fear of the unknown or because we do not have the confidence to try something new or for fear that we might fail or are worried about what people might think. And yet, when we do buck up the courage to try something it usually turns out for the best and a great and rewarding time is had by all!

Well September marked the beginning of the Methodist year and this year in particular, marks the arrival of a new Minister at Martin Way, the Rev John Nyota. Other Methodist churches all over the world will be welcoming new ministers to their midst.

New ministers bring something of themselves to a church. John will be no exception and it is up to us to support John and not be afraid to try something new, to move on. To trust in God to show us the way and stride forward in confidence and John's company to spread the word of the Lord to all those we meet. You never know, we might even enjoy it!

*Mike Mortley*

[first published on [www.martinway.org.uk](http://www.martinway.org.uk) in the 'Reflections' column]

'Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a motor mechanic'

## **Muslims and the Resurrection?**

A local computer shop in Selly Oak, Birmingham, is run by an Iraqi Muslim whom his customers call Mick. He is skilful, patient, generous with his time and a real help to many. At certain times of the day he withdraws to pray.

After negotiations between Mick, some friends and Richard Branson, a Virgin airplane was made available in order to take medical supplies, surgical equipment, volunteer nurses, doctors and civil workers to help restore water and electricity supplies to Iraq. This venture was supported by members of local churches who were also asked, by Mick, to pray.

The first of a number of planes left for Basra and, with a British army escort, the people and supplies were taken to Baghdad to set up a base in a mosque known well to Mick. They have chosen to focus their efforts in a hospital for disabled and injured children where there has been looting, where the morale of the unpaid staff is low and where the water, electricity and drainage have been impaired. Other flights are planned.

Pondering the positive, humane influences of the imams, who, through the mosque, are restoring order amongst the looters, and bringing control to Baghdad's increasing traffic chaos, a friend dared to ask "could this be a sign of resurrection?". I have wondered also if Mick's journey carries the marks of resurrection.

*Donald Eadie*

*From 'Mission Matters' issue 8 September 2003*

## **Voluntary Association For Surrey Disabled**

The Voluntary Association for Surrey Disabled (VASD) started 67 years ago in Kingston, later moved to Leatherhead and two years ago found fresh premises in Dorking. Although primarily for Surrey its remit extends to the South coast (London to Brighton as it were). They have many strings to their bow in addition to their provision of specialist equipment (for sale or for short term loan). On the holidays which they organise for their club members, they provide voluntary helpers to accompany the members, together with accessible transport and any necessary disability equipment. A new programme is offered every year and the accommodation ranges from small hotels to holiday camps. They

also have a holiday bungalow at Elmer Sands, near Bognor, which accommodates up to 10 people in 4 twin-bedded rooms. The disability equipment shop at Fetcham is open three mornings a week and their mobile shop goes regularly to Banstead, Chertsey, Cobham, Horley and Dorking Hospital. It is also available to visit your club or group.

To find out more write to VASD, 10 Havenbury Estate, Station Road, Dorking RH4 1ES or e-mail them at [vasd@lineone.net](mailto:vasd@lineone.net)

## **Ingenious!**

A simple, sustainable and low-cost way to sterilise water

Steve Burgess is a CMS mission partner and water engineer based in Kenya. For the past few years he has been helping the local community to improve their access to clean drinking water by utilising a stunningly simple and contextually appropriate technique that uses plastic bottles and black paint! Here's how it works:

A broad stripe of black paint is applied to one side of the plastic bottle and it is then filled with well water.

Local women put the container - the side that is painted black being placed face down - on a piece of corrugated tin which they have also painted black. The ultraviolet rays of the sun, during the hottest part of the day, burn down on the bottle, raising the temperature of the water inside until, after five hours of such heat, it's bug free and fit for drinking, completely free of all harmful micro-organisms.

The method is called SODIS (SOLar DISinfection of water). The ultraviolet (UV) radiation kills the bacteria in the water. The heating of the water contributes to the destruction of bacteria which cause diarrhoea. As he introduces this low-cost technology to community groups, Steve shows them the results of testing water samples from the well for bacteria. Yellow spots (indicating the presence of coliforms) appear in samples of untreated water. However, samples of well water which have been SODIS'd are pure and free of such spots. So the women can see that the water subjected to SODIS is safe for them and their families to drink

*Church Mission Society*

## **Quote - Unquote**

We have not been listening to God, and because we have not, we watch ourselves doing ungodly things. The message we hear from all sources of truth is clear: we are all one. Forgetting this truth is the only cause of hatred and war, and the way to remember it is simple: Love, this and every moment.

*The Dalai Lama*

## **Spires - Working for Homeless and Disadvantaged People**

Spires is based in south London and every day up to 200 homeless and disadvantaged people are offered essential services. It is a lifeline for dozens of local men and women sleeping rough on the streets.

At Spires homeless people can access projects ranging from IT and literacy classes to drug and alcohol programmes. All this in addition to hot meals, showers and a clothing service.

Meeting basic needs is the starting point and Spires activities are designed to enable our users to make positive changes in their lives. Resettlement into permanent accommodation away from the streets is a priority for many. For others it is getting access to medical treatment including those with severe mental health needs.

Most of Spires work is funded by voluntary sources - trusts, churches, schools and local companies. Their support is backed up by the efforts of over 100 volunteers.

### **Providing Food and Clothing**

Spires Gateway project is a drop-in service that offers hundreds of homeless and disadvantaged people opportunities to improve their situations. The drop-in is open several days each week. Thanks to donations from local people and support from volunteers, Spires provides tens of thousands of hot, nutritious meals, and distributes tons of recycled clothing. Through the drop-in we encourage people to access a range of services including housing advice, healthcare, training and help with drug and alcohol problems.

## Securing Permanent Homes

Many of the people we see at Spires are sleeping rough, living in hospitals, B&Bs, squats or in danger of becoming homeless. We operate a resettlement project that helps them find somewhere more permanent to live.

Spires also helps people get rent deposits and furniture, and provides all the advice and support they need to secure and maintain a tenancy. In the last year we have helped over 100 individuals achieve emergency or more permanent housing.

## Rough Sleepers Space

Spires Rough Sleepers Space offers showers and other facilities that are used every day by dozens of people who are living on the streets. Providing this dedicated space means that we can make the first essential breakthrough that can lead to them accessing other services such as help with medical problems.

## Dates for your Diary

- Saturday 8 November St. Mary's: Christmas Fair 11 am-2 pm
- Saturday 22 November Raynes Park: Christmas Market
- Saturday 22 November St. James Christmas Fair 11am-1 pm
- Saturday 29 November St. Martin's: Gift Day Craft Fair

## Christmas Tree Festival

organisations are being asked to decorate a Christmas tree for display in the church as part of this festival. It will take place on Sunday 7th December and will be combined with our annual Gift Service as part of our Morning worship. The Church will then be open to visitors from 2.30 - 6pm and a programme of events is currently being devised but will include :

- Children's workshops - Christmas Cards and Decorations -
- Afternoon tea and mince pies
- Story time under the tree 5.30 pm

Proceeds to be divided between NCH Action for Children and John's Kenyan Project

Organisations are already working on ideas for their trees, but if any individuals/families would be interested in decorating their own tree, please let us know, they would be most welcome

For further information contact Bob, Janet, Lesley or Mike

### **Operation Christmas Child 2003**

It's shoe-box time again and this year everyone is asked to join in.

Christmas Child is the charity that distributes shoe-boxes of gifts to children in over 100 countries world-wide, regardless of their nationality, political background or religious beliefs. Midways first supported them two years ago. Last year they were joined by Platform 10: and the Rainbows, who filled and sent 20 boxes plus a donation. This year we hope to beat that total.

The boxes are for a boy or girl aged either 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Due to import regulations all goods should be new or nearly new. Suggested items include:- a cuddly toy; a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap; a notepad, colouring book, picture books; pencils, pens crayons; a hat, cap, gloves scarf; a small ball or tennis ball; a puzzle, toy car, jewellery or hair accessories; sweets (must be well within their sell-by date). Things you must not send include edible items and clothing (other than listed above), glass containers or books with words.

It is great fun to do but in some ways a challenge to find suitable things for your box or age range. To help with this a box will be put out for people to contribute individual items if they cannot fill a box of their own.. The boxes must be ready by mid-November as the Drop Off points for collecting boxes open on 5 November.

If you need more information ask Maralyn or Janet and remember every box will get to a needy child.

### **Macmillan Cancer Relief**

I would like to thank all those who contributed, in any way, to raising the grand total of ,270 for the charity which supports the Macmillan nurses. I would particularly like to thank Marilyn, Rosemary, Lesley, Joan and Jo for giving so much help with 'The World's Greatest Coffee Morning'. I am not good at asking people for money, but in this case it was easy. So many



of us know or have known people suffering from cancer and some have experienced the care and dedication of the Macmillan nurses both to the cancer sufferer and their family. More than half of the money was given by people outside the church who said that they would give to the Macmillan nurses because they do so much good. When people realise that an organisation is or may be important to their own lives they are very ready to support it. Perhaps the Church itself can learn something from this.

*Pauline Riley.*

### **Methodist Fund for World Mission**

During the year 2003 we raised ,66-29p for the above Charity. This amount was the contribution of relatively few people. I would like to thank those people for their generosity and to make a plea for more support for this worthy cause. We all have a lot of demands on our money in this day and age, and we all know that money doesn't grow on trees. We have to be careful how we spend and we all have our favourite charities, but with this charity you don't give pounds, you just put money in a box when you feel like it. It is a good way of getting rid of those minute 5p pieces, which you don't know you have, until there are about a dozen, because they hide among the other coins. A box is also useful to dispose of pennies, which tend to accumulate until you cannot close your purse, or they make holes in your pockets which cost more than a few pennies to repair. My mother used to say, 'Take care of the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves'. I am sure that this isn't just a northern saying, but it is amazing how many pounds you can collect by just putting pennies in a box. I hope that I have convinced you all that you should have a box for charity of some kind. I realise that home collecting boxes are supplied by other charities such as home missions (Joyce Plant) and by the hospice movement, e.g. St. Raphael's Hospice. I am not trying to say that you must have a box for world missions, but that everyone would find a charity collecting box useful in the home. If you don't have one and would like to support world missions, I can provide you with a box to get you started, organising the pennies in your purse or your pockets.

*Pauline Riley*

## **A Big 'Thank-You'**

Sincere thanks to all who helped with or supported the Men's Supper Club Lunch-time Market on 27 September. It was a great success in more ways than one. Financially, we raised £800 (the equivalent of almost twenty-seven wheel chairs). Then it was great to have folk from three denominations - Anglicans, Baptists and Methodists - working together and enjoying each other's fellowship and friendship. Thirdly, but by no means least, we had much appreciated help from the ladies of Midways who organised the cake stall and Rosemary took charge of the raffle. Margaret Bourne volunteered to provide a stall - something she does willingly to help any good cause. Then Richard Polley's daughter Karen brought along her beautiful hand-made cards. Thank you to all the ladies who became Supper Club members for the occasion. Mention must be made of Suki - his meals caused a lot of comments - all of them favourable I hasten to add!

You may recall that earlier this year the members of the Men's Supper Club set themselves a target of raising £1,500 for 'Wheels for the World'. To date we have raised £2,400. Any further contributions will be very welcome. If you have already donated £30 for a wheelchair, many thanks. Any gifts, however small (or large) will be much appreciated. There is still time to give a Christmas present to some unknown person somewhere in the world. They won't be able to give you anything in return, except their heart-felt gratitude.

Earlier this year, on a visit to Wisley, I had my first experience of a wheelchair. Friends from Raynes Park Methodist Church suggested that I should use one and willing volunteers (including Anne Rusbridge) pushed me around. I certainly saw more of the gardens than I would otherwise have done. That's just a very small example of the difference a wheelchair can make. The wheelchairs sent to needy people by 'Wheels for the World' make a tremendous difference to the lives of those who receive them. Thank you for your support so far. We shall continue our fund-raising until Christmas, as planned. I've been told not to fix another target, so the sky's the limit. Thanks be to God.

*Bill Cox*

## **Prayer from Sri Lanka**

Even as the water falls on dry tea leaves and brings out their flavour so may Your spirit fall on us and renew us so that we may bring refreshment and joy to others []

## **Ivy Bass**

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Ivy Bass in St. Helier Hospital on Saturday 11th October 2003.

Ivy was born on the 31st October 1915 in Chiswick and was a Church member all her life. She met Bill and they both attended the Anchor Mission in Wandsworth. They were married at the Congregational Church, which was attached to the Anchor Mission, in 1938. At that time Bill and his mother had moved into 24 Woodland Way and Ivy joined them there. They then started to attend Martin Way Church, and from then until they moved to Wallington they were regular members. Ivy belonged to the Women's Fellowship, and also played the piano for the Women's Fellowship at Morden Park Baptist Church. She delivered Meals on Wheels, and in her later years she became President of the local Arthritis Care when it met at St. James' Church and then at Martin Way.. She and Bill had two daughters, Jennifer and Barbara, both of whom were baptised at Martin Way. Ivy and Bill have four grandsons and two great grandsons of whom they are very proud. They enjoyed overseas travel, and one of their favourite trips was to the Holy Land in 1989 with twelve members of Martin Way Church.

Ivy and Bill moved into Rylands Methodist Homes for the Aged in Wallington a year ago, where they were well looked after and where we hope Bill will continue to be happy.

Bill is going to miss her very much and we send him our love, prayers and sympathy.

*Jean Butland*

## **Remembrance Sunday**

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on 9 November. Get your poppy from Eileen Handy who will also be selling them on 2 November.

## **Come and Join Us**

Thursday 27 November: There will be a Network District Day at Martin Way. The subject is Racial Justice and the day will be led by Margaret Sawyer, Connexional Network Secretary. The sessions run from 10 am-3 pm. Coffee and tea will be provided as well as soup at lunch-time, but please bring your own sandwiches.

## **Christmas Cards**

As usual we will be having our Christmas Post Box where you may send cards to friends within our church family, with a donation in lieu of postage for Methodist Homes for the Aged. We are aware that some of you find it quite difficult to write several cards, so, as we did last year, you may like to send one card, addressed to "the church family" which would then be displayed on the notice board in the corridor. Alternatively you may like to submit your own Christmas greeting to Rosemary to be included in the December Newsletter. These would need to reach Rosemary by 15 November at the latest.

*Lesley Mortley*

## **The Gardening Year**

This hasn't been a very good year for the gardening team. Due to illness and various other factors such as the very hot summer, we feel that the work is becoming too much for the few active people left. We have our limitations. I am not asking for money or plants this time, but for bodies. We need young/middle-aged (none of us are old), fit supple people who can do some digging. The garden by the side of the Church, started by Ted, has been more or less tamed, but there are some wild weedy patches by the Church Hall and in front of the Church which need to be taken in hand. It won't be an easy job, the earth is like concrete, but just think how much fitter you will be after a morning's digging. The church is really looking after your physical needs. The job shouldn't be very time consuming, if we can get enough helpers, but without additional help the present team can do little but let the weeds continue to grow. I am not putting up a notice for people to sign. I have learnt from my experience with the water rota, that people are reluctant to sign their name to anything. If you or a group of people are willing to help, please contact

either Derek Heaton, Gwen Edwards or me. I am sure that we can arrange digging dates which will suit everyone.

Please volunteer, the church gardens need you!

*Pauline Riley*

### **Children In Need Coffee Evening**

19 November: 7.30 pm The Guides are holding a Coffee Evening in aid of Children in Need. Do come along and support them. Midways members especially - why not come early and have a coffee before your evening session with Barbara Meineck!

## Church Diary For November

Sun	2	10.30 am	Family Service led by Janet and Bob Hamblin
Mon	3	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Richard Polley - Spine of a Teenage Child)
		8.00 pm	Pastoral Committee
Tue	4	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	5	7.45 pm	Midways (Tony Loft - Retired Firefighter)
Thu	6	10-11 am	Seekers Group
Sun	9	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mr John Sephton
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Stuart Thomas
Mon	10	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Mrs Marion Harper - Age Concern)
Tue	11	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	14	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	16	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
		8.00 pm	'Worship at 8' led by Janet and Bob Hamblin
Mon	17	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Mrs Jean Fuller - Shaftesbury Society)
		8.00 pm	Mission and Service Committee
Tue	18	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club (Nigel Sustins - The English Ghost Story)
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	19	7.45 pm	Midways (Barbara Meineck - Flowers for Christmas)
Thu	20	10-11 am	Seekers Group
Sun	23	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mr Andrew Frost
Mon	24	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Rev John Nyota [to be confirmed])
Tue	25	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thu	27	10am-3 pm	Network District Day - Racial Justice
Fri	28	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	30	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mr Bill Cox