

Martin Way Methodist Church

Newsletter – July August 2004

Minister – Rev John Nyota

Jambo rafikis

Memories, memories, memories! If you have a childlike spirit like mine you will recall those times that you suddenly found yourself loving uncontrollably just out of the blue. And when families ask what it was, you mention some silly things that you just remembered about someone, a place or something. Well not always! Sometimes it could be a tear that comes on your eyes of a very sad memory.

Mention anniversary and this mixture of emotions sets in. I have heard stories in this church some that just rock my limbs to laughter. Others have to do with when the going has been tough. The anniversary affords us time to celebrate those good times. Now Rosemary is an archivist and I will leave it to her to bring out the specifics. By the way, if you had not known, she has asked for all the minutes from 70 years ago and I hear she is having the time of her life getting the history out. I salute her dedication.

But what are the memories for? If they are just for the sake of bringing a sudden feeling of goodness that lasts a few minutes then I want to have nothing of that. If they are just to mourn about the present then we are stuck. To me memories should supply renewed motivation to move forward in building the kingdom, making it better every day. We cannot go back to where we were before but we can make the present time a time of spiritual renewal in our hearts. There is always something good to borrow from how things were, sometimes not the content but the spirit of the time.

Dedication is one tool that governed them of old who built Martin Way Church. When you look at the work they did to plant this church in its current location you realise a people who, to a man, gave all they had. There is something of this dedication that is present in the current membership but definitely there is more that most of us could do. It is

OK if you feel you are giving it all you have. If not maybe this is the spirit of the past that you will be asking for in your anniversary prayers.

But to dedication we find a people then who were unailing in their spiritual quest. They did not wait for Sunday to say their prayers and hear the word. They were people who stayed with the word the whole week and only came to church for celebrating the overflow therein. I would love for us to go back then. For it is only when we are living our life in constant fellowship with God that we can claim to be faithful to our title Christians. The same goes for our other ministries in the church, be it use of our talents, giving etc.

So what a good time to have our anniversary, right after our holidays! For I know most of us will be going somewhere for replenishing. And as a church the camp in July is the talk on everyone's lips. I wish everyone of us total joy and hope that you will come refreshed ready for the anniversary. May the times ahead be a time when the spirit falls anew on us to live out in full our calling,

Thus I end with the song,

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me

John

QUOTE - UNQUOTE

Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at his disposition, and listening to his voice in the depths of our hearts

Mother Teresa

Discover eternal life for yourself. Fifteen minutes of silence in any holy place repeated several times will do it. Don't discuss it, get on with it. It's waiting for you.

Rabbi Lionel Blue

At every moment God provides us with something to do or to suffer. Our business is with obedience to him at that moment, not with what comes before or after. Time seen in this way can become an occasion for recognising opportunities, instead of a mad rush of endless activity.

M. De Caussade

People cry out to God when the ground under their feet is shaking - only to find that it is God who is shaking it

INTER-FAITH GROUP VISIT

On 8 June Wimbledon Interfaith Group invited local people of all faiths to visit the new mosque of the Ahmadiyya Community in London Road, Morden. Ten of us from Martin Way joined a group of about a hundred men and women representing many local Christian churches as well as Hindus, Buddhists and other faiths.

We were welcomed by a charming and knowledgeable guide who showed us round the mosque and then the main community hall before ending with a meal and talk by the imam. Most striking is the simplicity of the circular prayer halls (women's on the floor below the men's but both of equal size holding 1500 people). The mosque's design incorporates both Islamic and modern British architecture.

Muslims believe that individuals, societies and, ultimately, governments should submit to the will of God (Islam means "submission"), and that God's will is given in the Qur'an. There is no recognised priesthood, but great authority is given to religious leaders, teachers or holy men - all called "imam".

There are divisions within Islam. Some forms of Islam are quite liberal. For instance Islam in Oman has a tradition of debate and questioning religion rather similar to Protestantism in Christianity. This is disapproved of by stricter Muslims such as their neighbours the Saudis. Islamic states likewise vary

The Ahmadiyyas who have built the Morden mosque are very open and liberal. They believe that their leader, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (d.1908) was the Islamic Messiah, which is unacceptable to other Muslims, who deny that they are Muslims at all. The consequence in Merton is that orthodox Muslims will not take part in multi-faith services or other events if Ahmadiyyas are present.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH - JULY

We've heard a lot about elections during the past couple of months and most of us tend to take what the political party leaders tell us with a pinch of salt. Elections are all about making a choice and making a choice involves making a decision. All of us make numerous decisions every day. Many are so easily made that we don't even realise that we are making a

decision at all. What shall I wear today? What shall I have for dinner?
...But sometimes we are called upon to make very serious and difficult decisions which may leave us wondering whether we made the right one for the rest of our lives.

Joshua confronted his people with a choice (Joshua Ch 24). They had to decide - would they follow after pagan gods or would they serve the Lord? And Joshua made his position quite clear - "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." When you think about it, much the same choice is put before each one of us every day. Where will your vote be cast?

Bill Cox

THE BANANA BUS-STOP CHURCH

It's 8 o'clock on a Sunday morning in Banana, a small town on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya. The streets are already busy with people heading for work and church when the local vicar, Susan Ndungu, arrives at the bus stop. Immediately a crowd begins to gather - 70-80 young men in jeans, t-shirts and baseball caps. A simple service begins: prayers, testimonies, perhaps a song, and a short sermon.

The congregation is made up of matatu [minibus] drivers and touts, the purveyors of Nairobi's anarchic transport system. "These are the people you don't find in church," says CMS mission partner Colin Smith. "But this is their church, out in the road amid the diesel fumes and the passing traffic - a church stripped to the bare essentials."

It all began through the death of a matatu driver last year. "The funeral was chaotic; most of the mourners were drunk," Colin recalls, Yet the experience made a big impact on Susan. She told Colin "I heard God speak to me: 'Every man is created in my image and if Jesus saw Zacchaeus as a sinner he could not have dined with him and salvation would not have found a place in the tax collector's home'."

Susan decided to invite all the local matatu drivers and touts to dinner, with the bishop as host: 250 turned up. Next there was a football match against the clergy. The clergy lost six-nil but three drivers came to faith ("That's three-nil to us!" claimed Susan).

From such beginnings came the Banana bus stop church. "Here is a church that is finally having the courage to reach out to meet people where they are, in their own space" reflects Colin, "A church that is willing to lose the trappings of security to be a sign of the Kingdom on Route 106."

Sadly Sisan Ndungu was killed in a car crash shortly after Colin Smith wrote this letter. It may not be too difficult to find someone to keep the church going, but it's rare to find people like Susan with the vision to create new initiatives like this.

Pray for the members of the church and its future and that God may raise up more people with vision and courage for such pioneering work.

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Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God and a scourge to Satan

Bunyan

NOW WE ARE DONORS, SAY SUDANESE

"I saw it happen!" says Canon Clement Janda of the signing of the Sudan peace accord on Wednesday 26 May. "People are excited." And no wonder. In the last 48 years Sudan has known only 10 years of peace. The people have waited a long time for this moment.

As a former CMS mission partner in Sudan, Andrew Wheeler, noted, "People are tired and battered, so it will be a real challenge to rise to all that peace will make possible."

Roads, hospitals, schools, church buildings - all are destroyed. There is so much to do it could become overwhelming. That is why CMS instigated a series of workshops for church leaders of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan.

Influential Sudanese Christian leaders, including Clement Janda, have been leading the workshops. It is a chance for people to learn the skills that are needed to provide meaningful leadership in peace time. But it's about more than practical skills. One discussion leader asked "Who are the donors?". At first the usual answers came: "Christian Aid ...Tear Fund ...". But who is a donor? Simply someone who has something to give. If your child is hungry, you give them food - if you have any. That makes you a donor. The mood lifted as people realised that they were not totally dependent on outside help. "The biggest thing I have learned is that we are all donors," said Bishop Levi Hassan of I bba diocese, "We have all got

something to give. If we have got mud to make bricks for a building, that is our donation.”

Now Bishop Levi is back in his diocese where people are doing just that - making bricks for a new school. That’s another chapter in a long story that we hope ends in lasting peace and prosperity. It is now that the hard work begins.

Pray for the fragile continuing peace process: a final peace treaty could be signed in Washington in July; for the people of Darfur in Western Sudan, who have fled their homes because of fighting - this peace deal does not cover them, USAid predicted that 300,000 would starve; for the mission teams and the Christians of Sudan as they work together to rebuild their lives and communities

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QUOTE - UNQUOTE

You may say it is only a gentle tap, but you do not recollect that it hurts the snail

Yoruba proverb

JUST TALK TO ME

Don't be afraid if you don't understand
Don't fear you won't do it right
Don't worry about performing
Just talk to me

Don't need no words you can't define
Don't need a special voice you keep reserved just for me
Don't even have to close your eyes
Just talk to me

Don't need to wait until you're hopeless
Don't need a particular reason to call
Don't need to fake your holiness
Just talk to me

Don't worry that you don't love me enough
Don't need to do anything special
Don't pretend you're someone or something that you're not
Just talk to me

Don't need some formal speech about all the social and theological issues
of the day

Don't be afraid I won't listen

Don't use lots of fancy phrases you heard some preacher say

Just talk to me

Don't try to be impressive

Don't think about your image

Don't need to be self-conscious

Just talk to me

Don't think it has to make sense

Don't feel the need to use complete sentences

Don't feel the need to use words at all

Just talk to me

Don't pretend to be happy if you are not

Don't be overwhelmed if you feel hopeless

Don't worry if I'll do what you ask

Just talk to me

Don't feel you have to take all day or all night

Don't feel the need to be serious or sombre or stressed

Don't even think about wearing your fancy clothes

Just talk to me

Don't worry if you're pleasing me

Don't think you have to have all the answers

Don't try to feel anything different at all

Just talk to me

Don't worry about feeling terribly confident

Don't try to change the world

Don't think yourself too bad or too good to do this

Just talk to me

Don't spend your emotional energy getting all worked up over this

Don't think of me as a perfectionist

Don't believe everything you hear down there

Just talk to me

Don't keep a list or record of when we chat
Don't need to make an appointment
Don't stop to talk to the receptionist
Just talk to me

Don't try to be your preacher
Don't try to be your mother
Don't pretend you've got it all together
Just talk to me

Don't need no special glasses
Don't need a microphone
Don't worry if it isn't good
Just talk to me

Don't lie to me
Don't question if I understand
Don't think it doesn't matter
Just talk to me

Don't bother about the rules
Don't bother about whether there are any
Don't pursue anything by which to measure yourself
Just talk to me

Don't confuse me with your father
Don't put that kind of pressure on him or yourself
Don't try to get away from the point of who I am
Just talk to me

Don't try to impress me
Don't try to hide anything
Don't concern yourself about whether you're wasting my time with trivialities
Just talk to me

Don't ask if I know about the latest hospital report
Don't think I don't know all the latest gossip
Don't wonder if I know the best possible outcome
Just talk to me

Don't think anything is too insignificant to bring up
Don't worry if you cry
Don't worry if you don't
Just talk to me

Don't be afraid
Don't be unnatural
Don't be anything you don't want to be
Just talk to me

Don't hesitate to shout if you feel like it
Don't hesitate to rant
Don't pretend
Just talk to me

Don't forget to laugh with me
Don't forget I'm the one who started all this
Don't forget I already know what you're going to say
Just talk to me

Don't worry about what I might say or think about you
Don't be concerned if you lose your train of thought
Don't be surprised if I talk back
Just talk to me

Don't forget to listen
Don't forget I care more than you can possibly imagine
Don't worry about the silence
Just talk to me

Just talk to me

Just talk to me

Bill Colclough, Devon Community, Lee Abbey

THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE

If you feel the world out there is full of accidents waiting to happen, you are right. If you want to live long, and keep safe, statistics reveal the following:-

Avoid riding in automobiles, because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

Do not stay at home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

Avoid travelling by air, rail or water because 16% of accidents involve these forms of transportation..

You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.

Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point of time is in church!

Bible study is also safe. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is far less than that.

So for your own safety's sake, attend church and read your Bible as much as you can. It could save your life in more ways than one.

PS. If you do venture out, don't drive faster than your Guardian Angel can fly.

ALBERT ARNOLD : 2 March 1919 - 3 June 2004

Albert's father was Welsh and proud of it. He had come to London as a young man, where he met his wife. The family lived near Tooting Broadway, a few doors away from another family with two little girls called Joan and Betty. They all attended Sunday School at Tooting Central Hall, but it wasn't until after Albert's family had moved to Upper Tooting and Joan's had moved to Morden, that they found each other.

Albert hoped to study accountancy, but the war intervened. He served in the Royal Pioneer Corps, and spent his active service in Northern Ireland, Wales and the Midlands. He witnessed the bombing of Belfast and of Coventry and was awarded the British Empire Medal for his army service. In the middle of all this he took a few days off to marry Joan at Martin Way Methodist Church!

In 1945 Albert returned to work at the Imperial Tobacco Company, where his father also worked. In 1947 Janet was born and the family moved into 63 Southway, Raynes Park. Albert and Joan were part of Martin Way from the time they were married and became members during the

ministry of Dennis Inman. Janet was christened here, as were her sons Peter and Andy. Albert didn't like speaking in meetings, but presented numerous sets of accounts within the church, and served as our Overseas Missions Treasurer for many years. He later became the District Treasurer, and did this job for a long time as well.

Albert was a quiet man, not easy to know, and not very chatty - he used to say that two talkers in the family were plenty! He liked listening to classical music, did a bit of DIY, enjoyed walking and knew every inch of the Surrey countryside. He was interested in geography, and could tell you where any place in Great Britain was, but his main and lasting interest was trains. Steam first, but anything that ran on a track would do!

The family always went on holiday by train. For the journey Albert would list all the stations through which they were going, with the time allowed on the timetable for each stop. Janet was given the list to tick off each station. If there was a longish stop - say more than three minutes - Albert would slip off the train and go along the platform "to look at the engine". Janet has vivid memories of pulling out of places like Cardiff, Carlisle and Crewe, with Joan hanging out of the window to see whether he had got back on!! He never missed it, and would come strolling back along the inside of the train, having jumped in the nearest door at the last minute! In his retirement he thoroughly enjoyed initiating his grandsons in the delights of railways and DIY. He was a walking timetable, and even in recent years, when many things had faded from his memory, he could tell you the exact time of the trains which passed through Raynes Park or New Malden, where they were going, how many stops they made and how many carriages they would have!

Albert was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He liked to keep in the background, but from there he gave his family a sense of security, and enabled them all to "do their own thing". Family life was important to him and he will be sadly missed by those he leaves behind. To his friends, Albert was always unfailingly polite and gracious, supporting Joan in her activities, and enjoying the times when they entertained at home. Within the church, we will miss his quiet presence, dry sense of humour and his integrity. We give thanks for his life, his example, his love and his faith, and we are all a little bit richer for having known him!

CHRISTIAN AID RESULTS

Many thanks to all those who helped to raise money this year by collecting door-to-door, taking part in/attending the concert and circling the City in the sponsored walk. The results were:-

Door to door collections	£1,121.81
'Tongues of Fire' Concert	£185.00
Sponsored Walk	£470.00

Making the grand total for 2004 £1,776.81 (slightly more than last year).

This total is particularly important in view of the landslides in Haiti and the Dominican Republic

Tony Loft

AND A THOUGHT FOR AUGUST

Many things stop in August, but I hope that we will not stop thinking. Someone once said "Time spent thinking is never wasted". Years ago I was given a card which said "Sometimes I sits and thinks. Sometimes I just sits." (I expect many of the older ones among us will know the feeling well!)

Many people nowadays are perfectly content to let their thinking be done for them by the mass media - television, radio, newspapers, but the ability to think is God-given and God expects us to use that ability. Think of the teaching of Jesus. So often he told a parable and ended it with a question, basically asking "Now, what do YOU think?"

For many people August provides a breathing space, giving time to relax and perhaps consider Paul's word to the Philippians (Ch4 verse 8)

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

Just to sit and think now and again is certainly a change from watching tele! May God guide us in our thinking.

Bill Cox

CHURCH DIARY FOR JULY

Sun	4	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev John Nyota
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Stuart Thomas
Mon	5	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Mr Davies - Counting Heads)
Tue	6	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	9	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	11	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Dr Arthur Miller
Mon	12	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Audrey Butler - Guide Dogs)
Tue	13	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	18	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Ms Jo Wells
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Stuart Veitch
Mon	19	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Miss Priscilla Vivian)
Tue	20	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club (Tom Davis - Your Bee Neighbours)
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	23	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	25	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
Mon	26	2.45 pm	Fellowship [no meetings in August]
Tue	27	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

CHURCH DIARY FOR AUGUST

Tuesdays		10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
Tuesdays		8 00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	1	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev John Nyota
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
Sun	8	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Bill Cox
Sun	15	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Stuart Thomas
Sun	22	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
Sun	29	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev John Nyota