

MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear friends,

As I write this one I have just watched the news and seen the devastation floods have caused in Sheffield. I have friends there so I had to call and drop them emails to check on them. Thank God they are Ok though the kids were delighted to have a day off school. Cheeky them! At the last count, three people had died and many misplaced. And this in summer the month we all look forward to! What else is in store?

This reminds me of a prayer by David Deeks (Methodist General Secretary). It goes like this: -

Celebrating life: that's what being Christians means.

Our life has its rhythms and routines -
dull sometimes; but making experience manageable.
But some things erupt that we cannot control or predict:
love found, or loved destroyed;
happiness and pain, success and failure.

With the help of others we struggle
to impose some sort of pattern on our lives,
to create a steady, moral purpose and good sense;
and to take everything in our stride -
calmly, without moaning; with joy, even.

In the flux of events you, God, mysteriously touch our lives.
In Jesus Christ, cradled and crucified,
your claim on our lives is clear.

Help us to grow in your life and thus to be transfigured.
Through us draw others to a life of praise,
in the service of your justice and peace.

What a summer for me! I was just preparing to remember my sister who died this month 2 years ago when I received some very sad news. You might have heard already how a friend of mine, Rev David Gichuru died in a California beach trying to save the life of his son. He has been a friend since boyhood and we called or emailed each other almost daily. David went to enjoy summer break and took his family to California. They went out to swim when a rip current swept his son towards the deep. He swam in, got him and handed him to the lifeguard but failed to swim out. They got him out immediately but it was too late.

What all these has taught me is that we plan our lives but God determines whether our plans are accomplished. It has also taught me the value of life and those around us. And no time is better to do that than the summer despite all the events I have just mentioned. God gives us our friends, our families, our neighbors for a reason. They are there to add to our happiness and to enjoy life with. How sometimes we take that for granted. Not least in church life. In our revised Vision for Mission we have put church life team as a key area. This is the team to continue planning our social life as a church. We are not bad at that but we need to ensure that as many of our members as possible participate.

One time of social activity I look forward to is Swanage weekend. I hope you are coming to this one. It is a happy moment and attracts very many members of the church family both regular and those who come occasionally. Ann who is now heading our Church life team has indicated to me that there will be another Sigma (drama) event towards the end of the year. We thank God for those who are able to participate in this and produce amazing dramas that give us all a reason to gather and share time with each other.

May the Lord teach us in all our interactions to enjoy life with each other to the fullest for we neither know the time nor the hour.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. A.', located in the bottom right corner of the page.

A LETTER FROM BARRIE TABRAHAM

WIMBLEDON CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Friends

Even though my last letter to you was only written two months ago, we are in a circuit where things move on apace!

Nationally, the events celebrating of the 300th anniversary of the birth of **Charles Wesley** continue, the London choir will have recorded its Songs of Praise by the time you read this, and a national event is being planned for December. Don't forget our own celebration on **September 30th at 6.30 pm** at Raynes Park!

In all the flurry of activity concerning 'CW', however, we are in danger of forgetting the anniversaries of two other very important movements:

1) The **Primitive Methodists** which, though not becoming a separate movement until 1811, had their origins in the 'camp meetings', the first of which was held on Mow Cop (in Cheshire) in May 1807. The Methodist Conference, which met that year in Liverpool, referred to these meetings as 'highly improper and likely to be of considerable mischief (!) - no more than many Anglicans thought of the early Methodist gatherings sixty years previously! And though the Primitives eventually became as conventional as the Wesleyans, with their own circuits, districts and conferences, they made an enormous contribution to life of the Church until 1932. Methodism, as with all denominations, has always needed 'ginger groups' to keep it on its toes and spiritually well-exercised - and it always will.

2) The **Abolition of Slave Trade** also dates from 1807, though it is a sobering thought to remember that it took more than a quarter of a century of campaigning before slavery *itself* was abolished in the British Empire. We will support and pray for the work of '**Set All Free**', representatives of whom spoke very movingly to the Spring Synod.

The Circuit Meeting

Not a dull topic to write to you about! As a body it is multi-functional, i.e. it is a legislative body, but also a forum and a point where

representatives from the local churches can celebrate the work of God in our circuit, and plan mission strategy. CPD (our 'rule book') defines the Circuit as 'the primary unit in which Local Church express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help.' It seems to me that the underlined words are the key to holding a good Circuit Meeting.

Some years ago it was streamlined, and we now have three meetings annually, each with a slightly different emphasis. In **September** the meeting considers items from the wider Church and engages in planning for the future. The **February** one is largely administrative and is concerned with housekeeping matters. In **June** there is an opportunity to have a freer agenda: this time we shall be having a presentation from Christ Church with St Philip (Worcester Park), concerning their 'Future Links' project.

Do remember that, in addition to a Steward and the Treasurer, each church sends up to three people elected by its Church Council as representatives. Please ensure that your church is well represented!

I've just finished watching an episode of "**The Apprentice**" on TV for the first time, and a thought struck me. What is the relationship between the concept of '*apprentice*' and that of '*disciple*' - the latter with which we are very much concerned as Christians? Space prohibits an exploration of their theological significance and Biblical background, but it seems to me that there is a challenge for us here, which is hinted at in the overlapping word-fields of the two terms.

Put briefly, how can we as churches in the Wimbledon Circuit, Christian communities set in a busy world concerned with efficiency and achievement, be efficient *ourselves* without losing our integrity? How can we, as 'good stewards of God's varied grace' (1 Peter 4: 10), maximise the talents he has given us, and at the same time be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

In a climate of retrenchment which is seeing the Methodist Church facing some very difficult choices, let us pray that we can achieve the right balance between the two concepts. Are they reconcilable?

Some final matters:

- **Membership Returns** - whilst it is heartening to know that overall,

we seem to be replacing losses by making new members, we should endeavour to make our membership statistics as realistic as possible!

- A reminder that all churches should have a **Reserves Policy** and that a copy of your annual report should be sent to Nwabisa Ewing at the District Office for information.

Some important dates for your diaries:

- ✠ Monday 18th June - Circuit Meeting at (7.00 pm for 7.30 pm) at **Wimbledon**
- ✠ 8th - 22nd August - a group from the Circuit visits **Kenya**
- ✠ Saturday 8th September 10.00 am - District Autumn **Synod** at Westminster Central Hall.
- ✠ Saturday 22nd September 4.00 pm - provisional date for the re-opening of the premises at **Worcester Park**
- ✠ Sunday 30th September 6.30 pm at Raynes Park Circuit Service to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of **Charles Wesley**

People in the news

- Our thanks go to **Valerie Smith** for planning the Circuit Quiet day and **Rev Peter Catford** from the Kingston Circuit for leading it.
- I have received a letter from **Margaret Watts**, thanking our circuit for the contribution we made to her retirement gift. She served the Chairs in the former London South-West District efficiently and graciously for many years, for which we are grateful.

On a Personal note:

I wish to thank everyone for being so understanding regarding my brief but frequent visits to Epsom Hospital. Apparently, my heart condition is very unusual and has presented the cardiologists with 'a challenge', to borrow one of their phrases. Following my most recent spell, my medication has been changed (again) and we shall await developments!

Peace be with you all.

Barrie

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH JULY 2007

A long established local furniture store stands empty and forlorn. In the window is a statement saying that it “has gone into liquidation”. What a depressing expression that is – like water disappearing down a plug-hole, never to be seen again. Do churches go into liquidation or do they just close and vanish without trace?



The Leadership Team have produced a booklet entitled “We have a financial crisis...” and obviously we cannot continue for much longer running on a deficit of £390 a week. Suggestions are made about what you and I can do. Giving more is one aspect of it but I was pleased to see that at the top of the list of things to do was “I will bring the church’s financial problems to God in my prayers”. May I suggest that we should also DO something to help God answer our prayers? In situations like the one we’re in we should not just pray then sit back and wait for God to answer our prayers.

I started teaching in 1954 and my starting salary was not brilliant. We were never in debt (to my generation owing money to anyone was a disgrace). But it was a struggle to make ends meet. The solution was to get an additional income by taking evening school classes. Now we as a church cannot take on an extra job but we can do more to help ourselves. In 1994 we celebrated our 60th Anniversary and on 7th May that year I organised a Church Family Concert. The programme stated quite emphatically “All Proceeds to Church Funds”.

In the past I and others have organised fairs which raised substantial amounts for the church. Other churches have fairs, concerts, book sales, coffee mornings and so on to augment their income, so why don’t we? Apart from anything else, such things make us known and may bring others into the church.

Of course, we should increase our giving if we can afford it, but that’s not easy for those of us who are on pensions which increase by far less than the rate of inflation each year, but let’s get together and help our church to survive through our combined efforts.

Bill Cox

AND A THOUGHT FOR AUGUST.....



There is an erroneous assumption that everyone goes away in August, so activities cease. In fact, only those who teach or have children of school age take holidays in August because of the steep rise in costs! Because things close down, for many older people, and particularly for those living alone, August can be a long and depressing month. Spare a thought for anyone you know in that situation and, if you can, invite them round for a cup of tea one afternoon. It doesn't take much to cheer somebody up.

Bill Cox

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THE CHOIR OF THE SIERRA LEONE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Ron and Liz Fennell are active members of Methodist Central Hall Westminster, and know the country and the school very well as they return to work in the country as volunteers every year. Together with A small group of volunteers are bringing The Choir of the Sierra Leone School for the Blind to UK in August 2007. Peter Penfold (British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone 1997-2000.) is the chair of the group.

There are 20 children and young people in the choir. All are blind. A number were blinded by the rebels during the terrible 11 year war that devastated the country. Others lost members of their families. The school was badly damaged and had to be evacuated. The war finally ended in 2002. Since then the school has been struggling to get back on its feet.

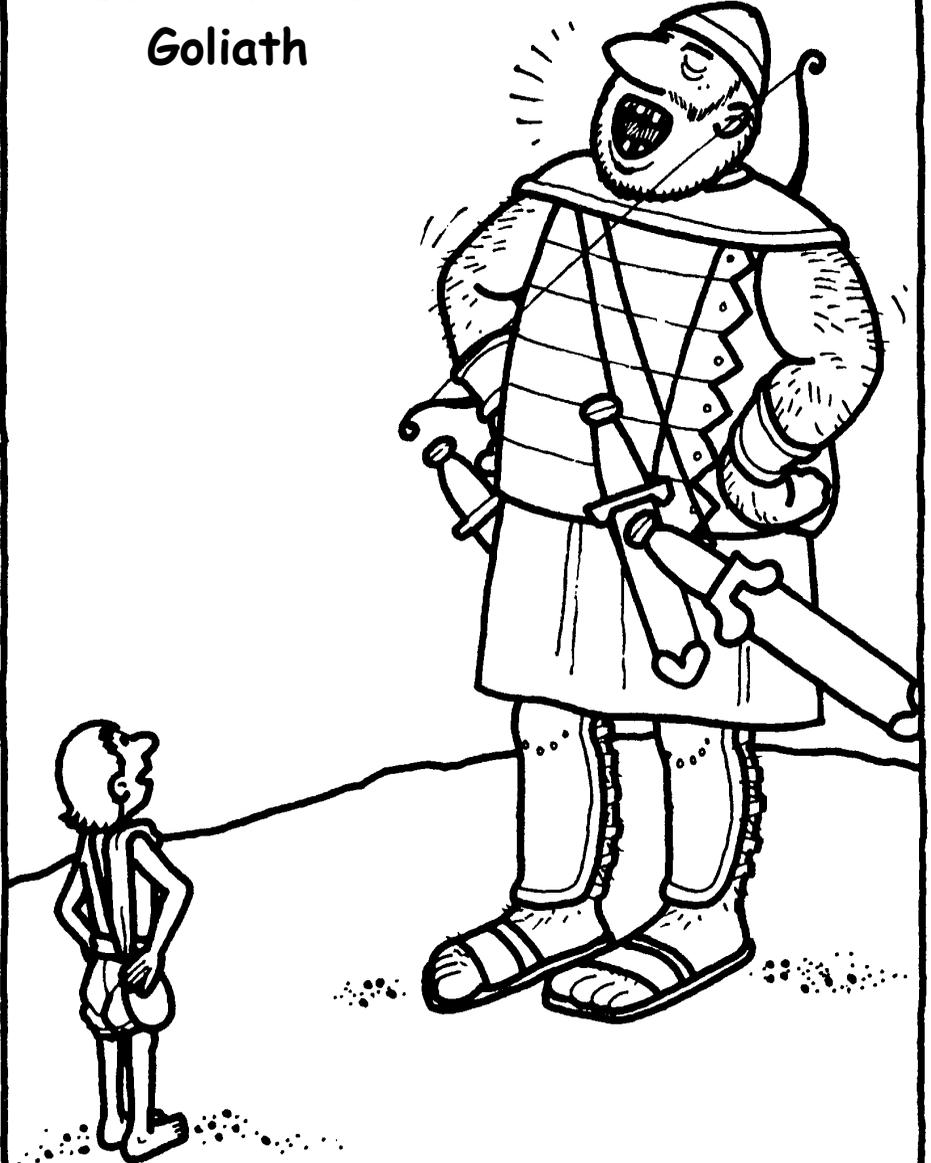
The Revd. Martin Turner, Superintendent Minister at Methodist Central Hall Westminster has generously agreed to allow the choir to have their final concert in the Grand Hall on Friday 17th August 2007 at 7.30 pm.

**For further information contact Liz or Ron Fennell 01895 238635
ron@ronaldfennell.co.uk or liz@ronaldfennell.co.uk**

PUZZLE CORNER 1

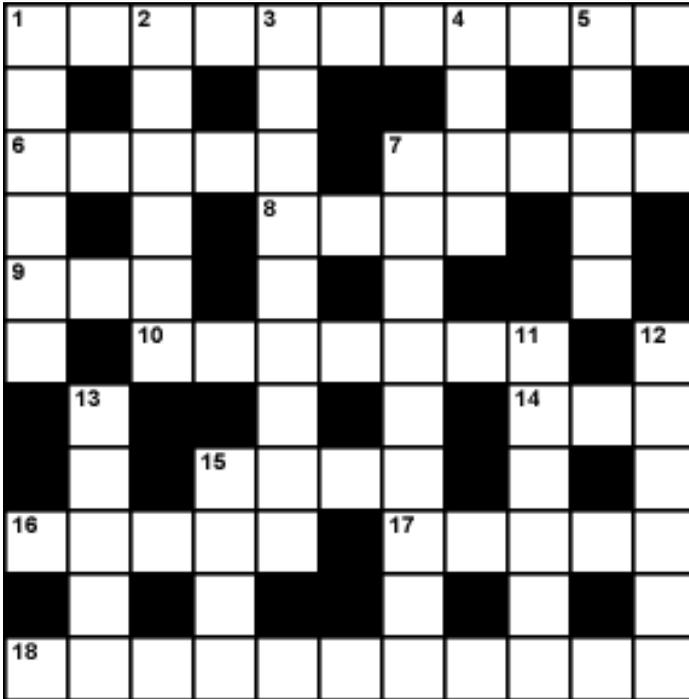
As Summer is here we have more puzzles and colouring pictures for you!

David meets Goliath



PUZZLE CORNER 2

Bible Cryptic Crossword by Philologus



Across

- 1 Maybe bug in shrub, eating nothing initially, was not consumable? (7,4)
- 6 Meat found in Troas thrown away (5)
- 7 Quiet peer is a jewel (5)
- 8 King in rough sea they hear? (4)
- 9 Woman is envied, oddly (3)
- 10 Bank excluding Italian editor is forced out (7)
- 14 Lie disturbed old priest (3)
- 15 Caught seven dropping off five (4)
- 16 Praise officer after axe is returned (5)
- 17 Pick out God's chosen (5)
- 18 Sunday Devil working in a foolish way (11)

Down

- 1 Endlessly bore the German neighbour (6)
- 2 Primate wearing red gathered crops (6)
- 3 Make sense of alien going after injured printer (9)
- 4 Bishop with experience brought back creatures (4)
- 5 Asian Republic airways became lost overlooking Washington (5)
- 7 Prince is one starting to release several hostages (9)
- 11 Support for champion (6)
- 12 Unclean partly fulfil thyself (6)
- 13 Grown old and pale (5)
- 15 Second cover moved sideways (4)

SING FREETOWN

*CHOIR OF SIERRA LEONE SCHOOL
FOR THE BLIND*

FINAL CONCERT

FRIDAY 17 AUGUST 2007

7.30 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6.30 PM)

*CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER
(Opposite Westminster Abbey)*

Underground St James's Park or Westminster

Tickets £10 (Concessions £5)

Cheques payable to Milton Margai School for the Blind

There are 20 children and young adults in the choir. All are blind. The UK tour will provide a memorable experience for these exceptionally gifted and talented young people and provide urgently needed funds for the school after the long civil war

For further information contact Liz or Ron Fennell 01895 238635
ron@ronaldfennell.co.uk or liz@ronaldfennell.co.uk

SMITH FAMILY ON THE MOVE

A little boy with a trumpet in the Sunday School at South Wimbledon..... a cub, and then a scout at church parades..... a quiet teenager with a good sense of fun (usually a partner in crime with Steve Pallister!).... a thoughtful, contributive member of the YPF, particularly good at music and drama.... a leader for the next generation of young people... a confident adult, business owner, husband and father... competent musician and church steward.....



A young probationary teacher, living in Wimbledon and teaching in New Maldena good colleague..... part of a group of friends and introduced to church baptised as a Christian after a visit to Greenbelt..... met Andy and began to come to YPF to help as a leader..... a practical, confident adult, excellent teacher , wife and mother.....



A little boy with a mass of fair curly hair.....one leg in plaster, clomping up and down the aisles at family services..... a SERIOUS drummer, an aspiring guitarist and keen footballer and swimmer... a thoughtful, contributor (where have I heard that before?!!!) to

everything..... an enquiring mind and an excellent sense of humour.....

A magic smile.... a head of bubbly curls..... loved by everyone..... fashioned in PINK..... a dancer, an actress, a singer..... mischievous enough to keep us all amused.... always trying to keep up with the “big girls”..... loving, caring and kind.....

When Andy, Jane, William and Sian move to Dorset this Summer, Martin Way will be saying good-bye to a very special family. Our memories of Andy go back the furthest, but together, he and Jane have become very much part of the church’s life. Their home has been open to the young people of Platform 10¾, Jane has worked in the Sunday Club and Andy has served as a church steward and music co-ordinator. Andy was also involved in Sigma and we’ll never forget his starring roles of David and Moses! Andy, Jane, William and Sian have also been part of all the other ongoing activities which take place.... weekly worship, picnics, Sunday Club events, discussions, church camp – not to mention the many cars that have been fixed in different places and at unsociable times!

These are treasured memories, but this is not about looking back. The Smith family are moving into a new phase of their lives. New jobs for Andy and Jane, new schools for Will and Sian, new neighbours to meet, new friends to make and new places in which to witness to their faith. They go with our prayers and our love and we trust that all those events they’ve been involved in at Martin Way will be part of the foundations on which they will build their future. We look forward to visits to them and by them and to hearing where God’s hand leads them...”For we’re a travelling, wandering race, we’re the people of God”

Love and Blessings!

Janet and Bob Hamblin

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK METHODIST YOUTH CLUBS

Invitation to A Day With ABMYC - Commemorating heroes against the Slave Trade and the Abolition Act

On behalf of the above named group, I wish to cordially invite you to its special thanksgiving service entitled 'A DAY WITH ABMYC'. This service will include commemorating those who in Africa, the Caribbean and many parts of the world fought for the abolition of slavery and the Slave Trade Act in the UK.

The speaker for this occasion is a notable speaker and Black theology scholar Dr. Robert Beckford.

The service will take place at Walworth Methodist Church, 54 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0EN on the 22nd July, commencing at 11am and there will be traditional food from different African and Caribbean countries afterwards. During the time of eating, we shall be entertained with traditional dances and speeches regarding the commemoration of the Slave Trade Act, the ABMYC and its work with young black people.

I hope you will be able to join us in this commemorative service within the Methodist Church, in remembrance of the heroes against slavery, addressing the facts about the abolition and the Act in the UK.

Until then, please join us to pray for this occasion.

I look forward to seeing you

Rev. Eric M. Mustapha
Coordinator ABMYC

Nearest tube station – Elephant & Castle (Northern and Bakerloo Lines)
Buses – 12, 35, 40, 68, 171, 176, 468

SATAN'S MEETING

Satan called a worldwide convention of demons.

In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their saviour. Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, BUT steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ...."



"This is what I want you to do," said the devil, "Distract them from gaining hold of their Saviour and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" his demons shouted.

"Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow."

"Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles."

"Keep them from spending time with their children."

"As their families fragment, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work!"

"Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice."

"Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive, to keep the TV, VCR, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly."

"This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ."

"Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers."

"Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day."

"It will work!"

"It will work!"

It was quite a plan!

The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there. Having little time for their God or their families. Having no time to tell others about the power of Jesus to change lives.

I guess the question is, has the devil been successful in his schemes? You be the judge!!!!

Does "BUSY" mean: B-eing U-nder S-atan's Y-oke?

The Salvation Army proudly present



CROYDON SA YOUTH CHOIR

(7-19 YEARS)

SATURDAY 14TH JULY

7 PM

Donation tickets - £3.00

Tickets and further information available from
Major David Hall

The Salvation Army, 109 Kingston Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1LT
Tel: 020 852 3023



NEW SMOKING LAWS

Please note that the commonly observed practice of not smoking in the church has now become a legal requirement. **From 1st July it became illegal to smoke anywhere inside the church premises.** Anyone who does smoke *inside* the building could receive a fixed penalty notice and the church may also be fined if it does not prevent smoking. The legally required signs have been displayed.

The new smoke free law has been introduced in virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces to protect everyone from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke which contains 4,000 chemicals, over 50 of which can cause cancer.

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Christian Aid

Christian Aid week was during 13th - 20th May this year. We were very active once again and a big thank you to all who collected and/or walked to raise funds for such a worthy cause.

Door to Door £918.98

Sponsored Walk £486.50
(included in this is some money still to be collected)

Making this years total = £1405.48

This is a great result and please, please would people think and pray about Christian Aid and its work through out the year.

Tony Loft

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STRAWBERRY TEA AND BARBEQUE

You are invited to a Strawberry Tea at 3pm on Sunday 1st July, followed by a Barbeque (subject to the weather).

All money raised will be for the Rafiki Trust Project in Magina.



FAIRTRADE RECIPES

Fairtrade Crumbly Banana Squares

2 medium Fairtrade bananas, mashed
 175g Fairtrade sugar
 175g margarine
 225g self raising flour
 100g porridge oats
 25g sultanas (or similar)
 Caster sugar



- Warm your oven to 200°C
- Cream the sugar and margarine together
- Cut in the flour and oats to make a crumbly mixture
- Sprinkle half into a baking tray (12 by 8 inch) and press down lightly
- Spread over the bananas and sprinkle the dried fruit
- Sprinkle the rest of the mixture over and again press down lightly
- Bake it for 25 to 30 mins until golden
- Sprinkle with caster sugar
- Wait until it cools (if you can) and cut into appropriately-sized chunks

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PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

Solution to the Bible
 themed Crossword
 from last month's
 Newsletter

H	A		I		R	I	P		S	H	E	M
A	V	E	N	G	E		I	M	P	O	S	E
L	E	A	F		A	L	L		R	A	C	E
E	R	R	A	N	D		A	R	A	R	A	T
	S		N		E	A	T		N		P	
B	E	T	T	E	R		E	A	G	L	E	S
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	N		E		E	V	E		A		E	
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P	I	N	E		E	N	D		L	A	D	E
A	C	T	I	O	N		L	I	T	T	L	E
N	E	S	T		T	R	Y		S		E	D



JULY

CHURCH DIARY

Sun	1	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Rev John Nyota
		3.00 pm	Strawberry Tea
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
		7.30 pm	Barbeque (subject to the weather)
Tue	3	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	6	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	8	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
Tue	10	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	15	10.30 am	Praise Service led by Rev John Nyota
Tue	17	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club – David Roe - <i>Pub Signs</i>
Fri	20	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	21		Church Summer Camp at Swanage until 28th July
Sun	22	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev John Nyota
		6.30 pm	Bible Study led by Rev John Nyota
Tue	24	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	25	10.30 am	Morning Communion
Sun	29	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Charlotte Elvey

Please refer to the Website (www.martinway.org.uk) or Weekly Notice Sheet for any additional information

CHURCH DIARY



Sun	5	10.30 am 6.30 pm	All Age Worship led by David Somers Communion Service led by Rev Margaret Adams
Tue	7	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Sun	12	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Tue	14	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Sun	19	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	21	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
Sun	26	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Morning Service led by Bill Cox Bible Study led by Mark Williamson
Tue	28	10-12 noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer

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We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday
during these months a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Jessica Haze on 26th July

Emily Bacon on 5th August

Rebecca Smith on 11th August



ASSOCIATION OF
BLACK METHODIST YOUTH CLUBS

it's back...

abmyc on

with abmyc a day



COMMEMORATING IN
GRAND TRADITIONAL
STYLE, MUSIC, DANCES
AND FOOD. COME AND
HEAR YOUNG PEOPLE'S
VIEWS ON SLAVERY
AND ITS ABOLITION,
EFFECTS AND HOW
THEY SEE THE FUTURE

at
Glubland Methodist Church
54 Gamberwell Road / London | SE5 0EN
Buses: 12, 35, 40, 42, 45, 68, 171, 176, 468
Tube & Train: Elephant & Castle

on
Sunday July 22, 2007
with 11am Sunday Service

Your chance to find out more about ABMYC and to
commemorate 200 years of the Abolition of the
Slave Trade Act and those that fought in every
little way against it.

with guest speaker
Dr Robert Beckford

More Info? Call Eric: 07852 256 061
Jacqui: 07725 564 694
Arabi: 07809 114 418
Winnie: 07904 524 303

Items for the **September Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 19th August** at the latest