

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!



Let me ask you..... when you think of Martin Way Church, do you think of just another organization to belong to, or do you think of your church in a different way?

As we watch the trends in our country, we see that church involvement is decreasing drastically. Occasionally there seems to be an upswing, and we rejoice when we hear it. That's usually when the church growth experts come out with their latest prescriptions. But as soon as those methods become popular, the downward spiral has already begun again. In a culture that tells us we can "have it our way" and "do whatever we want to do", being connected - and staying connected - can be extremely challenging. I can get everything today just the way I want it - from hamburgers to new cars. Our culture is thriving on individualistic consumerism. What's next?

Some say independent churches are the way to go. No authority, no connections, just complete autonomy. People can make their own decisions on what they believe - and how they live their beliefs - without any interference from others. It sounds enticing. But if we take God's Word seriously, we see that He has something to say about being connected as Christians.

I invite you to read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27. In this part of the Bible, we learn that God's intent for His people is to be fully connected. In fact, God's plan for believers is that they would never be alone, never be cut off, and never be asked to live apart from the living Body of Christ.

So if we are serious about our church, we find that it's more than just another organization to which we belong. It's more than a building we come to in order to sing familiar songs once a week. It's even more than

300+ years of Methodist heritage and history which define our current ministry.

The Bible tells us that our church is where we use and celebrate our unique gifts of God's people for the building and strengthening of the living Body of Christ. Each part - meaning, every member - is a vital part of the body. St. Paul uses physiological language to illustrate his point: There are many different parts in a human body, and the same is true for the church. We must trust that just as surely as God created our human bodies, so He created the Body of Christ which we call Martin Way. But this concept of the church being a body is not the end of the spiritual journey.

If we look at St. Paul's words in their original context, we see that there is a greater purpose for our being connected as the Body of Christ. Before his discussion on the body of believers, St. Paul refers to the varied spiritual gifts of the many individuals within the church. In fact, we see many of those gifts at Martin Way church today - gifts of wisdom, knowledge, compassion, teaching leadership faith, etc. It seems as if God has given us these gifts to build up the Body of Christ, in just the same way these gifts were imparted long ago to the early Church. So we have that spiritual foundation prepared for us, which not even the pain of division can take away from us. That spiritual foundation is there for a reason - for us to become, and grow together, as one Body. Once we become "one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry" - historic words taken from our Communion liturgy - we then must go on. It seems as if uniting together is an end in itself, but God has another plan. 1 Corinthians 12 (spiritual gifts are the foundation of the united Body of Christ) leads to 1 Corinthians 13 (Love).

We are united in Christ not just for service; not just for effective ministry; not just for the sake of being one. We are united in Christ so that we may LOVE. And once love is our motivation, we find that nothing can divide us. Remember St. Paul's words about love? Love is patient and kind. It is not envious, boastful, or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful...it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Do you see the progression? God supplies us with a foundation of spiritual gifts. we have them here! Think of the wisdom and faith! We put those gifts to use by living them out. And once completely alive - and completely connected - we go forth to love. And for me, that's what being a church is all about. Oh yes, I really enjoy the studies and the worship. I think we have an honourable heritage. And I always have fun when we work together go to parks and have barbeques.

But the church is more than all these. It's about working and learning and developing into who God wants us to be - individually and together. It's about using the unique gifts God has blessed us with to form strong spiritual bonds. It's about knowing that we are connected to one another through more than shared interests or even shared beliefs. It's about being completely united so that we may love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. And it's about radically loving others too. Loving them unconditionally, as our Heavenly Father loves us.

I believe that God is calling us to be the living Body of Christ. But none of us can do this by ourselves. We need each other. The foundation is there.

Let's go - and grow - together.



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MEN'S SUPPER CLUB

At our November meeting we will be handing over two cheques, one to Bible Lands for £1,073 to build a house in Egypt, the other for £510 to the Rifiki Trust for the work in Kenya. I would like to thank all who have helped us raise this money over the past ten months with a special mention of our friends at St. Martin's for their generous donation of £250. I thought that, at eighty, I was past organising Lunch-time Markets etc. but as we were clearing up after our last one someone said to me: "The next time you do it you must ..."

Anyway, thanks again for your help.

Bill Cox

NEWS FROM KENYA

12th October 2007



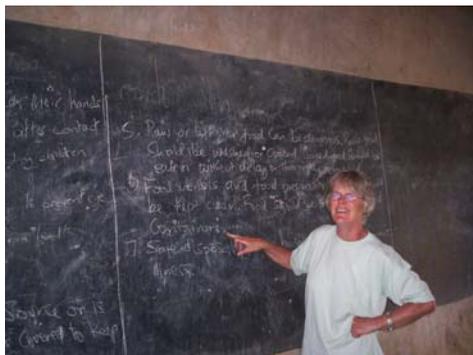
Habari, Jambo, Cyfarchion, greetings to everyone,

I am writing this on a glorious sunny day in Kijabe and it is impossible not to notice the Jacarandas in bloom, smell the blossoms and hear the songbirds. How about coming to join me for a holiday? (not all at once)! It is a beautiful part of Kenya and not far from Magina.

Jambo Sana activity has been a little slow lately but then not many people rush here so I am getting accustomed to the pace of life. I am retired after all! The country generally is gripped by Election fever so a lot of things are on hold until after December. Even the smaller children are talking politics. Now that we have the posters on display in the centre, there have been some people enquiring about health issues especially questions on HIV/Aids and family planning.

We continue to meet with the young people in the JS Centre for weekly bible study on Saturday afternoons. Some of them attend school for extra tuition on Saturday mornings but the numbers are increasing. I have had the opportunity to announce this further as well as advertise the proposed JS project, at the local churches for the past 3 Sundays. As a result there are leaders who have come forward who want to continue the studies and to bring some of the denominations together.

I continue to visit the Primary schools every week and have been able to copy the teaching materials that I use for their future use. Likewise I have been speaking to the women's fellowship groups who share the vision of the Feeding programme and are keen to do some of the teaching as well. I find it is very tiring work at times and takes a longer time when I have an Interpreter so I can





identify with my teacher friends when they say how stressful their work can be.

To the left is a photo of the International Peace day at Kimende on the 21st Sept and the other photo shows that I am doing something although it feels like a holiday most of the time.

Until next month, keep the prayers and e-mails coming.

Pob bendith

Gwen Wildman

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GREETINGS FROM ONTARIO, CANADA

I visit Canada quite frequently to see family, this trip is no different except I'm staying in the one Province for the entire time. The reason for this is to be of some help and support to my brother and his wife. My brother (Bob) suffers from Dystonia; his form of Dystonia is called Spasmodic Torticoles which affects muscles in the neck and jaw leading to difficulty in holding head up. As the condition has worsened eating and swallowing has been a problem. Having suffered for approximately eight years he was approved for DBS surgery (Deep Brain Stimulation). This involves electrodes being placed in certain areas of the brain which are then connected to a stimulator situated in the upper right hand corner of the chest. Bob will return to hospital on 29th October to have the stimulator programmed and this will continue once a week for six or so weeks during which time he will use a remote to control movement of his head. It is hoped he will have about 40% improvement. At present he is receiving nourishment through a feeding tube over a period of 12hours at night. So please keep him, his wife and the family in your prayers.

Saying that I am still having time to see the Fall colours, something not to be missed.

All for now,

Moir Bailey

PUZZLE CORNER

Firework Night Wordsearch

Can you find the hidden words, they could be left-to-right, right-to-left, up, down or even diagonal.

S	A	F	E	T	Y	R	S	C	I	X	N	G	J
C	R	B	O	O	M	E	R	S	J	A	P	U	U
K	Q	O	Z	B	J	K	L	K	U	A	S	Y	M
W	X	N	M	B	G	C	B	R	M	M	P	F	P
H	G	F	P	A	U	A	Y	A	P	F	A	A	I
I	U	I	S	N	N	R	G	P	E	W	R	W	N
Z	K	R	X	G	P	C	X	S	R	R	K	K	G
Z	O	E	Z	E	O	E	A	I	Z	Z	L	E	J
E	B	O	C	R	W	R	L	N	B	D	E	S	A
R	Q	F	M	F	D	I	S	I	D	V	R	G	C
X	E	B	S	E	E	F	A	O	D	L	T	S	K
A	C	B	E	Q	R	O	C	K	E	T	E	W	R
L	E	E	H	W	E	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	C

BANGER

BONFIRE

BOOMERS

CATHERINEWHEEL

FIRECRACKER

GUNPOWDER

GUYFAWKES

JUMPER

JUMPINGJACK

ROCKET

ROMANCANDLE

SAFETY

SPARKLER

SPARKS

WHIZZER

ZOOMER

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER 2007

Since writing my thought for last month I've had a bout of illness. I had a bad attack of cellulites which, I was told, could have landed me in hospital, and it is taking me time to get over the general "off-colour" feeling which resulted from it. I'm not looking for a shoulder to cry on; many other people have been unwell and we don't have to look far before we find someone worse off than ourselves. The trouble is that when we are normally blessed with good health we tend to resent any illness that comes our way, almost regarding it as a personal affront. Generally, normally healthy people do not make good patients when they are laid low for a while. But for all of us occasional times of illness are essential because without them we cannot fully appreciate the times when we are fit and well.

How grateful we should be that where we live medical help is close at hand. There are three large hospitals within easy reach. I know of people who have a forty-five minute drive to their nearest hospital. Surgeries are within walking distance for us and if necessary we can call a doctor out for a home visit. These things we just take for granted whereas we should be so thankful for them.

I heard a talk about health care in Nigeria (an ongoing project of the Wesley Guild movement) in which it was stated that one large area of the country can expect a visit from a doctor ONCE A QUARTER. We grumble about our Health Service and, of course, it is not perfect, but it far exceeds the health care available in many parts of the world. So, get your flu jab, eat your five portions of fruit and veg every day, do your best to stay healthy and thank God for doctors and nurses who are there ready to treat you if you need them.

Bill Cox

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He who has health is rich
and does not know it.



MCW Rafiki Trust

81 Gladstone Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 1QR

Container for Kenya

As some of you may know I am organising a container to send to the village of Magina in Kenya, this is John Nyota's home village.

The story so far

I am aware that before I took over as coordinator there was some hope that a container would be sent in June that was later revised to late October. I very soon realised that we needed to get the organisation in Kenya in place before starting to organise this end.

John Nyota is using his contacts to find a shipping agent in Mombassa to whom we can send the container and who can then transport it to Magina. Once this is in place I will circulate the details of where and when the container will be loaded.

If you are already storing things can I thank you and ask for your patience. It might be best at the moment not to collect anymore until we have a firm date for loading.

Watch out for:-

- * A date for the container to be loaded
- * A list of items required by our friends in Kenya
- * Appeals for help sorting and packing items previous to loading
- * Help on the day – we may only have **3 hours to pack** everything into a 20 foot container!

Every blessing

Valerie Ashcroft

Martin Way Methodist Church

Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park

Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 2nd December

2.00pm - 6pm

Children's art and craft activities,
Traidcraft, gift and book stalls,
followed by a presentation of 'The
Christmas Alphabet' by the Sunday Club.

Refreshments and music throughout the
afternoon.

Free admission

Programmes sold, proceeds donated
to NCH Action for Children, the Rafiki Trust and Church funds

The Christmas Tree festival is taking place on Sunday 2nd
December from 2pm - 6pm

To ensure that it is a success we need your help.

If you think you may be able to volunteer a little of your time
in any of the areas below, we would love to hear from you.

- * Welcomers/door stewards
- * Assisting on the children's activity tables
- * Assisting in serving refreshments
- * Donating and making crafts to sell on Karen's stall
- * Making cakes to sell.
- * Loan of a fibre optic tree

Please contact Abby Herring, Jo Passfield, Anne Conquest
or Jane Bryan

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LOST IN WONDER

*.... Beautiful ideas and helpful, inspiring thoughts... an
uplifting experience Thoroughly wonderful ... totally
awesome! God is truly here among us - all over the world ...*

These are just some of the comments left by visitors to the Methodist
online labyrinth **Lost in Wonder**.

The labyrinth can be visited by anyone who can access the internet, and it
takes through ten stages of meditation and reflection on what it means to
walk the journey towards God. There are words and images on which to
reflect, and things to do on the way.

Lost in Wonder was launched in September 2006 and has recently been
updated. It now features meditational music and has a new section where
people can create and share images that reflect their experiences of God's
presence.

Find out more at www.lostinwonder.org.uk

A CHRISTMAS GIFT WITH A DIFFERENCE

Shepherds watching their flocks, wise men riding on camels, a star over a stable - all are images which instantly evoke Christmas. But this year, camels will not only be found on the front of Christmas cards, thanks to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.

Camels are a vital part of an exciting MRDF project which helps nomadic communities in Northern Kenya to survive and flourish in desert environments. Camels are the most valuable form of livestock in such conditions. *"When there is no water, camels can stay home with us and provide us with nutritious milk,"* explains 80-year-old Naporo Keupun, whose community will benefit. *"They can also carry us when we are too weak to walk."* **MRDF partners do more than simply provide camels - training, veterinary care and other support are given too.**

This Christmas, MRDF launches its first 'alternative gifts' catalogue including camels for Christmas, in addition to other 'gifts' which help street children in Bangladesh, farmers in Uganda and support a range of MRDF's work overseas. It can be used by churches for their Christmas fundraising, as well as for individual Christmas shopping.

Schemes like this are now very familiar, but do they really work? MRDF's Supporter Relations Director Amanda Norman believes that they do: "Alternative gifts are a fun way for people to connect with development work taking place in the world's poorest countries. We hope that by giving or receiving an MRDF gift this Christmas, people will be inspired to see how they can be part of making small miracles possible."

O little child...

Easily preventable diseases, such as malaria, are life-threatening to children in Mali.

A mosquito net for a pregnant mother or young child will protect against malaria and help a Malian child to have a healthier start in life.

Protection Against Malaria **£5**

O Christmas tree...

Oranges, lemons, avocados and mangos all leave a great taste in the mouth.

Growing these fruit tree saplings and selling the produce also puts food on the table and money in the pockets of farmers in Uganda.

A selection of saplings **£15**

Peace on earth...

Years of conflict have displaced thousands of people and disrupted education in Nepal. MRDF is providing literacy classes for women who missed out on their schooling first time round.

Parbati Mahara learnt to read and write in one of these classes: "The difference between literacy and illiteracy" she says "is like the difference between earth and sky."

Literacy materials for one woman **£20**

While shepherds watched...

Hampered by poor quality soil and a lack of resources, farming in the highlands of Ethiopia is a tough job.

MRDF is helping young farmers find new ways of earning a living, including keeping and caring for sheep and goats.

Livestock for a family **£45**

No crib for a bed...

Nearly half a million children live on the streets in Bangladesh. Life is hard and dangerous for street children, and there are few places of safety for them to go.

MRDF provides shelter, food and healthcare for street children, as well as education to help them to move on to a better life in the future.

Shelter a street child for a year **£65**

We three kings...

In the dry and arid heart of Northern Kenya, drought and famine are common.

A camel, which can survive without water for many days, is a wise gift - providing nutritious milk and transport fit for a king.

A camel for a desert community **£115**



FAIRTRADE RECIPES

Nutty Chocolate & Coffee Brownies

Makes about 12 brownies

*An ideal treat for those
November Firework displays!*

- 110g butter
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 50g plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- pinch of salt
- 100g hazelnuts (chopped in half)
- 225g unrefined (golden) Fairtrade sugar
- 50g dark Fairtrade chocolate, roughly broken up



For the frosting:

- 100g butter, softened to room temperature
- 100g icing sugar
- 1 tablespoon strong black Fairtrade coffee
- 100g cream cheese

Pre-heat oven to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4. Grease a tin measuring approximately 27cm x 18cm and line with baking parchment, allowing paper to rise 3cm above the tin. Toast hazelnuts in oven for 10 minutes (maximum) until lightly browned. Melt chocolate and butter in a bowl over a pan of simmering water. Sieve flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl. Stir in sugar. Beat in eggs and chocolate mixture until well-mixed. Stir in hazelnuts. Pour mixture into the tin and bake for 30-40 minutes until centre springs back when lightly pressed.

Remove from oven and allow to cool completely in tin.

To make frosting, beat butter and icing sugar together until pale and fluffy. Beat in cream cheese and coffee. Spread frosting on the cooled Brownies. Chill in fridge for 30 minutes, then cut into squares before serving.



CHURCH DIARY

Sun	4	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Mr David Somers
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Charlotte Elvey
Tue	6	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	7	7.00 pm	Midways Group - <i>Fireworks Party</i>
Fri	9	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	11	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Margaret Adams
Tue	13	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	18	10.30 am	Praise Service led by Brenda Cannon & Tony Loft
Tue	20	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club – <i>Bible Lands</i>
Weds	21	7.00 pm	Midways Group - <i>Merton Vision</i>
Fri	23	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	25	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev John Nyota
		6.30 pm	Bible Study led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Tue	27	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		8.00 pm	Preacher's Meeting at Worcester Park

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

We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday this month a very



Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Jennifer & Rosemary Fernando on 6th November

Megan Sweby on 7th November

Jack Pallister on 9th November

Jacob Passfield on 27th November

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PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

Solution to the 22 Bible Books that had their letters jumbled up last month

seesign	Genesis	moodytenure	Deuteronomy
hemwatt	Matthew	hobaida	Obadiah
usedox	Exodus	ijeerham	Jeremiah
visitclue	Leviticus	hemplion	Philemon
nailed	Daniel	ashoe	Hosea
nominaltaste	Lamentations	tileaccesses	Ecclesiastes
violentera	Revelation	beshrew	Hebrews
lastagain	Galatians	socialsons	Colossians
hazephina	Zephaniah	shipinpipal	Philippians
asheepsin	Ephesians	human	Nahum
onmars	Romans	chairhaze	Zechariah

ADDITIONAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 25th November

A multi-faith service for World Aids Day 2007

at Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge starting at 6.30pm.

Further details available from Steve Penrose (020) 7793 0338

Tuesday 18th December

A Eucharist on the Tercentenary of the Birth of Charles Wesley

at St. Marylebone Parish Church (in conjunction with Hinde Street Methodist Church) starting at 6.45pm

For this service seats will be pre-allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please see Dennis Clark for further details and a form.

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RAFIKI CONCERT 22nd September 2007

Around 70 people came to the concert which raised nearly £500 for the "Jambo Sana" project of Magina, Kenya. A mixed programme of song, music and dance delighted the audience who commented on the professional standard of the performers. It was good to see the concert supported by some other churches in the circuit and by Merton Park Baptist church.

The music ranged from songs from the shows to light classical and included solos, duets and quartets by the "Martin Way Four" (Lesley, Geraldine, Graham and Ronald), piano solos by Stuart Thomas, songs from Bethan Thomas, dance items by Heather Withycombe and Daniel Bacter, and medleys from Emmaus and their alias, Ouch.

A fine evening was had by all and I would like thank all who took part both "on-stage" and behind the scenes.

Mike Mortley

Items for the **December Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 25th November** at the latest