

## **MINISTER'S LETTER**

Greetings!

The Gospel reading set for the last Sunday in September - and therefore the one to take us into October - was/is Mark 9: 38-50.



During the Presidency of George W Bush - and perhaps most especially during the ‘war on terror’ crusade that he led - we frequently heard it proclaimed ‘Whoever is not with us is against us.’ (If it wasn’t frequently proclaimed, it certainly felt like it was.) Sometimes this became, ‘Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists’. So, when Barack Obama, in his inaugural address, softened the tone, saying to countries like Iran, “we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist”, the world breathed a collective sigh of relief.

We are then currently witnessing some worrying developments, with President Obama (and others, including our own Prime Minister) accusing Iran of building a secret second uranium enrichment plant. However frightening it might be to imagine Iran with nuclear capabilities and to consider all that this might mean for the region and the world, recent developments are also worrying in that they seem to return us to the rhetoric of ‘whoever is not with us is against us’. Don’t get me wrong, it all sounds more measured than it did with President Bush, but in my mind it still amounts to ‘whoever doesn’t play by our rules is against us’ - and that sounds worryingly familiar to me.

Of course, ‘whoever is not with us is against us’ is something that Jesus is recorded as saying in Matthew 12.30 and Luke 11.23. Bush was quoting Jesus intentionally - though quite what Jesus would make of, ‘Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists’ heaven only knows.

But here, in Mark 9, Jesus also says the opposite - ‘whoever is not against us is with us’. It’s more ‘glass half-full’ than ‘glass half-empty’ this way round, and I think it’s better. I’m not yet sure how it would work in the situation we find ourselves in with Iran - that will require

some more thinking - but, as a general ethic to live by, surely it's more positive, more inclusive, more attractive - particularly for us in these days of no trust between people of different faiths and none.

The disciples see someone from outside their circle doing work in Christ's name and try to stop him. Later, they report this to Jesus (perhaps thinking that they'll get some brownie points) but Jesus tells them not to stop such people. And then he explains why.

Jesus says, 'People who do my work will, it stands to reason, be more likely to be able to recognize me in the process of doing their work. And once they've recognized me and the common ground that we share, they'll then be less likely to be able to speak ill of me. Jesus says, 'whoever is not against us is with us.'

Jesus seems to be saying that the important thing is always that the work of God is being done - less important is who's doing it. And this, to me, suggests a number of other things:

It suggests that we should always be looking beyond the Church and to the work of others - to see if in it we can see Christ at work. And if we can, surely then we're duty bound to support it and/or participate in it. As Christians, as the Church, we should be open to the possibility of working in partnership with people of other faiths and none if Christ's work will be furthered as a result.

It also suggests (doesn't it?) that Christ will not be hemmed in by us: that Christ will neither be imprisoned by the Church nor by our (limited) understandings of him, that Christ will always walk free from the chains of our demands.

There is warning here, and promise. And we'd do well to listen and remember: 'whoever is *not against us* is with us.' This is a challenge to a Church that has historically defined itself against the world, drawing a circle around itself to distinguish between those who are in and those who are out. It's a challenge because, instead, it suggests that we need to draw that circle as wide as we possibly can in order to draw as

many people as we can within it.

May God help us to rise to that challenge. Let's start drawing big, wide circles...

With every blessing

*Paul*

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## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

First of all the tax return on Gift Aid Donations has been received - amounts of £6696.85 for the General Fund, and £542.15 for the Building Fund.



During the year there were 35 people Gift Aiding to the General Fund and 9 to the Building Fund, and due to deaths these figures are now 33 and 8 respectively. Members of the congregation should have received a letter from our Minister, Rev. Paul Timmis, drawing attention - amongst other matters - to the advantage of anyone who pays tax, and who does not already do so, Gift Aiding their donations in the future. We are hoping for some success with this appeal.

Secondly, the Gift Day donations over our Anniversary Week-end have so far produced a total of £1765.00, and ever the optimist we are hoping for more to come! Nineteen Gift Day envelopes have been received, most amounts Gift Aided, and there is still the opportunity to add further donations, it is never too late!

Any queries or questions please speak to me.

*John Butland*

## **SURPRISE VISITORS FOR 93 YEAR OLD RETIRED POLICE OFFICER ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO NUMBER 10 DOWNING STREET**

On Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009 with my wife Mary and oldest son David we were in a Security queue being checked out prior to watching “Beating Retreat” on House Guards Parade. David was approached by a sergeant of the Diplomatic Protection Group (both well know each other, as David is Facilities Manager at Number 10 Downing Street and discusses with the D.P.G. movements in and out of Downing Street). David introduced us and of me being an ex-police officer then the conversation went something like this:



- Police Sgt “David, next Friday we are having a visit from a 93 yr old retired PC, apparently he is one of the last known PC’s who carried out protection duty at No. 10 when Winston Churchill and his wife were in residence when he was Prime Minister.

Do you think he’d be able to visit No. 10?”

Reply being: - “Enquires will be made”.

I asked what was this retired officer’s name? back came the reply “Alfred Cope”, to which I replied: “PC 193 V Freddy Cope. If it’s the same guy, he taught me beats at Wimbledon in April 1959.” I also said I’d spent hours at Sir Winston and Lady Churchill’s town residence in Hyde Park Gate when I was at “FK” Kensington 1957 to 59. Well, you have guessed, it was one and the same 193V Freddy Cope and that following Friday Mary and myself were invited to be a surprise to Fred on his grand tour.

We arrived to find Fred, his son and daughter-in-law already being taken around by a D.P.G. officer and David, and what an emotional moment it was when we all met, a big surprise! Well, he now soon realised David was our son and then we were ushered into No 10 front entrance, it was then Fred came into his own and stories of yesteryear flowed. In Fred’s

day there was an officer at the front door, one in the rear garden and one inside. Fred shared his stories of times of his sitting on the settee having tea and sandwiches made by Clementine and afterwards sharing conversation with Winston and smoking one of his “Real Cigars”. It was amazing to all of us sharing his memories whilst we too enjoyed tea and coffee.



Then to our very pleasant surprise in walked Prime Minister Gordon Brown who congratulated and then thanked Fred on what he'd achieved in his many years - after his police service, his many jobs then his local voluntary work at a local nursing home. Fred was very emotional by now this outpouring of good words then, after introductions all around. Mr Brown took us all out into the garden where photos were taken and more stories from Fred, then whilst we enjoyed the garden, the P.M. returned to his very busy schedule. It was when David came into his own giving us a historical tour of the rooms with Fred adding his bits and pieces of his time there years ago.

Well, our grand afternoon was drawing to an end, I do believe that Fred would have kept us entertained with stories for hours. As we once more came to the entrance hall it was very moving as Mrs Sarah Brown and Mrs Alistair Darling the Chancellor's wife were there to say these few words to Fred also the PM's children running around playing games. Fred became very emotional yet again as we all said our farewells, before he travelled back to Stubbington, Hampshire.

Well, about four weeks ago this memorable visit Mary and I visited Fred at his home where his culinary skills cooked us a lovely meal, a great visit and a wonderful happening. Three different generations of police chatted all with different stories and of the drastic changes in law health and Safety issues etc.

What Memories of years ago!

*Derek Heaton*

## **STILL DOWN MEMORY LANE FOR “V” DIVISION WIMBLEDON OFFICERS.**



Can you remember Miss Vida Brown - Secretary in the C.I.D. office in the late 1950 to early 1960? Well, just a few weeks ago in July Vida at the ripe old age of 96 passed away.

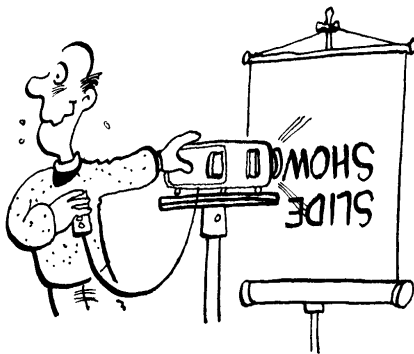
It's only in her last years she was unable to talk about her times at Wimbledon often relating to the late D.S. Parker and Gooch and others. Her special contact has always been George Lyle who was D.I. at those times, he visited Vida on very many occasions travelling from his Isle of Arran home. I had a lovely chat with him just a few days ago he keeps well with his wife now both in their 90's.

*Derek Heaton*

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### **AUDIOVISUAL TEAM MEMBERS WANTED**

We are looking to expand our AudioVisual team who look after the sound system, hymnal, projector and laptop on Sundays. If you are interested, please see or contact Mike Mortley (07941 873 531) for further details.



Don't be put off by the array of equipment we use, it really is not that difficult to learn and you won't be thrown into the deep end! The initial aim is to hold a meeting where all will be explained followed by a number of practical workshops to introduce each aspect of the process we use as an aid to worship.

*Mike Mortley*



## Martin Way Church ~ 75th Anniversary

So the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church has come and gone - and what a splendid time we had. Even the weather came up trumps, sunny and warm.

Anne Conquest, as organiser of the weekend's activities had started planning much earlier but for some of us it began on the Friday evening with our strong men, Roy, Tony and Mike arranging staging and lighting for the display of flowers and memorabilia. Then the flowers arrangers arrived! Fifteen of the groups that use our premises and five of our sister churches had prepared beautiful and appropriate displays which were not only in the church but also spread out down the corridor to the Coffee lounge, they ranged from the Frogs Club green and cream arrangement with a little frog peeping out from the lily leaves, through to Platform 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>'s flowers with accompanying railway track, tunnel and train (very popular with the youngest church members on Sunday) to the formal beauty of the Elizabethan Flower Group and the inspiring Time for Prayer.

The central aisle in the church displayed photos illustrating the growth and activities of Martin Way from the 1930s to the present day. In the parlour the Phoenix Art Club had mounted a fine exhibition of their work (some of it for sale), while outside in the corridor the Raffle table display prizes, all with a garden or



Flower arranging exhibition in the church



**Martin Way Me**



Activities on the Patio included colouring for the children







## Methodist Church



Some of the wonderful flower arrangements and artwork that were on display

floral theme, which encouraged visitors to try their luck. Tea, coffee and cakes were served in the Coffee Lounge, where there was also a cake stall raising money for the Girl Guides Centenary Celebrations.

Outside on the patio there were activities for the children - cutting and sticking, colouring and cress growing. There was also a treasure hunt with very cryptic clues. All this was organised by the capable team of Abby Herring, Jane Smith, Katie Budd, Jack and Alex Pallister, while Shelley Whittington was in charge of face painting, transforming the youngsters into tigers and flower maidens.



The Barn Dance with the music provided by the band 'Ouch'



At 5 o'clock we dispersed, but only to return in the early evening for the Barn Dance and Ploughman's Supper. The music was provided by the band "Ouch", who were popular as ever. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, not least those who insisted they were too elderly to dance, but sat and happily watched the merrymakers.

On Sunday, Paul led a joyful service of thanksgiving to God for His guidance thus far on our journey. There is now a challenge for the next stage of the road. What will our church family be doing when we come to celebrate our Centenary?

*Rosemary Keen*

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## **SIGMA CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION**

SIGMA are now meeting every Sunday between 4.00 to 5.30pm at Martin Way Methodist Church for rehearsals of their Christmas Production, to be performed at the church in December.

SIGMA is a Greek letter meaning 'All things coming together' The group is made up of mixed ages and is a mixed medial creative art group (singing, dance, drama, musical, instruments, back stage), So if you enjoy singing/acting/dancing, please come and join us.

For more information please contact Anne Conquest.

Tel no: (020) 8942 7147 or Email [aconquest@btinternet.com](mailto:aconquest@btinternet.com)

## Oberammergau Passion Play 2010

We have some spaces left on our visit to this memorable event which is performed by the local community in the Bavarian village of Oberammergau. The play dates back to Pentecost 1634 when, after months of suffering and death from the



plague the villagers vowed to perform a Passion Play every ten years, to give thanks if they were spared during the epidemic. Now you have the opportunity to experience this memorable occasion.

The group will arrive in or near Oberammergau for two nights (this is the maximum permitted) and then travel via King Ludwig's Castle in Neuschwanstein, for five additional nights to the picturesque Tyrol staying at the four star Schlosshotel Roseneck in Fiederbrunn for a period of holiday and sight seeing. A full day excursion to Salzburg (Mozart's birthplace and the backdrop to *The Sound of Music*), a day trip around the Grossglockner Pass (Austria's highest mountain), and a day trip to Innsbruck. The guide price is £1395 (based on sharing a twin) which will include bed, breakfast and evening meals, with an outward and return overnight stay in Metz. Travel dates have been arranged for 29th June (with Rev Margaret Adams) and 5th September (with the Rev Stuart Thomas). Seventy people are already booked and this is your chance to join them. Optional insurance will also be offered with final confirmations. The tours are underwritten by Epsom Coaches who will, included in the package, arrange pickups from your home subject to being within a fifteen mile radius of Epsom.

For further information Pam & Derek Eade 020 8393 6885

## PUZZLE CORNER

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

In Celebration of Martin Way's 75th Anniversary, the Traditional Anniversary Gifts, shown below, have been hidden in the above square. They can be horizontal or vertical, both backwards and forwards.

Can you find them all?

MARTINWAY

BRONZE

SILVER

CELEBRATION

POTTERY

PEARL

PAPER

TIN

CORAL

COTTON

STEEL

RUBY

LEATHER

SILK

SAPPHIRE

FLOWERS

LACE

GOLD

WOOD

IVORY

EMERALD

IRON

CRYSTAL

DIAMOND

COPPER

CHINA

# CHURCH DIARY



Fri	2	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	4	10.30 am	Harvest Festival led by Rev Paul Timmis followed by a Frugal Lunch
Tue	6	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	7	7.45 pm	Midways Group - Rev Paul Timmis
Sun	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	13	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	16	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	17	10am - 1pm	Big Brunch
Sun	18	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Dr Arthur Miller
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	20	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - Rev Paul Timmis
Weds	21	7.45 pm	Midways Group - Larry Barnes - Pearly King
Sun	25	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Faith Nyota
Tue	27	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	30	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club

*Please refer to the Website ([www.martinway.org.uk](http://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 Smith on 13th October**

**Tyler Butland-Brooks on 26th October**

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Morden Park Holiday Club invite you to a...

# BIG MINISTRIES PARTY!

for all children aged 5-11  
Bring your mates • Learn about God  
Fun & Games • Live music



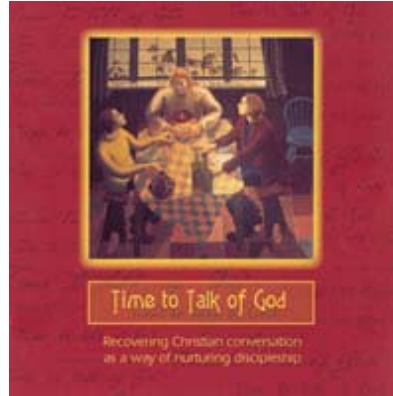
**Saturday 10 October '09**  
6.30 'til 8pm  
at Morden Baptist Church, Crown Lane, Morden

**Contact:** Charis Lambert  
020 8540 9380 ★ [charis@faithinmorden.com](mailto:charis@faithinmorden.com)

# Time to Talk of God...

...aims to encourage Methodists and other Christians to renew their ability to talk about God.

**Time to Talk of God**, subtitled *Recovering Christian conversation as a way of nurturing discipleship*, is aimed at ordinary Christians and honestly addresses the reasons why Christians can find it hard to talk about their faith, and how easy it is for churches and congregations to develop habits that make Christian conversation hard.



**Time to Talk of God** contains group and individual exercises, prayers, Bible passages and practical guides to shifting church culture so that talking to each other about God is easier and more natural.

**Time to Talk of God** 'starts a stage back from evangelism. It is about how we talk - and listen - to each other about the things that matter most. How shall we be confident in sharing our faith more widely if we never have these conversations among church members? And what sort of church will genuine seekers encounter if we are embarrassed to discuss the spiritual questions that motivate them?' (Janet Morley - *convenor of the working group*)

We are planning to host a series of conversations around the **Time to Talk of God** material in the near future. Please add your name to the list on the notice board in the ramped corridor at the church if you are interested in participating in these, indicating whether you would prefer to attend morning (m), afternoon (a) or evening (e) sessions and if you are prepared to host/lead a group (NB/ all material necessary for leading these sessions will be provided). Once we have an idea of numbers interested etc., we will advertise dates and times and then begin to allocate people to groups.

Items for the **November Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 18th October** at the latest