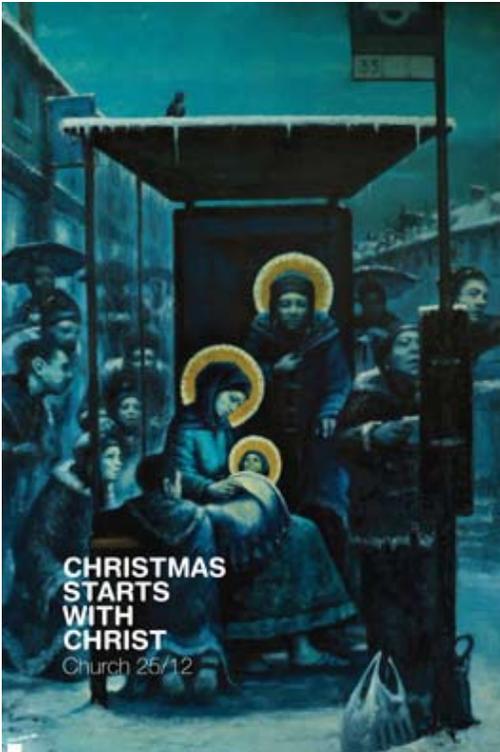


MINISTER'S LETTER



Each year, as a church, we deliver Christmas cards to our neighbours - those people who live in close proximity to our church. In the card we list the dates and times of the various acts of worship that we'll be sharing in over the festive season and invite people to join us. In addition, this year, I have written a letter. I offer it to you for your own reflections as you look to Christmas and beyond.

Paul



'What if God was one of us, just a slob like one of us, just a stranger on a bus...?'

Eric Bazilian 'One Of Us'

Whenever we hear the Christmas story and picture the stable scene that it describes, chances are that we are filled with a sense of warmth. Helped no doubt by the imagery of carols and cards, we probably imagine an idyllic location for the birth of Christ. If so, we miss the point: the story is telling us that Jesus was born in a stinking slum, the lowest of the low.

In the picture, the stable is replaced with a bus stop: Mary, Joseph and Jesus don't even make it into the modest warmth that the bus will offer. Instead, they are cruelly exposed to the worst of the winter weather, as indeed many homeless people will be this Christmas, and we

are confronted with the question, 'With whom will Christ most identify this Christmas?'

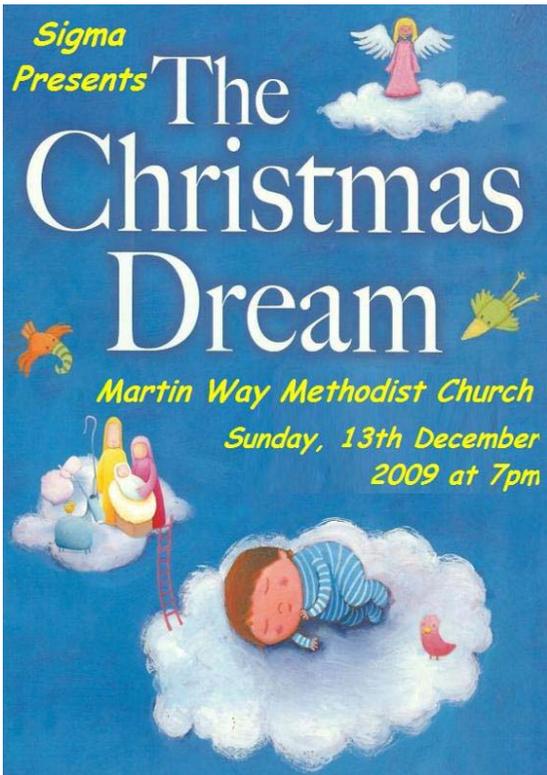
Back in the scene, some kneel - either in worship or simply to get a better look out of curiosity - yet others remain indifferent and go about their lives without noticing the miracle in their midst: God born as one of us. Another question is asked of us, 'Are we open to the possibility of encountering Christ in our midst or are we simply too busy or preoccupied to even consider it?'

Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Revd Paul Timmis

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SIGMA CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION



As you know SIGMA has put on a production at Christmas as part of the Seasonal Celebrations. This years Sigma Production is called 'The Christmas Dream'. It is a musical by Val Hawthorne.

The performance will be held in the church and is suitable for all ages from the youngest to the oldest! There will be refreshments including mince pies after the performance.

Please come and support us.

Anne Conquest

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to those who supported the **Poppy Appeal**, £74.50 was raised from collections at Martin Way.

Eileen & Fred Handy

Many thanks to all who supported Platform 10¾ with the **Christmas Shoebox Appeal** in providing things for the shoeboxes and/or coming to the Afternoon Tea. We were able to send 32 shoe boxes and £106.00 to Samaritan's Purse. Any appropriate toys that were left over will be given to the Toy Service on 6th December.

*Platform 10¾
Young Peoples Fellowship*

A very big thank you to everyone who has kindly supported **Biblelands** this past year whether by saving stamps, direct donations or purchasing from the Easter or Christmas catalogues. All profits are used to fund the work of their Overseas Partners who provide care, support and education for the vulnerable and disadvantaged in the lands of the Bible. Your contributions are greatly appreciated - God Bless everyone of you.

Mary and Derek Heaton

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WIMBLEDON OLDE TYME MUSIC HALL SOCIETY

Wimbledon Olde Tyme Music Hall Society have agreed to support the Rafiki Trust with their production this year (on Saturday 12th December at 7.30pm). This is a fantastic opportunity for the Trust to publicise its work in the local community beyond church and circuit boundaries. They usually support well-known national charities, and Stephen Ashcroft has gone out on a limb for us to persuade them that supporting a fairly unknown local charity will not result in a big drop in their audience.

Whilst we understand that it's on a busy weekend (Sigma production and other pre-Christmas events to take into consideration) we are really hoping that as many people as possible will be able to go along. It's as much about the profile of the Trust as about the fundraising, and about opening doors for future fundraising and events..

The Martin Way Methodist Church Treasure Hunt

It all began with the preparations for our 75th Anniversary celebrations, when I was searching through the papers, books and photographs that form our church archives. I found many treasures of the church's history in the minutes and papers of various council meetings and committees that have been held over the years. We are also lucky to have reports and descriptions of events in our monthly Newsletter as well as a fine collection

of photographs and memorabilia going back to the laying of the church's foundation stone in 1934. Over the last few years we have also acquired collections of reminiscences of the early days from various church members, and any further account of earlier days will always be more than welcome, especially if (as with Jean Butland's papers) there are captioned photos.

But there are some gaps in the papers. In particular our set of the Newsletter only dates back to 1990. In fact our earliest copy is February 1990 when our minister, Rev. Philip Moore, began his monthly letter by introducing the new editorial team headed by Roy Ellis. So where were the earlier ones?

Now it so chanced that for the last couple of years I've been working as a volunteer in the Local Studies section at Morden Library. My first task had been to list the periodicals and magazines, so I knew that the Library set for Martin Way included some bound volumes of the 1960s-80s when Bill Bass had been editor. Great! But on checking I found that they only went back to 1967 and that the first year was incomplete. Fortunately, however, I had noted in the list that there was a reference to Martin Way material in the St. James' magazine "The Bell", and looking in that volume found that the two churches had



MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH
NEWS LETTER
 Minister: Rev.D.Nightingale, 14 Tybenham Rd, S.S.19, Tel. 01-542 3627
 February 1970

My dear Friends,

An African Methodist leader, who a year or so ago spent a time in England, was asked what he had learned from his stay. He made a very surprising reply: "that the British have worried and need looking after." He had imagined that the administrators and missionaries he had known in Kenya were strong men without problems. He now realised that they had to be looked after by the Africans they serve - to receive from the Africans as well as to give. There is a growing understanding of the need for give and take within the World Church. The younger Churches are growing up rapidly and have much to give us in helping us to a fuller understanding of the Christian faith and the Christian mission. Our missionary thinking and concern must therefore very much include elements of learning and receiving, as well as giving. There must be a genuine two-way traffic within the wide and rich fellowship of the World Church.

Our visiting preacher on Overseas Missions Anniversary, Feb. 1st will be Rev Raymond Trudgian, a college friend of mine, who has spent a number of years in Gambia. He is now International Secretary of the Christian Education Movement, working in schools. He is an excellent preacher and will help us to a wider and deeper vision of the work of the Church. During the Sunday morning service, Rev Trudgian will present J.C.I. medals, bags and certificates. We congratulate the J.C.I. collectors on their excellent work during the past year and on the increasing amount of money collected. We look forward to a memorable and stimulating Overseas Missions Anniversary.

On Tuesday, Feb. 3rd at 6 p.m. we hold our Annual Overseas Missionary Meeting and Rev Trudgian is the speaker. He has chosen as his theme, "Eitchcraft", and he will link this fascinating subject with popular superstition in this country - what might be called subterranean theology.

Later in the month we hold our Home Missions Anniversary on Feb.

indeed shared the magazine in 1966 – and that Bill Bass had been its assistant editor. Sadly there is a note at the end of that year that Martin Way felt unable to continue “owing to the financial considerations involved and much to the disappointment of all concerned”. As we look back now we may wonder what would have happened had we continued to share; it was a truly joint effort, having letters from both the Minister and the Vicar and with a list of activities at the churches which does not even specify at which church the events took place.

By this time treasure hunt fever had set in and questions about the early history of the immediate area surrounding the church were bubbling up – what did Martin Way look like before Beaford Grove and Buckley Avenue were marked out, what were the earliest shops and how far back could the treasure hunter track the history? But that is another story, for which you will have to wait until the next Newsletter.

In the meantime let us all take heart from Rev George Baugh’s letter in May 1967 when he introduced the first edition of a new series of Newsletters and wrote “The GREAT days of Martin Way lie in the future and we must be ready when the tide turns.”

Rosemary Keen

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Solution to Last Months Puzzle

Sharp part of rose plant : THORN, waste : REFUSE, prophet : DANIEL, written message : LETTER, needle and : THREAD, found in King Solomon’s mines : ORE

The verse from the Bible was :

Render therefore to all their dues (Romans 13:7)

A Soldier's Cards

The origins of this story can be traced back to 1865 in America, and back as far as the late 18th Century in Europe; France (1809) and Belgium (1778).

It has also been known as "Deck of Cards" , "Cards Spiritualised" and "The Soldier's Almanac, Bible And Prayer Book".

There have been recent re-workings that mention the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

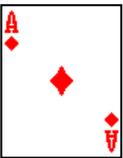
One Christmas a group of soldiers went to Church. After the Chaplain had read the prayer, the soldiers were ordered to open up their bibles.

Those who had a prayer book took them out, but this one boy had only a deck of cards, and so he spread them out. The Sergeant saw the cards and said, "Soldier put away those cards." After the service was over, the soldier was taken prisoner and brought before the Provost Marshall.

The Marshall said, "Sergeant, why have you brought the man here?" "For playing cards in church, Sir." "And what have you got to say for yourself, son?" "Much, Sir." Replied the soldier. The Marshall said, "I hope so, for if not I shall punish you more than any man was ever punished."

The soldier said, "Sir, I've been in the field for about six days, I had neither Bible nor prayer book, but I hope to satisfy you, Sir, with the purity of my intentions."

With that, the boy started his story:



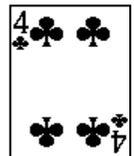
You see Sir, when I look at the "ACE", it reminds me that there is but one God.



And the "DEUCE" reminds me that the Bible is divided into two parts; The Old and the New Testaments;



And when I see the "TREY", I think of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;



And when I see the "FOUR", I think of the four Evangelists who preached the Gospel. There was Matthew, Mark, Luke and John;



And when I see the "FIVE", it reminds me of the five wise virgins who trimmed their lamps. There were ten of them, five were wise and were saved. Five were foolish and were shut out;



And when I see the "SIX", it reminds me that in six days, God made this great heaven and earth;



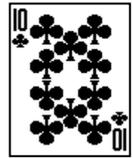
When I see the "SEVEN", it reminds me that on the seventh day, God rested from His great work;

And when I see the "EIGHT", I think of the eight righteous persons God saved when He destroyed this earth. There was Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives;



And when I see the "NINE", I think of the lepers our Saviour cleansed. And nine out of the ten didn't even thank Him.

When I see the "TEN", I think of the Ten Commandments God handed down to Moses on a table of stone;



When I see the "KING", it reminds me that there is but one King of Heaven, God Almighty;

And when I see the "QUEEN", I think of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is Queen of Heaven;



And the "JACK" or "KNAVE" is the Devil;

When I count the number of spots on a deck of cards,
I find 365, the number of days in a year;

"Stop", said the Marshall "that is a mistake, there are only 364 spots".
"I grant it", said the soldier, "but as I have never yet seen an Almanac that was thoroughly correct in all points it would have been impossible

for me to have imitated an Almanac exactly without a mistake.
"Your observations are very correct", said the Marshal. "Go on".

There's 52 cards, the number of weeks in a year;
There's 4 suits, the number of weeks in a month;
There's 12 picture cards, the number of months in a year;
There's 13 tricks, the number of weeks in a quarter;
So you see, Sir, my pack of cards serves me as a Bible, Almanac
and Prayer Book!

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MORDEN CAROL SINGING

It's that time of the year that we serenade the commuters of Morden. Once again we will be raising money for the National Children's Home and would welcome as many people to come along and join in the singing of carols at Morden Underground Station.



We will be meeting at the Station on Friday 18th and Monday 21st December and plan to start singing at 5.00pm and finish about 7.00pm both of these days.

RAFIKI TRUST CAROL SINGING

To raise funds for the circuit's charity, MCW Rafiki Trust, we will be carol singing and collecting money at local tube stations shortly before Christmas.

We'll be at Colliers Wood station on Thursday 17th December and Morden station on Tuesday 22nd December from 5pm – 7.30pm.

We urgently need volunteers to sing or collect money – whatever your vocal ability! Assistance with transport can be provided if needed. If you think you can help, please speak to a Rafiki Trustee so we can get an idea of numbers. Trustees are Valerie Ashcroft, Dawn Downes, Rachel & Anthony Ellis, Tony Loft, and John Nyota. Alternatively call Rachel Ellis on 020 8337 3489 or email rafikitrust@googlemail.com.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

In particular, from 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their Faith openly. At that time this traditional English carol was adopted as a catechism song for young Catholics. For them, it had two levels of meaning: the original surface meaning as a love song, plus hidden religious meanings.

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ and the Cross.

2 Turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

3 French hens stood for Faith, Hope and Love. (1Cor 13:13)

4 Calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

5 Golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Bible. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

6 Geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. (Genesis 1:1)

7 Swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and the Fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2)

8 Maids a-milking were the eight Beatitudes. (Matthew 5: 3-11)

9 Ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control. (Galatians 5:22)

10 Lords a-leaping were the ten commandments. (Exodus 20)

11 Pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples. (Matthew 10:2)

12 Drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the *Apostles' Creed*.

MY TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me. "I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas Tree".

On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard as we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird.

On the third day we entertained the people from next door. The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay, poor Gran is looking old. We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snow flakes flurried. But we were nice and warm inside, for we had our turkey curried.

On the sixth day, I must admit, the Christmas spirit died. The children fought and bickered, we ate turkey rissoles, fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince, when he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

Day eight, and nerves were getting frayed, the dog had run for shelter. I served up turkey pancakes, with a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day our cat left home, by lunchtime Dad was blotto. He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

By the tenth day the booze had gone (except our home made brew). And if that wasn't bad enough we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting. The mince pies were as hard as rock and the turkey were revolting.

On the twelfth day, my true love had a smile upon his lips - The guests had gone, the turkey too-and we dined on fish and chips.

[Anon] Sorry not sure which mag this came from

‘BILL COX FANS’

To all the late ‘Bill Cox Fans’, please can you stop leaving Books, Videos and CDs in the Men’s Supper Club (Bill’s) Cupboard in the Coffee Lounge.

If you have a lot of books to get rid of please contact London Wildcare on 020 8647 6230 and they will collect.

Derek Heaton



The **London Wildcare Christmas Shop**, in Times Square, Sutton. Open Wednesday 9th to Sunday 13th December and Wednesday 16th to Sunday 20th December.

They offer good quality second hand Books, selective range of Wildlife Toys and Gifts, and a fabulous Festive Hamper raffle - not to be missed!

Mary Heaton

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CHRISTMAS POST BOX AND CARDS

As it has been our tradition over the years, we will again place our Christmas post box. It will be outside the vestry from Sunday 6th December to Wednesday 16th December for those wishing to send cards to members of the church family. Donations in lieu of postage (remembering that it would cost 30p to post a card through the Post Office system) will, as usual, go to Methodist Homes for the Aged. When addressing the envelopes, it is asked that surnames are included please.



Those preferring to send a single card to the whole church family may post them in the post box and they will be displayed in the vestibule.

The cards will be available for collection on
Sunday 21st December.

MARTIN WAY TOY SERVICE 6TH DECEMBER 2008

CHRISTIAN CARE ASSOCIATION



We would like presents – new or as good as new – to give to the boys and girls aged between 1 month and 11 years who attend the Christian Care Association New Year Party on Saturday 30th January 2010.

For babies and toddlers – rattles, bath toys, pull-along toys, puzzles, anything from Thomas the Tank Engine/Bob the Builder ranges, phones, baby dolls, building blocks.

Cars, trucks, trains, Lego, games – appropriate for different ages
{*Note: We cannot give toys and games with expensive batteries which have to be replaced. We cannot use jigsaws and games with small pieces that are easily lost*} War games, Monopoly and Scrabble are not suitable.

Dolls, anything from Action Man, Spider Man and Superman
{*Note: We do not require soft toys*}

Outdoor Games - footballs, skittles etc.

Stationery – crayons, gel pens, pencils, pencil cases, drawing books, photo album, disposable camera.

Books – fun activity and story books for all ages, but appropriate for children where English is not their first language
{*Note: Not dictionaries, encyclopaedias*}

Clothes etc – hats, scarves, gloves, pretty tights, backpacks, bags, umbrellas, jewellery.

CHRISTMAS COLOURING TIME



CHURCH DIARY



Tue	1	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	2	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Feet</i>
Sat	5		Big Brunch
Sun	6	10.30 am	Toy/Gift & Parade Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	8	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		6.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Advent Thanksgiving Service and Buffet with Midways</i> - proceeds to go to 'Help for Heroes'
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		8.00 pm	Preacher's Meeting at Worcester Park
Sun	13	10.30 am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
		7.00pm	SIGMA presents "The Christmas Dream" - A Special Christmas production
Tue	15	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	16	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Mince Pies and Carols</i>
Fri	18	5.00pm	Carol Singing for NCH at Morden Station
Sun	20	10.30am	Nativity Service with Holy Communion led by Rev Paul Timmis
		5.00pm	Carols by Candlelight led by Tony Loft & Brenda Cannon
Mon	21	5.00pm	Carol Singing for NCH at Morden Station
Thurs	24	5.00pm	Christingle Service
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion at Martin Way
Fri	25	10.30am	Christmas Day Service
Sun	27	10.30am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft

Tue 29 10-12noon Coffee and Chat
8.00 pm Time for Prayer

CHURCH DIARY



Sun 3 10.30 am All Age Worship led by Mark Williamson

Tue 5 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat
8.00 pm Time for Prayer

Weds 6 7.00 pm Midways Group - *Poland* - Andrew Fox

Fri 8 12.30 pm Luncheon Club

Sun 10 10.30am Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by
Rev Paul Timmis

Tue 12 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat
8.00 pm Time for Prayer

Sat 16 Big Brunch

Sun 17 10.30am Praise Service led by Brenda Cannon
6.30 pm Evening Service led by Rev Paul Timmis

Tue 19 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat
8.00 pm Time for Prayer

Weds 20 7.00 pm Midways Group - *Quiz Night* - Janet Laker

Fri 22 12.30 pm Luncheon Club

Sun 24 10.30am Morning Service led by Mark Williamson
6.30 pm Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis

Tue 26 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat
8.00 pm Time for Prayer

Sun 31 10.30am Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
6.30pm Circuit Service - Recognition Service
for Brenda Cannon

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
in either December or January a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:



Natalie Johnson on 2nd December

Zandile Sepanya on 16th December

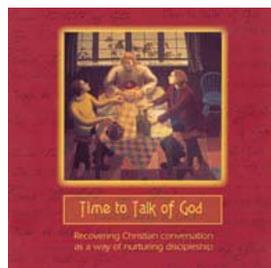
Kutloano Sepanya on 19th December

Floyd Sepanya on 24th December

Christopher Sweby on 23rd January

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Time to Talk of God



As you would have seen in previous newsletters and on notice boards, Martin Way will be looking at the Methodist Conference report from 2005 and engaging in conversations about discipleship.

The sessions, which will commence w/c 11th January 2010 are promised to challenge, inspire and provoke lively conversations about aspects of church culture, which makes us reluctant to speak about our faith.

A number of groups will be meeting over a five week period following the resources that accompany the report. We have groups meeting on a Monday evening, Wednesday afternoon and evening and Thursday evening.

If you would like to take part and join a group and would like more information, please contact Paul Timmis or Jane Smith

Items for the **February Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 17th January** at the latest