

MINISTER'S LETTER



Back from our holidays and with August now drawing to a close, it seems incredible that yet another summer is almost behind us. Already. Refusing to entirely accept the reality of this situation just yet, I head to Cheltenham Racecourse for the Greenbelt Festival this week in the hope of recharging my ministerial and spiritual batteries in preparation for the new Church year ahead.

Greenbelt is an arts festival ‘firmly rooted within a Christian tradition which is world-affirming, politically and culturally engaged’ that is ‘inclusive and accepting of all, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexuality, background or belief’ and it serves as an annual retreat for me - a place where I go, with my family and friends, to be myself and to discover a little more about who I am and who I’m called to be.

This year, I am looking forward to listening to such people as John Bell, Kester Brewin, Stanley Hauerwas, Nicola Slee and Lucy Winkett and reflecting on what they have to say about God, the Church and the world. I’m looking forward to listening to and being challenged by the music of Martyn Joseph and Michael McDermott. I’m looking forward to laughter induced by such comedians as Milton Jones. And I’m looking forward to some theatre and to the performances of Rebecca Yorke in particular.

I recognise, of course, that you will perhaps have heard of some of these people and not others - John and Lucy appear on BBC Radio 4’s *Thought for the Day* quite often, so you might be familiar with them, and I’m married to Rebecca, so you might have heard of her.

So this is what I’m looking forward to. But others, I know, will be looking forward to listening to and experiencing the work of other theologians, musicians, comedians and even, dare I say it, actors. And still others will be looking forward most to listening to novelist and poets, or to sharing and participating in worship in a wide variety of forms.

The Greenbelt souvenir programme comes each year with a daily diary - a little booklet that allows people to highlight things, to make their own timetables and to shape their own Greenbelt. A couple of years ago, as the festival drew towards its close, Rebecca and I found someone else's Daily Diary on the floor. Being nosy we looked through it and discovered that, with the exception of the Sunday morning communion service, this person had been to nothing that we had. Not only that but some of the things that the owner of this diary had marked as being essential ingredients to a good Greenbelt either hadn't even registered on our radars or had been dismissed out of hand.

To my mind, Greenbelt offers the model of the Church that I find most hopeful and encouraging. It speaks of promise and possibility. And, above all, inclusiveness. It is truly a festival of all-comers. And I love it for what it is. It is a place where it is OK to disagree and, surely, the Church needs to be such a place - a melting pot into which people pour their differing stories, experiences, perspectives and insights; a place where people are open to the possibility of being surprised by God. Martyn Joseph, whom I've quoted before I know, sings, 'sometimes it's more important to love than to always have it right'. Greenbelt embodies such thinking.

I am delighted then (and, if I'm honest, more than a little proud) that, earlier this year, the Methodist Church entered into a formal partnership with Greenbelt. I'll be interested to see what our denominational input into the festival will be over the coming years, but my bigger hope is that we'll see more of Greenbelt in the Methodist Church.

I look forward to sharing a new Church year with you and to all the promise and possibility that it holds before us.

With every blessing,

Paul

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERTON PARK

The Churches Together in Merton Park committee have continued to meet every two months throughout the year with the exception of the January meeting which was cancelled due to the wintry weather. Since last year's report there have been many discussions as to creating awareness of the committee, new ventures offered and existing activities re-affirmed. Miss Gillian Thick was welcomed as representative for Merton Park Baptist Church in the July meeting. Rev. Tom Kavanagh is the present Chairman of the committee and Anne Fleming appointed as secretary.

One new venture was the **Advent groups** which started at the end of November until mid December and hosted by St James' Church. Although not well attended as a Church mix, those who did manage to attend found it stimulating and inspiring and were grateful to Canon Acton, Rev. Jonathan Easton-Crouch and Mr Mike McCormack who gave of their time and resources to lead the groups.

Despite the adverse weather the **Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** was well attended at St James' of Merton on the 24th January with representatives from all five Churches taking part. Rev. Tom Kavanagh paid tribute to Mr Bert Hyde, Chairman of Christian CARE who died in early January. Bert was a former Chairman of CTMP until May 2003 and was a strong advocate of ecumenical events. The offering which raised £300 during the service was given for the work of Christian CARE in Merton.

Although not entirely a new venture, the **Pentecost Prayer Walk** encompassing the five Churches took place on the 23rd May on a beautiful Spring day, and was well attended. The purpose of the walk was as a silent witness providing an opportunity for sharing with other walkers. The overall theme being the Holy Spirit, with each Church sharing a different aspect. Starting at St John Fisher RC Church, this was an opportunity to walk together with a chance to sit, share worship and pray together at the short service at each Church. There was further fellowship with refreshments at St James' Church to finish.

As part of the need to make the public aware of the activities of CTMP, it was agreed that a **Churches Together leaflet** featuring photographs of the Churches be displayed in the local Libraries. This includes information of the Sunday Services at each Church as well as a named contact person, on an A4 poster and also A5 leaflets for people to take away.

Future plans and Dates for your diaries

- ✠ A Service of Healing and Reconciliation to be held on **Monday 18th October 2010 at 7.30pm** at St Mary the Virgin Church
- ✠ The next **Church Unity Service** will be held at St John Fisher on 23rd January 2011 during which members of the CTMP group will be commissioned. As in previous years it will include invitations to a Service in each of the Churches during the week 18th-25th January 2011.
- ✠ Dates for the next Taiže meetings held at St John Fisher at 8pm; Autumn term: 13th Sept; 11th Oct; 8th Nov and 13th Dec (shared meal).

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd September 2010

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WIMBLEDON METHODIST CHURCH GARDEN PARTY

On Saturday 25th September from 12.00noon until 3.00pm there is will be a Garden Party at the manse, 9 Durrington Park Road, in aid of the Rafiki Trust.

For more information contact Dawn Downes (020) 8543 4774



SURREY CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST

SURREY CHURCHES RIDE & STRIDE SATURDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2010



Background

Most counties in England have annual 'Bike Rides', on the second Saturday in September, to raise money for church restoration and repair.

The idea is that cyclists (and walkers) are given a list of participating churches in their area. They map out their own route to visit churches by bike or on foot, and then get friends to sponsor them for a fixed amount per church visited.

The money that is collected is divided into two. Half the monies go to the church of the cyclists choice; the other half is retained by the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust for distribution to churches in need (that apply for a grant). In the dozen or so years that the Bike Ride has been running in Surrey we have raised over £250,000.

Organisation

The umbrella organisation is the **Surrey Churches Preservation Trust**, with trustees from most Christian denominations. The Trustees give out grants twice a year to deserving applicants from the monies collected during the Bike Ride.

Dust off your bike and come and join us...

Members of Ruxley have been taking part in this for many years, with varying numbers of riders. Why not make this a special year by seeing how many we can get out?

Many churches provide drinks on the way, and you can have a look inside. It's a very sociable time and fun to discover hidden routes round the neighbourhood.

For more information about the ride or to say you are coming please contact Chris Meineck on (020) 8394 2101.

To find out more about the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust visit their website at www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org

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PUZZLE CORNER

Kids Bible Wordsearch

ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE?

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Puzzle # 2

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


 ANTELOPE
 APE
 BADGER
 CALF
 CHAMELEON
 CROCODILE
 DEER
 FOX
 FROG


 HEDGEHOG
 HEIFER
 MULE
 PORCUPINE
 RAM
 SCORPION
 STAG
 WHALE



<http://biblewordgames.com>

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The above puzzle is thanks to <http://biblewordgames.com>

SIGMA CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION



This Christmas 'Sigma' are going to do a Christmas musical called 'The Greatest Show On Earth' . Performances will be on December 18th & 19th.

We are going to start rehearsals on Sundays, the first being on Sunday 5th September at Martin Way Methodist church, starting at 4pm.

We need actors, singers, people to help backstage. SIGMA is a Greek letter meaning 'All things coming together' The group is made up of mixed ages, please come along and join us.

For more information please contact Anne Conquest.
Tel no: (020) 8942 7147 or Email aconquest@btinternet.com

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MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH
IS GIVING THANKS WITH A

HARVEST FARE

ON

SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2010

11 AM-3PM

FRESH SEASONAL PRODUCE ~ JAMS & PICKLES ~

LUNCHES ~ CAKES AND REFRESHMENTS ~

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES ~ PLANTS ~ BOOKS ~

RAFFLE ~ CRAFTS ~ PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Local Artists' Exhibition

*Raynes Park Methodist Church
Worple Road*

**FREE
ENTRY**

*Saturday, 11th September to
Saturday, 18th September*

*OPEN DAILY (except Sunday)
10.30pm to 4.30pm*



Raynes Park **Methodist** Church





Our **HARVEST FARE** is on **Saturday, 25th September** and you can help make the day a success by giving your time to help on the day or by providing donations for the stalls. So don't forget to continue to water & nurture, knit & sew, bake & pickle over the summer, so that we have an abundance of loveliness to sell.

Proceeds to church funds and the charity "**Spires**". We are in need of the following:

Home made produce - jams, pickles and preserves.

Home grown produce - fruit & vegetables.

Plants - indoor, outdoor, seedlings or shrubs, all welcome!

Crafts - if you are a keen crafter you could donate some of you wares, we would love to sell them.

Books - good quality second hand books would be welcome.

Cakes - delicious tasty & naughty cakes to sell at our cake stall.

Children's' activities - we need any off-cuts of material, wooden spoons and small yoghurt pots

Raffle Prizes - we are staying with the harvest theme, so prizes for the garden or kitchen would be gratefully received.

Please bring your donations to the church from **September 12th** where there will be a labeled box outside the hall. Fresh produce can be brought on the day.





ONE BIG FAMILY

MESSY PLAY

ALL THE FUN, NONE OF THE CLEARING UP

FOOD FEST

SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND ICE CREAM

FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

COME AND JOIN THE FUN AT MARTIN WAY
METHODIST CHURCH. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE
YOU!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
REBECCA ON 0208 337 2348
or
ABBY ON 0208 543 9093

CHURCH BULLETINS

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

Today's Sermon: HOW MUCH CAN A MAN DRINK? with hymns from a full choir.

Hymn 43: "Great God, what do I see here?"

Preacher: The Rev. Horace Blodgett

Hymn 47: "Hark! an awful voice is sounding"

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

This evening at 7 P.M. there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

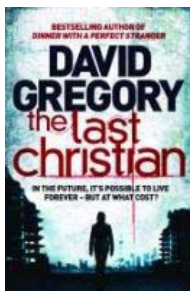
The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."

The church is glad to have with us today as our guest minister the Rev. Green who has Mrs. Green with him. After the service we request that all remain in the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens.

BOOK REVIEWS from RE:FRESH BOOKS

Summer Book Sale

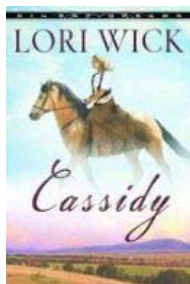
Re:refresh books are offering a number books at less than the RRP, this is just a very small selection of some of the books available.



The Last Christian by David Gregory (Fiction)

416 pages paperback, RRP£11.99

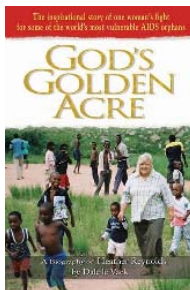
Abigail Caldwell has spent 34 years in the jungles of Papua New Guinea, cut off from civilisation. She returns to America, only to discover a nation where Christianity has died out. And another threat looms - The world's leading artificial intelligence industrialist has perfected a technique for downloading the human brain into a silicon form. Brain transplants have begun, and with them comes the promise of eternal existence. Abby and Professor Creighton Daniels, uncover a plot to force the entire planet to convert to this transhuman status. Together, they begin to unravel the conspiracy, attracting the attention of the powerful and devious men behind it. In a race for their lives.



Cassidy by Lori Wick (Fiction).

304 pages paperback, RRP£9.99

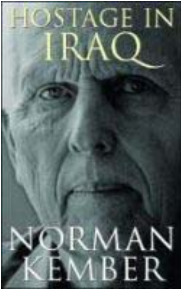
Token Creek, Montana Territory, 1880 - Cassidy Norton is a fine seamstress who makes her living sewing for others. Amid the bustle of a busy frontier town, her life is rich. What time her business doesn't take, her friends and church family fill. But Cassidy hasn't always lived in Token Creek and few people know her full story. So she struggles with a nagging unsettledness in her heart. Cassidy's friend Meg is married to a rancher and has a baby, something Cassidy wants for herself. But that would mean revealing the details of her life. Will Cassidy find the strength to take that risk? And will her own dreams come true?



God's Golden Acre by Dale le Vack (Biography)

368 pages paperback, RRP£8.99

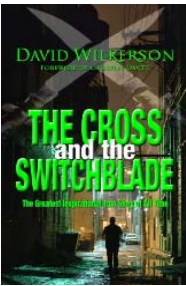
A biography of heather Reynolds who started the sanctuary named in the title for AIDS orphans in South Africa. She and her husband dedicated their lives and savings to help the orphans and fight the AIDS pandemic. Faith took them through the hard times and they had help from donors who were touched and challenged by the work.



Hostage in Iraq by Norman Kember (True Story)
204 pages hardback, RRP£14.95

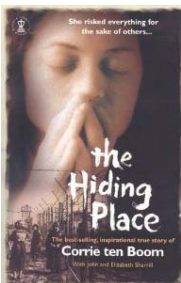
On 26 November 2005, Norman Kember and two other peace activists were taken hostage in Baghdad. He was held captive for four months until his dramatic release by a multinational military raid. Written with honesty and emotion, Norman Kember describes in detail his four month ordeal, during which he was imprisoned in a small room and chained to the two Canadian peace activists, James Loney and Harmeet Singh Sooden, and the American Tom Fox, who was later killed by his captors. Kember experiences fear, loneliness, boredom, and at one point, contemplated suicide. Yet his wry sense of humour never quite deserts him.

The Cross & the Switchblade by David Wilkerson (True Story)



224 pages paperback, RRP£5.99

Still a best-seller, even though it was written nearly half a century ago. The tortured face of a young killer, one of seven boys on trial for a brutal murder, moved David Wilkerson on his lonely crusade to the most dangerous streets in the world. Violent gangs ruled by warlords, drug pushers and pimps held the streets of New York's ghettos in an iron grip. It was into this world that David Wilkerson stepped, armed only with the simple message of God's love and the promise of the Holy Spirit's power. Then the miracles began to happen. *The Cross and the Switchblade* has sold more than 15 million copies worldwide and was made into a successful feature film.



The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom (True Story)
224 pages paperback, RRP£7.99

As the Nazi forces swept across Europe, a quiet watchmaker's family in Holland risked everything for the sake of others, and for the love of Christ. Despite the danger and threat of discovery, they courageously offered shelter to persecuted Jews. Then a trap brought about the family's arrest. Could God's love shine through, even the horrors of a Holocaust concentration camp? This is the remarkable true story of Corrie and her sister Betsie's endurance of a Nazi death camp, and their sure hope that God alone is the true hiding place.

All of these books are available from re:fresh books & christian resources, 23 The Broadway, Tolworth, Surbiton KT6 7DJ

CHURCH DIARY



Weds 1	8.00 pm	Leadership Team Meeting
Thurs 2	8.00 pm	Pastoral Meeting
Sun 5	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Mark Williamson
	6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue 7	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds 8	7.45 pm	Midways Group - Welcome Back
		Informal Evening with a Bring & Buy Stall
Sun 12	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		One Big Family Meeting (after service)
	6.30 pm	Tony Loft's Accreditation Service
Mon 13	8.00 pm	Finance & Property Meeting
Tue 14	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thurs 16	8.00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Fri 17	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun 19	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue 21	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
	7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Andrew Fox</i> - Poland
	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds 24	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Mike Barrick</i> - Leatherhead Wildlife
Sat 25	11.00 am	Harvest Fare
Sun 26	10.30 am	Harvest Festival led by Rev Paul Timmis

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:

Abigail Fuwa on 15th September

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ONE BIG FAMILY

For ONE BIG FAMILY on Sunday 3rd October we need lots of small plastic bottles with lids and small cardboard boxes (6 inches, 15cm or less) about the size of an OXO box or Vicks box would be ideal. Please help us collect these and leave them in the Store Cupboard, where there is a marked box. Your help with this is very much appreciated.

We also need as many people as possible to help with activities and other things during the event. We are having a meeting on Sunday 12th September, after the morning service, to quickly discuss what we need help with, so please come along.

Rebecca Timmis

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BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We have many new additions to the church family recently.

If you wish to have your child's birthday mentioned in the Newsletter please pass the details to our Editor, Andrew Fox.

He can be contacted via email at roife@hotmail.co.uk or by phone on (020) 8330 7917.

HELP NEEDED



Young People are an important part of Martin Way and the future of our Church. *HELP IS NEEDED:*

The YOUTH CLUB, which meets on Fridays from 6 - 7.30pm, is in **URGENT** need of volunteers to continue operating. We have only three leaders at present; we need a bank of at least six in order to cover for absences. If you can spare even one or two evenings a term please talk to Pete Boyd, Jo Passfield or Abby Herring, so that we can plan you in and avoid having to close.

Pete Boyd

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Bottle Top Collection

The Diamond Riding Centre (for special needs children) in Carshalton are asking for help in collecting bottle tops.

Please pass any of your (clean) **plastic milk bottle tops** to Abby Herring to help this worthwhile group. For more information about the Centre visit their website at www.diamondcentre.org.uk



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Merton Art Society

Merton Art Society starts their new programme on Tuesday September 14th, at 7.30 pm in the main hall of Martin Way Church. The fee to join is only is £30 for the whole year.

We would welcome any new members.

Julia Griffiths, Merton Art Society Chairman.

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