

MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear friends,

Garden centres, home furnishing companies and even supermarkets are currently doing a hard sell on ‘summer’ it seems. Perhaps the marketing people are thinking that if we think about it for long enough, the summer of our dreams might eventually arrive. What I do know is that, as each day passes, I receive an increasing number of “junk mail” items through my letter box and in my e-mail inbox, with each one offering the promise of endless sunny days and long, balmy evenings. ‘Why not then spend money on a new barbecue, some garden lights and table decorations or even a picnic hamper?’ the adverts ask.

Central to this idealised picture of summer that we are being sold - and probably long for - is the opportunity that it provides for rest and relaxation. This is clever because this picture taps into the need we have as human beings to stop, take time out from our usual routine and “re-charge our batteries”. We all need a break and a breather from time to time. ‘So why not spend some money to secure it?’ comes the suggestion. But surely the good news is that we can have the things that lie at the heart of such yearnings without necessarily spending any money.

Doing, seeing, experiencing the same things day after day, week after week, month after month can be utterly exhausting. This is the case whether we feel like we are constantly rushed off our feet or if we are continually sitting in the same chair staring at the same four walls. Each and every one of us reaches a point from time to time when we desperately need a change of scenery. Sometimes we are no longer able to recognise this need for ourselves. Sometimes it takes someone else to recognise what is going on. Sometimes we need someone else to remind us that taking a break and a breather might be helpful to us that we might take stock and re-evaluate our patterns of living and our priorities, or so that we might simply “re-charge our batteries” in order that we might then be able to go again.

If you have ever felt guilty about taking time out to go away. If you

have ever felt that everything will fall apart at the seams if you are not there. If you have felt that your work is too important to “down tools” and simply go and sit and be elsewhere. Listen to what Jesus says to his friends who are engaged in work that he sees as being important enough to die for:

‘Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.’

Get away for a bit, enjoy a change of scenery, recharge the batteries. Take a break and a breather. Whatever it is that you need a break and a breather from, however important it is, it will be there to return to soon enough. But you owe it to yourself, and to the God who created the world and then rested, to the God who created the sabbath, to rest. In fact, you will be no good to anyone if you don’t.

In life we always have to balance our needs against the needs of others. Jesus never leaves us in any doubt as to what we should do when we perceive or see genuine need. Jesus’ friends are shown time and time again that the required response is to move beyond themselves and to reach out in love to those who need it. But they are also shown by Jesus, time and time again, that it is also important to God that, as human beings, we get the rest that we need, that we enjoy a change of scenery from time to time, that we carve out the time we need - and those around us need - for a break and a breather.

Over the next couple of months then - whether we get an idealised summer or not - let us all do our best to take a break and a breather, because we all need one.

Not everyone has to go away for a fortnight to some far flung land. Not everyone could afford to do this even if they wanted to. But most of us have the opportunity to enjoy a change of scenery, even if to obtain this change of scenery means finding a different tree in a local park to sit under.

But, please, please, please, make the most of the opportunities that this summer provides to take - and allow others to take - a breath and a breather. Life depends on such things.

With every blessing,

Paul

To our 'Wonderful' Church Family

This is an open letter of appreciation and gratitude to the many folk who have helped both Derek and I over the recent months of struggle that health problems have caused us.

It has been such a comfort to know that so many able and willing friends have been 'just a phone call away' whenever the many emergencies occurred.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to Paul for his unfailing telephone calls, hospital and home visits. Especially his prayers which have meant so very much to us both. To Mike and Tony for unending lifts to and from St Georges and Marsden hospitals, and to Graham for his unending practical and professional help. Also for Roy's chauffeuring and Sylvia and Phil's as well; and for Mike and Bernita's non-stop practical help and cooking. Also not forgetting all our helpful neighbours and friends far and near who help with chauffeuring, cooking, shopping etc (Kay and Ken need special mention here)

Finally, for all the colossal number of get-well and encouragement cards, the non-stop telephone enquiries and offers of help. The list is endless, but you know each one of you what you have done for us and how we would never have survived the trauma we were experiencing without **you!**

Now at last all the prayers are gradually being answered and we are beginning to see light at the end of a long tunnel. Derek has finally gained enough strength back to move on from the wheelchair, then walking frame and now crutches to this last week to be able to drive short trips in the car to local destinations. So for all the constant prayerful thoughts flooding our way that have been said both publicly and privately - we thank **everyone** from the bottom of our hearts.

With our love, blessings, gratitude and heartfelt thanks for everything everyone has done for us.

Mary Heaton

PS

Thank you Gwen for your more recent support in driving and accompanying me to hospital for my own health test etc - bless you.

giftaid it

Regular Giving and Gift Aid

I have taken over the job of Gift Aid Secretary and have just completed the returns for 2012-13. I am surprised that there are a number of people who regularly attend church that do not, it seems, give a regular amount to the Church or, if they pay tax, Gift Aid this giving. I am sure Martin Way is as important to you as to me and would urge all those who do not give a regular amount to think again.

Please speak to Roy Ellis if you require further information.

Maralyn Loft

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The Worship Space Project

During the summer the church will be out of action and so all services will be held in the hall.

So what will be going on?
The answer is “lots”!



- The pews will be removed
- The sanctuary walls and rear wall will be re-painted in a lighter colour to match the new furnishings
- The uplighters will (hopefully) be replaced by lights highlighting the walls rather than the ceiling
- The floor will be carpeted
- The new chairs will be installed

Hopefully in September (or soon after) we will return to worshipping in the refreshed church. Please bear with us during the refurbishment.

The Methodist Conference 2013

The Methodist Church 

This year's Methodist Conference is being held at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster from Thursday 4th to Thursday 11th July. The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.

The Conference's representative session opens on Saturday 6th July with the induction of the new President, the Revd Ruth Gee (Chair of the Darlington District), and the Vice-President, Dr Daleep Mukarji (former Chief Executive of Christian Aid).

Following Sunday morning worship on 7th July, 48 Methodist presbyters and deacons will be ordained at nine churches across the London District. Please think and pray especially for those being ordained in our neighbouring circuits: Helen Letley, Alexandra Terrett and Nicola Wooller at Trinity Church, Sutton and Elizabeth Osei, Jennifer Pathmarajah and Amy Walters at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church.

On Wednesday the Conference will be addressed by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the subject of 'Resourcing a Search for the Common Good'. During the rest of the week the Conference will debate many diverse issues, from same sex marriage to supporting ministers with ill health to the current major reorganisation of training for ministers and lay people in the Church.

Everyone is very welcome to attend any of the business sessions throughout the week, or indeed the Archbishop's address – tickets are not needed (except for the weekend events). Many fringe events are being held in the evenings and lunchtimes, and these are also open to the public.

More information, including a full programme of events and copies of all the reports the Conference is considering are available at www.methodistconference.org.uk, where video of the debates will also be streamed live.

The Conference is not often held in or near London so this is a rare chance to see it in action and meet people from all parts of the country. If you are interested in coming or have any questions then please do contact me at martinharker@gmail.com or 07776425054.

Martin Harker

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**CAR TREASURE HUNT
AND FAMILY BBQ**



Abby, Richard, Anne and Rachael
Charity Car Treasure Hunt and BBQ

Saturday 13th July 2013

Starting at

Martin Way Methodist Church

SW20 9JZ at 7pm

Ending at **65 Summer Road,**

Thames Ditton KT7 0QW

Come along and join us for a fun evening as you drive around with friends and family following the route while searching for answer to clues along the route. Points will also be scored for the correct mileage so don't get lost and if you take too long there are time penalties as well. Come along as a team or on your own as there will be space to join other teams. There are prizes and the evening is all about having fun and no doubt an argument or two over directions!!

When finished enjoy something from the BBQ. It is £5 per person which includes either a burger or jumbo hotdog with a roll (veggie options available), salads and a jacket potato and an ice cream for dessert.

Bring along your own drink non alcoholic or alcoholic and also your own garden chair (in case summer arrives and we are able to sit outside!?).

We really need to know numbers to cater for – please let us know if you want to join in for this fun evening by Wednesday 10th July.

As this will be our last event (not final event though) before we head off on our Machu Picchu Challenge on 26th July - We have really appreciated everyone's support at all our charity events. We will be in touch after our trek to let you know how it all went.

Abby Herring

The New Ruxley Church



The builders have done a grand job and the first service in the new building of Ruxley Church was held on Sunday 23rd June. Many walked in procession from the old church to the new to join in a service of celebration and thanksgiving with both visitors and friends past and present.

They will be holding Opening Events on Saturday mornings and all are invited, so they hope to see many friends and neighbors from other churches from the circuit. The open mornings on Saturday 6th and 13th July from 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon. Do go along and support them as well as have a look round you can enjoy refreshments.

In addition to the new church, their newsletter, The Ruxley Star, is now available online. To get more pictures of the new church and to catch up on all their news as well as downloading the newsletter go along to their website at www.ruxley-church.org.uk

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Don't forget you can also get the Martin Way Newsletter online at www.martinway.org.uk as well as seeing what's going on in other churches in the Methodist Connexion by getting the latest copy of The Buzz at www.methodist.org.uk/latestbuzz

SUMMER BOOK REVIEW from RE:FRESH BOOKS

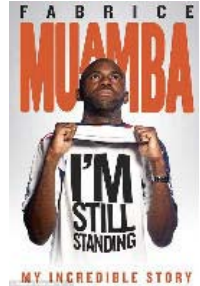
Take it & Leave it!

Take a good Christian book on holiday, read it, then leave it for other holidaymakers to read. Many holiday venues have a 'library' area where holidaymakers can exchange books

Fabrice Muamba - I'm Still Standing

by Fabrice Muamba - £12.99 - 254 pages

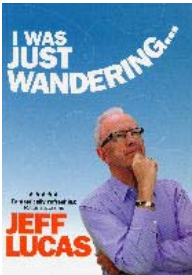
On March 17 2012, during a televised FA cup match, Fabrice Muamba suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed without warning. For 78 minutes his heart stopped beating. The message went out "Pray for Muamba." And miraculously he recovered. *I'm still Standing* tells the remarkable story of this popular sportsman and highlights his Christian faith.



I was just Wandering

by Jeff Lucas - £8.99 - 147 pages

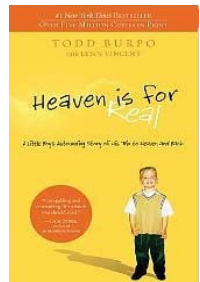
Another book of meaningful musings from the self-styled Mr Bean of the Christian world. Lucas ranges over a variety of life's experiences including the challenge of healing and suffering, times of doubt, the effects of showing simple kindness and much more.



Heaven is for Real

by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent - £9.99 - 208 pages

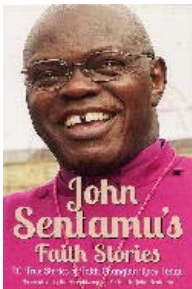
A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back. The true story of a four-year old boy who, during emergency surgery slips from consciousness and enters heaven. He survives and begins talking about family events of which he had never been told.



John Sentamu's Faith stories

by John Sentamu - £8.99 - 139 pages

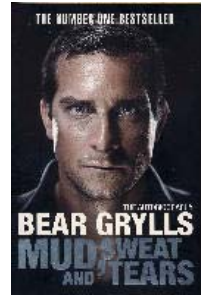
Ordinary people can have an extraordinary impact on society as they live out Jesus' message of faith, love and compassion. This book tells the story of twenty such people, some of whom have turned personal tragedy into opportunities to show Christian compassion. Each story has a short introduction by the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu.



Mud, Sweat and Tears

by Bear Grylls - £7.99 - 472 pages

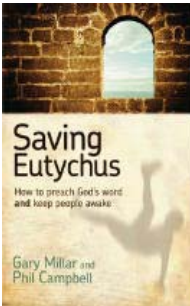
The autobiography of adventurer, TV celebrity and Chief Scout, Bear Grylls. From his childhood, through school, to training for the SAS, a parachuting accident that saw his back broken in three places, his ascent of Everest, and his appointment as Chief Scout.



Saving Eutychus

How to preach God's word & keep people awake

by Gary Miller and Phil Campbell - £9.99 - 169 pages

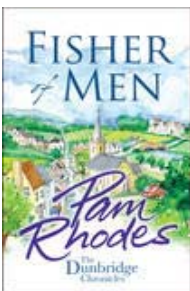
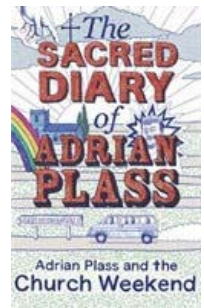


Even Paul had people falling asleep during his sermons! Written by an Aussie and an Irishman with very different styles who share a passion for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, *Saving Eutychus* delivers fresh, honest, faithful and practical insights into preaching the whole word of God, Sunday by Sunday, without being dull.

Adrian Plass & the Church Weekend

by Adrian Plass - £14.99 - 198 pages

Adrian has reluctantly agreed to run his church's weekend away, but as ever, you can guarantee things won't go smoothly. Adrian has been trying to keep a low profile at church but his son Gerald is now an Anglican vicar and the two churches are getting together for a joint weekend away. This is typical Plass, humorous and heart-warming in equal measure.



Fisher of Men

by Pam Rhodes - £7.99 - 256 pages

A brand new novel by author and TV personality, Pam Rhodes, is described as “both funny and heart-warming” as it follows the trials and tribulations of a naïve young curate as he arrives in the small town of Dunbridge.

*These books (and more) are available from
Re:refresh Books & Christian Resources,
23 The Broadway, Tolworth, Surbiton KT6 7DJ*

Give a chair



The excitement is rising and the project to refurbish and refresh the worship space is gathering momentum.

There has been a gratifying number of people testing the two types of chair on trial and, as at 23rd June, 60 votes have been cast. The outcome has been a clear favourite – Type B (illustrated) is favoured by 83% of those who voted – and plans are now in hand to order them (but not in the colour shown).

We have received generous donations in memory of Valerie Currie and Joan Arnold and these are being applied to this project. We have also benefited from surplus Circuit funds which have been refunded to the church, and from some of the proceeds from the pantomime.

However, these will not cover all the costs.

You are now invited to share directly in this project and join in the enthusiasm by contributing a chair. The church will be brighter, more comfortable and more flexible when the work is complete and you can help us achieve our aim.

Would you be prepared to ‘give a chair’? Each chair costs £100 and you are invited to donate one (or more). If this is beyond your means a lesser amount will buy a set of arms (20 of the chairs will have arms) or a book shelf under the chair. Please consider prayerfully whether you are able to help with this exciting venture.

If you would like to give a chair, please see Roy Ellis (Treasurer) who will be pleased to receive your donation on behalf of the church. Alternatively, give it to any member of the Leadership Team who will be pleased to pass it on. If you wish your donation to remain confidential you are assured that this wish will be respected.

The Christian CARE Association is a small charity in the London Borough of Merton run by volunteers from the churches. They try to support anyone in need. Since December 2012 they are based at **Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JZ.**



Current Vacancies

Our current urgent needs are ...

- Organiser for the four teenage outings held each year
- A coordinator for our ever-growing work of providing subsistence to families destitute or going through a crisis
- More helpers for the Furniture Project collections and deliveries
- More befrienders
- More visitors/shoppers to make fortnightly/monthly food deliveries

Current Requests

We urgently require for families...

- 4 double beds - must be in good condition and have fire safety label
- 3 single beds - must be in good condition and have fire safety label
- 1 single mattress - must be in good condition and have fire safety label
- 1 sofa - must be in good condition and have fire safety label
- 2 fridge freezers
- 2 kitchen table & chairs
- 1 washing machine

Contact the Christian Care Office by phone 020 3044 0093 or email christiancaremerton@gmail.com if you think you can help or wish to volunteer.

OBITUARY: THE SAD PASSING OF COMMON SENSE

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting (adults, not children, are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned, but overbearing, regulations were set in place.

Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teenagers suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition. Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they had themselves failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer paracetamol, sun lotion or plaster to a pupil, but could not inform the parents when a pupil became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home, but the burglar could sue you for assault because you protected yourself and your own.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else is to Blame, and I'm A Victim. Not many attended his funeral because so few realised that he was gone.

Author Unknown

Extreme Symbol

Taken from: Extreme devotion, the voice of the martyrs from the co-authors of Jesus freaks. Serious followers of Jesus pay a price, and extreme followers often pay the ultimate price. Each story is true.

For those who have suffered in prison for their faith in Christ, Holy Communion is a precious ceremony; however, it is rarely shared under the watchful eye of prison guards.

Tom White and a pilot named Mel were flying over Communist Cuba in a small plane, dropping thousands of leaflets that communicated the gospel of Christ to the oppressed people under Fidel Castro's dictatorship. They got caught in a thunderstorm and were forced to make a crash landing. Although Tom and Mel were unharmed, they had landed in Cuba, and Communist guards were waiting with loaded guns. Tom and Mel were sentenced to twenty-four years in prison.

Tom was allowed two visits from his wife, Ofelia, who had a mission of her own. She smuggled a tiny packet of powdered grape drink enclosed in plastic and a rubber band. Tom would take the drink back into the prison so that he and the other Christian prisoners could share communion when the guards were not watching.

Tom and Ofelia White both understood one thing. Celebrating Jesus Christ and his shed blood on the cross was the most powerful symbol holding their marriage and mission intact.

Tom and Mel were released after eighteen months. Today Tom and Ofelia continue to celebrate Christ's sacrifice for them in Oklahoma, where Tom directs the work of The Voice of the Martyrs.

Christ instructed his disciples to celebrate two traditions: baptism and the Lord's Supper. They are symbols of devotion to him – a celebration of his death and resurrection. As much as they are Christian tradition, however, they ought never become merely traditional events. We may not understand believers who risk their lives to commemorate the Lord's Supper because the tradition has never been at risk in our own cultural setting. But those who are persecuted for their faith find their priorities are reordered. The symbols become precious expressions of devotion. What do the Christian symbols of baptism and communion mean to you? How will you heighten your celebration the next time you observe Christian baptism and participate in communion?

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19



JULY

CHURCH DIARY

- Tue 2 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat
7.30pm Worship Leaders Course
8.00pm Time for Prayer
- Sun 7 10.30am Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
following the service there will be an extraordinary Church Council
to finalise details of the refurbishment of the Church
- Tue 9 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat
8.00pm Time for Prayer
- Thur 11 8.00pm Leadership Meeting
- Fri 12 12.30 pm Luncheon Club
- Sun 14 10.30 am Morning Service led by Tony Loft
- Tue 16 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat
8.00 pm Time for Prayer
7.00 pm Men's Supper Club - *20th Anniversary* -
Margaret Watson (Harpest) - **All Invited**
- Sun 21 10.30 am Morning Service
6.30 pm Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
- Tue 23 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat
8.00 pm Time for Prayer
- Sun 28 10.30 am Communion Service led by Rev Martine Stemerick
- Tue 30 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat
8.00 pm Time for Prayer

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



CHURCH DIARY

Sun	4	10.30am	Morning Service
Tue	6	8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	11	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	13	8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	18	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	20	8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	25	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	27	8.00pm	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:

Francesca Heald on 5th July
Anne Jenkins on 12th July
Jessica Hazen on 26th July
Emily Bacon on 3rd August
Rebecca Smith on 11th August



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Give a Hug

A hug is like a perfect gift.

One size fits all and nobody minds if you exchange it.

**Martin Way Methodist Church
Men's Supper Club**

Invites YOU to their



A N N I V E R S A R Y

Gala Charity Buffet

(Hot & Cold Food)

Tuesday, 16th July 2013 at 7.00pm

Guest: Margaret Watson (Harpist)

Proceeds in aid of the South West Thames Kidney Fund

Tickets £7.50 in advance from Derek Heaton & Mike Mortley

The Men's Supper Club is celebrating 20 years in existence this year. It meets once a month on a Tuesday and not only offers great food but a speaker at each meeting. It is open to all men of any age, for more details keep an eye on the Newsletter Diary for the next meeting or chat with Derek Heaton or Mike Mortley for further details.

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A Belated Thank You

A heartfelt Thanks to everyone for their prayers, phone calls and visits over the last several week. Your continuing support and visits are a great solace to me and much appreciated.

My thanks also to the ladies who did the refreshments and those who helped in numerous other ways on the day of Fred's funeral. It took a great weight from my shoulders.

Eileen Handy

Items for the **September Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 18th August** at the latest