

## MINISTER'S LETTER



Greenbelt Festival celebrated its fortieth anniversary this August Bank Holiday with an aptly chosen theme of *Life Begins*.

Ahead of the festival, one of Greenbelt's trustees, Martin Wroe (a full-time freelance writer and Associate Vicar at St Luke's Church, West Holloway) was quoted on a festival mailing as saying:

*"...Life begins every time we wake up. To a new idea. An old friend. A lost memory. A painting we'd never seen, some music we've never heard. Life begins when we change our mind, strike out in a new direction. Life begins in the imagination. With another way of seeing our world..."*

As we prepare to return to the church for Sunday worship having spent the summer in the hall, as we get used to how the room looks and feels with chairs instead of pews, as we play for a while with different layouts until we find something that we're broadly comfortable with and as we begin to discover how all of this might inform the worship that we offer to God, I invite you to remember this wonderful quotation.

It will take a while, I am sure, for the church to feel like home again and at times it might well be tempting to look to the past, bemoan what is no longer and mourn its loss. Yet the hope remains that the changes that we have made already - and those we have in mind for the future - may well wake us up as a church community, change what and how we think and feel about worship, fire our imaginations and, in turn, help us to see the world differently.

With God we can never say, 'This is it'. Accepting that, let us embrace this new chapter in the life of our church and celebrate with joy the fact that with God we can always proclaim, 'Life begins...'

With every blessing,

*Paul*

## The Worship Space Project

The Church Council held an extra meeting on 7th July to agree final proposals for refreshing the worship space.

It agreed to purchase 120 chairs of “type B” (which received over 80% of preference votes) with purple-effect upholstery. 20 of the chairs purchased will have arms, and robust metal book shelves for the chairs will also be purchased. In addition a neutral coloured-carpet will be chosen for the body of the church (to complement the blue carpet in the sanctuary), the painted walls will be refreshed and further options to improve the lighting will be explored. Following the meeting, the pews have already been removed and, we understand, taken to Leavesden Studios where they will be starring in a film called “Secret Service” alongside Michael Caine and Leonardo di Caprio



A refund of contributions from the Circuit and generous donations in memory of Joan Arnold and Valerie Currie mean that around half of the cost of this refurbishment has already been met. We are inviting people to “give a chair” (at a cost of £100 each) to help cover the remaining costs; alternatively a smaller donation would purchase a set of arms or a book shelf for a chair. If you would like to support the refreshing of the worship space in this way, please contact Roy Ellis.

Worship will take place in the hall while the refurbishment takes place. You are warmly invited to join us for the first service in the “new” church, led by Rev Paul Timmis, on Sunday 8th September.

*Caroline Johnson*

## A Different Drum

Making use of our more flexible surroundings, we are delighted to be able to inform you that on the evening of Saturday 5th October we are hosting a performance of *A Different Drum: small stories to change a troubled world* by **Riding Lights Theatre Company**.



*"In the blood of a flea, wrapped in a bundle of French silk, the plague arrives in the Derbyshire village of Eyam. With it comes a devastating decision. As the entire community chooses the bold path of sacrifice... they begin to march to the sound of a different drum.*

*Beginning in the 17th century the play follows a thread through history to the present day, picking up accounts of other men and women who dare to break the boundaries of self-interest. Beating with a heart of resistance and selflessness these are stories of individuals who set out in hope and discover their potential for remarkable love in action. Full of life and colourful music, a different drum imagines how different the world could be if we responded unswervingly to the golden rule – ‘do unto others as you would have them do to you.’"*



For more details of where this will be performed across the country and to see a trailer, visit the Riding Lights website for this production at [www.ridinglights.org/drum](http://www.ridinglights.org/drum)

This will be an evening of high-quality theatre with powerful stories being told.

Make sure you put the dates in your diaries...and book your tickets. Tickets are £10 each (with a group offer: buy 10 get the 11th FREE) and are available from the National Box Office (01904 613000 or the Riding Lights website) or from myself (e-mail or 020 8337 2348 to reserve/arrange payment).

*Paul Timmis*



Registered  
Charity  
No. 1044099

# CHRISTIAN CARE

invites you to an

# OPEN AFTERNOON

at

Martin Way Methodist Church Hall,  
Buckleigh Avenue, London SW20 9JZ

on Saturday 28th September 2013  
between 2.30pm and 5.30pm

Meet the volunteers,  
short presentations on aspects of the work,  
displays, stalls and teas

If possible let us know you are coming by contacting the  
Main Office  
020 3302 0181 or [christiancaremerton@gmail.com](mailto:christiancaremerton@gmail.com)

Christian Care are currently feeding a number of families regularly. Due to this we always require donations of food, especially vegetarian foods with long sell-by dates, but we rarely give tins of soup or spaghetti.

We particularly need those items that are in bold red text as these are the ones that go into every bag. Please contact the office with any donations you can make.

- **Long grain/basmati rice** - up to 5kg bags
- Pasta Sauce - tomato, cheese, mushroom
- Packets of spaghetti and other pastas
- **Cooking Oil** - up to 4 litres
- **Tins of Tuna** in spring water/brine/sunflower oil
- **Tinned Tomatoes**
- Tinned vegetables - **sweetcorn**, green beans
- Tinned peaches, pineapple, mango and rice pudding
- Cereals - Cornflakes, Rice Krispies, Coco Pops
- **Sweet biscuits**
- **Sugar**
- **Drinking Chocolate** (the made with water variety)
- Tea, Coffee
- Fruit Juices and Squash
- Strawberry Jam, chocolate spread, peanut butter
- Lunch box items
  - jelly & custard pots
  - Biscuit bars
  - boxes of raisins
  - individual fruit juices in cartons

## RED MARBLES

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily apprising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.



"Hello Barry, how are you today?"

"H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good."

"They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?"

"Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time."

"Good. Anything I can help you with?"

"No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas."

"Would you like to take some home?" asked Mr. Miller.

"No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with."

"Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?"

"All I got's my prize marble here."

"Is that right? Let me see it" said Miller.

"Here 'tis.. She's a dandy."

"I can see that. Hmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?" the store owner asked.

"Not zackley but almost."

"Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble". Mr. Miller told the boy.

"Sure will.. Thanks Mr. Miller."

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, "There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they

always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store."

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts....all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket.

Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

"Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim "traded" them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about colour or size....they came to pay their debt."

"We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided, "but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho ."

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

*The Moral : We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.*



**CHRISTIAN  
SOLIDARITY  
WORLDWIDE**  
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

## CSW Update

**Vietnam:** The family of Hoanh Van Ngai, the Hmong Christian who died in police custody on the 17th March, was notified in mid-May that the Vietnamese authorities' investigations confirmed his death was caused by "suicide by self-electrocution." The family believes that he was killed extra-judicially because of his defence of his church and determination to stand up to corrupt local officials.

**Egypt:** Demiana Abdel-Nour, a Christian teacher in Luxor, was convicted on blasphemy charges on the 11th June by a court in Upper Egypt and fined 100,000 Egyptian pounds.

**Iran:** Pastor Farhad Sabokrooh, an Iranian Assemblies of God pastor, his wife Shahnaz Jayzan and two church workers were returned to jail after their one year sentences for converting to Christianity and "propagation against the Islamic regime through evangelism" were upheld by a High Court on the 1st of May. They were initially arrested in December 2011 after authorities in the southern town of Ahwaz raided their church's Christmas celebrations and detained everyone, including children attending Sunday school.

**Tanzania:** Three people were killed and more than 60 injured when a church service inaugurating a new Catholic Cathedral in Arush, Tanzania was bombed on Sunday the 5th May. The Vatican's ambassador to Tanzania, Arcgbishop Francisco Montecillo Padilla, and Josaphat Louis Lebulu, the Arcgbishop of Arusha, were in the church at the time of the attack but escaped unhurt.

**Burma:** In May, CSW released a new report on human rights in Burma following a four-week fact-finding visit to the country. The report welcomes signs of political change in the country but warns against "premature euphoria" and highlights "many very grave challenges and concerns, particularly in respect to the protection of human rights,



including freedom of religious or belief”.

**Nigeria:** On 14th May, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States following weeks of escalating attacks in northern and central states by increasingly well-armed and well-organised militants. On the same day, the Secretary of the Christian Association of Nigeria in Borno State, Reverend Faye Pama Musa, a Pentecostal pastor, was shot dead in his Maiduguri home by two suspected Boko Haram members.

For more details about resources and events check [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)

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## **Children's Letters To God**

**Dear God,**

In Sunday School they told us what You do. Who does it when You are on holiday? - *Jane*

**Dear God,**

I think about You sometimes even when I'm not praying. - *Elliot*

**Dear God,**

I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday.

That was cool! - *Eugene*

**Dear God,**

Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident? - *Norma*

**Dear God,**

Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't You just keep the ones You have now? - *Cindy*

**Dear God,**

Thank You for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. - *Joyce*

**Dear God,**

Why is Sunday School on Sunday? I thought it was supposed to be our day of rest. - *Tom*

# CHURCH DIARY

# SEPTEMBER



Sun	1	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	3	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	6	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	7	10.30am-1pm	Big Brunch
Sun	8	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		3.00 pm	Circuit Service at Ruxley's new church
Tue	10	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Leadership Meeting
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thur	12	7.00 pm	Circuit Meeting at Worcester Park
Sun	15	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Davis Eagle
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	17	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>My Life</i> - Maxi Martin
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	20	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	22	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	24	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	F&P Committee Meeting
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	29	10.30 am	Harvest Festival led by Rev Paul Timmis <i>gifts this year will be going to Christian Care</i>

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

## 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](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone on (020) 8330 7917.

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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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On Saturday 21st September Rev Andy Pilcher will be giving a presentation about Care for Uganda at **Raynes Park Church** between **4pm and 6pm**, followed by tea.

Andy is Margaret Adams' brother and the founder of the charity Care for Uganda. Please make a note in your diary and come along.

To find out more about the charity either come along to Andy's talk or visit the website at [www.careforuganda.org](http://www.careforuganda.org)

*"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.  
Teach him how to fish and he will eat for a lifetime".*  
Chinese proverb

## **VOLUNTEER VACANCIES**



### **CHRISTIAN CARE FURNITURE PROJECT**

We collect second-hand furniture and deliver it to needy families in Merton - a vital and much appreciated service in the community.

We are currently looking for

#### **TWO NEW TEAMS OF A VAN DRIVER WITH A HELPER.**

The time commitment would be 3 to 5 hours on a weekday; this could be weekly or fortnightly. You would need to be relatively strong and aged 25-70. The van is a Ford Transit with semi-high roof - only standard UK Driving Licence required.

For more information please contact the office:

0203 302 0181 / 07932 628840

christiancaremerton@gmail.com

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### **ACCOUNTANT**

The Lantern Arts Centre relies heavily on volunteers to be able to maintain the high level of productions that we are known for - but there is a need for volunteers to work behind the scenes too.

#### **Presently we have a vacancy for a volunteer Accountant.**

If you are interested or know of someone please contact

David Kirkland for more information on

020 8944 5794

lac@lanternarts.org

Items for the **October Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,  
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 22nd September** at the latest