

## **MINISTER'S LETTER**



We have seen a number of changes being made to our premises over the last few years and many of these have been made possible because of your continued generosity - so thank you. Whether you have given to our church by standing order, through the envelope scheme or in cash - thank you. Along with fundraising monies, legacies and donations received, your money has made it possible for us not only to fulfil our commitments to the Wimbledon Methodist Circuit, but also to enable many other things as well.

In the past four years we have refurbished our kitchen, re-shaped, refurbished, redecorated and re-lit our worship space, improved the coffee lounge and the vestry, decorated the old vestry to enable it to be a good office for our friends at Christian Care and, most recently, refurbished the women's toilets - at a combined cost of over £90,000. In addition we have replaced the digital hymnal and the photocopier with newer models and, perhaps most importantly, we have invested in equipment that allows us to enjoy filter coffee!

As a church, we have spent this money because the Church Council believes that this is what you want us to do. We believe that you give generously to the church so that the church can put this money to good use - to enhance our worship and community life and to help us serve better those within the wider community of which we are a part. We do not believe that you want your money to sit in a bank account doing nothing. In spending what we have in recent years, we have therefore happily used some of our reserves.

As I mentioned, we have just refurbished the women's toilets to a very high standard. We would now very much like to be able to do the same with both the men's toilet and the all access toilet. At the same time, however, we are aware that problems with the coffee lounge floor are likely to continue to prove expensive and that both the Hall and the Link Room badly need attention.

Whilst we still have some reserves - and could, at a push, draw on these to pay for these projects - we are acutely aware that we are called to be good and responsible stewards of the resources put at our disposal. As a Church Council, we believe that we have reached a point where we need to replenish our reserves before we spend any more.

Fundraising will begin shortly with Sylvia Baxter kindly agreeing to organise a number of events that will help enormously, so please keep your eyes and ears open for details of these. Beyond this, and given that we need to raise in excess of £30,000 we have decided to make October a month of giving.

Put simply, during this coming month we invite you to consider whether you are able to make a one-off cash gift to the church, offer the church an interest-free loan and/or review your regular giving even if only by a very small amount. Please do not feel guilty if you are not in a position to do any of these things - we more than understand that this will be the case for many - but if you are able to help we invite you to consider doing so. You will be receiving a letter about this very shortly. If, having read it, you would like further information, please have a quiet word with our treasurer, Roy Ellis. Anything you say and/or give will be treated in the strictest confidence.

I don't like talking about money and do so rarely. I much prefer to talk about God and how we serve God in the world. But sometimes it is necessary and this is such a time - if we are to continue to improve our premises to further God's work in and through this place.

With every blessing

*Paul*

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**God has given us two hands — one for receiving  
and the other for giving.**

*Billy Graham*



## St Raphael's Seven Days of Cake

For many people the idea of doing a big challenge such as running a marathon or a skydive to raise money for charity isn't particularly appealing – if that is you

then St Raphael's Hospice has the ideal fundraiser for you!



From Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November the hospice will be running the **St Raphael's Seven Days of Cake**, the perfect idea for anyone with a sweet tooth! During the week they would encourage you to hold a tea party, coffee morning, or cocktails with cake evening to raise money for the hospice. This can be at home, at work or at any social group you attend. And, for churches, they

would particularly encourage you to get involved after your church service on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>. Most churches already have coffee after the service so why not get some members of the congregation to bake cakes as well that week and ask people to make a donation?

Last year North Cheam Baptist Church supported the Seven Days of Cake and one of their members said: *“When I heard about Seven Days of Cake I knew that it was something members of my church would enjoy taking part in. St Raphael's has a special place in so many people's hearts and it seemed like such a simple (and delicious) way to support the Hospice. A friend and I decided to take it on and we made a good selection of cakes which were served with tea or coffee after our morning service and we also had some of the Hospice Christmas cards and gifts for sale. The leaders of our Toddler group and mid-week ladies' meeting decided to join in as well so, in all, we had three different events through the week and raised over £400!”*

Please do consider whether you can be involved with this year's Seven Days of Cake, either individually or as a church. If you register your involvement then you will receive a fundraising pack, to do this email [Kerry.thomas@straphaelshospice.org.uk](mailto:Kerry.thomas@straphaelshospice.org.uk) or call 020 8254 2465.

You can read more about the Seven Days of Cake at [www.straphaelshospice.org.uk/sevendaysofcake](http://www.straphaelshospice.org.uk/sevendaysofcake)



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**For further information contact:**

**Mike Fuwa**

**Tel: 07956 369579**

**Email: [mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk)**

# Two Free Events at St PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

## **The Kingdom of God: Getting to the Heart of the Gospels**

*Tuesday 20 October at 6.30 – 8.00pm*

*Tom Wright - Admission Free*



Drawing together the themes of the kingdom and the cross, the resurrection and ascension, Tom Wright will present a radical rereading of the gospels with radical implications for our lives – spiritually, politically and for the church as a whole.

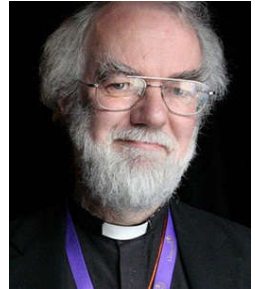
He challenges us to read what the Gospel writers are actually saying and find Jesus larger and more compelling than we ever imagined. And in doing so, he says, we will hear his urgent call to draw closer together in mission and life, faith, hope and even in love, and join him in his project of bringing God's wise, healing rule to bear on his world.

*Tom Wright is Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St Andrews, and was until recently the Bishop of Durham.*

## **Light in the Darkness: A Good Christmas**

*Tuesday 8 December, 6.30 – 8.00pm*

*Rowan Williams - Admission Free*



Christmas is one of the defining points of the year for all Christians, and one of the most difficult festivals to keep spiritually. Amongst all the parties and presents, the busyness and expectations, can we find a way to the heart of the feast and experience anew the extraordinary story of the birth of God in human form, coming to earth as a vulnerable baby born to a poor family in a dark time?

And if we can, what on earth does it mean? The early church debated passionately who Jesus really was – God, human, or both – and it's still the question on which our faith turns: who was born in that stable, and how does it matter to our lives today?

Rowan Williams will explore the meanings of Christmas, the darkness and strangeness of the story at the beginning of our faith as well as its message of eternal joy and hope. He will also offer suggestions about how we might reclaim Christmas for our spiritual lives.

*Rowan Williams is the Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and was formerly both Archbishop of Canterbury and Professor of Theology at Oxford University.*

## **Extreme Risks**

*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.*

### **CHINA : TWO CHURCH BUILDERS**

The two women travelled week after week to attend secret house-church meetings. They were tired and frustrated that no church existed in their own village. After praying for months for a church nearby, one of the women finally said, "Maybe God is waiting for us to build a church. Why should he listen to our constant complaints if we are not willing to do something ourselves?"

So they decided to take a risk. The two women and their husbands built a church in their little village in the Anhui province of China. The government immediately threatened to tear the building down unless they register with the religious affairs bureau. They complied, and fortunately their rural area was not as closely supervised as some of the larger city churches. They even dared to invite other house-church pastors as guest speakers without first acquiring written permission.

The women evangelised by visiting the local hospital and finding the patients that had no hope of recovery. Then they would pray and ask God to heal them. In one year, the budding church grew to over two hundred!

One of the sisters said, "We prayed twenty days straight for one man, and he wasn't healed until the very end. The family started threatening violence against us, saying we were angering the gods. You have to be willing to take risks for God."

*The gospel of Jesus Christ is controversial, plain and simple. Why else would the devil isolate Christianity as the number one religion on restricted nations' hit lists? For example, Buddhists do not have the extensive Christian underground church system that is forced to exist in restricted nations. New Age meditation experts do not fear for their lives in persecuted countries. Christianity is controversial because it is powerful over the enemy. Satan does not waste his time on false religions. Are you a spiritual risk as far as Satan is concerned? Or do you play it safe? Are you a threat to his plans because of your faith? If so, expect controversy. But rejoice you are part of the truth!*

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.(2 Timothy 3:12)





Would you like to find out more about the work of St Raphael's? We are holding an open afternoon for faith group leaders and members involved in pastoral care from across Merton and Sutton. This will include displays about our work and tours of the hospice. Come at any time but there will be a short presentation at around 3.00 p.m.

# OPEN AFTERNOON

## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

St Bede's Conference Centre (behind the hospice)  
London Road, North Cheam SM3 9DX  
**Please let us know if you are able to come**  
Kerry.thomas@straphaels Hospice.org.uk



St Raphael's Hospice offers palliative care to people facing life-limiting illnesses in the boroughs of Merton and Sutton

[www.straphaels.org.uk](http://www.straphaels.org.uk) | 020 8254 2450

Charity number 1068661

# St Raphael's HOSPICE



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# St Raphael's HOSPICE

**Two of the Organisations that use Martin Way Church  
as their meeting place**

## **Piano/Keyboard Lesson for Children aged 5-15.**

- Free Trial Lessons for Beginner or Advanced children available now.
- Children Learn to **Read, Write** and play **Music**.
- Lessons held locally after school Monday - Friday or on Saturdays.
- For more information or to attend a free trial session contact us by email at: [soundsteponline@outlook.com](mailto:soundsteponline@outlook.com) or call us on 0208 685 1711



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# **FITNESS WITH NATASHA** Fitness & Weight Management Classes

I have been running classes in Merton since 2007, for most of that time there has been at least 1 class at Martin Way Methodist Church.

The classes were originally Rosemary Conley diet & exercise, but since her company went into administration 18 months ago, I have been offering the service under my own name. I was a member for 2 years before training to do the job; I lost 3.7lbs.

Presently there are 2 options. Exercise class only or diet & weigh-in followed by an exercise class. I have all ages and sizes attending my classes, so you can come along and feel comfortable and exercise at your own level of ability & fitness. All exercise sessions are about 45 minutes including toning at the end.

## **Monday 7pm HIIT**

HIIT is a great fat burner, you will continue to burn fat 48 hours after exercising. It is based on short bursts of energy with rest periods. We end the class with a toning session on mats.

## **Thursday 10.10am Aerobics.**

This class is for all ages but the majority of members at this particular class are 50+.

If enough sign up, Fitness Pilates will be added to the timetable, Mondays at 8.20pm. This class will increase strength & balance, improve posture, improve back & core strength & tone muscle.

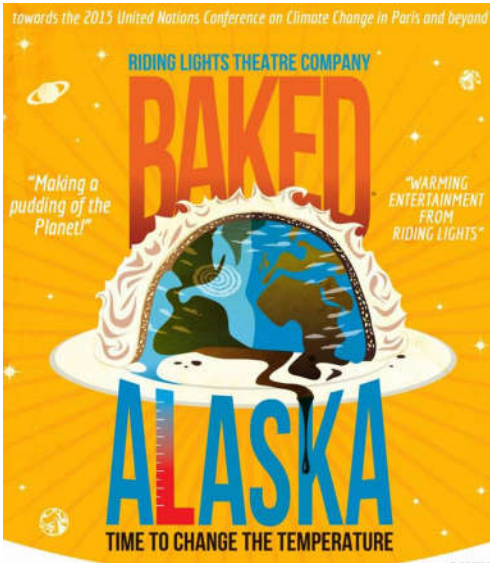
### **OFFER**

Come along for a free class as a taster. Bring this Newsletter with you.

**Natasha**  
**07830 240120**



[fitnesswithnatasha@virginmedia.com](mailto:fitnesswithnatasha@virginmedia.com)  
[www.fitnesswithnatasha.co.uk](http://www.fitnesswithnatasha.co.uk)



Vivid, sharp and deliciously entertaining, *Baked Alaska* serves up the realities of climate change with flair and clarity about the temperatures involved.

### About the play

An island in the South Pacific has a problem. It's hollow.

Anxiety levels are rising in a North American boardroom. Eve's garden is bursting with next door's rubbish. Even the ducks have relocated... they're in Bangladesh.

From the four corners of the earth come colourful, inter-connecting stories of humanity living with the wild, unpredictable effects of climate change.

In the power struggle, some sound warning bells while others make a pudding of the planet.

In this high-energy, 'seriously funny' show, *BAKED ALASKA* is something we can all look forward to ... unless we do something about it.

When: **Monday 5 October, 7.30pm**

Where: Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon  
SW19 1SB

Contact: 020 8542 1388 for venue information.

When: **Tuesday 6 October, 7.30pm**

Where: St John's Church, Waterloo Road SE1 8TY

Contact: 020 7633 9819 for ticket and venue information.

## Ten Years On



As I sat down to finish compiling this month's Newsletter I suddenly realised this is the 100th issue of Martin Ways' Newsletter that I have been the Editor for.



Taking over from Rosemary Keen way back in 2005 (I was much younger then and no grey hair!) my first Newsletter was the September issue of that year. When she passed the baton on she made the comment on how her five years as editor had flown by, I now echo that sentiment. Ten years seems to have flown by.

Over these years we have seen many changes within our church, some of which Paul has mentioned in this month's letter. One of the biggest changes was the decision to remove the church pews and replace them with chairs. This now means we have a much more versatile space to worship in. We have seen a change of Ministers and said a sad farewell to John Nyota but a great welcome to Paul Timmis. We have seen many wonderful guests take our services including our own Brenda Cannon and Tony Loft, each bringing their own use of our new space.

One great step forward, especially for me, was the introduction of a colour copier, which allowed the use of coloured articles in the Newsletter for the first time. The addition of a laptop linked to the copier also made the printing of the Newsletter much faster with higher quality pictures.

Over the ten years we have seen the deaths of too many dear friends and had to say goodbye to others as they moved out of the area. I won't try to mention them all, but please remember them in your prayers. We have seen many new additions to our church family; the youngest now appear in our Birthday Greetings each month. In my first year we had no weddings to report on, but over the ten years we have seen many, including my own. We have heard and read about our intrepid adventurers that have travelled the globe raising monies for amazing causes or helping out in Africa. We have welcomed the Christian Care Association as they set up their offices on the premises and we now have many organisations and groups using the premises, some have been reviewed in recent Newsletters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over all these years and many words of encouragement about the Newsletter over these many editions. I do have say a few words of thanks to Maralyn and Mike, as without their help with the diary I would have missed many things. Also I have to thank Gwen for her articles and reports that grace the Newsletter each month, and to our ministers, both past and present for their monthly letters (even if they had to be reminded at times). To Tony, who gave me the choice of so many different colours of paper for the Newsletter covers. Most of all I have to thank each and every one of you for your articles and for taking and reading the Newsletter each month.

Please keep sending me your articles, pictures and news. We are a family and a family is always interested in what other members are doing or plan to do, so if you have not yet put pen to paper or fingers to keyboards, take the time and put something together and pass it on to me.

We now have a wonderful website ([www.martinway.org.uk](http://www.martinway.org.uk)) that contains a number of back issues of our Newsletters, so take time out to look back at some of the amazing articles that have appeared which will bring back fond memories. For those that want to travel further back in time, or enjoy holding a printed copy, you can visit the Heritage Centre in Morden Library where they hold copies of all Martin Way's Newsletter dating back to November 1969. Almost 50 years of history recorded by the church family, so taking that into account, 10 years is not that long!

*Andrew Fox (Editor)*

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## **LIFE ADVICE**

1. *Pray*
2. Go to bed on time.
3. *Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.*
4. Say No to projects that won't fit into your time schedule, or that will compromise your mental health.
5. *Delegate tasks to capable others.*
6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
7. *Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)*
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.

9. *Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.*
10. Take one day at a time.
11. *Separate worries from concerns . If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety . If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.*
12. Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. *Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.*
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
15. *Do something for the Kid in You everyday.*
16. Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
17. *Get enough rest.*
18. Eat right.
19. *Get organized so everything has its place.*
20. Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.
21. *Write down thoughts and inspirations.*
22. Every day, find time to be alone.
23. *Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.*
24. Make friends with Godly people.
25. *Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.*
26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good 'Thank you Jesus . '
27. *Laugh.*
28. Laugh some more!
29. *Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.*
30. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
31. *Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).*
32. Sit on your ego.
- 33 *Talk less; listen more.*
34. Slow down.
35. *Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.*
36. Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.
37. **Remember GOD HAS A WAY OF TURNING THINGS AROUND FOR YOU.**

# CHURCH DIARY



Fri	2	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	4	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
		6.30pm	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	6	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	11	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		4.00-5.00pm	SIGMA Meeting
Tue	13	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	16	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	17	10.30am-1.00pm	Big Brunch
Sun	18	10.30am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	20	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
		7.00pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Travels and Field Studies</i> - Derek and Graham
Sun	25	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	27	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	30	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club

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

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***Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn't happen, you have worried in vain.  
Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice.'***





We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday  
this month a very

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Jennifer Smith on 13th October**

**Ella Smith on 14th October**

**Jason Hillhouse on 23rd October**

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### **Extra Special Celebration Messages**



### **Happy Birthday to Jason**

One of our younger members of our church family has his 3rd birthday this month, so we include extra special Birthday Greetings to Jason from us all, as he celebrates his birthday on Thursday 23rd October.



### **Diamond Anniversary**

Congratulations to Hazel and David Eagle on their recent celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They were presented with a wonderful basket of flowers by Stoneleigh Methodist Church to mark the occasion.

## Big Brunch returns!

**Big Brunch has returned!** The next Big Brunch is on **Saturday, 17th October**, serving from 10.30am until 1pm. Come along and enjoy a full English breakfast including coffee/tea, fruit juice and toast for £4. The company is not bad either. You'll also be supporting our youngsters for their trip to Spring Harvest 2016.



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## Harvest Festival

The gifts from our Harvest Festival Service together with £122.00 from the Harvest Lunch was given to the Faith in Action Drop-in Centre. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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## SIGMA at Christmas

*SIGMA is a Greek letter meaning  
'All things coming together'.*

The group is made up of mixed ages from the whole circuit.

SIGMA will be helping Paul in leading the Carol Service again this year on Sunday 20th December.

The first meeting do discuss what we will do will be on Sunday 11th October at Martin Way 4pm. If anyone has any idea of carols or sketches/readings, bring along!

Hope you can make this day, please let anyone who maybe interested in joining us know.

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

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