

MINISTER'S LETTER



November is a month of remembering. There's All Saints' Day, when the church remembers and gives thanks for the lives of those people considered to be saints, whether formally recognised as such or not. All Souls Day, when the church remembers all those who've died and Guy Fawkes Day, when we in the UK 'remember remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot'. There's Armistice Day when we remember the end of WW1 and all those who lost their lives in the Great War and, of course, there's Remembrance Sunday, when we remember all those who've lost their lives in or been deeply affected by war. So November is a month of remembering.

As a backdrop to this year's acts of remembrance, and on Saturday 17th October, I gathered with a number of other ministers and Circuit representatives at Westminster Central Hall to consider the implications of *Courage, Cost & Hope*, the report on the Past Cases Review. You might recall that I wrote about the review process in the June 2013 newsletter and invited you to participate in it. You might remember too that on 28th May this year the church hit the news when it published the report and issued an "unreserved apology" for failing to protect children and adults after the review identified 1,885 reports of physical and sexual abuse dating back to the 1950s. You can read the report in full here: www.methodist.org.uk/media/1683823/past-cases-review-2013-2015-final.pdf Alternatively, I can provide a hard copy of the report for anyone who would welcome that.

The report is a powerful reminder that the act of remembering can sometimes be exceptionally painful. Beyond this, it reminds us that abuse can and does take many forms and that as a church we need to work tirelessly to ensure that we are providing a safe place in which people can gather and grow. We have a duty of care to all those who enter our premises and indeed our community.

When we hear the word 'abuse' we tend to think of sexual abuse (and of the cases identified within the report 914 were of a sexual nature) but there are others - racial, institutional, financial, emotional, spiritual, physical, neglect - and sometimes they come together. Included within the report

were cases of domestic abuse which again can take many forms but can leave predominantly women, but in some cases men, suffering in silence.

November is a month of remembering, we know that. We might not be aware though that 25th November is the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women or, as it has become known, White Ribbon Day. Again, you can find out more information - and indeed make a pledge - online: www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk This, I would suggest, is a campaign that the Church would do well to participate in.

Cases of domestic abuse are notoriously difficult to uncover and help with as those suffering from it often fear the repercussions and/or ramifications that might come their way should they find the courage to speak out. It is equally difficult for those on the outside looking in who have concerns for the wellbeing of another but who worry about “making things worse” by “interfering” and “poking their nose in where it is not wanted”.

We though are the Body of Christ. We have a duty of care to each part of the body and in particular the most vulnerable parts. We seek to follow one who came that we might have life and life in all its fullness - and so surely should want this for everyone. We need to remember all of this. We need to call it to mind. And that in itself is important. But often, calling something to mind is not on its own enough. Sometimes remembering something only makes sense if it then leads us to doing something.

With every blessing

Paul

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“Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service. Try to give unconditionally whatever a person needs in the moment. The point is to do something, however small, and show you care through your actions by giving your time ... We are all God’s children so it is important to share His gifts. Do not worry about why problems exist in the world – just respond to people’s needs ... We feel what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but that ocean would be less without that drop.”

Mother Teresa



Dear Friends of Wimbledon Circuit,

I wanted to write to thank you all for your efforts when our Operations Manager, Brother Monday was in the UK recently. He had a fantastic time and we are very grateful for the hospitality shown by you all. Monday very much enjoyed seeing the sights and meeting the people. He also enjoyed eating the food. He says that he has put on a number of kilograms!

Monday was able to speak about the work of Care for Uganda in a number of places and I hope you all found it interesting. I would like to say a big thank you to those who sponsor children. I can assure you that these children are very appreciative of the opportunity you are giving them.

Thanks to all your efforts when Monday was with you, the sum of £598.68 was raised which is a tremendous achievement.

It is through the support of people like yourselves that Care for Uganda has been able to expand over recent years. Of course, there are still thousands of children who need our assistance, but we are having a huge impact in the area of Bbowa. Your support is making a huge difference.

Thank you all once again.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andy Pilcher'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that serves as a separator.

Andy Pilcher, CEO

Extreme Restraint

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.

ROME : SEBASTIAN

Sebastian walked through the halls of the palace daily. He had worked hard to get to this position in the royal guard, but once he got to Rome, he restrained himself from the idolatrous lifestyle of imperial Rome. He only wanted to serve Christ wholeheartedly.

When Emperor Diocletian heard of his restraint, he had little interest in his service record. He confronted him and found out about his faith. At this, he ordered Sebastian taken outside the city and shot to death with arrows. The soldiers did their job and left his body to rot. Soon a group of Christians came to give his body a proper burial.

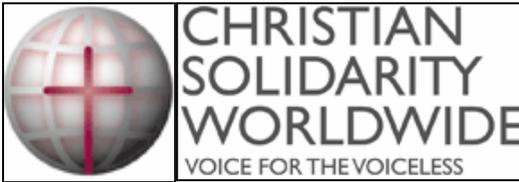
As they lifted him, one of them exclaimed, "He moves!"
"Shhh," cautioned another. "let us take him somewhere safe."

Sebastian was taken to one of their homes where he was treated and recovered from his injuries. As soon as he was well enough, he placed himself before the emperor again. Once he had tasted the hope of heaven, the pleasures of this world had even less appeal for him.

The emperor was of course shocked to see Sebastian seemingly back from the dead. He ordered Sebastian seized and beaten to death and his body thrown into the sewer. His body was recovered again by Christians and buried in the catacombs.

Sexual immortality. Unbecoming language. Stealing. Lying. Cheating. Too many Christians define themselves exclusively by what they do not do. Certainly, there is a whole host of activities that God forbids his people to practise. However, restraint is not profitable in and of itself. Sebastian was not martyred merely for his restraint - otherwise he would have been killed for simply being a good person. He was martyred for his forthright faith. Likewise, we must restrain or hold back from evil in order to fully embrace God's commands. Obey. Worship. Love. Serve. Define your faith by what you do, not simply that which you do not. Are you known for merely being a good person or for being a good person with an outspoken faith?

I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.
(Psalm 119:101)



Update October 2015

Don't know how to pray about the refugee crisis? Not sure what to say about Christians in Sudan? Confused about how to approach praying for the situation for religious minorities in the Middle East and Nigeria?

Pray Justice!

To mark the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church we're running Pray Justice for the Persecuted Church.

By praying, protesting and proclaiming, individuals and churches are helping to make religious freedom a reality. Please join them and get involved.

Monday 9 November: Pray Justice St Georges Church, Ashtead
At: St George's Christian Centre, Barnett Wood Lane, **Ashtead, Surrey**,
KT21 2DA – start time 7pm.

Tuesday 10 November: Pray Justice Guildford Young Adults Event,
St Mary's Church, Guildford
At: St Mary's Guildford, Quarry Street, **Guildford**, GU1 3UA) – start
time 7pm.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) welcomes Urgent Question to the Government in the House of Commons concerning human rights in China, tabled by Fiona Bruce MP, Chair of the Conservative Party Human Rights Commission.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was asked “if he will make a statement on human rights in China, following reports that human rights lawyer Zhang Kai imminently faces a severe prison sentence or the death penalty, for defending civil liberties.”

Lawyer Zhang Kai was taken away by police on 25 August in Wenzhou and has been accused of “gathering and disturbing social order, crime of stealing, spying, buying, and illegally providing state secrets and

intelligence to entities outside of China.”

Zhang Kai defended Pastor Huang Yizi, who served a one year sentence after protesting the removal of crosses and demolition of churches in Zhejiang Province. Zhang also helped form a lawyers group to protect church crosses and offered advice to numerous churches facing the removal of their cross. He has not been granted access to legal representation. His imprisonment at an “undisclosed location” suggests that he will be held at an extra-legal facility, or “black jail”, where there is an increased risk of ill-treatment and torture.

Members of Parliament questioned the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the human rights situation in China and raised specific cases of Chinese citizens who have had their rights infringed. Those named include Christian human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, who was tortured in prison; Bishop Shi, who was imprisoned for 14 years and was reported to have died earlier this year at an undisclosed location; Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong; artist and political activist Ai Weiwei and Nobel Laureate Liu Xiaobo, who remains under house arrest. Also mentioned was the case of Lawyer Wang Yu, whose arrest and detention in an unknown location sparked protests from fellow rights lawyers which are believed to have led to mass arrests and detentions of rights lawyers on an unprecedented scale since July 2015.

Violations of freedom of religion or belief for Buddhists in Tibet, Muslims in Xinjiang Province and Christians in Zhejiang Province were also highlighted. China Aid President Bob Fu also welcomed the Urgent Question and said “it’s time to take action to address this urgent concern”.

CSW’s Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said, *“We warmly welcome Fiona Bruce MP’s initiative in tabling this Urgent Question and securing this important debate, which has highlighted the situation of human rights in China and the plight of Chinese citizens who have had their rights infringed, often for standing up for those of their fellow citizens. We urge the Prime Minister to extend the UK’s support to Chinese citizens working to uphold rule of law in their country, and to raise these issues with President Xi during his visit, affirming that human rights and trade are not mutually exclusive.”*

St Raphael's 'Seven Days of Cake'



The 1st Merton Park Rainbows are supporting the St Raphael's 'Seven Days of Cake' campaign.

On 11th November they will be icing cakes and gingerbread men to raise money for this good cause. These will be sold to Rainbow parents and friends that evening but it is hoped that some will be available after church on Sunday 15th November.

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Shooting Star Chase Christmas and Craft Fayre

Christmas and Craft Fayre in aid of the Shooting Star Chase Children's Hospice takes place on Saturday 21st November in Bourne Hall, if anyone would like any further information regarding the Hospice's work to speak to me.

Sylvia Baxter

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Remember

That military personnel are not the only victims of war



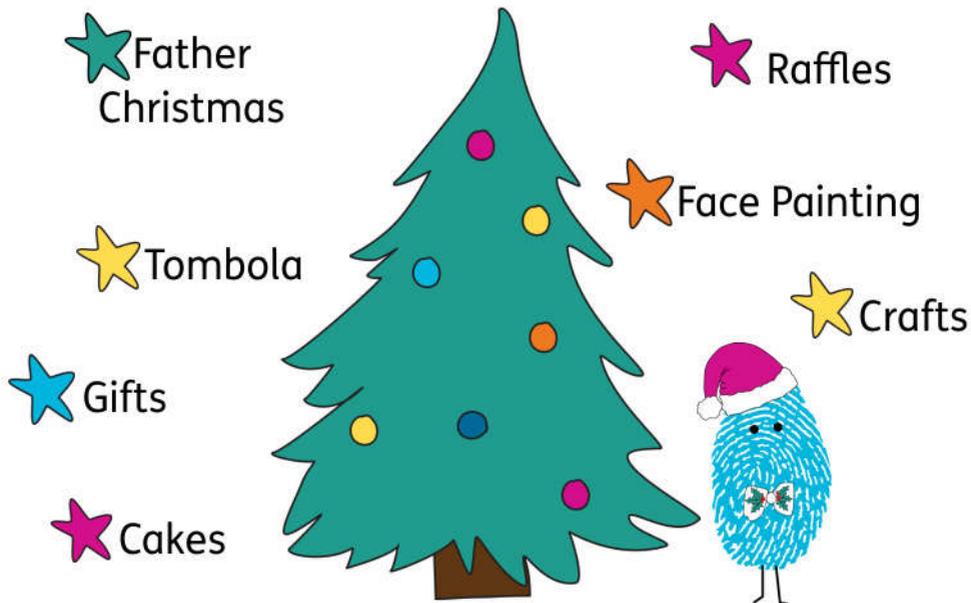
Remember

The innocent civilians, the stretcher bearers, the victims of genocide, the merchant navy, the rescue workers, the ambulance drivers, the broken families ...

Epsom and Ewell Friends of Shooting Star Chase

Christmas and Craft Fayre

Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell



Saturday 21st November 2015

10.30am - 3pm

Admission: Adults £1 Children FREE

An ideal opportunity to buy your Christmas presents and stocking fillers

Sponsored by Paul Killoughery

In aid of

Shooting Star Chase
Children's Hospice Care



Platform 10 ¾ will be taking part in Operation Christmas Child 2015. They will be packing Shoeboxes the evening of Sunday 15th November and invite you to join in by either donating gifts, or money or even doing a shoe box yourself

Choosing gifts to put in your shoebox is a really fun part of getting involved in Operation Christmas Child. There is something very rewarding about giving to a child you will probably never meet in this world – especially when you know your simple act of kindness will be felt and appreciated in more ways than you can ever imagine.

Once you have decided whether to give your shoebox to a boy or girl, you need to think carefully about gifts that would be most appropriate for the age group you have selected (either 2-4 or 5-9 or 10-14 years old). You can also enclose a note or greetings card to the child and a photo of yourself or your family.

Please see the list on the next page of what we can and can't accept.

There will be a box in the store cupboard to place your items into. Platform 10 ¾ will put the shoeboxes together on Sunday 16th November. If you are unsure of what to get, but would like to make a monetary donation towards the shoebox appeal please do as we are required to send £3 per box made. There will be a donation plate in which to put your donation after the morning service on 15th November.

For the knitters out there we would also be happy to accept knitted items, but especially hats or gloves—see the next few pages for some patterns.

Abby Herring

No Thanks!

No Food

especially chocolate or other food items

No medicine

or vitamins of any kind

No war related items

toy guns, soldiers or knives of any kind

No clothing

other than listed

No fragile items

glass containers, mirrors

No liquids

including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols

No dangerous items

sharp objects, scissors or razors, marbles

No novels

Nothing of a political nature, racial or religious nature

No hand-knitted stuffed toys without a CE mark

YES PLEASE

Toys

Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy trucks, stuffed animals (with CE label), harmonicas, yo-yos, skipping ropes, balls, small puzzles etc.

School Supplies

Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks and paper, solar calculators, colouring and picture books etc.

Hygiene Items

Toothbrush and toothpaste, bar of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

Other Items

Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (sell by date must be at least March of the following year).

Knitted items

Hats and gloves

Operation Christmas Child Knitting Patterns

Three patterns to have a go with! Why not make a matching set of the hat and wrist warmers?

Abbreviations:- k knit, p purl, rep repeat, st(s) stitch(es), tog together

Knitted Purse

You will need:

Wool – Oddments of double knitting wool in 3 colours.

Needles: size: 3.5 mm (UK 9) and 6mm (UK 4)

Button



Pattern

Using 3.5 mm needles and 1st colour, cast on 16 sts.

Knit 2 rows in garter stitch. (Every row knit)

Next row: (Make button hole) K7, cast off 2 sts, knit to end.

Next row: K7, cast on 2 sts, knit to end.

Work 6 more rows in garter st. Break off wool.

Change to 6 mm needles and join in other two colors together, knitting with double thickness.

Knit 28 rows in garter st. Break off wool.

Change back to 3.5 mm needles and join in 1st colour again. Knit 10 rows in garter stitch. Cast off.

Fold work in half and stitch up side seams. Sew on a button opposite button hole.

Chunky Wrist Warmers

You will need:

Wool – Chunky wool of any colour

Needles: Size 6 needles



Pattern

Cast on 30 stitches.

k1 p1 until it measures 7" (18cm)

Cast off loosely.

Sew up the sides, leaving a gap to form a thumb hole.

To make the flower,

Cast on 66 stitches.

*K1, cast off 9, repeat from * to end of row (16 stitches).

Cut wool, and with a sewing needle thread wool through the remaining stitches.

Pull together and hey presto!

Sew flower on to back of each wrist warmer with a button in the middle of each if desired - or a couple of brightly coloured buttons will be just as effective.

Stretchy pull on hat

This hat fits most children as it is very stretchy. It is quick to knit and uses up odd balls of wool of any ply. The hats will come out slightly different sizes according to the yarn and tension but this is fine as head sizes also vary. The children can choose whether to turn up the brim or keep the hat pulled well over their ears.



You will need:

Wool – Use 2 strands of DK or 3-4 strands of 4 ply or any combination of differing plys that gives a reasonably chunky feel. You can do plain colours or combine different colours to give a tweedy effect or you can do stripes etc.

Needles Size 2 (7mm) for the single rib at the start

Size 0 (8mm) for the rest of the hat

OR Size 1 (7½mm) throughout

Cast on 57 sts fairly loosely with the smaller needles, leaving a length of wool at the start of the row that you can use later to sew up the finished hat.

Pattern

1st row *k1, p1, rep from * to last st, k1

2nd row p1, *k1, p1, rep from * to end

Rep these 2 rows twice more (or more times if you want more depth of single rib)

Change to bigger needles and proceed as follows:-

1st row k2 p1, *k3, p1 rep from * to last 2 sts, k2

2nd row p1, *k3, p1, rep from * to end

These 2 rows form a pattern. Rep them until you have done 18 rows in pattern altogether (9 repeats of the 2 rows) You should have a pattern that looks the same on both sides.

Now shape the top of the hat as follows:-

1st row k2, p1, *k3tog, p1, k3, p1, rep from * to last 6 sts, k3tog, p1, k2.
43 sts

2nd row *p1, k2 rep from * to last st p1

3rd row k2 *p1, k5, rep from * to last 5 sts p1, k1, p1, k2

4th row as 2nd row

5th row k2tog, *p1, k1, p1, k3tog, rep from * to last 5 sts p1, k1, p1, k2tog
29sts

6th row p1, *k1, p1, rep from * to end

7th row *k1, p1, rep from * TO LAST ST K1

8th row As 6th row

9th row k1, *k2tog, rep from * to end 15 sts

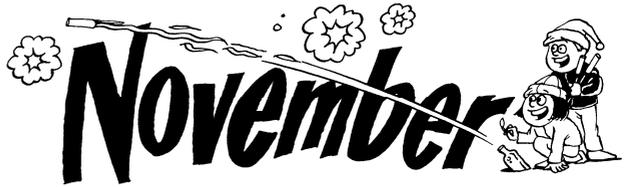
Break off the yarn about 6-9 inches from the knitting and thread it through the 15sts. Pull up tightly.

Sew up the hat from the ribbing to the top and fasten off the ends securely.

Add a pom-pom if you feel like it.



CHURCH DIARY



Fri	1	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	1	10.30am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30 pm	Healing and Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	3	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	8	10.00 am	Remembrance Sunday Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	10	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	11	7.30pm	Christian Care AGM
Fri	13	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	15	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	17	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Current Issues</i> - Rev Paul Timmis
Sat	24	10.30am-1.00pm	Big Brunch
Sun	22	10.30am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	24	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	27	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	29	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Eagle

*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:



Megan Sweby on **7th November**
Jack Pallister on **9th November**
Amy Chilcott on **15th November**
Jacob Passfield on **26th November**



We also have a special birthday this month.

Graham Currie celebrates his **70th**
on Tuesday 24th November

*We wish him a very
Happy Birthday!*

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MORDEN CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

It is hoped that we will be able to sing carols at Morden Underground Station as we do each year on the run up to Christmas to support the National Children's Home. Unfortunately London Transport have changed their way of dealing with such things. Presently NCH is liaising with London Transport.

Keep an eye out in the notices and next month's newsletter to see if we will be able to serenade the commuters of Morden and raise money for the NCH.

Advanced Christmas Notices



SIGMA at CHRISTMAS

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

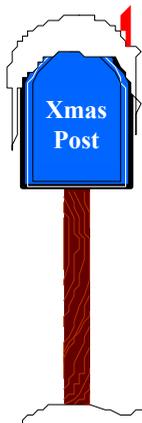
The group is made up of mixed ages from
the whole circuit.

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

For more information please contact Anne Conquest.

Tel no: (020) 8942 7147 or Email aconquest@btinternet.com

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CHRISTMAS POST BOX AND CARDS

The church Christmas post box will be outside the vestry from Tuesday 1st December until Friday 18th December for those sending Christmas cards to members of the church community. Cards will be ready for collection on Sunday 20th December.

As in previous years, you are invited to make a donation which will go to Methodist Homes for the Aged. (In doing so you may wish to remember that you are saving 50p for each card posted in the church post box!)

Please address all cards clearly using surnames and initials or forenames to avoid confusion. (We have several Smiths and several Andrews!)

If you prefer, you are welcome to post a single card addressed to the whole church family. Such cards will be placed on display panels in the vestibule on Sunday 20th December.

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