

Martin Way Methodist Church

serving the communities of
Morden & Merton Park



Minister: Rev Paul Timmis

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Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JZ

Newsletter

March 2018

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MINISTER'S LETTER

As many of you know, I am on sabbatical from 5th March until 5th June. What you might not be fully aware of, however, is what this means and entails.



With its source in the Hebrew word, shabbat (שבת) i.e. Sabbath, a sabbatical is a rest from work, or a break, often lasting from two months to a year. Within the Methodist Church the period is three months and it is first awarded to ministers after they have served for ten years and then, subsequently, every seven years. (You might recall that I enjoyed my first one in 2011).

Sabbaticals are increasingly being used by different types of organisations because they are recognised as a way to re-energise people by allowing them to explore a different aspect of their work or undertake some form of study. Few organisations, however, make them compulsory as the Church has done for ordained ministers.

Sabbaticals were introduced, and made compulsory, to help to prevent burn out and reduce stress amongst presbyters and deacons. They are also a part of all ministers' continuing development; a time for refreshment and renewal, a time to be able to hear the still small voice of God.

A sabbatical is understood by the Church to be a gift from the Church to all presbyters and deacons. It is intended that during this 'time of grace' ministers will do something different which will inform and perhaps re-enthuse them in their ministry.

My hope and intention for the coming months is very much to enjoy time with my family and friends, to return to the church community I spent some time with during my last sabbatical (returning also to questions that emerged for me during that time) and to prepare myself (as much as I can) for Superintendency - something that, subject to Conference, I am to embark upon in September 2018.

Needless to say, I am looking forward to my sabbatical. It will be strange not completing the journey through Lent, Holy Week and Easter with you.

It will be difficult to cut myself off from both church communities of which I am a part for such a length of time - not knowing what is happening in your lives, not being able to respond to situations that usually I'd be called to enter into. It isn't forever though and one thing I know from past experience is that a sabbatical tends to fly by.

In a strange quirk of fate, it seems that, at Martin Way at least, I won't be missing too many meetings! The way my sabbatical has fallen this time means that it sits neatly between the round of meetings that takes place early in the New Year and the next one in early summer. It seems that those of you who attend and participate in such meetings will enjoy a kind of sabbatical yourselves. Enjoy your free evenings - perhaps use them to do something different, to re-energise yourself, to spend time listening for that still small voice of God, that, when we meet again you too will have been re-enthused ready for all that lies ahead as we seek to respond to and serve God in this place. Please know that, in the meantime, you will continue to be held in my prayers as I am more than aware that I, and my family, will be in many of yours.

With every blessing

Paul

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VOLUNTEERS FOR THE NEW ROTA

A new rota for March to May2018 has been placed on the Notice board on the ramped corridor just as you enter the church. There are many lonely slots looking for volunteers to take care of them.

If you feel that you could help take part in our Sunday morning fellowship by stewarding, welcoming people as they come in or preparing and serving refreshments then consult your diary and enter your name against the slots you would like to adopt.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved then ask one of the regulars - you will be playing a vital part in our ministry.

Thank you.

An Extreme Audience

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.

ROMANIA: PASTOR RICHARD WURMBRAND

Even when Romanian pastor Richard Wurmbbrand was placed in a solitary prison devoid of light and sound, he continued to preach to an unseen audience.

After his miraculous release from prison and his eventual migration to the United States, Pastor Wurmbbrand wrote several books describing his prison experience and the sermons that he composed and memorised while in solitary confinement. After a few years, he received this letter:

Dear Pastor Wurmbbrand,

I was raised in a godly home, but I strayed and eventually ended up in prison here in Canada. I wanted to return to God but didn't know how, so I prayed, "God, if somewhere in the world there is another lonely prisoner who knows you, please bring me his thoughts," I heard an inner voice telling me to sit quietly and confidently and that God would reach me.

Miraculously, night after night I began hearing a kind of sermon that seemed to come from far away. I repented, and after my release from prison, I ran across your book, *Sermons in Solitary Confinement*, in a Christian bookstore. I immediately recognised these sermons as the same ones I had heard in prison. Thank you for delivering them!

Pastor Wurmbbrand received two other letters from different countries that contained nearly identical stories, truly, angels had carried the sermons to others crying out to God.

It is said that Christians often leave angels unemployed because of their lack of faith. Too often believers are content to live good lives with occasional blessings. But God longs to give us more than what is good for us. He longs to bring us to better things than even what is best; however, he has reserved his best blessings for those who ask in faith. Why should we ask God if he already knows our needs? We must ask in faith to demonstrate our dependence on him. Have you been content with the good things God has given to you? Then ask in faith for better. Settle for nothing less than his best in your life.

You do not have, because you do not ask God. (James 4:2)

NO BED?! NO BEDDING?!

After a month's treatment, a patient was discharged from hospital to his new flat and was found sleeping on 2 towels on the floor.

A young mother with a baby, a victim of domestic violence, found herself in a bleak, empty flat in an area of London where she knew no one. She had no cot or bedding and only a few clothes for her baby

An 18 year old with no family support was moving out of a hostel into her own studio flat – but she had no bed or bedding.

A young boy had been sharing his mother's bed for months after their eviction/emergency move to new accommodation. What excitement when at last he could sleep in his own single bed with bedding specially chosen for him.

These are just 4 of the local situations that Christian CARE's Baby, Children's and Household Project helped to transform in 2107. This is the fastest-growing area of the charity's work. Social Workers, Family Support Workers, Health Visitors, Hospital Case Workers, Mental Health Staff, Homeless Charity Key Workers as well as Christian CARE befrienders are referring families for help with an average of 10 cases a month. In many cases the requests represent a sudden emergency. The demand for bedding alone has now increased to the point where it represents 50% of the requests for help.

Barbara Moreland, who started the Project 5½ years ago and has developed the work so effectively, is now looking to find others to offer some occasional help:

- A volunteer with a little storage space in a spare bedroom who could store sealed packs of washed and ironed bedding ready for distribution by one of our 'Drive and Drop' team.
- A volunteer to shop - eg at Argos - for any duvets and pillows or cot mattresses required. For reasons of hygiene we buy new – all costs would be refunded.
- A volunteer with a little storage space who could store pre-sorted packs of washed and baby clothes, toddler clothes and baby bedding.

This would enable us to respond quickly to emergencies. We have a Drive and Drop team of drivers ready and waiting who could collect up and deliver the items.

For further information contact:

Barbara on 020 8542 3427 or bmoreland43@gmail.com

Or at The Christian CARE Office on 020 3302 0181

christiancaremerton@gmail.com

EYES WIDE OPEN

Sharing moments all around us in pictures.

Tuesday night Coffee and Chat

Sharing in Eileen's Birthday



Please submit your images, digital photographs or scanned artwork to Andrew (Newsletter Editor) at roife@hotmail.co.uk. Every picture tells a story (or so they say) but if you want to add just a few words to accompany your image, please do.



Forever Living Products

The Aloe Vera Company

**BRING ALOE
INTO YOUR LIFE**

TESTERS REQUIRED!

I'm looking for a number of local people to try out a variety of different products for me FREE of charge, for approximately 2-3 days at a time.

You don't even need to leave your house as I will deliver to your door and collect. All I need is honest feedback for my market research.

The VIP Experience Packs available are:



Perfect Skin

Weight Management



Everyday Essentials

Anti-Ageing Skincare



(Feel free to try as many as you like, completely free of charge)

Please contact me to arrange delivery of the packs.

Feel free to share with a friend or colleague if you think they might like to try too!

Mike – 07956 369579

mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk

mikefuwa@flp.com

Church Family News

Congratulations

Jason Hillhouse took part in his primary schools annual “Hillcross has got talent” contest. Jason made it through the auditions and the semi final all the way to the final where he performed his magic show to the whole school! (over 600 kids!)

He didn't win but was a great honour to get to the finals (only 1child per year) and very proud of his courage and confidence.



Bon Voyage

The Harker family are uprooting themselves to Yorkshire at the end of March. So recently the Sunday Club held an informal lunch with activities for the all the youngsters. We wish Ruth, Martin, Nathan and Grace all the very best with their move and their new home away from London.



Another person who is also leaving to pastures new is Pauline Riley. She will be moving to Lincoln to be nearer her family. We wish her well and every happiness in her new home.



Welcome

The first Sunday in March will see the baptism of Harry James Bucknell. His mum and dad are Lauren and James. His sister is Chloe, who was baptised at Martin Way a few years ago.



Thank you

Adriana and Andrew Fox would like to thank all those who offered support and prayers for Adriana's mother, Czesława, over her short battle with cancer and the continued support and prayers following her death on 9th February.



**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

February Update from CSW

*May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendour to their children.
May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands
for us— yes, establish the work of our hands. (Psalm 90:16-17)*

José lives in Mexico. He was driven out of his home because his parents refused to denounce their Protestant beliefs. He lost everything: his belongings, his home, and his school. All he wants to do is finish his lessons and see his friends again, but he can't. All because of his religion.

Time and again during our work, we encounter children like José who are being denied an education because of their faith, or the faith of their parents. Our new campaign, Faith and a Future, is aimed at changing this: because every child deserves a future.

This is why it's so important that we pray for this campaign: it's one of the most ambitious we've ever attempted and its effects will be far-reaching and change the lives of so many people. Faith and a Future urgently needs your prayers: and we know that you'll pray with us.

Please pray:

- For God's blessing on the launch of our Faith and Future report in Parliament in early March
- That the report would be used to inform and change international policy
- For God to comfort children like José, and provide opportunities for them to resume their education.

Egypt:

Thank you for praying for Egypt faithfully over the years. Though the situation there remains challenging, we know that our consistent entreaties to God mean so much to those we pray for, and make a significant difference in the lives of those who are suffering. This week, please join us in bringing Egypt to God in prayer once more.

Please pray for the family of Father Samaan Shahata Rizkallah, the Coptic priest who was murdered in October. Also pray for the families of the victims of the attack on the Church of St Mina in Helwan, where nine people were killed in December, including a Muslim member of the security forces guarding the church.

15 February marked three years since 21 Christians were beheaded by IS on a Libyan beach. A new church has been consecrated in their memory in Minya in Upper Egypt. The Cathedral of the Martyrs of the Faith was built by engineers from the Egyptian military and paid for by the government. Thank God for this encouraging development in an area where sectarian violence regularly erupts following rumours of new church buildings.

The Coptic community is not alone in facing discrimination: Shi'a Muslims, Baha'i adherents, atheists and others also face varying levels of social and official pressure and harassment because of their religious beliefs. Please pray that Egypt would become a country where all its citizens enjoy equality and peace.

February saw the launch of Operation Sinai 2018, a military campaign aimed at destroying Islamic State (IS, Daesh) strongholds. In response, IS is calling for increased attacks on government targets, Christians and tourists. Pray for protection for vulnerable groups and for an effective counter terrorism campaign that safeguards civilians.

The run up to the presidential elections scheduled for 26-28 March has been marred by increasing repression. Five credible candidates were either arrested or pressured to withdraw, and NGOs accuse the government of failing to meet even the minimum requirements for free and fair elections. Pray Psalm 127 over the leadership, and for peace, reconciliation and God's wisdom and grace on all parties.

'The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.' Deuteronomy 31:8. Pray this verse over Egypt today.

Heavenly Father, we bring the nation of Egypt before you, asking that you comfort all who are mourning, assist all who face pressure and harassment on account of their faith, defeat the forces of terrorism and heal every division in the land.

Amen.

For more information go to:

www.facebook.com/cswuk/

https://twitter.com/csw_uk

www.youtube.com/user/ChristianSolidarity

www.instagram.com/csw_uk/

CSW is a Christian organisation working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights, in the pursuit of justice.

CHURCH DIARY



MARCH

Fri	2	11.00am	Women's Day of Prayer service at Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, SW19 4LU
		8.00pm	Women's Day of Prayer service at Wimbledon Salvation Army Church, 109 Kingston Road, SW19 1LT
Sun	4	10.30am	Baptism of Harry James Bucknell and Holy Communion led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	6	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	9	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	11	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Margaret Adams
Tue	13	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	18	10.30am	Café Worship led by Tim & Caroline's House Group
Tues	20	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Keith Penny</i> - History along the 152 Bus Route
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	23	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	24	10.30am	Big Brunch
Sun	25	10.30am	Palm Sunday Service led by Viv Newitt
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Margaret Adams
Tue	27	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Thurs	29		Maundy Thursday
Fri	30		Good Friday

*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
in March a very

Happy Birthday
and especially to:

Ruby Day on 3rd March

Matthew Loft on 9th March



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LAST CHANCE FOR A BIG BRUNCH!



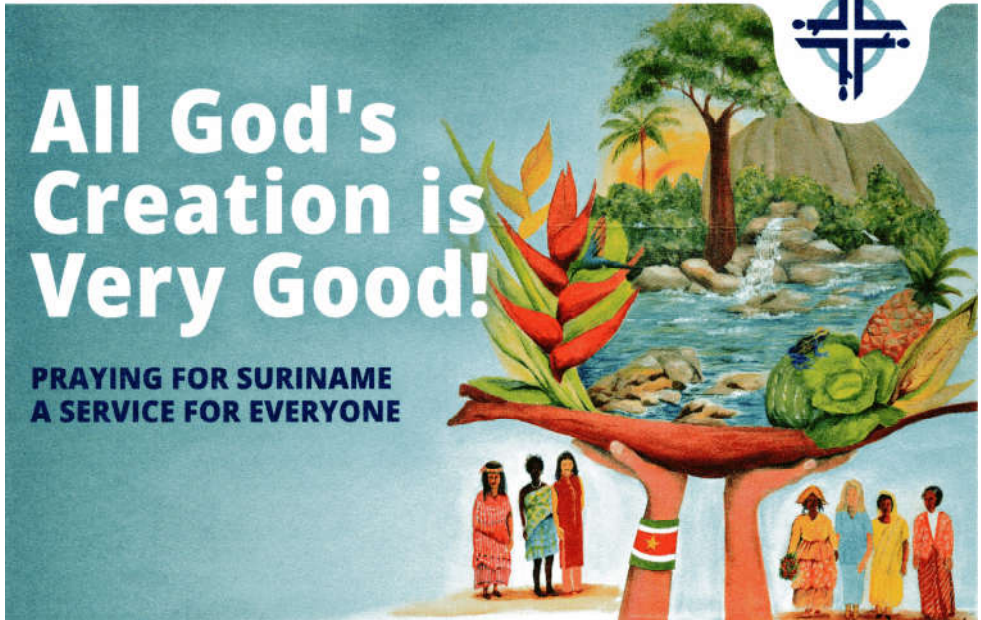
The last Big Brunch of Winter is on **Saturday, 24th March**, serving from 10.30am until 1pm.

Come along and enjoy a full English breakfast including coffee/tea, fruit juice and toast for £4. You'll also be supporting our youngsters for their trip to Spring Harvest 2018.

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Some additional thoughts to follow in life all the time

- Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, my dearest, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.
- When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; Sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.



Friday 2nd March 2018

11:00am

Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, SW19 4LU

5 minutes walk from 57/131 and 200 bus routes

About 20 minutes walk from Wimbledon Station

8:00pm

Wimbledon Salvation Army Church

109 Kingston Road, SW19 1LT

Refreshments are served after each service.

Men, Women and Children Welcome!

Are you looking for a part-time or full-time income?



We are Recruiting

We are looking for:

- The employed looking for additional PART-TIME income
- The unemployed looking for FULL-TIME employment.
- Retired/looking into retirement with no hope of enough retirement income.
- Mothers at home who want to look after their children and want a steady income.
- Graduates/undergraduates with no employment and no work experience.
- Students who fear huge students loan debts after graduation.



For further information contact:

Mike: 07956 369579

www.mof.flp.com

www.iforevercare.com

Church Activities

SUNDAY	Morning Worship	10.30 am
	Morning Communion (once a month)	10.30 am
	Evening Communion (once a month)	6.30 pm
	Sunday Club	10.30 am
	SIGMA—the Circuit Choir (occasional)	4.00 - 5.30 pm
	Platform 10¾ YPF (1st & 3rd Sundays)	8.00 - 9.30 pm
TUESDAY	Coffee & Chat	10.30 - noon
	Men's Supper Club (3rd Tuesday in month)	7.00 pm
	Time for Prayer	8.00 pm
WEDNESDAY	Frogs Club (for Carers & Toddlers)	10.00 – 12.00
	Rainbows (1st Merton Park)	5.30 - 6.30 pm
	Guides (2nd Merton Park)	7.30 - 9.00 pm
THURSDAY	Brownies (2nd Merton Park)	6.00 - 7.30 pm
FRIDAY	Luncheon Club (Fortnightly)	12.30 pm

House Groups, Coffee Mornings, Concerts, etc. (as advertised)