

Martin Way Methodist Church

serving the communities of

Morden & Merton Park



Minister: Rev Paul Timmis

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Newsletter

February 2019

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MINISTER'S LETTER

In a world where there seems to be so much hatred, fear and division at the moment, perhaps one of the most important things that the Church can do is to welcome people and offer hospitality. It's certainly what Jesus would advocate us do. Welcoming people was something that Jesus took very seriously. In fact, it was at the heart of pretty much everything he did.



In a fabulous sermon entitled, 'It's the Little Things That Matter: A Theology of Welcome', US Baptist Pastor Nancy Petty articulates this beautifully. She says,

'Many of the narratives found in each of the four gospels center (sic) around Jesus' teachings about what it means to welcome someone, to include them, to show hospitality. Before there was healing, there was a welcome. Before a miracle, there was a welcome. He welcomed sinners and outcasts to join him at the table to eat. He welcomed the little children, those considered by the culture to be invisible, to come to him. And he welcomed the women in his life, also a cultural boundary not to be crossed, to sit with him and discuss things of importance.'

I could spend hours trying to communicate all that Nancy has said but still not put things nearly as well so instead I encourage you to read or listen to her sermon for yourself: <http://www.pullen.org/2014/06/29/its-the-little-things-that-matter-a-theology-of-welcome/> If you do not have access to the internet but would like to read it, please ask me for a copy.

I mention all of this because welcoming people is hugely important, because each and every one of us can play a part in welcoming others and, because, as a church community, we long to be - and be seen and known to be - a welcoming, hospitable presence in the wider community of which we are part. It is the little things that matter and even the smallest of actions can be transformative.

You will perhaps recall that in this newsletter back in June 2016, I began with the Milton Jones joke, 'Some people see the church as a giant helicopter. They're scared to get too close in case they get sucked into the

rotas'. I then reported that the Annual General Church Meeting had decided to pilot a rota-less approach to worship at Martin Way.

As you will be aware, we have been pretty much rota-free ever since and, for the most part, it is working well. There is a need, however, for people to commit themselves to being at the door each Sunday to welcome people and so, from now on, there will be a sign up sheet in the coffee lounge each week to allow people to put their names down to do this on future Sundays etc. Even if you don't feel able to do that, please don't think that only those at the door can offer a welcome.

We recognise that this might feel uncomfortable. As Pastor Petty acknowledges, 'Speaking to the stranger sitting beside you or in front of you or behind you in worship is not easy for everyone. Getting up and walking across the room to sit with someone who is sitting alone can be uncomfortable. Stepping away from a conversation with a trusted friend to speak to a visitor is hard to do. Listening, truly listening to someone whom you disagree with can be frustrating. Practicing a theology of welcome can stretch us all. Yet, developing a theology of welcome that offers genuine hospitality is paramount for this church and every place that would call themselves a church. If we don't practice a theology of welcome, we exclude the Christ that welcomed all.' Once again, I don't think I could have said it any better.

With every blessing,

Paul

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All around you, people are tiptoeing through life,
just to arrive at death safely.
But dear children, do not tiptoe.
Run, hop, skip or dance, just don't tiptoe.

Shane Claiborne

NEW YEAR ... new start

Spend some time reading these verses and reflect on them using the questions and comments as a guide.

Matthew 6:25-34

What do you worry about?

How valuable are you?

Ask God for ways to turn your worrying into trusting in him and seeking His Kingdom first.

Peter 5:6-7

Picture yourself resting in God's mighty hand. Cast your anxieties about the future on Him.

Colossians 3:16-17

Practice thankfulness. In what ways will you allow God's Word to dwell in you richly in the coming days?

Ephesians 4:4-6

Think about the many facets of your life.

Think about the fact that God is over them all, through them all and in them all.

Give Him praise and thanks for this.

Corinthians 15:58

Think about the things in your future which will be the same as they have been in the past. It may be your job situation, living arrangements, a group you belong to...

Use this verse to re-focus, asking God to help you.

Ephesians 2:10

What good works did God prepare for you in the last year?

Talk with God about the good works He may have in store for you in the year to come.



**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

January Press Releases from CSW

CSW is delighted to announce that our Founder and Chief Executive, Mervyn Thomas, has been appointed a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (C.M.G), in recognition of his services to human rights and freedom of religion or belief.

Following the publication of his appointment in the 2019 New Year Honours List, Mervyn Thomas said: *“I am greatly honoured and deeply humbled to be recognised in this way. Any success in my work for human rights and freedom of religion or belief has only been made possible by the outstanding talent and total commitment of all my colleagues at CSW. It is on their behalf that I accept this great honour, and also on behalf of the many thousands of courageous Christians and other religious minorities around the world who daily put their lives on the line for what they believe.”*

CSW’s Honorary President Jonathan Aitken said: *“Mervyn Thomas has been a brave and persistent fighter in the cause of human rights and freedom of religion or belief for all faiths for the past 40 years. He has been through ‘many dangers, toils and snares’ across the world’s continents when battling for this cause. He richly deserves this honour”.*

Mervyn Thomas is Founder and Chief Executive of CSW, a Christian human rights organisation specialising in freedom of religion or belief. He has testified in the UK parliament and at Congressional hearings on Capitol Hill. Mervyn works closely with the UK All Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief (APPG FoRB) and the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB). He also advises the Foreign Secretary on freedom of religion or belief issues, as a member of his Human Rights Advisory Group.

Please Pray for..

Nigeria:

‘We have become prey and sport. We have become like the northern Kingdom of Israel in the hands of the Assyrians...And yet I will hope in the Lord.’ These words were spoken by the Most Revd. Benjamin Kwashi, Anglican Archbishop of Jos, following an outbreak of violence last autumn in Plateau State, that

began when gunmen attacked and killed 14 Christians in a suburb of the capital, Jos. Sporadic attacks have continued into 2019, displacing thousands.

Meanwhile, we're approaching the one-year anniversary of the abduction of Leah Sharibu from her school in Dapchi in February 2018, along with 109 of her classmates. Leah, the only Christian, refused to convert in exchange for her freedom; she remains in captivity along with Alice Ngaddah, a Christian nurse abducted a month later.

Pakistan:

On 15 January Siobhain McDonagh MP delivered a petition to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DfID) as part of CSW's Faith and a Future campaign, calling for the UK to ensure that aid to Pakistan is not used to fund the publication of textbooks that contain biased material and promote religious intolerance.

The 5,657 signature petition raising concerns about content in school textbooks that encourages discrimination against religious minorities was formally presented to Lord Bates, the Minister of State for DfID, during a meeting that was also attended by Preet Gill MP and Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB).

Siobhain McDonagh MP said: *"It is imperative that no taxpayer money goes on funding discrimination or religious hatred anywhere in the world."*

Iran:

CSW has learned that during a final appeal hearing on 15 January in Tehran, Iranian Christians Saheb Fadaie and Fatemeh Bakhteri were asked by presiding judges Hassan Babaee and Ahmad Zargar to renounce their faith, but refused to do so.

They were subsequently told to expect a verdict in the appeal against their conviction on charges of 'spreading propaganda against the regime' within the next few days.

The CSW team

0845 456 5464

admin@csw.org.uk

Visit www.csw.org.uk for latest news and information

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED

Martin Way made donations to a number of causes from our special Christmas Collections. Thank you to those who contributed their time and talent as well you who donated money.
(Figures for last year are in brackets.)

Action for Children

Carol singing at Morden Station	£650.00	(£672.00)
Carol service	£201.16	(£192.55)
Christingle	£235.68	(£273.33)
Midnight communion		(£35.00)
Christmas Day	£185.30	(£188.52)
	£1272.14	(£1361.40)

Methodist Homes for the Aged

Christmas post box	£140.80	(£183.47)
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Church funds

Sunday Club nativity	£159.25	(£178.31)
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Many thanks to all who have contributed so generously.

Funeral service for Rosemary Keen

We give thanks for the privilege of having known our dear friend Rosemary. Collection in aid of church funds in memory of Rosemary, at the request of the family

£207.50

Roy Ellis

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Martin Way Gourmet Lunches

Thank you to everyone who supported the gourmet French lunch on the 20th January we raised the sum of **£240.00** for the coffee lounge floor.

Our next gourmet lunch is on the **19th May** and it will be a Greek themed lunch. Please put the date in your diaries more details to follow later.

Sylvia Baxter



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A women-led, global, ecumenical movement



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND
COMMERCIAL ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT TN1 2RR

Tel: 01892 541411 Fax: 01892 541745 Email: office@wwdp.org.uk Website: www.wwdp.org.uk

A Letter from the Chairperson of the National Committee, World Day of Prayer

This is a long letter but I hope that you will be able to find the time to read it carefully and prayerfully and to share it with others.

First of all, on behalf of the National Committee, I thank you for all you do to keep this wonderful movement alive in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

As you will see, I am writing this letter on notepaper with our new heading. This gives a clear indication of who we are and what we are about: -

- WDP is ecumenical: the largest ecumenical movement in the world, the only one supported by Catholic and Protestant, Orthodox and Evangelical churches.
- WDP is global: alive and well in more than 120 countries worldwide
- WDP is women-led: no longer 'Women's' i.e. belonging to women, in the same way as a church's Women's Fellowship or Women's Own magazine, but instead belonging to everyone – but led by women, women's gift to the whole Church. As someone said to me recently, "We men will no longer feel unwanted!"
- But, above all, WDP is a prayer movement, a group of people for whom prayer is fundamentally important and who know that prayer changes things. There is no need to ask why we pray!

Our second Y-Pray? Conference was highly successful. The only disappointment was the relatively small number of women who attended.

However, those who did come felt that the weekend was very worthwhile and are urging us to hold another get-together sooner rather than later.

The idea of a global day of prayer is one that appeals to and inspires people of all ages. They want to be involved. We need to do all we can to encourage them – even if this means changing what we have done for years. WDP is not our personal property; it belongs to all who believe in the power of prayer. So, if someone new expresses an interest in being involved in WDP in your area, please welcome them and seize the opportunity to do things a little differently.

Many of you tell us that the WDP services are becoming stale and too predictable. We on the National Committee do not disagree with you and, when we receive the new service each year we do try and inject some originality, although there are limits to what we can do without changing what the women of the writing country wish to say.

As many of you already know, England, Wales & Northern Ireland has accepted the invitation to help write the service for 2022. We have put together a writing group and the process will begin later this year. We will do our best to inject some new thinking into the process – if the International Executive will allow this!

And so we move from Suriname to Slovenia, a very different country with a very different message. This service reminds us that God's invitation is for all, whatever their race, religion, gender, sexuality, age or handicap. God turns no-one away – and nor should we!

Every blessing

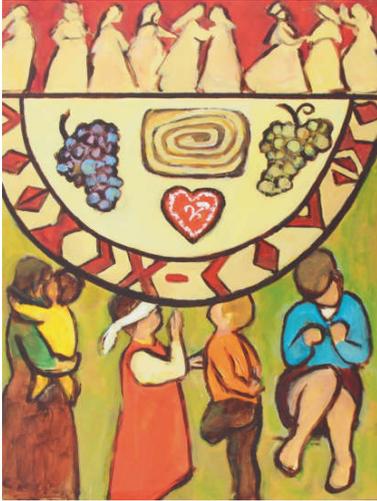


Elizabeth Burroughs

Chairperson

World Day of Prayer, England, Wales & N Ireland.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday 1st March 2019 Come – Everything is Ready! SLOVENIA

Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone - men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer. Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

The services in our area will be held at:

10:30am **St Saviour's Church**
Grand Drive, Raynes Park, London SW20 9DL

8:00pm **Wimbledon Congregational Church**
1 Fairlawn Road, SW19 3QR

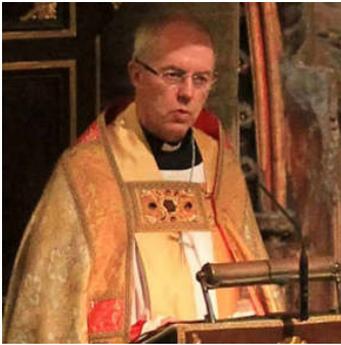
Refreshments are served after each service

For further information and resources see the WDP website:
www.wwdp.org.uk

Embrace the Middle East – Westminster Abbey

A service to celebrate the contribution of Christians in the Middle East

Mary and I were invited to attend a ‘Service to Celebrate the contributions of Christians in the Middle East’ on Tuesday 4th December. As valued supporters, we were all allocated 4 tickets, but sadly due to health problems Mary was unable to attend. However our two sons, David and Keith, accompanied me through very high security precautions owing to the fact that many Patriarchs from the Middle East along with Church leaders from across the region would be present. In addition Prince Charles would also attend after entertaining the leaders to lunch earlier that day.



The most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury was preaching the sermon and Prince Charles gave his ‘Refection’ having worked for many years to encourage greater understanding between people of different religions in both Britain and abroad.

The procession into the Abbey was very moving whilst a Coptic Diocesan Choir sang. We saw very many Christian Leaders in the procession, most in their black robes and veiled hats whilst the Maronite Christian Faith were a very pointed hat low down over their faces (this brought back many vivid memories of services and meetings that Mary and I got invited to on our working visits to Palestine and Lebanon). Other invited dignitaries followed, then the Anglican Clergy in their much more colourful robes then Justin Welby and finally Prince Charles attended by the Dean of Westminster, Dr John Hall.



The service continued with Prince Charles giving his moving ‘Refection’ on his knowledge of the Christian Churches working together. This was followed by

a ‘Testimony’, also very moving, given by Sister Nazek Matty from the Dominican Sisters of St Catherine, Sienna, Iraq, describing how she drove a mini-bus to rescue folk from a town in Nineveh as ISIS approached (prior to them flattening the town). Also how, after three years, she and others went back with townspeople to start rebuilding from the devastation. (The day after the service The Times newspaper printed an article entitled ‘Charles left humbled by nun’s daring ISIS escape.’)



The main address was given by Justin Welby with many other readings and prayers were said by Eastern Church Leaders with translations in the Order of Service booklet. The wonderful sounds of the choir of Westminster Abbey, along with the organ echoed throughout. Once the service finished everyone processed out with a Syrian Orthodox chant in the background, they being dressed in their national dress.



So ended a beautiful hour in wonderful surroundings amongst some very important people.

If anyone is interested, I have a copy of the Order of Service booklet which I will be happy to lend to anyone wishing to borrow it.

Derek Heaton

*The photos are taken from the Westminster Abbey Website
www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-news/christians-middle-east*

Rosemary Ann Keen
20th January 1933 - 17th November 2018

In the December/January issue we mentioned the passing of our dear friend Rosemary Keen. Her funeral took place 20th December which was then followed by a thanksgiving service at Merton Way Methodist church.



For those who could not attend this is the Funeral address that Paul gave.

When the writer of Ecclesiastes looks at the world and this life of ours and seeks to make sense of all that he sees, he discovers that he can't do it. He realises that there are simply too many contrasting and often conflicting experiences for any of us to be able to explain it completely - so instead he just describes what he observes and categorises things as best he can.

At the heart of what he observes is time passing and so he concludes that the best thing that we, as human beings, can do with the time allotted to us - and in the midst of all that life throws at us - is to use it as well as we can and enjoy ourselves - our work, our food, our drink. That, he claims, is God's gift to us.

Like the rest of what we know as the Old Testament, these words were originally written in Hebrew. But, since we're thinking about time, it's worth noting that, in the other great Biblical language, Greek, there were two words used for the one we call 'time' - *chronos* and *kairos*. If we can describe *chronos* as "clock time" - which gives us our word 'chronology' (the science of arranging events in order of their occurrence in time) - then *kairos* speaks of "opportunity time" and the need to make the most of each present moment.

I mention all of this, of course, because Rosemary knew all about time. She grasped the significance of what the Greeks called 'chronos' more than most. As a career-long Archivist, Rosemary dedicated years of her life to obtaining, studying and cataloguing historical documents and artefacts, so that everything held was clearly recorded, categorised, maintained and could be readily located and accessed. I'm not sure how impressed Rosemary will have been by the vagueness of the category headings offered by the author of Ecclesiastes (a time for this and a time for that) but she'll have seen, read and studied enough during the course of her career to know that there's some truth in them. Such times do exist.

Just as importantly, Rosemary understood the importance of 'kairos' moments - times when opportunities present themselves that need to be seized. Her career began as a result of one when, studying for her degree, she discovered that the position of Archivist existed and committed herself to do all that she could to become one. And, as that career eventually drew to a close, Rosemary saw an opportunity to continue her work, volunteering at the local heritage centre.

Throughout her life - from the moment her father first took her to see a play performed at the local boys' grammar school, Rosemary would seize any and every opportunity available to visit the theatre. Whilst she acted at school - most notably playing the role of Lady Sneerwell in *The School for Scandal* by Richard Sheridan (which is when someone put her hair up for the first time) and, attending a Girls' School, Brutus in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* - she soon decided that she was more than content to watch others take the stage.

Countless productions in the West End or at such theatres as the Barbican, the Aldwych and the Mermaid at Blackfriars would be enjoyed. For some years Rosemary saw anything and everything put on at the Old Vic. Later in life she would visit Richmond Theatre, preferring matinee performances. Her first and deepest love being the works of William Shakespeare, Rosemary adored RSC productions in Stratford upon Avon and would make that an annual pilgrimage.

A great lover of literature, Rosemary was a voracious reader who would think nothing of having several books on the go at once. Rosemary loved music and would leap at opportunities to make it or listen to it. She learnt to play the piano in childhood by playing with her dad and, in time, subsequently taught her sister, Joy, to play too so that they might play duets together. As a young woman she sang with the Maidstone Choral Society and then the Westminster Choral Society and thereafter always liked going to choral concerts.

Rosemary and Dorothy would have not just a shared love of theatre at the heart of their friendship (which we'll mention in due course) but also a deep appreciation of music. With Rosemary at the piano and Dorothy on the violin, playing together was the source of great joy to each of them. Sunday evenings would regularly see Rosemary and Dorothy invite friends to eat with them that they might all then make music together. As a pianist, Rosemary didn't see herself as a soloist but she was a fabulous accompanist as some here will be able to testify to.

Rosemary could always find time to knit - for years this would include snatched moments on the daily commute on the train to and from work. She would knit too on those evenings when Dorothy was out. Brother-in-law Roger was often

beneficiary-in-chief, with countless pairs of socks heading his way. She was good at sewing too - making anything from patchwork quilts to sister Joy's wedding and bridesmaid dresses.

Rosemary enjoyed making time to play board games such as scrabble and chess.

And, of course, Rosemary would seize opportunities to go on holiday. There would always be time for a week somewhere with Dorothy and a visit to Stratford. Whilst she went to Germany for her brother Colin's wedding and to Paris with Dorothy, Joy and nephew Geoffrey (when he was 10 or 11), these were exceptions to the rule. Most of the time, Rosemary chose to take holidays in the UK - be that with Dorothy or Joy. Derbyshire, Yorkshire and West Wales were favoured locations amongst others.

Most of all though, Rosemary made the most of opportunities to spend time with people. Family and friends meant the world to Rosemary so if a kairos moment appeared, enabling Rosemary to spend time in someone's company - or to offer help to them if needed - she would do it.

Rosemary Ann Keen was born in Newbury on 20th January 1933. She was to be the first of three children born to George Herbert and Willhomena Dorothy Keen, her younger siblings being Colin and Joy who would be born in 1936 and 1943 respectively. Her father "Bert" was a school teacher, her mother, for some reason known to most people as Joan but within the family as Didie, had worked in a Post Office prior to marrying Bert.

Home for the family was in Enborne Road, Newbury and it was here that Rosemary spent her childhood. Schooling took place at the local Girls Grammar School. Rosemary enjoyed school very much and was appointed head girl for one term during her final year. Perhaps even more significantly, it was at school that Rosemary, aged 6, met a certain Dorothy Mellor.

One of the great joys in Rosemary's life from a very early age was theatre and, in particular, the works of William Shakespeare. It was a passion shared with Dorothy and one, that in Rosemary's case, was born when (as we've heard) her father took her to performances at Newbury Boys' Grammar School.

When Rosemary was just seventeen, her father died suddenly of an aneurysm, aged 57. Needless to say, this was devastating for all concerned. It probably also influenced Rosemary's decision, a year later (when she left school with a Higher School Certificate) to live at home when studying for an English degree

- with a subsidiary in old Norse - at Reading University. It enabled her to be around for her mum and to help with her sister. Rosemary took her responsibilities seriously and ensured that Joy too was well-versed in the works of Shakespeare. Again, as we've heard, she taught Joy how to play the piano and there would be numerous bike rides taken together. The two sisters became very close and that closeness continued throughout their lives.

Rosemary's degree was followed by a one year Archives Diploma (with medieval French) at University College, London. When Rosemary made her first foray into the world of work it was at Maidstone Records Office. A couple of years or so later, she would obtain the position of Archivist for the Church Mission Society (CMS) and very quickly discover that she had found her niche in life. It's been said, that in this place, in this role, Rosemary was a square peg in a square hole. Needless to say, whether working off Salisbury Square (near St Brides Church) or, later, in the new building near Waterloo, Rosemary was so happy that she'd remain in the same job for the rest of her career.

Over the years, Rosemary was responsible not only for protecting the archives whenever the water levels on the Thames rose (these were pre-Thames barrier days) and moving the CMS archives to Birmingham but also for the training of a number of archivists. She loved her work. If it seemed to her as if the job had been created especially for her, perhaps she wasn't far off the mark. Rosemary was first archivist ever employed by CMS.

In her early days of work, Rosemary moved into a flat on Old Brompton Road in South Kensington with Dorothy. A few years later they bought a house together in Harrow. The long daily walk to and from the station soon saw them reassess and buy an alternative property with better transport links. So it was that, in 1979, Springfield Avenue, Merton Park became home. It would be so for Rosemary for the rest of her life but, within a year, she would be mourning the end of her mother's life when she died in 1980.

Throughout her working life, there would be a familiar pattern to Rosemary's days. Essentially working 9-5 but with a core time of 10-4 and never any overtime, the only variation came when Rosemary remained in London at the end of her working day in order to go to the theatre. With there being no National Theatre in the early days, this would usually involve a visit to the Old Vic.

Having retired, Rosemary continued working in the same vein and office on a part-time basis for a couple of years with the Mid-Africa Ministry - an introduction to which, written by Rosemary, is still available on the CMS

website. Thereafter she continued on a voluntary basis. In retirement, Rosemary's immense contribution to CMS was recognised by the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, who awarded her a Lambeth degree at a ceremony at Lambeth Palace.

Once Rosemary decided to put the daily commute behind her - a decision triggered by CMS relocating to Oxford - she became a volunteer in the Merton Heritage Centre in Morden Library, putting her skills to good use, archiving all the historical material held there (including all the Martin Way Newsletters). As the years passed and Rosemary's memory began to fail, the love and care shown to her by her friends at the Heritage Centre was hugely important. That her contributions continued to be welcomed to the very end of her life was a remarkable and valuable gift.

Following her move to Merton Park, Rosemary had worshipped first at St James' Parish Church and then St Mary's Church before finally finding her way to Martin Way Methodist Church. In her childhood, the family had attended St Nicholas Parish Church but her father was a Primitive Methodist at heart. Whether Rosemary had inherited some Methodist genes from him or not, she certainly felt at home here very quickly. She soon became the Editor of the newsletter and remained in the role for about five years. She faithfully served as Envelope Secretary, confidentially recording the regular giving of church members and was an appointed church representative on Church Council. Over the years she regularly attended Midways, Luncheon Club and Coffee and Chat and was ever-present in worship. As Moira has mentioned in the December/January newsletter, Rosemary was 'unassuming and accomplished tasks in a quiet way'. Just as importantly, she was a joyful presence here, wearing as she did a wonderful smile, and was a fabulous friend to us all.

The final two years of Rosemary's life weren't easy. As dementia was diagnosed and took hold, familiar places such as the Heritage Centre and this church, and regular commitments



and events within them, gave necessary shape to Rosemary's week. Routes that were well-trodden over the years were, by and large, still manageable and saw to it that life continued to hold some quality for her.

It was a shock to us all when Rosemary died at St George's Hospital, Tooting on 17th November 2018. Just a week before, Rosemary had been in Stratford upon Avon with Dorothy enjoying RSC productions of Molière's Tartuffe, Christopher Marlowe's Tamburlaine and William Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida. A heart that had loved so many things in a life over 85 years suddenly stopped beating and, despite the best efforts of the paramedics to provide a curtain call for Rosemary, it was not to be.

The writer of Ecclesiastes suggests that we can do our best to answer some of the questions that this life throws up but, in all likelihood, all we're going to get is more questions. We try to make sense of our lives and life itself but it can all seem unfathomable at times. Death is very much a part of life and, in time, it's experienced by each one of us yet nobody can say for certain what it means or brings.

What we can say is that our lives have been enriched by knowing this quiet, gentle, unassuming, kind woman.

Rev Paul Timmis

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EYES WIDE OPEN

Over the couple of years we have run the Eyes Wide Open article. This is a selection of pictures by church members that allow us the chance of sharing our church and world in pictures depicting Faithfulness, Hopefulness, Joyful, Sorrow, Good, Bad, Work, Play, Growing, Slowing, Energetic, Calm, Fun, Encouraging, Happy, Sad, Creative.....the list is endless.

Every picture tells a story (so they say) but if you want to add just a few words to accompany your image, please do.

Please submit your images, digital photographs or scanned artwork to Andrew (Newsletter Editor) at roife@hotmail.co.uk, or pass him a picture or photo which he can scan (and return to you).

We would love to see your images, so open your eyes...

Colin Smith

CHURCH DIARY



Fri	1	2.30 pm	Coffee and Chat Extra
Sat	2		Christian Care New Year Party
Sun	3	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	5	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	8	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	10	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
Tue	12	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	15	2.30 pm	Coffee and Chat Extra
Sat	16	10.30am	Big Brunch
Sun	17	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	19	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Alan Walsh</i> - Jack the Ripper finally revealed
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	24	10.30am	Café Worship led by Tony Loft
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Mon	25	8.00pm	F&P Committee Meeting
Tue	26	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	27	8.00pm	Church Council Meeting

*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 February a very

Happy Birthday
and especially to:



Ashleigh Hillhouse on 1st February

Joshua Fuwa on 20th February

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**A Big Thank You
from Christian Care**



On behalf of the Christian Care Committee, I send my thanks to you and to all the congregation at Martin Way for the gifts of toys for our families from the gift service held in December. Everyone was very thoughtful and generous. The toys will mean so much to the children, some were given as Christmas presents, others will be distributed at our 'New Year Party' held on 2nd February and some will be saved to be used throughout the year as birthday gifts.

We are getting an ever increasing number of requests from professionals working with children and families for toys and books for children who in many cases have little or nothing to play with at home. It is always a pleasure when we are able to help.

Sue Boyd

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Flower Rota

The flower rota for 2019 is now on the notice board in the corridor. Please sign up if you are willing to donate or arrange flowers.



Y-PRAY? **3rd-5th May 2019**

Y-PRAY? is a conference for Women who are interested in exploring prayer creatively. It is held at **The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, DE55 1AU**

The weekend starts on Friday evening and finishes after lunch on Sunday. Accommodation is in en-suite bedrooms and all meals are provided. The programme includes worship, bible study and creative prayer, plus more light-hearted activities and an opportunity to discover what WDP is all about.

Cost £125.

Talk to Valerie Ashcroft or visit the website for more information and to book on line at www.wwdp.org.uk/y-pray-2019-3/ or you can download a booking form at www.wwdp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2019-YPray-registration-form.pdf



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BIG BRUNCH



Big Brunch is happening again on **Saturday, 16th February, 2019.**

So come along between 10.30am and 1pm for a Full-English for £4 and support our youngsters going to Spring Harvest in 2019.

Items for the **March Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 17th February** at the latest

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 (Twice monthly)	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
THURSDAY	Brownies (2nd Merton Park)	6.00 - 7.30 pm
FRIDAY	Luncheon Club (Fortnightly)	12.30 pm
	Coffee & Chat Extra (Fortnightly, alternating with Lunch Club)	2.30 pm

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