

Martin Way Methodist Church

serving the communities of

Morden & Merton Park



Minister: Rev Paul Timmis

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Newsletter March 2019

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MINISTER'S LETTER



I've recently been forced to embark upon a drastic course of action and one that I had barely, if ever, even contemplated before. I have had to thin the contents of my two trusty filing cabinets.

Over the years I have marvelled at the Tardis-like qualities of these functional, if unsightly, metallic towers that stand in the corner of my study. On a regular basis I have turned to them, praising God, as the Lord has added to their number of welcome booklets, letters, church directories, preaching plans, membership lists, agendas, minutes and financial reports - all building on the firm and substantial foundations my predecessor, the Revd Barrie Tabraham, had kindly left me.

But all good things come to an end and, in recent months, the filing cabinets have resisted God's word and work, refusing to yield any more room for any more paper. Rather than force the issue, or indeed the already-buckling suspension files, I had instead shied away from even approaching them. The result had been an ever-increasing 'to file pile' on my study floor and an ever-growing feeling of disquiet in my mind. Something had to give.

Over a number of weeks, in spare minutes here and there, I have sifted through more documents than I care to mention (discovering/remembering some interesting things about the life of "my" churches that I had either never known or had forgotten), shredded enough paperwork to fill two 140 litre biodegradable eco sacks with a small machine that seems to want a coffee (oil?) break and a rest every ten minutes. But after all of that, I'm delighted to be able to announce that all the papers and files that were hitherto gathering dust on the carpet are now housed in a filing system that is uncluttered, useable and more than ready for the journey ahead.

I mention all of this because we are about to enter the season of Lent yet again. Much more than 'the time before Easter when we all give up chocolate or at least try to', Lent offers us all an opportunity to reflect

upon our lives, the life of our world and our place within it as children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ and prepare for the journey ahead which will lead us into Easter and beyond.

If we're to experience the resurrection life on offer to us, there first has to be a death. In Lent we are invited to pause and re-evaluate, to discern whether our ways of living and working are in tune with the hopes and dreams that God has for us. Inevitably as part of this process we will identify certain patterns and practices - that may well have developed over a long period of time - as being unhelpful or burdensome. But so too we will find an invitation to sift and shed or shred those things that have been weighing us down and/or getting in the way of us being the people that God believes - and always has believed - that we can be. These are the things that God really longs for us to give up.

God is a God of liberation. Sometimes we need to accept that it is us that needs to be set free.

With every blessing

Paul

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FUND-RAISING

As you may know, we have spent more than we would have liked to recently because of defects in the building. First was the soggy Coffee Lounge floor which, after a couple of expensive false starts, we now seem to have a solution which is working.



easyfundraising Raise free donations for us every time you shop online with easyfundraising!

amazon.co.uk John Lewis ebay M&S Boden GAP
Argos Booking.com DEBENHAMS next SCREWFIX
Sainsbury's CISOS Viking moonpig JUST EAT

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/martinwaymc/>

We are now in the middle of trying to fix leaks in the 1930's plumbing in the hall where a few exploratory holes have been drilled. Our main problem here is we don't know where the pipes run but we are in the process of trying to map out the circuit.

All this costs money which is why we have joined the "easyfundraising" scheme where, by shopping online via one of over

3,500 retailers, those retailers will donate a percentage of the sale to our fund at no cost to the shopper or to ourselves.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please help support Martin Way Methodist Church by shopping online. Use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,500 retailers including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Tesco and M&S. Every time you shop, you'll raise a free donation for Martin Way Methodist Church every time, it's that easy!

STEP-BY-STEP

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/martinwaymc/>. This will take you to our easyfundraising web page. *Hint: Once you've landed on our easyfundraising page, it would be a good idea to Bookmark that page for subsequent visits*
2. Click on 'Support this cause'
3. If it's your first time you will need to create an account with an email and password
4. If you have already registered then just log in with the email and password you created when you first registered.
5. On the next page, under the 'Shop to raise' menu (near top left) select your retailer either by Category or by selecting from the alphabetical list under 'View all retailers'
6. You will then be redirected to your retailer's website
7. Shop as normal - there is no need to return to the easyfundraising web site
8. On completing your shopping your retailer will add a percentage of your sale to our church's fund at no extra cost to you

Note:

The important thing to remember is to first go to our easyfundraising web page, log in and select your retailer from those listed (see (5) above). If you go straight to the retailer's website no donation will be made.

If you go straight to the easyfundraising website, not via the link above in (1), then you will need to choose our cause by starting to type Martin Way Methodist Church in the 'Search for a cause' box.

Mike Mortley

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

Pastor Wurmbrand worked his way through the other prisoners to where another pastor sat motionless on the floor. He had just been thrown into the cell. He was badly beaten. Wurmbrand did not know if he would survive the night.

With loving compassion Pastor Wurmbrand knelt down beside the beaten pastor and asked, "My brother.....can you say the prayer, 'Father forgive them'?" The man winced with pain, touching his swollen, bruised face. It was difficult to speak. The words came out slowly, "I cannot."

Just as Pastor Wurmbrand began feeling sympathy for the man, the beaten pastor began to speak again. With tears in his eyes he said, "My prayer is not 'forgive them.' My prayer is....'Father, forgive them and ME.' If I had been a better pastor, perhaps there would have been more converted torturers."

This weary pastor expressed his concerns for the missed opportunities to convert his enemies to Christ. Both pastors realised a young member of Romania's Communist Youth Organisation was once arrested and unmercifully beaten by a supposedly Christian police officer. This incident hardened his heart toward Christ for the rest of his life. This missed opportunity for the gospel finally became the dictator of the former Communist nation of Romania. Nicolai Ceausescu was responsible for the torture of countless Christians, including Pastor Wurmbrand and his fellow beaten pastor.

No regret is greater than that from a missed opportunity. Unfortunately, life often brings missed opportunities like the birth of a child, a Christmas morning, or even that last flight out going home. However, nothing compares to the missed opportunity to change another person's eternal destiny. We never know how the seemingly nominal person sitting next to us on the train one day might affect the world for Christ -- if only we could say something. Equally true is the possibility that breaking our silence might detour a determined Christian opponent. You may count many missed opportunities for the gospel in your past. However, you can change your future by seizing the opportunities given to you each day to share your faith.

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders, make the most of every opportunity. (Colossians 4:5)



Bringing the Bible to life for every child in every primary school

Come and learn how to be a storyteller for Open the Book.

At this session there will be an opportunity to experience how to do an Open the Book assembly/act of collective worship. You'll also find out why head teachers and children value it, along with a chance to ask your questions.

Come and find out how you can bring the Bible to life in your primary school.

Event: Initial Storyteller Training - 4th April in Kingston or 5th April in Morden

Venue: 4th APR Every Day Church Kingston KT1 1RP or 5th APR Morden Baptist Church SM4 5BL

Date and time: Register & Coffee from 9.30am, starts 10am, bring your lunch, ends 3.00pm

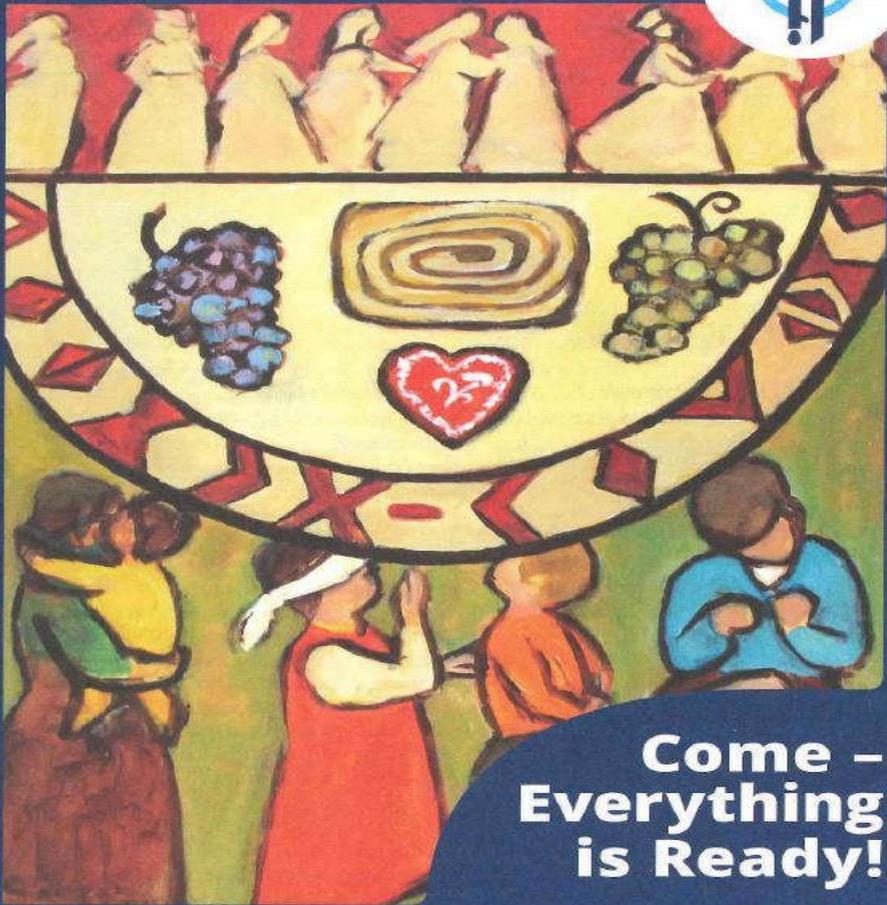
To reserve your place please contact: Sarah Rogers for details 07854 730382

Email: enquiries@openthebook.net

Telephone: 01793 418355

Bible Society T: 01793 418355 E: enquiries@openthebook.net W: openthebook.net
Photography by Layton Thompson
Registered charity 232759





**Come –
Everything
is Ready!**

PREPARED BY CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF **Slovenia**

10.30am ~ St Saviour's Church

Grand Drive, Raynes Park, London, SW20 9DL

8.00pm ~ Wimbledon Congregational Church

Fairlawn Road, Wimbledon, SW19 3QR

Refreshments will be served after each service

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries. All are welcome to attend.

EYES WIDE OPEN

Sharing moments all around us in pictures.



Pictures in the Church

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.



CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

**February Press Releases
from CSW**

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.' 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

These verses are a wonderful reminder that as a worldwide church we exist as one body consisting of many parts. Even though those parts are scattered all over the world, we have been 'baptised by one Spirit' and worship the same amazing God. And, as verse 26 says, 'If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.'

This month, there are three countries that need your urgent prayers. In **Nigeria**, the election scheduled for 16 February was unexpectedly postponed – just five hours before voting was due to begin – until 23 February. In the interim, the Boko Haram factions have killed, abducted and displaced civilians in Borno and Yobe States; Governor el Rufai spread allegedly questionable information that could incite violence in southern Kaduna State, and President Buhari caused consternation by stating anyone caught tampering with ballot boxes would 'pay with their lives.'

Pray also for the **Church in Cuba**. For the holding of their referendum on 24 February, on a new constitution that will further weaken freedom of religion or belief on the island. The final draft of the new constitution states, 'In the Republic of Cuba the religious institutions and fraternal associations are separate from the State and all have the same rights and responsibilities'; however, it doesn't define these responsibilities or rights, leaving the legislation open to interpretation and abuse. This draft constitution is expected to pass, but it seems increasingly likely that there may be a significant 'no' vote. Local sources are predicting a major crackdown on freedom of religion or belief as soon as the referendum is over.

However, we're already seeing answers to prayer – Communist Party officials unexpectedly cancelled meetings with church leaders in different parts of Cuba – a result that some of the leaders believe was a direct consequence of our press release. Similar meetings have been used to intimidate church leaders and put pressure on them to tell their congregations to vote in favour of the new constitution. This week we learned that Christian pre-university students were also being forced to attend meetings where they were pressured to vote 'yes'.

For Nigeria, please pray:

- For peaceful elections in every state, and for God to protect vulnerable communities throughout the country, enabling people to cast their votes in safety.
- That the elections would take place on schedule and would be free from intimidation or violence from any source.
- Ask God to undermine every effort to manipulate the electoral process, and to ensure the elections are free and fair and the security forces behave impartially.
- For the safety and integrity of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) staff and all electoral observers.
- For a peaceful post-electoral period, and for successful candidates to make the wellbeing and advancement of the people of Nigeria a policy priority.

For Cuba, please pray:

- Thanking God that Cuban church leaders are standing firm in the face of pressure and intimidation tactics.
- For change in Cuba that includes real protection for freedom of religion or belief and freedom of conscience for all.
- For protection and strength for the church leaders and human rights defenders in Cuba.

For Colombia, please pray

- For God to comfort the wife and five adult children of Pastor Elfren Martínez Pérez, who was shot and killed on 16 September 2018 outside his home in Antioquia by members of an illegal armed group.
- For changes to the original peace agreement are both a concern and a potential setback to peace. Pray that the Colombian government and the FARC would adhere to their commitments under the agreement.
- With an increase in extortion and other threats from illegal armed groups in many parts of the country, pray for the protection of religious leaders who live and work under constant threat.
- Pray against corruption and for strengthened rule of law in rural areas. Pray for protection over communities, and pastors who are often de facto community leaders, who face forced displacement and violence at the hands of illegal armed groups.
- Pray that the Colombian government would recognise the rights of indigenous peoples and put in place legislation that will protect the right to freedom of religion or belief for all Colombians, including those living on indigenous lands.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

The CSW team

**CHURCH
DIARY**



Fri	1	10.30am	World Day of Prayer service at St Saviour's Church , Grand Drive, Raynes Park, London SW20 9DL
		2.30 pm	Coffee and Chat Extra
		8.00pm	World Day of Prayer service at Wimbledon Congregational Church , 1 Fairlawn Road, SW19 3QR
Sun	3	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		4.00pm	Circuit Service at Ruxley Methodist Church led by Rev Emma Aikins
Tue	5	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00pm	Circuit Meeting
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	8	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	10	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	12	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	15	2.30 pm	Coffee and Chat Extra
Sun	17	10.30am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	19	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Jerusalem ~ Life and insights</i> - Suki Tchilingirian
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	22	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	24	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
Tue	26	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	29	2.30 pm	Coffee and Chat Extra
Sun	31	10.30am	Café Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis

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

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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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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.

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Church Family News

28th March 2019 will be a special day for Derek
and Mary Heaton as they celebrate their 60th
Wedding Anniversary.

We wish them many more
years of happiness together.

We also wish a very Happy
Birthday to Eileen who
celebrated her special day
with friends at Coffee &
Chat recently.





BIG BRUNCH

Please note that due to a clash of bookings, we have had to move from the **16th March to Saturday, 6th April.**

So come along for our new day between 10.30am and 1pm for a Full-English for £4, but other options are also available.

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It is with regret that we have had to close our Merton, Morden and Sutton Branch of Arthritis Care (recently re-named “Versus Arthritis” since the merger with Arthritis Research)



January was therefore our final meeting at the Hall at Martin Way Church. We should like you all to know how much we have appreciated your support over so many years. The premises are very well designed for disabled people and the space afforded in the car park for the Local Authority vehicles has ensured a safe and comfortable attendance.

The highlight of our Christmas Party has always been the Carol Service in the beautifully decorated Church. We should also like to thank Mike Mortley and team for providing the technical back-up to make it such an enjoyable occasion, as well as those who have kindly taken the Services for us.

You have made us so welcome over the past two decades and I have always felt very proud of the Church with whom I have been associated with over the past 84 years!

*Irene Goldsmith
Arthritis Care Hon President*

Items for the **April Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 24th March** 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)