

# Martin Way Methodist Church

serving the communities of

Morden & Merton Park



**Minister: Rev Paul Timmis**

(020) 8337 2348



**Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JZ**

## **Newsletter**

## **May 2019**

[www.martinway.org.uk](http://www.martinway.org.uk)

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## **MINISTER'S LETTER**

In the days and weeks after Easter our focus is always the same. As we return once again to stories of the risen Christ's appearances to his friends, we take some time to think about new life in Christ and what that might mean and look like for us. We think about resurrection life - life that emerges when we didn't believe it likely or even possible.



As we do so we usually look to the experiences and emotions of Jesus' friends. Their lives and world had been shattered when Jesus was killed. It would take them a while - and no little pain and anguish - to understand that his death was not the end but rather the beginning of something new and different.

Against such a backdrop I feel uncomfortable writing about money. It seems trivial by comparison and there are, of course, many more important things in life. The simple fact is, however, that I need to do this because, whilst there is so much life in our church community to celebrate, we are currently not that far from death financially-speaking.

In short, our reserves have been decimated by events beyond our control.

Water ingress under the coffee lounge has resulted in the floorboards rotting and collapsing three times in as many years. On each occasion we have taken professional advice and have followed that advice believing that we had solved the problem. Last time saw us take another approach - inserting a sump that water might then be pumped out (rather than try to build up defences to keep it out, which had been the previous strategy). We now hope and believe that the issue has been resolved but this one issue has seen approximately £25,000 drain from our reserves.

You will be aware that, just before Christmas, our central heating failed. The investigations that followed revealed some leaks in the original pipe work beneath the hall floor. We immediately took what action we could to repair those leaks that we could identify, knowing that in order to resolve the issue fully we would need to replace much of the pipework and maybe even the boiler. As we were exploring possible solutions we received a water bill of almost £14,000 (last year the annual bill was about £750). We now know that just replacing the pipework and radiators will cost up to £8,000 - and that's without replacing a boiler that is many

years old.

Of course, the reason we have reserves is so that we can respond to unexpected events like this and the situation is not entirely hopeless. Our reserves may have been washed away but we are in conversation with the water company to see if the amount owed might be reduced, with our insurance company to see if it might assist us with any aspect of the leak and with someone who is kindly helping us to prepare some grant applications (that we'll tell you all about once we've finalised a proposal). Beyond this, we have a regular income both from hall lettings and from the generous regular giving of church members like you. We are deeply grateful for all of this - as we are for the ongoing commitment of some (you know who you are!) to fundraising.

All of this might well help us to build up our reserves again eventually but if either the water or insurance company cannot assist us, for example, or if another unexpected maintenance issue arises, we are sunk. We already have a cash flow problem.

I don't write this to make anyone anxious - Jesus tells us not to worry even if that's easier said than done! Obviously, if you are in a position where you can help us to resolve this issue - either by reviewing your regular giving (preferably upwards!), setting up a standing order, making a one-off donation and/or by ensuring that you are Gift Aiding anything that you do give (if you pay tax and are eligible to do so) - we would be delighted to hear from you. But please don't feel guilty if your financial situation is such that you are unable to give any more than you already do. We fully understand that making ends meet isn't always easy or even possible. But we felt that you needed to be aware of the situation and everyone can pray - so please do!

So often we associate water with new life. It is life-giving and life-enhancing. This is what we speak of whenever we baptise someone. It seems ironic then that, as a church community, we seem to be drowning because of the money it is costing us at the moment. But the message of Easter remains that, when all hope seems lost, God can do something new - that new life is always possible in Christ. Let us continue to hold onto that

With every blessing

*Paul*

## **Christian Aid Week 'All mums should live'**



Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking. Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

The community in Sawula dream of having a health centre that can meet their needs. The current health centre is the size of a small bedroom. Operations, deliveries and baby checkups all happen in one single room with only two delivery beds.

Nurse Judith works around the clock to meet the needs of mums and young children who come to the clinic. But the need is great, and sometimes she's forced to send people away. When women come to the clinic at night, there's no light for Judith to use. So she has to ask her patients to bring a torch to see by.

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

Through our partner RADA (Rehabilitation and Development Agency), Christian Aid saw how difficult the situation in Sawula village was and began working to ensure that mums and babies have fullness of life. RADA has been working locally to help vulnerable women access healthcare, improve hygiene with simple interventions like hand washing and, with your support, build a bigger, better health care centre.

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### **BIG BRUNCH – BREAKFAST EXTRAVAGANZA**

Big Brunch, which raises funds to enable us to take our youngsters to Spring Harvest, will have a break over the summer. But we are planning to hold '**Breakfast Extravaganza**' which will take place on the following dates:

**Saturdays 27th July and 17th August**



# Forever Living Products

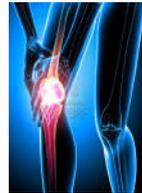
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you don't change your thinking*

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**For further information contact:**

**Mike Fuwa**

**Tel: 07956 369579**

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

## **Extreme Protest**

*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.*

### **RUSSIA: BAPTIST CHRISTIANS**

It was like no protest the world had ever seen. Most riots around the world are violent, with slogans being yelled, signs and banners being waved, and even rocks being thrown. But on May 16, 1966, five hundred Soviet Baptists gathered in the courtyard of the Communist Central Committee.

However, unlike most protestors, they did not shout slogans or demands. They stood together praying and singing hymns. Georgi Vins and Gennadi Kryuchkov presented a petition to the Soviet government on their behalf, requesting the official recognition of their churches, a plea to stop government interferences, the release of imprisoned believers, and freedom for Soviet citizens to teach and be taught religious faith.

On the morning of the seventeenth, soldiers and KGB agents surrounded the peaceful gathering. Around 1:00pm., a number of buses closed in and the soldiers attacked, beating them and forcing them into the buses. No one fought back. Instead, the demonstrators linked arms and started singing again over the screams of the attacking soldiers. All of this was done in public with many bystanders gathering around to watch the steadfast faith of the Christians. They were then taken to prison.

Even in prison they continued to pray and sing. The Communists had refused the pleas of these powerful protestors, but they had not broken their spirits.

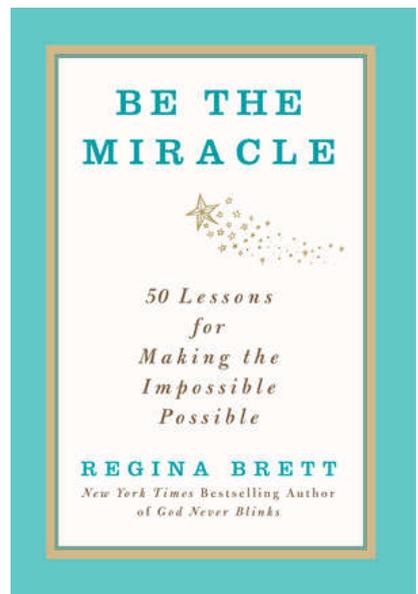
*People who turn Christianity into a cause run the risk of confusing violence for obedience. However, nothing could be further from the true description. Radical obedience means we protest whatever is contrary to Christ's teaching. However, like the Soviet Baptists, we aim for peace and not to provoke harm. Those who are persecuted for their faith leave an example of peaceful demonstrations and determination. They do not return evil for evil, yet they calmly accept the consequences of their obedience to Christ's commands. If you want to be a radical Christian, you must fully obey Christ's commands. In what area of your life is God calling you to radical obedience for him? What does it mean to you to be a redial Christian?*

In everything set them an example by doing what is good.....so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. (Titus 2:7-8)

## **50 Lessons from Be the Miracle** **by Regina Brett**

1. Get busy on the possible.
2. Start where you are.
3. You can make a big difference no matter how little you make.
4. Magnify the good.
5. Do your best and forget the rest. Pay no attention to the results. It could simply be too soon to tell.
6. We all do the same things. It's how we do them.
7. Interruptions are divine assignments.
8. Adjust your own oxygen mask before helping others or you'll be of no use to anyone – including you.
9. Instead of treating people the way you want to be treated, treat people the way they want to be treated.
10. If you want to see a miracle, be the miracle.
11. Everyone matters to somebody.
12. Speak up for others, especially when they aren't present to speak up for themselves.
13. Give birth to yourself every day.
14. Sometimes it's enough to make one person happy.
15. The secret of life is no secret. It's sprinkled all over your life.
16. If you can't be the rock, be the ripple.
17. Give as if the world is your family, because it is.
18. Everyone is either your student or your teacher. Most people are both.
19. Pray like you mean it.
20. Arrive early.
21. Dream big.
22. Consult your own soul. Deep inside you already know the answers you need.
23. Get in the game.
24. God doesn't always call the strong. Sometimes you have to be weak enough to serve.

25. When you have nothing but faith, you have enough.
26. Be a good monk. Make your life a prayer.
27. Believe in abundance.
28. Shine your light, no matter how dark the world around you appears
29. Comfort the sick. When everyone else flees, be the one who stays.
30. You have an endless supply of abundance from a wealthy Father who loves you, and so does everyone else.
31. Carry as you climb.
32. Be an original. Forge your own path.
33. Harness the power of hope.
34. Watch well your words. Practice restraint of tongue and pen.
35. No matter what happens, don't take it personally. Take it spiritually.
36. The world needs your Yes!
37. Use your power.
38. You are a child's most important teacher.
39. What you think about you bring about.
40. Aim higher.
41. Make someone else's dream come true.
42. Triage.
43. A saint is someone who knows how much God loves them.
44. Don't quit before the miracle happens.
45. Make amends as soon as you can, while you still can.
46. Silence the noise. In times of doubt or indecision, pause and make room for God.
47. To be a channel of peace, you have to stay open.
48. God will not have His work made manifest by cowards.
49. Leave a legacy time can't erase.
50. If you woke up today, God isn't through with you yet.





## Sponsored Children

Back in February 2015 Tony Loft let us know that the church had decided to sponsor a number of children through Care for Uganda. The children are from

Bbowa, which is the middle of the so called 'Luwero Traingle - and area devastated by the civil war in the 1980s, where literally thousands of people lost their lives.

Tony has recently received school reports and photos of Jannifer Nakiwala Kisaakye and Sarah Nanfuka as well as questionnaires that the children were asked to complete.

care for Uganda 

**Questionnaire**

Name..... Nakiwala Jane Number..... 228 78

What has made you happiest this year?

COMING to school

Is there anything that has made you sad or annoyed this year?

a busing me

Tell us something good you did this year?

planting a tree

Tell us something about your family.

There five people

What have you done that has made you proud this year?

writing in my books

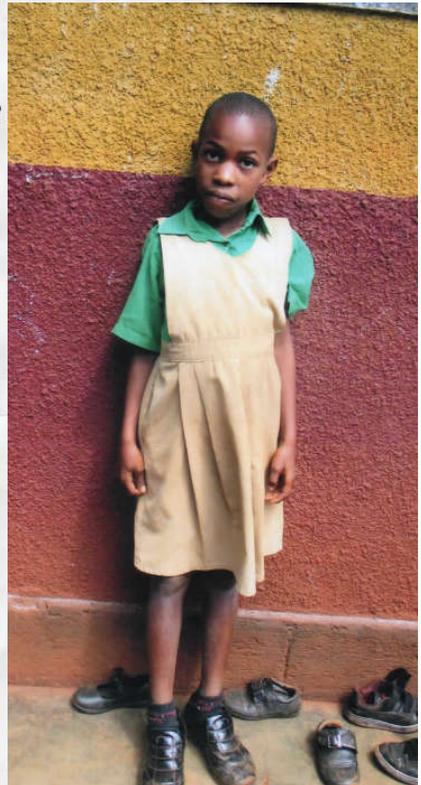
Have you been sick and off school much this year?

No

What do you like to do in your leisure time?

making dolls

I would like to thank my sponsor.  
Going to school is important to me because  
I am learning



Jannifer is now 8 years old and is an only child and lives with her mother. She attends St. Kizito Waluleeta Primary School where her best subjects are drawing and literacy.

Sarah is now 13 years old and attending Makulubita Seed Secondary School and her best subjects are RE, Commerce, Mathematics and Luganda (Luganda is one of the major languages in Uganda). She lives with her parents and two older sisters and younger brother.



care for  
Uganda 

**Questionnaire**

Name.....NANENKA SARAH..... Number.....7

What has made you happiest this year?  
To perform better my exams.

Is there anything that has made you sad or annoyed this year?  
Nothing

Tell us something good you did this year?  
I planted maize in my garden

Tell us something about your family.  
My Family is good and happy for the work you're doing ie paying me school fees.

What have you done that has made you proud this year?  
I passed my exams.

Have you been sick and off school much this year?  
Yes, I have been sick for a week but not OFF school.

What do you like to do in your leisure time?  
Revising my books.

I would like to thank my sponsor.  
Going to school is important to me because  
Education is the key to success.



Life in Uganda is challenging. The levels of poverty are extreme, and living conditions are often lacking in any safe shelter or hygiene. There are many challenges affecting the lives of individuals and the communities of which they are a part.

Education and health especially provide challenges that in the UK are met with health care and welfare support. We find it difficult to understand the situations faced on a daily basis by people living in local communities. Care for Uganda work hard to understand these needs and to ask what we can do to help them. We work hard alongside the local government where we can.

Care for Uganda endeavours to build relationships with those within the community and amongst those working in education and health.

There are many complex issues regarding education in Uganda. Some of these are due to a lack of funding from the government. This means that money needs to be raised to cover buildings, scholastic materials, equipment and school uniforms.

Care for Uganda encourages people to help themselves. Our slogan “hand-ups, not hand-outs” serves to help to equip and enable people who show evidence of the ability to make improvements to their standard of living.

If children do not have a uniform or scholastic materials they are not able to attend school. Children who are on Care for Uganda’s sponsorship are fortunate as they are supported so are able to attend school.

Thank you for your continued support.

You can find out more about Care for Uganda and some of the projects they are involved in at the website [www.careforuganda.org](http://www.careforuganda.org)



## **April Press Releases from CSW**

*For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'*  
*Jeremiah 29:11*

The right to freedom of religion or belief is a counterweight to religious intolerance and must be upheld and promoted in Sri Lanka and across the world. It is a right for everyone – whether they have a religion or belief or not. The Sri Lankan Easter bombings are a reminder that the problem of religious intolerance cannot be isolated to one particular country or region – it is a global concern that touches us all.

### **Please pray for:**

#### **Sri Lanka**

This Easter Sunday, a message of life, hope and joy for Christian worshippers was marred by the news of explosions targeting churches and hotels in Sri Lanka, striking a devastating blow to the country's 1 million strong Christian community as they gathered to worship.

Attacks on members of religious minority groups in Sri Lanka, including Hindus, Muslims and Christians, are nothing new. Religious intolerance has been on the rise in the country since 2000, particularly since the end of the civil war in 2009. Acts of violence motivated by religious hatred persist in an environment of impunity as the authorities are often reluctant to curb Buddhist nationalists, and statistics on religious discrimination and harassment are often denied or ignored.

When prominent human rights lawyer Lakshan Dias quoted statistics from the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL) indicating that Christians were subject to 195 incidents of discrimination, intimidation and violence between 2015 and June 2017, he was threatened with disbarment unless he retracted his comment and apologised within 24 hours.

The situation for religious minorities in Sri Lanka has also drawn the attention of the UN Human Rights Council. In 2014, it adopted a

resolution on reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka, noting the “significant surge in attacks against members of religious minority groups in Sri Lanka, including Hindus, Muslims and Christians”.

The scale of the Sri Lanka Easter bombings is shocking, as are reports that the authorities had received prior warning of planned attacks and did not act – allegations that must be thoroughly investigated. They point to a troubling rise of religious intolerance in Sri Lanka, with regional implications.

In 2015, Sri Lanka co-sponsored a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council entitled “promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka”. The government pledged to implement a robust transitional justice process and reaffirmed that “all Sri Lankans are entitled to the full enjoyment of their human rights regardless of religion, belief or ethnicity”.

It is time for the government of Sri Lanka to fulfil its obligations under this 2015 resolution and bring an end to the culture of impunity surrounding acts of religious intolerance.

**Mexico:**

An agreement has been reached in Chiquinivalvo, Chiapas state, permitting 12 Protestant Christians to receive basic services, after access was denied following their refusal to take part in a traditional religious festival.

Luis Antonio López Herrera of the Misión 21 Gramos in Chiapas state reported *“In these moments [sic] they have come to an agreement; they will allow access to water and electricity under some conditions that no longer violate the right to freedom of belief. We hope that everything progresses in accordance with the respect that each person deserves.”*

**Nepal:**

Four Christians have been falsely arrested for alleged involvement in conversion in Ghorahi, a city in the Dang Deukhuri District, Nepal. Conversion is illegal in Nepal.

Local police arrested two men and two women at their hotel at approximately 8am on 23 April. They have been identified as Dilli Ram Paudel, the General Secretary of the Nepal Christian Society; Gaurav

Sreevastab, an Indian national; an unnamed U.S. citizen and Kusang Tamang, their Nepali interpreter. Their bibles and personal belongings, including cash and laptops, were confiscated by police.

The group had attended a one-day Christian conference for pastors on 22 April, held at a local church, with approximately 70 others. Sources have told CSW that the four have not been charged yet but remain in police custody.

**Burma:**

Burma's Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, two Reuters reporters who were sentenced to seven years in prison in September 2018, accused of breaching the Official Secrets Act.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo uncovered the massacre of 10 Rohingyas in Inn Dinn, Rakhine State that took place in September 2017. In their report, they claimed that local Buddhist villagers had dug a grave and hacked two Rohingyas to death. The others were shot by the Burma army. The two reporters were awarded the Pulitzer Prize last week, while in jail.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

*The CSW team*

0845 456 5464

admin@csw.org.uk

*Visit [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk) for latest news and information*

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**Church Collection and Donations Update**

The collection for the victims of Cyclone Idai amounted to £100 to which was added £180 from the Benevolent Fund.

Martin Way Methodist Church was one of the beneficiaries in the will of the late Joyce Plant and a cheque has just been received for which we are very grateful. We remember our friend Joyce with affection and give thanks for her kindness in making a generous gift which is particularly welcome at this time.

The Flower Fund continues to benefit from an annual gift from the family of the late Gladys Nott for which we are also very grateful.

*Roy Ellis*

# CHURCH DIARY



Sun	5	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Emma Aikins
Tue	7	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	10	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
			<i>Start of Christian Aid Week</i>
Sun	12	10.30 am	Café Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
		6.30 pm	Unit Service at Merton Park Baptist Church led by Rev Keith Mitchell
Tue	14	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	19	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
		12.30 pm	Greek Themed Lunch
Tue	21	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>David Greenwood</i> - Flying for Life. An update on work in medical emergencies
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	10	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	25	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Viv Newitt
Tue	28	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

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

We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday  
in May a very

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:



**Seleso Sepanya on 3rd May**

**Lesedi Sepanya on 17th May**

**Elizabeth Turnbull on 22nd May**

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### **Have we Missed Your Birthday or Special Occasion?**

As we have many new additions to the church family, we may have inadvertently missed names of those celebrating their birthdays each month.

If you wish to have your child's birthday (or anyone's special birthday or occasion) mentioned in the Newsletter please pass the details for inclusion to our Editor, Andrew Fox.

He can be contacted via email at [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone on (020) 8330 7917.

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### **A Greek Themed Lunch**

You are invited to a Greek Themed Lunch on **Sunday 19th May 2019 at 12.30pm**. There is no charge for the meal but we would be grateful for donations in aid of the Coffee Lounge floor.

As an added bonus there will be a showing of the film Mamma Mia (the first one) in the church after lunch. Please come along to both the lunch and the film show for a fun afternoon.

*Sylvia Baxter*

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### **Church Family News**

It is with sadness that we announce the deaths of Rachael Mortley and Ron Moore. Our thoughts and prayers go out to both families.



Now in its ninth year, MyRaynesPark Festival is a community arts festival for the residents of SW20 and it has brought comedy, art, music, drama, poetry and family fun to our local town!

MyRaynesPark Festival is managed and delivered by Raynes Park Community Church with support from a wide range of local groups and businesses.

#### OUR CORE VALUES ARE:

**Celebration** – every year we have some kind of party!

**Inclusivity** – over 90% of our events are free and open to all.

**Creativity** – not only do we have world class performers but there are plenty of opportunities for local residents to get involved.

**Family** – we put on intergenerational events.

**Community** – we seek to bring the community together and promote local groups that run throughout the year to a wider network. Local groups who work with us include; the Community Art Group at Love & Dye, Raynes Park Library, Jigsaw Players and many more.

**Justice** – promote social justice issues, previously including; Refugee Week and anti-trafficking in the borough of Merton.

This summer the Festival will run from 28th June to 8th July 2019.

For more information visit our website: [www.myraynespark.co.uk](http://www.myraynespark.co.uk)

Items for the **June Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 19th May** at the latest

## **Church Activities**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>
	<b>Morning Communion (once a month)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>
	<b>Evening Communion (once a month)</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b>
	<b>Sunday Club</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>
	<b>SIGMA—the Circuit Choir (occasional)</b>	<b>4.00 - 5.30 pm</b>
	<b>Platform 10¾ YPF (Twice monthly)</b>	<b>8.00 - 9.30 pm</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Chat</b>	<b>10.30 - noon</b>
	<b>Men's Supper Club (3rd Tuesday in month)</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>
	<b>Time for Prayer</b>	<b>8.00 pm</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Frogs Club (for Carers &amp; Toddlers)</b>	<b>10.00 – 12.00</b>
	<b>Rainbows (1st Merton Park)</b>	<b>5.30 - 6.30 pm</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Brownies (2nd Merton Park)</b>	<b>6.00 - 7.30 pm</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Luncheon Club (Fortnightly)</b>	<b>12.30 pm</b>
	<b>Coffee &amp; Chat Extra (Fortnightly, alternating with Lunch Club)</b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>

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