

Martin Way Methodist Church

Buckleigh Avenue

Merton Park

London

SW20 9JZ

Minister: Revd Paul Timmis



Report for the year

1st September 2007 to 31st August 2008

(Issued 1st Oct 2008)

Church Activities

| | | |
|------------------|--|--------------------|
| SUNDAY | Morning Worship | 10.30 am |
| | Morning Communion (2nd Sunday in month) | 10.30 am |
| | Evening Communion (1st Sunday in month) | 6.30 pm |
| | Bible Study (4th Sunday in 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 | 10.00 - 12 noon |
| | Men's Supper Club (3rd Tuesday in month) | 7.30 pm |
| | Time for Prayer | 8.00 pm |
| WEDNESDAY | Morning Frogs Club (Carers & Toddlers Group) | 10.00 - 12 noon |
| | Holy Communion (2nd Wednesday in month) | 10.30 am |
| | Afternoon Frogs Club (Carers & Toddler Group) | 1.00 - 3.00 pm |
| | Rainbows (1st Merton Park) | 5.30 - 6.30 pm |
| | Guides (2nd Merton Park) | 7.30 - 9.00 pm |
| | Midways Group (Fortnightly) | 7.45 pm |
| THURSDAY | Brownies (2nd Merton Park) | 6.00 - 7.30 pm |
| FRIDAY | Luncheon Club (Fortnightly) | 12.30 pm |
| | Junior Youth Club | 6.00 - 7.30 pm |
| SATURDAY | Coffee Mornings, Concerts, etc (as advertised) | |

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1. Leadership Review

Introduction.

It has been a funny old year.

- We've had two ministers, Revd John Nyota and Revd Barrie Tabraham.
- Plans were laid in anticipation of not having a minister for the year 2008/9.
- The Leadership Team was at last completed.
- We had our 50th anniversary in May 2007 and in September 2009 we will celebrate our 75th.

Confused? You're not the only one. Please read on ...

The Two Ministers

The year started with Revd John Nyota as our minister, as he had been since September 2003 and he had planned to be through to August 2008. However, after much heart searching, John felt called to expand his ministry with a change of direction into politics. Being Kenyan and with the Kenyan elections looming in November 2008, John's passion for his home country led him to stand in the elections. He did not expect to win but he saw it as a foot-hold and a training ground towards fulfilling his ambition of serving God and his country from within the Kenyan political arena. We are grateful to John for all that he brought to Martin Way during his ministry with us.

John left Martin Way in February 2008 and Revd Barrie Tabraham, already the Circuit Superintendant and minister at Christ Church with St Philip, Worcester Park, stepped into the breach by taking on pastoral oversight of Martin Way. He admirably fulfilled this role until August 2008 when he took planned early retirement on health grounds. We, at Martin Way, are indebted to Barrie for the, albeit short, time he spent with us.

The New Minister - Revd Paul Timmis

We had started looking for a new minister to share with Worcester Park at the beginning of 2008, although the Circuit Stewards had started much earlier. It became evident after the first candidate was declined, that we would be very fortunate if another minister became available because of the shortage of ministers. Not having heard anything by the end of May, we therefore, in conjunction with the Circuit Staff, set about laying plans for being without a minister for at least 2008/9.

However, by the Grace of God, Revd Paul Timmis unexpectedly became available and after the usual interviews, visits, etc he was as happy to accept our invitation as we were to welcome him to the Circuit from September 2008. He is married to Rebecca and they have two young daughters, Amèlie and Matilda.

The Leadership Team

It was always John Nyota's aim to build a Leadership Team to represent the outlook of the congregation and members of Martin Way to the minister. The team would bring to their meetings the joys and concerns of the people who were Martin Way Church and advise and suggest ideas and plans to the Church Council. This required a representative from each walk of life within the church. This has been achieved and the Leadership Team is now complete, as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Chairman | Revd Paul Timmis | 8337 2348 | |
| Church Council Secretary | Caroline Johnson | 8540 3755 | caroline.johnson@tesco.net |
| Church Treasurer | John Butland | 8542 3138 | johnbutland@blueyonder.co.uk |
| Senior Vestry Steward | Joan Harding | 8395 6389 | jah1@blueyonder.co.uk |
| Property Rep | Roy Ellis | 8542 9241 | royger22@btinternet.com |
| Communications Team Rep | Jane Smith | 8330 6411 | mwcomms@hotmail.co.uk |
| Church Life Rep | Anne Conquest | 8942 7147 | aconquest@btinternet.com |
| Mission Rep | Tony Loft | 8543 0696 | tony@theattics.plus.com |
| Pastoral Rep | Sue Boyd | 8542 2377 | sueaboyn@yahoo.co.uk |
| Worship Rep | Mike Mortley | 8540 4961 | mike@mortley.org.uk |

So if you have any joys or concerns that you would like to bring before the Leadership Team, you know who to contact!

The Anniversaries

This really is a tale of two churches. The original church on the site, now the Church Hall, was opened in September 1934 and it is the 75th anniversary of this event that we shall be celebrating in September 2009. However, we couldn't let the past year go by without acknowledging and celebrating the opening 50 years ago of the 'new' and current church in May 1958. This we did in May 2008 and more can be read in Anne Conquest's report on Church Life.

In conclusion

We have had quite an up and down kind of year this year finishing, fortunately, on an upbeat. We look forward to Paul and his family sharing the years ahead with us in providing a place where people can freely enjoy worship and fellowship together to the glory of God.

2. Vestry Stewards

Contact : Joan Harding

(020 8395 6389

: jah1@blueyonder.co.uk

This year has seen Gwen Edwards and Dennis Clark complete their 6 year terms of office. Pauline Riley and Mike Fuwa were elected in their place and welcomed as new stewards. Updated guidelines were implemented giving those on duty Sunday by Sunday i.e. Vestry Stewards, Welcome Team and Technicians (Team Sunday), clarification of their duties. On 7th June a Circuit Stewards' Day was held at Martin Way and was well attended. A talk entitled "A Vision for the Circuit" was led by Revd Margaret Adams. It was very informative and most helpful with points raised to help members of the Circuit to work more closely together.

3. Communion Stewards

Contact : Graham Currie

((020) 8542 0415

: graham@currie22440.fsnet.co.uk

During the year 2007/8 the average number of monthly Sunday morning communicants was 55 compared with 63 in 2006/7 and a two year average (2006/8) of 59, indicating a downward trend of 13% during a difficult period for the church. Evening communion service attendance rose slightly from 11 to 12 with the valued support of ministers from the circuit over the two year period. Taking into account extra midweek and special communions, attendance at 851 was slightly down from the previous year. Those attending have been very positive concerning the variety of style and experience in services allowing time for personal reflection, especially in the quieter evening services.. The new sanctuary arrangements have helped at all services

4. Cradle Roll

Contact : Karen Smith

(020 8542 0176

: andyeborsmith@blueyonder.co.uk

Since I took over the job in 2001, there have been 17 baptisms. In the last 12 months, there have been two baptisms keeping up our usual average of about 2 or 3 a year. Families are always visited by the minister and myself beforehand.

Most of the people who have been baptised and their families have not continued to attend church afterwards. Those that do are those who previously worshiped at our church.

Plans for encouraging those families to attend that have had children baptised, include the sending of birthday cards and holding a special service to which the families of those previously baptised would be invited. The second baptism of this year took place on 31st August with Revd Margaret Adams taking the service.

5. Financial Statement

Contact : John Butland

(020 8542 3138

: johnbutland@blueyonder.co.uk

The General Account

In the Methodist year to the 31st August 2008 money received from Sunday Collections, including payments made by Banker's Orders and cheques was £21,523.04, which is the first time in our history that we have achieved such a high figure. Well done everyone, but can we now improve on this to beat inflation?

There are then separate Gift Aid payments of £2,955.00, so that the tax returned from Gift Aided donors produced £5,816.45, which is marginally down on last year. I almost hesitate to repeat my much stated plea for those who pay income tax, who do not already Gift Aid their payments, to do so without delay. At present we only have 36 Gift Aid Declarations to the General Fund and 9 to the Building Fund, plus one single payment to the Building Fund of £1,000.00. In spite of the reduction in the standard rate of tax this April, we are still able - for three years - to continue to reclaim tax at the old rate of 28p in the £, so that a donation of, say, £5.00 per week is increased by £1.40 at no cost to the donor. This would equate to an extra £72.80 in a year! Why not ask me for more details as to how to do this?

This year has included some exceptional items of income, interest on funds with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is paid six monthly, but last year the second payment was late in arriving so has had to be included in this year's income - an amount of £3,529.27. We had a Gift Day which produced £2,740.00, the Pantomime gave us £652.43 and the May Fair £1,160.20. So we have something to do in the current year to make up for these items!

The overall picture is encouraging in that taking our income - including that from the use of our premises - against our expenditure, leaves us with a balance in hand, but we have to work at keeping this position.

A word of thanks needs to be expressed to Pete Boyd who was "persuaded" to take on the role of Bookings Secretary after the death of Ted Ashwood. Ted served us well over a number of years, and Pete has continued the good work very successfully. We now have income from groups which is helping to replace that which we had for some years from the YMCA Afterschool Care and Merton Park Music Centre, before they had to give up. Thanks also to the various Church groups for their donations.

We continue to be grateful to the Late Derek Masters who died in January 2004, and left us a legacy in his Will of just under £180,000.00. This, with other generous donations and grants, has enabled us to carry out the three phases of the redevelopment of our premises so far undertaken to date, and leave us with a healthy capital sum in hand. Any further work to be undertaken will, however, create the necessity for further substantial fund raising!

The **Building Fund** which has had to deal with a number of items during the year, not the least of which was the theft of lead from a number of locations on the roofs which had cost £14,015.82 to put right. We have so far recovered £11,980.82 from the insurance company, and the Loss Adjuster has authorized a further refund of £1,935.00. This leaves a balance of £100.00 which is the excess on the policy which we have to bear. There has been other redecoration work, fence repairs, roof repairs, new carpeting, etc.

The **Benevolent Account** continues to make regular donations to deserving causes.

The **Flower Fund** where the carried forward balance continues to reduce, donations of money as well as flowers always welcome to this fund!

6. Property Points

Contact: Roy Ellis

(020 8542 9241

: royger22@btinternet.com

Our aim is to provide attractive, comfortable and functional surroundings in which to worship God and bring others to know Him. The premises have again proved their flexibility for a range of church activities and the work over recent years to upgrade and maintain the premises has this year shown fruit with an increase in non-church groups finding the premises to be an attractive venue for their activities. This is a welcome reaffirmation of the church's role within the local community and increases the potential for introducing others to God, as well as easing our financial plight.

The year has, however, been dominated by the repair work necessitated by the theft of lead from the roof. Initially thought to have been confined to the ramped corridor and vestibule area, the theft was subsequently found to have extended to the flat roofs above the hall. The theft resulted in significant water damage to ceilings and carpets. Much of the lead has now been replaced with durable roofing felt and the affected areas redecorated. The opportunity was taken to re-carpet the whole corridor, vestibule, Parlour and vestry, re-felt three flat roofs and undertake general roof maintenance.

During the year a fire risk assessment and security review were undertaken, Smartwater applied to items of value, and a safety check made of all polypropylene stacking chairs with those showing signs of structural weakness being replaced.

The church's aim for the future is to increase the visibility of its witness to God and plans are focused on building a coffee shop with direct access to the church and the main road. An architect has prepared several exciting options, one of which is to be pursued subject to a financial feasibility study. Recognising the likely timescale of the project, it has been agreed to explore an interim proposal for a café in the Coffee Lounge. This would use existing facilities; concentrate issues of Health & Safety and Environmental Health in existing locations; and minimise set-up costs.

7. Vision Matters

As this is our first Annual Report, we have taken the liberty of retracing our steps one year, i.e. to 2006/7. The Leadership Team at that time decided that our Vision Statement was due an overhaul as it had not been looked at since 2000. The result of many hours of prayerful deliberation resulted in a new logo and a three stage vision followed by a plan to put that vision into practice, "The Mission for the Vision".

It was also decided that committee meetings would not be held just because we have always done that in the past. This resulted in a more streamlined administrative and meeting system with more emphasis placed on the Church Council who, after all, are the governing body of our church. Although the Family and Mission committees were discontinued, the work they did was taken up by the Church Life and Mission representatives reporting to Church Council, which now meets quarterly.

A summary of our vision follows:

We, from Martin Way Methodist Church, are a community that encourages people to:

- WORSHIP** together to be more Christ-like (Worship);
- GROW** together in our Christian faith through Bible study and house fellowships (Pastoral);
- SERVE** our neighbours with our church facilities and the weekday activities (Church Life);
- SHARE** with each other and the local community the excitement of God's love (Mission).

A leaflet describing the Vision Statement in more detail can be obtained from either of our vestibules at Martin Way.

Worship

Contact : *Mike Mortley*

(020 8540 4961

: *mike@mortley.org.uk*

Our worship year began with a Worship Consultation at the September Church Council. A lively discussion took place resulting in the conclusion that the pattern of worship that has evolved over recent years is generally accepted and welcomed as providing a variety of styles. So in any one month we have:

| | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| 1st Sunday | 10.30 am | All Age Worship | 6.30 pm | Holy Communion |
| 2nd Sunday | 10.30 am | Morning Worship with Holy Communion | | |
| 3rd Sunday | 10.30 am | Praise Service | | |
| 4th Sunday | 10.30 am | Morning Worship | 6.30 pm | Bible Study |
| 5th Sunday | 10.30 am | Morning Worship | | |

All Age Worship is a service at which the young people and adults share the whole service and worship. It is less formal than a traditional service and although it caters for all age groups, the material is such that it can be understood by the young folk. The music is led by our Church Band.

Morning worship is a traditional Methodist service led by the minister or a local preacher. The children move into the Sunday Club after the first part of the service.

Holy Communion is an essential part of our worship together. All those who profess a faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the elements. At the morning communion service, the children stay in the Sunday Club from the start but join the congregation towards the end to receive the elements of bread and wine should they so wish. Evening communion is less formal and often takes place "in the round".

Praise Services offer a more informal approach to worship and cater for more modern and varied tastes with contributions through music, dance, drama, readings and song. They are participatory services with members of the congregation taking part. Again, the music is led by our Church Band.

Refreshments are available after every Sunday morning service so that we may get to know one another better.

Music is provided by our organist and/or Church Band and when they are not available, our trusty digital hymnal steps into the breach!

Technology also play a part in our worship with several radio mikes, the ability to project hymns, prayers, bible readings, liturgies and video as well as playing CDs and DVDs. However, we sometimes choose, where appropriate, to revert to hymn books, bibles and the Methodist Worship Book.

We are very adaptable, and are looking forward to our new minister, Revd Paul Timmis, adding Ionian elements to our worship, something which he is keen to do.

Worship is important to us and is at the centre of our being. To be able to offer our praise openly to God, among other Christians, is a privilege we should honour since in so many oppressed countries, it is a privilege many Christians are denied.

Pastoral (Grow)

Contact : Sue Boyd
(020 8542 2377
: sueaboyd@yahoo.co.uk

At Martin Way we have a strong ethos of good pastoral care. We hope that all who worship with us on Sundays, and others who use our premises during the week, always feel welcome.

During the past year we have 'launched' our newly formed Pastoral Groups. We currently have eleven groups each in the care of a committed Pastoral Leader. A short service of dedication for our Pastoral Leaders was held in March. These groups are composed of both church members and regular adherents. In July 2008 we recorded a total of 94 people placed within a Pastoral Group, 83 church members and 11 regular adherents.

We always strive to be inclusive and are delighted when we have the opportunity to welcome new people into the groups. We hope that during the next year we will be able to build on these firm foundations to develop our network of pastoral care even further.

Church Life (Serve)

Contact : Anne Conquest
(020 8942 7147
: aconquest@btinternet.com

This year the church has opened its doors for a number of social events appealing to the whole local community.

At the end of last year there was a successful Christmas Tree Festival, where every group that meets on the premises, was invited to pay for and decorate a tree with relevance to their activities. On the Saturday the church was open for viewing of the illuminated forest. Refreshments, children's activities, and a variety of entertainment were provided throughout the afternoon, and culminated in the Sunday Club presenting the Nativity.

In February, members of the church family presented the pantomime "Dick Whittington" which was thoroughly enjoyed by the cast and well attended.

May 10th saw the celebration of the church's 50th Anniversary. On the Saturday there was a May Fair using the whole of the premises. There was a variety of stalls, games and of course the obligatory food. The weather was very kind and the event was well attended and it again appealed to the local community and also those groups who use the church's premises.

We were joined on Sunday by Revd David and Sue Chapman and their family. David, who was our minister from 1995 to 2000, led the morning worship after which a celebration cake was cut and a wonderful time was had by all.

Platform 10 ¾ organised a cream tea in July at Martin Way for Revd Barrie & Joan Tabraham as a thank you and opportunity to wish them both the best in their new lives together following Barrie's retirement from the Ministry.

There is another cream tea planned for the 14th September, to welcome Revd Paul Timmis and his family to Martin Way.

In October we will be celebrating Harvest over the weekend of the 4th / 5th October. On Saturday there will be a Barn Dance, led by a live band and caller and there will be refreshments as part of the ticket price. Harvest celebration services will take place on the 5th October.

We look forward to 2009, with the key celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the church being established at Martin Way. Some thought is also being given to a social event, provisionally in February 2009, which may be a Murder Mystery Evening, details will follow.

Mission (*Share*)

Contact : Tony Loft

(020 8543 0696

: tony@theattics.plus.com

Over the past year a lot of restructuring with regard to the different committees and their functions in the church, has meant the mission event envisaged for 2007/08 was put on hold.

However I can report that as in the past the church was involved in the street collections and a sponsored walk for Christian Aid and the overall total amount raised by the church was £1,668.60.

Each Christmas we carol sing at Morden Station in aid of Action for Children (formerly the NCH) for which this year we raised £734.00. In addition to this our Christmas collections, Christmas Tree Festival and the SIGMA concert brought that total to £1,468.60. Add to that the £171.08 raised through the year via home collection boxes meant that we were able to send a grand total of £1,639.58 to Action for Children

It is my hope that during this coming year we will be able to carry out a mission event within the local community in addition to our own celebrations for 75 years of the church being established at Martin Way. In his inaugural address at the opening of the church in September 1934, the Revd Donald Soper spoke of the new Christian society to come and how Martin Way church could become a template for that future world. There is even more reason today as to why that should be true.

8. Church Activities

Church Band

Contact : Colin Smith

(020 8330 6411

: mwcomms@hotmail.co.uk

Meets – see second paragraph.

All Age Worship, Praise Service and more.

We provide the musical accompaniment for All Age Worship services on the first Sunday of each month and for the Praise Services on the third Sunday of each month. In addition, the one-off Café Worship style service, organised by Platform 10 ¾ one Sunday evening in June, is worthy of being considered for inclusion on next year's service plan.

We currently meet before the services that we are playing for and have a quick practice. We are, however, in the process of setting up additional rehearsals for perhaps one Sunday afternoon a month to learn new music that can be 'gradually' integrated into the services. Then the band can really give something extra.

Music is an important part of worship that can be joyous and uplifting or reflective and moving, helping us all to praise the Lord in different ways. Old traditional hymns and brand new songs all have their place. Having the band has given Martin Way more scope with these various styles of music.

Throughout the year we are called upon for one or two special events or shows such as accompanying the circuit youth choir, SIGMA, which is a highlight of the year. These events involve all or some of the band members depending on the sort of music required. The Praise Services tend to be more music based and can be quite lively, so the band looks forward to playing at these services too.

One difficulty we face is finding enough musicians in the church. We currently have only one piano/organ player, who is really quite stretched with other duties. We are also in need of another guitarist and our drummer, while very happy to come and will continue to do so, should really see a bit more of his own church in West Ewell. We have a small woodwind section and some singers, but would very happily welcome anyone else willing to play an instrument or sing. The other difficulty we are faced with is finding time to practice as a band other than Sunday mornings.

It is hoped that the band will continue to develop its role in worship by providing music that helps us all to draw closer to a relationship with God, and that would be good.

Coffee & Chat

Contact : John Butland & Rosemary Keen

(020 8542 3138 (John); 020 8540 1281 (Rosemary)

: johnbutland@blueyonder.co.uk

Meets every Tuesday morning 10.00 am to noon

This meeting was started on the 6th April 1993 by three ladies Mrs Jean Butland, Mrs Jean Gear and Mrs. Edie Winrow, since when it has met on a Tuesday throughout each year - yes even during August - unless Christmas Day or New Year's Day happens to fall on a Tuesday!

Two of the founders of the meeting, my wife and Edie, have died, and Jean Gear is no longer able to help. After my wife's death in 2004 I continued to keep the meeting going, and was joined by Rosemary so that we now share responsibility.

The meeting was formed in order to give folk the opportunity to drop in for coffee - or tea - and a chat about anything and everything. This year we passed our 15th anniversary and sadly, like so many other meetings, our numbers have decreased. Back in 1993 we used to average anything up to 25 people from all different sources, but now our numbers may go up to 14 on a good day if we are lucky.

We still charge the same as when we first started - 50p for coffee or tea with biscuits and a refill without charge if requested, and we have a faithful few who can be relied upon to turn up, except for holidays or other particular reason. Funds are donated regularly to the church for general purposes.

It would be so nice to welcome members of the congregation, or indeed anyone else who fancies a coffee or tea and a chat with other friendly people.

Frogs Carer & Toddler Club

Contact : Annemarie Pallister

(020 8542 1342

: annemarie@pallister2193.freemove.co.uk

Meets Wednesday 10-12 and 1-3 pm (Term times only)

Frogs Club is a carer and toddler group for families living in Merton and the surrounding community. We welcome anyone who cares for children under 5 years. Our members are parents, grandparents, nannies and child minders. Our aim is to provide a safe and friendly environment for the children and a place where their carers can come for friendship, support and a cup of coffee and maybe even a chocolate biscuit! We welcome everyone regardless of religion or parish membership. We have no waiting list and people are welcome to drop in at any time.

Our two groups are different in respect of numbers. The morning session is busy and we use more of the premises: the afternoon group is smaller and quieter and therefore only the hall is used.

The group has been running for more than 15 years and we have seen many changes in volunteers. Recently three of our leaders have moved away or got full time work and we have struggled to find replacements. Thankfully two of the members have stepped in to help, so from September we do have enough volunteers.

The highlight of the year is our Christmas party. Parents pay a small contribution to the party and both groups are brought together. The children are given a hot lunch of sausages or fish fingers and chips followed by jelly and ice cream. Then Father Christmas comes and the children receive a gift specially labelled for them. Of course we don't forget the adults, they get tea, coffee and mince pies.

House Groups

Caroline & Tim's

Contact : *Tim & Caroline Johnson*

(020 8540 3755

: *Caroline.Johnson@tesco.net*

Meets alternate Wednesdays at 8pm

House group meetings give members the opportunity to learn and grow in faith together, building friendships and encouraging one another, within a friendly and supportive environment.

The main focus of each meeting is a Bible study, but there is also a chance to pray together and to chat over coffee and biscuits. The group has also enjoyed occasional social events. Over the last year we have enjoyed a series of studies in Colossians and are currently studying a DVD-based course on hope, following the theme of this year's Spring Harvest which a number of group members attended. All group members who wish to do so are encouraged to take turns at leading a study.

We would welcome any new group members who would like to join us; the more members the more lively and varied the discussion.

Doreen & Fred's

Contact : *Doreen & Fred Warren*

(020 8542 4392

Meets midweek monthly at 7.45pm

About six members regularly attend Doreen and Fred's House group, the actual date being advertised in the church's Weekly Notices.

Its main aims are to foster fellowship through exploring the Bible and seeking to find God's will for us in our daily lives. Free discussion encourages each member to take part and, for those who wish, to take turns at leading the meeting. New members are always welcome.

Informal chat and refreshments conclude the evening's programme.

Junior Youth Club

Contact : *Peter Boyd*

(020 8542 2377

: *peteboyduk@yahoo.co.uk*

Meets Friday 6.00 - 7.30pm (Term time only)

The youth club is for 7 - 12 year olds, both boys and girls, and meets every Friday during term time. The aim is to provide a safe, semi-structured environment for both children from church families and those from the wider community to meet and socialise. At present we have 7 children from the church family and 27 from the wider community.

The club began as a result of the original stewardship campaign, following requests from children too young for the then Senior Club. It has been running for nearly 20 years. Over that time the leadership has changed but the aims and organisation have been consistent.

Each week there are social games to play e.g. table tennis, pool, computer games, table football, air hockey as well as larger games such as indoor hockey and outdoor stoolball (a traditional inter-village game). Each week there is either a craft or cooking activity led by the

leaders. We provide a drinks and sweets counter. This is generally run by ex-members who come back to help out as they can't bear to leave us!

The children have a happy time and mix well with others who come from different schools in the local area such as Hillcross, Poplar, Joseph Hood and Aragon. A warm welcome is shown to any child who wishes to sample the club and members are encouraged to bring visitors.

Lunch Club

Contact : Lesley Mortley

(020 8540 4961

: lesley@mortley.org.uk

Meets alternate Fridays 12.30 – 2.00pm

The Lunch Club first opened its doors in February 1990 and has been going strong ever since. We meet on alternate Fridays throughout most of the year, although we have a break at Christmas and during the summer. We provide a main course, typically roasts, casseroles, shepherds pie etc, and dessert, which might be lemon meringue pie, sticky toffee pudding, rice pudding, crumble etc. This is followed by cheese and biscuits and tea or coffee. And all for the princely sum of £3.00.

The Lunch Club is open to all. You do not need to be a church member, or old or infirm or single. Transport can be organised and, if you live close enough, we can provide a wheeled chariot, complete with flunkey, i.e. a wheelchair and pusher!

We have a team of four cooks, Anne, Beverly, Fern and myself, plus a tea-boy, Basil, and a washer-upper, Mike, who is an excellent dishwasher stacker. Vic and Dennis come down early to organise the tables, and Dennis is also our treasurer. We are a non-profit making organisation; we are all volunteers. We cover our costs, occasionally purchase new equipment for the church kitchen, and any surplus monies go into church funds.

Of late we have been serving an average of 25 dinners each session although we have a membership of 32. The room can accommodate 40 diners, so if anybody would like a delicious meal prepared by someone else, in good company, do get in touch. We re-start after the summer break on Friday 5th September at 12.30pm.

Mens Supper Club

Contact : Bill Cox

(020 8540 6630

: billcox27@yahoo.co.uk

Meets third Tuesday in each month 7.30 – 9.30pm (exceptions noted below)

The club which started in 1993 is ecumenical bringing together men from several churches. We are specially helped by men from St Martin's. Normally we meet on the third Tuesday of each month, the exceptions being August when we don't meet, and December when we meet on the second Tuesday for our Annual Social evening which is popular with wives and friends.

We begin with a meal at 7.30pm. This is cooked by club members. Afterwards we have a talk, often illustrated by slides. Meetings are informal with members "mucking in" and helping by laying tables, handing round the food, making tea and coffee and helping to clear up afterwards.

At the moment we charge £5 in January and £3 in subsequent months, but with rising costs this may have to be reviewed before long. We make two donations to the church during the year and have raised many hundreds of pounds for charity. If you would like to come along to any meeting, please contact Bill on the number above.

Midways

Contact : Maralyn Loft, Chair and Treasurer

(020 8543 0696

: maralyn@theattics.plus.com

Meets alternate Tuesdays at 7.45pm

Midways was started as a Young Wives Group in 1968. Since then it has evolved as a women's meeting for all ages and not only married women.

Today we are a small group of about 13. Increasingly only older women come and we do not seem to be able to entice younger women to join us.

We meet every two weeks on a Wednesday at 7.45pm between September and June and have a varied programme from members' evenings to paid speakers.

How much longer we continue remains unsure. How long the committee is willing to serve and the small number is maintained remains to be seen. We are thinking that perhaps next year we will meet once a month, making it easier to maintain the programme.

Platform 10 ¾

Contact : Abby Herring & Tony Loft

(020 8543 9093 (Abby) and 020 8543 0696 (Tony)

: abbyloft@googlemail.com and tony@theattics.plus.com

Meets 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month at 8pm

Platform 10 ¾ is a group for young people aged 13 years old onwards. Our aim as a group is to encourage the young people to learn more, develop and challenge their Christian faith - as well as Fun, Food & Fellowship!

We run a varied programme over the year from Bible Study to cooking and discussions on a variety of subjects. Our meetings are enjoyed by the entire group and we encourage the young people to be the ones to organise what goes into the programme in the hopes that we can recognise all our group's wants, needs and interests as well as their talents.

In addition to our meetings we encourage the young people to be involved in the church life. So we have organised some events for everyone to come along to - if they wish. On Good Friday we went for a walk and had afternoon tea at the end. In June the group worked together to organise a Café Style Worship and in July we planned a Strawberry Tea to say Goodbye & Good Luck to Barrie Tabraham.

As well as all these activities we also went away as a group for a weekend to stay at Holtwood Methodist Church in Verwood, Dorset. Here we met up with Andy and Jane Smith who used to run Platform 10 ¾ but moved to Verwood last July. As well as meeting old friends we also had a great weekend together exploring 'The Lord's Prayer'. They enjoyed our time away so much that most of the group are planning on coming to Spring Harvest next Easter. This group has had a great year and look forward to the next. We welcome all young people who would like to join us.

SIGMA

Contact : Anne Conquest

(020 8942 7147

: aconquest@btinternet.com

Meets Sundays 4.00 - 5.30pm

SIGMA is a circuit group which enjoys participating in singing, drama and dance. It is open to all ages. At the moment the group meets from September to December to prepare a Christmas production.

Last year the group performed "Topsy Turvy Christmas", a musical, based on the Christmas story as seen from two rebellious angels' point of view.

This year's production is being researched and finalised. It is intended to put the production on at Martin Way, on Sunday 14th December.

SIGMA also meets occasionally to practise when asked to sing at specific events. SIGMA has been invited to participate in the Welcome Service for Revd Margaret Adams as the new Circuit Superintendent and Revd Paul Timmis, the new minister for Martin Way and Worcester Park churches. This takes place at Stoneleigh on Wednesday 3rd September.

SIGMA always welcomes new members: this year some of the current members will be going off to University so the need is even greater. SIGMA needs more male voices. SIGMA welcomes enthusiasm as much as singing talent. These productions always take lots of different skill sets, from props, to staging, to sound, to lights, to singing and also music. So why not come along and have some fun in creating a unique production.

Sunday Club

Contact : Janet Fernando

(020 8544 0956

: janet.fernando@btinternet.com

Meets every Sunday morning (except the first Sunday of the month)

With the exception of the first Sunday in the month, when there is All Age Worship, the children leave the morning service to go to their own classes. There are crèche facilities for the under 3's although we do need more volunteers to help us run this. Children visiting the church are always welcome to attend the Sunday Club and this year two of our young visitors said how welcome they felt and how much they enjoyed the activities.

'Light' published by Scripture Union provides us with a great mix of tried and tested Bible teaching which is flexible, dynamic, fresh, relevant and fun. The 'Light' syllabus is on a three-year cycle. If class members keep on learning with 'Light' for three years, they will gain a good grasp of all the key events and teachings of the Bible. Themes explored over the last year include 'God the Creator,' 'Good News for Everyone,' 'The Holy Spirit' and 'Stories Jesus Told.'

When the children were asked to contribute to this report they highlighted activities they have particularly enjoyed including playing a balloon game about the creation; making books, models and kites; and having good discussions about their weekly lessons. They prefer to go into age-appropriate teaching groups although this does not always happen as fluctuating numbers mean we do not always have viable teaching groups.

Although we have six Sunday Club leaders we are always looking for others to join us. Over the last year we have had three planning meetings in addition to the liaison necessary when preparing weekly lessons. Over the coming year there will be opportunities to attend X:Site in Sutton. This is run in partnership with local churches and supported by Scripture Union. It is for children aged 7 to 11 years. It packs games, videos, dramas and music into a fast-moving evening to help children learn more about Jesus.

Time for Prayer

Contact : Tony Loft

(020 8543 0696

: tony@theattics.plus.com

Meet every Tuesday at 8pm

We meet in the church for prayer, the group numbering between 3 and 8 each week but newcomers are always welcome. We spend time praying and thinking about the needs of others and situations around the world and nearer home. Members of the church family who are unwell or going through a difficult time are also remembered.

Uniformed Organisations

Brownies (2nd Merton Park)

Contact : Kate Avery

(020 8542 2540

: kateaveryx@aol.com

Meet every Thursday during term time 6pm – 7.30pm

This is a weekly meeting for girls aged between 7 and 10 years. We follow a structured programme following the Brownie Adventure around the heading 'Your Community and the World'.

We are very fortunate to have four dedicated Brownie leaders running the pack. This has allowed us to achieve a wide variety of activities including craft work, environmental issues, outings and cooking. We arrange activities to help the Brownies to develop and learn a variety of skills both individually and in the sixes. We encourage the Brownies to work towards a range of badges individually and as a pack. We play a wide range of games and we have had many outings including visits to restaurants, bowling and 'Build a Bear'. This term we are visiting 'Pets at Home' to learn about pet care.

The Brownies planned and with a lot of hard work produced a Variety Show which was a huge success and one which all the Brownies parents and Brownie leaders were very proud of. The Brownies also took part in the District Sports day and all the Brownies who took part did extremely well and, it was a morning out which again parents Brownies and leaders all enjoyed immensely. Last Christmas the Brownies made a Christmas tree and decorations with recycled materials which they really enjoyed making.

This is a thriving unit with maximum numbers and welcomes new Brownies when vacancies arise. We try to accommodate the Rainbows when they turn 7 as well as new girls to guiding, and encourage Brownies to go onto Guides to continue their Guiding experience. There is a long waiting list for Brownies so we recommend that parents contact as soon as they can to ensure a place on the waiting list.

Guides (2nd Merton Park)

Contact : Yvonne Baxter

(020 8395 0334

Meets every Wednesday during term time 7.30pm to 9pm

We hold a weekly meeting providing a variety of activities for girls aged 10 to 14.

Being a Guide is all about learning new skills, making your own decisions and having fun. Guiding provides a safe environment to explore new possibilities and achieve personal goals while making friends and having adventures. And it's up to each Guide to work out which opportunities are relevant for her, whether it's improving her football skills, party planning or learning about independent living.

The unit has increased in numbers over the last 18 months and we have now reached capacity for the number of leaders. We are looking to continue the success and as such are seeking additional help, on a rota basis, from parents and others within the community to help out on a Wednesday evening.

2010 sees the centenary celebrations of the Guiding movement. This will involve some focus over the next year in organising a number of events, not only on a local level but also regional and national.

Rainbows (1st Merton Park)

Contact : Geraldine Ellis

(020 8542 9241

: royger22@btinternet.com

Meets Wednesdays during school term from 5.30 to 6.30pm

Rainbows, the youngest section of Girl Guiding UK, cater for girls aged between five and seven years old. We follow a structured programme of activities under the headings Look, Learn, Laugh and Love. During the year we have played games, done art and craft, tried science 'experiments' and cooked.

We have taken part in two Parade Services which the majority of girls attended on each occasion. At the first of these a new Rainbow flag, designed and made by Janet Hamblin, was dedicated. We also made our own decorations for the Rainbows' tree at the Christmas Tree Festival.

This year we celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Rainbows. There was a competition to design a party outfit for a Rainbow called Olivia and a design by Sheya McAllister from our unit won at both Division and County level and was sent on to the Regional final. In May some of the girls wore their Rainbow uniform to school to mark the formation of the section in 1987 and we also joined other Rainbow units for a Fun Day at the Scout Headquarters with games, bouncy castles, face painting, sideshows, craft activities, races and a disco.

This is a thriving unit and parents are advised to put their daughter's name on the waiting list well before they reach 5 years of age. We have been pleased to welcome Bama Parimelalaghan as a warranted leader and are fortunate to have three other unit helpers so that we can have 20 Rainbows. There continues to be some difficulty for girls finding places in Brownie packs when they reach 7 years old due to the shortage of leaders and packs. It remains our hope that more people will offer to help with the uniformed organisations so that youngsters can benefit from the range of activities available.

9. Non-church activities on the premises

Phoenix Art Group

Mondays, 1.00 to 3.30pm in the Hall during term time

EDF Energy Leisure

1st Tuesday in the month, February to December, 1.30 - 4pm in the Coffee Lounge

Tick Tock

Tuesday 10 - 11am and 1.30 - 2.30pm in the Hall

Church contact: Anne Conquest

Townswomen's Guild

Thursday 7.30 - 10pm in the Parlour (once/twice monthly); 7.30pm - 9.30pm (District) in the Hall (2nd Thurs in month)

Wimbledon and District Amateur Radio Society

2nd and last Friday in the month, 7.30pm for 8pm in the Coffee Lounge

Church contact: Fred and Joyce Plant

Elizabethan Flower Arranging Society

1st Tuesday in the month, 7.30 to 9.30pm in the Coffee Lounge

Arthritis Care - Merton, Morden & Sutton Branch

2nd Saturday in the month from 3pm to 5pm in the Hall

The Church of Harvest and Mission

Occasional

Music tuition

Monday, 4.00 to 7.00pm in the Parlour and Coffee Lounge

Rosemary Conley Organisation Keep Fit

Monday, 6.30 to 8.30pm (and possibly Thursday morning) in the Hall

Trinity Music Exams

Prevention of Exclusion Activities Team (PEAT)

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 3.00pm (8.30am to 1.30pm Tuesday and Wednesday) during school term, in the Parlour (with occasional use of the kitchen and garden)