

MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2000

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information about our church services in Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Holy Week is the most significant week of the Church year when Christians meet together in solemn celebration to commemorate the Passion story. I would encourage you to attend at least one of our Holy Week services in preparation for Easter. For the true meaning of Easter becomes much clearer when we take the trouble to reflect prayerfully about the events that happened in Jerusalem 2000 years ago culminating in the crucifixion of Jesus. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus urged the disciples, 'Watch and pray' (Matthew 26.41). And yet, they fell asleep seemingly unaware of what was about to happen.

Of course, for many people Holy Week is a week like any other; but it should not be so among the followers of Jesus. It would be a pity if Holy Week passed without our sharing together in prayer. 'Could you not watch with me for one hour?' Jesus asked the disciples sorrowfully. There can be no shortcut to Easter. We must journey through Holy Week. Together, then, let us make Holy Week in this millennium year, 2000, a meaningful occasion in the life of our church; so that by sharing in Jesus' suffering we may come to share in his risen life.

I shall say something about Easter and resurrection next month. Until then, there is a good deal of reading in this month's newsletter. Please take the time to read about what is happening in this church. I am particularly concerned that we secure nominations for two more church stewards at the General Church Meeting on 13 April. At present, we have a group of church stewards who work together effectively and support each other. Please think prayerfully about who among us would be suitable and willing to join them. With a change of minister later this year, it is particularly important to have our leadership team at full strength.

Feel free to talk to me or any of the present stewards with ideas and suggestions.

Yours sincerely,
David M. Chapman

Items for the May issue of the newsletter should be with the minister no later than Sunday 16 April.

PASTORAL NEWS

Please remember in your prayers:

Win Edwards who is recovering from an operation in St Helier Hospital following a fall in which she broke a hip;

Maisie Guy whose husband, Eddie, died in February (his funeral was held at our church on 29 February);

Viv Pallister whose son Geoff, 27, was killed in a road traffic accident in New Malden on 1 March (his funeral was held at our church on 10 March);

Steve and Annemarie Pallister and Alex, Jack and Phoebe;

Andy and Jane Smith and William who was due to go into hospital at the end of March for an operation;

Joan Baker who fell in the church car park on 12 March and needed several stitches for a cut on her forehead;

Jean Butland following a by-pass operation on her leg on 20 March;

Lynne Ramirez and her daughter Elle who will be baptised on Palm Sunday;

Barrie Tabraham, Superintendent minister, who returns to the circuit in April after three months' sabbatical;

Gwen Wildman on her return to the UK this month from Canada;

Muriel Harvey at Alexander House; **Lily Gilmore** at Manor House;

Any others known to us who may be sick, anxious or bereaved.
Our congratulations to **Len and Pam Shears** who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 29 April.

MEN'S SUPPER CLUB SERVICE

Bill Cox writes:- 'Many thanks to those who supported the anniversary service of the Men's Supper Club. As a result of that evening I was able to send £100 to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and £100 to the Children's Trust at Tadworth. I am arranging an outing to the Derby Day Experience at Epsom racecourse. This will be on Tuesday 23 May at 7.15pm and will cost £9.00 (which includes a cream tea in the Coronation Cup Box). This should be a very interesting "behind the scenes" visit.

Anyone who would like to come with us please get in touch with me. Lifts to Epsom can no doubt be arranged.' (Tel. Bill on 8540 6630).

COFFEE MORNING

Midways are having a coffee morning and cake sale on Saturday 6 May, 10 am till 12 noon. Proceeds for the Church Anniversary gift day. Offers of cakes will be very welcome. Contact Maralyn Loft (Tel. 543 0696).

42nd CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Our Church Anniversary this year falls on Sunday 14 May. To mark the occasion, there will be a gift day in aid of church funds. More details next month

FLOWER ROTA

Thank you to all who contribute to the church flowers. If anyone would like to make a donation for flowers for a particular week (perhaps in memory of a loved one or for a special anniversary), then please mention it to Joyce Plant.

HOLY COMMUNION

There is a quiet mid-week service of Holy Communion usually on the second Wednesday of each month at 10.30 am. The service lasts 30 minutes.

READERS FOR SUNDAY

It would be good to have more people who are willing to read one of the Bible readings at our Sunday morning service. Please contact Jean Butland (8542 3138) if you would like to read in church.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

Many of us enjoy coffee after the Sunday morning service. It is also a good chance to welcome and get to know visitors. However, we need more volunteers for the rota. The work is not hard. Please speak to Tony Loft if you can help in this useful activity.

COFFEE AND CHAT

Coffee and Chat celebrates its 7th birthday on Tuesday 4 April. Come and join the celebration! The cake will be cut at 11 o'clock. Jean Butland.

GREETINGS

We welcome back this month Gwen Wildman who returns to the UK after six months working as a nurse in Canada. We look forward to hearing about her experiences in Labrador.

Also, Joan Craig and Peter Judge send greetings from Lincolnshire where they have settled into their new home. They have attended Spalding Methodist Church where they were welcomed by the minister who trained for the ministry at Wesley House, Cambridge with our own minister, David.

THANK YOU

Annemarie Pallister writes: 'Steve and I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, letters, prayers and flowers to us after Geoff's accident. It was a difficult time for all of our family. We would also like to thank everybody who came to the funeral to support us. We were so grateful, as it helped to make a difficult day easier to bear.'
Annemarie and Steve Pallister

CHURCH PHONE NUMBER

From 22 April 2000 the church telephone number will be (020) 8542 8211.

A MAYOR FOR LONDON

Hustings at St Paul's Cathedral

London Church Leaders invite the people of London to St Paul's Cathedral on Sunday 2 April from 6 pm to 9 pm to hear and question candidates for Mayor of London. The meeting begins with a short service of prayer and reflection led by London Church Leaders, including the Revd Martin Broadbent, Chairman of the London Southwest District of the Methodist Church.

GOSPEL CONCERT

Thanks to Anne Conquest and Tongues of Fire for their gospel concert on 18 March. It was a really excellent evening and the sum of £153 was raised for church funds.

MOZAMBIQUE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who supported the retiring collection for the Benevolent Fund on Sunday 5 March for Mozambique. As a result, we have been able to send £400 to the Mozambique disaster appeal (£85 of this total was donated by the Happy Wanderers).

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY

The morning service on Palm Sunday, 16 April, will include the baptism of Ellø Huckle, daughter of Lynne Ramirez.

EVENING PRAYER

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Holy Week there will be a service of Evening Prayer at 9 pm (for 20 minutes). We shall read the Passion narrative from Matthew.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service of Holy Communion at 8 pm.

GOOD FRIDAY

Our United Service for Good Friday will be at Morden Baptist Church (opposite Merton Civic Centre) at 10.30 am. The preacher will be Pastor Gavin Murray.

EASTER DAY

As usual we shall be decorating a cross with Spring flowers at Easter. Please bring a flower with you to church on Easter Day, 23 April.

MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday 22 April 3 - 6.00 pm) refreshments available
Sunday 23 April 3 - 5.30 pm) including **Cream Teas**

Admission by Programme £1.

Proceeds in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital. For further information and to make offers of help in any way, please contact Joyce Plant (8542 4221).

CHURCH SUMMER CAMP

22 to 29 July, at Langton Matravers near Swanage in Dorset. Join us for the whole week or just for a few days. The site is a small public camping site and part of a field will be set aside for our use. Equipment can be borrowed so don't be put off by a lack of tents etc. Now is the time to think about a very economical, relaxed and happy week by the sea. If you would like to come along, then please speak to Bob and Janet Hamblin as soon as possible so that pitches can be reserved.

BIG BRUNCH

The Big Brunch returns on Saturday 15 April from 9 am till 12 noon. Tickets (minimum price £2) are available from Abigail Loft or any of the senior Youth Club leaders, or just come along on the day to enjoy a leisurely breakfast and a browse through your favourite morning newspaper.

YOUTH CLUB QUIZ EVENING

On Saturday 1 April, 7.30 pm. Make up your own team of 6/8 people or come along on the night to join a team. Ploughman's supper and refreshments included in the ticket price of £2-50. Tickets available from Abigail Loft, Mike Mortley, Tony Loft or any of the other Youth Club leaders.

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING

The General Church Meeting will be on Thursday 13 April at 8.00 pm. This is the occasion when we meet as a church to discuss our present life and future vision, and to appoint church stewards for the year beginning 1 May 2000. Nominations for at least two additional church stewards should be with the minister by Sunday 9 April at the latest. Our thanks to Ted Ashwood who retires from being a church steward this year after six years. Those continuing as church stewards are Tony Loft, Brenda Cannon, Geraldine Ellis and Gwen Wildman. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

WIMBLEDON CIRCUIT SERVICE

On Sunday 21 May at 6.30 pm there will be a united Circuit service at Christchurch with St Philip, Worcester Park to receive three newly accredited local preachers into our team of local preachers: Carolyn Ayres (Upper Tooting), Martin Brown (Wimbledon) and David Morgan (Christchurch with St Philip, Worcester Park) who have completed their programme of study. Please remember them in your prayers and note the date in your diary.

POST AND E-MAIL ADDRESS

Letters posted to the church may go astray unless they are correctly addressed. Our full postal address is:

*Martin Way Methodist Church
Buckleigh Avenue
LONDON
SW20 9JZ*

Also, the minister can be contacted by e-mail (especially with any items for this newsletter). His e-mail address is: David@chapman-24.freemove.co.uk
Coming soon - our church web site!!

CHRISTIAN ART OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

An Exhibition at Trinity Methodist Church, Woking

28 March - 21 April 2000 Mon-Fri: 9 am to 9 pm
(except 10 April) Sat: 10 am to 4 pm

Admission Free, although donations are appreciated

The Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art comprises 38 works by twentieth century artists. The Collection includes works by Graham Sutherland, Dame Elisabeth Frink, Patrick Heron and Edward Burra.

Trinity Methodist Church is in Brewery Road in the centre of Woking. Call the church office for further information 01483 730754.

MERTON MILLENNIUM MESSIAH

A Messiah from scratch to celebrate the Millennium. Come and join the biggest massed choir to sing in Merton and be part of the Good Friday 2000 celebration.

Friday 21 April 2000, 7.30 pm Wimbledon Theatre

The Wimbledon Symphony Orchestra
Alistair Jones (Conductor)
Julia Dewhurst (Soprano)
Louise Tucker (Contralto)
Jeremy Valentine (Tenor)
Stephen Foulkes (Bass)

Tickets available from Wimbledon Theatre (020 8540 0362)
Singers £7 Children and Students £5

Register to sing with Alexis Affonso 15 Adela Avenue, New Malden KT3 6LF
E-mail: alexisaffonso@hotmail.com

THE METHODIST CHURCH, LONDON SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
DAY CONFERENCE:

"Members one of another? The Mutual Responsibility of Local Churches"

Saturday 20 May, 10.30 am - 3 pm
St Martin's Christian Centre, Dorking

Led by Revd David Chapman, Mr David Carter
With Revd R. Martin Broadbent

CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL

Sat	1	7.30 pm	Youth Club Quiz Evening
Sun	2	10.30 am	Family Service and Parade (Mothering Sunday)
		8.00 pm	"Get God 2000" (Youth Club Event)
Mon	3	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Stephanie Riccini, British Airways)
Wed	5	7.45 pm	Midways (Steve Eggleton, Police Dogs)
Fri	7	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	9	10.30 am	Morning Service and Sunday Club (Mr Andy Walker)
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion for Lent (Rev. David Chapman)
Mon	10	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Rev. Charlotte Elvey, Poetry Reading)
Tues	11	7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club (Rev. David Chapman)
Wed	12	10.30 am	Holy Communion for Lent
Thurs	13	8.00 pm	General Church Meeting
Sat	15	9-12	'Big Brunch'
Holy Week			
Sun	16	10.30 am	Morning Service and Sunday Club
			Baptism of Ellie Ramirez, daughter of Lynn Ramirez
		8.00 pm	Get God 2000
Mon	17	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Fr Geoffrey Owen from St James's Church)
		9.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tues	18	9.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Wed	19	7.45 pm	Midways (Rev. David Chapman, 'Faces of Christ')
		9.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Thurs	20	8.00 pm	Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday
Fri	21	10.30 am	Good Friday United Service, Morden Baptist Church
Sat	22	3-6 pm	Flower Festival (proceeds to the Royal Marsden Hospital)

Easter

Sun	23	8.00 am	Holy Communion for Easter
		10.30 am	Holy Communion for Easter (Family Service)
		3-5.30 pm	Flower Festival (proceeds to the Royal Marsden Hospital)
Sat	28	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	30	10.30 am	Morning Service and Sunday Club (Mr John Saunders)

CHURCH DIARY FOR MAY

Thurs	4	8.00 pm	Mission and Service Committee
Sat	6	10-12	Midways Coffee Morning and Cake Sale
		10.30 am	London Southwest District Synod, Horsham
Sun	7	10.30 am	Family Service

Please refer to the Sunday Notice-sheet for additional information