

Martin Way Methodist Church

Newsletter - October 2004

Minister - Rev John Nyota

From the Minister
October 2004

Dear friends,

I am just basking in the joy of Sunday well gone. I hope we all are. It was worth the planning and preparation was it not. In fact I am holding in my hands a thank you letter from one of our guests at the Anniversary service, Rev Donald Knighton. In it he refers to the celebration as the most imaginative 70th Anniversary he has ever attended. I am aware that Donald is quite generous with words and being a son of the manse he is bound to be. But talking to a number of people makes me think that he is speaking for most of us. I am extremely proud to be a part of so friendly a church, a people who work as a single team for a common purpose.

I know that the Anniversary planning team met a couple of times to prepare all the nitty-gritty of the weekend. You are all such a blessing and a humorous lot to work with. And look at the wonderful cake. Please try and discover for yourself who the able hands were. I now know that you spell the Brunch with 'u' not 'a' and also that you bring an empty tummy not climbing shoes. All thanks to the youth club and all their endowed mentors and planners. I dare not single out a name lest I miss any. What a team at the Birthday evening party! It made me feel young again. The barbeque was excellent and of course who has not heard the story of the winner in downing the burgers? I hear the guy has not had a meal since due to the calories accumulated on the day. Need I mention the banner created specifically for the day and the wonderful messages capturing the highlights of the 70 years? Long live Martin Way and may you blow a thousand candles.

I feel the celebrations spoke very much of what we are and where we are going. We have been well known as a church open to the community, a serving church, a Martha church if you like. We are well known for our friendship. Yet in the questions that we raised recently in the

questionnaires many have expressed the need for us to do more. The four words that have come out that we need in laying the foundation for our next 70th anniversary are, SOFA i.e. **S**piritual Personal growth, **O**utreach, **F**riendly and Familial and **A**ll Age Involvement. Nothing new in fact but emphasis of our niche so that we can move forward fully aware.

I anticipate to hear phrases like *"How is your SOFA?"*, or *"Welcome to our SOFA group"*, etc. We are putting **"S"** at the centre of all that we do. We want everyone to feel a sense of being welcomed and assimilated into the family, a place where everyone despite their age feels valued and respected. It is a place where everyone leads today and not a leader of tomorrow. It is a place where everyone is reaching out to other people in the area with the love of Christ. A place that Gandhi would say, "I like their Christ because I see him in them in action." Who said that this has not been happening? What we are saying is we have a target and can evaluate ourselves not to ride on a guilty trip but so that we may know what to do next.

I am really excited about this and even though I might have changed the geography by the time of the 140th anniversary there will be witnesses around to say who laid the foundations. Any stone we lay let it be one that propels us forward not backward. Let it be one that includes not excludes. Let it be one that celebrates the warmth of each other not one that tolerates. That is Martin Way of the future. Proud of its past but bound for the future. It is, if you like, not just a theatre of dreams, but more so a place where dreams and desires of connectivity with the supernatural are realised, to the glory of God. So may we capture the motivation from the overflowing joy of the anniversary to step forward and move this church ahead. And all the people of God shout Amen! And the Pastor says Amen. Let it be so!

Nyota

QUOTE – UNQUOTE 1

It is easier to become a Christian when not one than it is to become a Christian when already one

Soren Kierkegaard

70TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of a most joyful and memorable weekend of the 70th Church Anniversary celebrations.

Saturday began with a splendid Big Brunch when we met many old friends from far and near for talk and happy reminiscing. We could also browse over a display of photos of past events. That evening was great fun for everyone, starting with a "Tick Tock" special for old and young, which loosened us all up and got us ready for Paul Harvey and his puppets, followed by supper and the lighting of the candles on the birthday cake. For some of us the highlight was the line dancing – adults and children 'heeling and toeing' with gay abandon and increasing merriment ending in a glorious and happy confusion

Rosemary Keen

Having missed the Big Brunch & Party on Saturday 11th Sept (due to our late return from holiday) Maralyn and I made sure that we got to the celebrations on the Sunday. From the Service in the morning until after the afternoon Communion in the open air we were there.

The Morning Service was led by our own Minister John Nyota and helped by Rev Donald Knighton [a past Minister at Martin Way (1968)]. At the opening of the service fifteen representatives from the various Church activities brought forward the squares of material which had been decorated by each group. These were then whisked away and reappeared at the end of the service as a superb banner. During the service Jean Gear told of some of the events and happenings that have taken place over the last 70 years.

Following a most welcome cup of coffee after the service we made our way to Horton Country Park for a most enjoyable Barbeque lunch. The weatherman had said that the rain and wind would be with us all day but he was only partly right, it was windy but the rain held off until it was time for our open air Communion but that was only a very short shower.

35 adults and 15 children took Communion and after we had yet more food (home made cake and tea) we all went home. The day had been a very enjoyable occasion and we look forward to the next Church Anniversary.

Tony & Maralyn Loft

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH – OCTOBER

Since last month the news had been dominated by acts of terrifying evil in Russia. Firstly two passenger planes were blown to smithereens soon after take-off, killing all on board. Terrible as that was, it almost paled into insignificance in comparison with the hostage taking and the ensuing massacre in the school in Beslan. The horror of that was intensified by the number of children involved. It was heart-rending to see the anguish on the faces of those awaiting news and then came the grief, bursting like a flood, as the dead and injured were brought out.

People may well ask, "Where was God in all this?". The answer is that he was there, suffering with those who suffered, grieving with those who mourned. God is not only with us in the good times. He is with us at ALL times, no matter how traumatic they may be. God gave us all the gift of free will. That gift, like all of God's gifts, can be used in the way he would wish or in ways which are contrary to his wishes. We can choose to love or to hate, to save lives or to kill, to bring joy into the lives of others or to bring misery, grief and despair. We may wonder why people were led to commit such terrible acts.

What motivated them? But we should also think about the source of all the compassion, concern and love which was felt by millions of people all over the world as they saw the events on their television screens or read about them in their newspapers.

What was done was clearly against God's will, but often he will bring good out of evil and his love will somehow shine through even in the darkest places and at times when human nature sinks to its very lowest level.

Bill Cox

QUOTE – UNQUOTE 2

A society conceived and brought forth for the preaching of the gospel must have an inexhaustible capacity for breaking bounds; if it ceases to do this, it is ready to perish.

John V Taylor

TEN LITTLE METHODISTS

Ten little Methodists went to church when fine, but it started raining and then there were nine.

Nine little Methodists stayed up very late, one overslept himself, and then there were eight

Eight little Methodists on the road to Heaven, one joined a rambling club, and then there were seven.

Seven little Methodists heard of Sunday 'flicks', one thought he'd like to go and then there were six.

Six little Methodists kept the place alive, till one bought a television then there were five.

Five little Methodists seemed loyal to the core, the minister upset one, and then there were four,

Four little Methodists argued heatedly over forms of worship and then there were three

Three little Methodists sang the service through, got a hymn they didn't know and then there were two.

Two little Methodists disputed who should run the next coffee morning and then there was one.

One faithful Methodist knowing what to do

Went and visited a friend and then there were two.

Two sincere Methodists went out to seek two more,

So their numbers doubled and then there were four.

Four keen Methodists simply couldn't wait, till they found four others, and then there were eight.

Eight eager Methodists searching round for souls,

Praying, working, caring, drew others in by shoals,

Shoals and shoals at every service cramming every pew,

O Lord, supply this grace and zeal here in our Church too.

QUOTE – UNQUOTE 3

“Today, science has brought all the different quarters of the globe so close together that it is impossible to isolate them one from another. Today, we are faced with the pre-eminent fact that, if civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships”

[From a speech, nearly sixty years ago, by President Franklin D Roosevelt written the night before he died and which was to be delivered on 13 April 1945 in observance of Jefferson Day]

QUOTE – UNQUOTE 4

It is sometimes said that conduct is supremely important and that faith helps it. The truth is that worship is supremely important and conduct tests it.

William Temple

QUOTES FROM OUR ARCHIVES - OCTOBER

2 October 1936

The chairman was asked to give occasional reminders to the congregation advocating new membership for the Weekly Envelope system

11 October 1943

Request from Youth Club for permission to include dances on their social evening programmes ... socials were held at about 4-6 weekly intervals and dances would be a small part of the programmes: permission given subject to Conference restrictions and orders

21 October 1946

23 young people had responded to Rev. Gostelow's call to dedicate their lives to the service of Christ. With the assistance of Miss D Maggs and Miss G Williams he proposed holding discussion with these young people once a fortnight. These meetings would take place after the Sunday evening services. He thought that after a six months course they would be ready for Junior Membership

30 October 1950

The Scout hut was in the course of erection

9 October 1958

The Scout troop had won the District Swimming Gala Trophy

The chairman referred to the proposal to hold a series of "Family Services". One such service was being arranged for December 14th (evening). It was contemplated that they might be held about once a quarter

FREE!! PHILOSOPHICAL ADVICE

No matter how big your mistake, remember one billion Chinese know nothing about it.

If you cannot become wiser, try to be older.

Don't have so many irons in the fire that you put it out.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year we are supporting Broadway a charity which runs Manor Place, a 34-bed purpose built project for women aged 16 and over from Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham. It provides a direct access hostel and on-site second stage flat-lets. Manor Place seeks to provide every single woman with the support and guidance to enable them to find and keep a home. The project seeks to do this by enabling women to gradually reduce their support needs as they move from daily contact within the hostel to more infrequent support within the flat-lets where they can 'practice' living independently before using Broadway's accommodation referral services to move into a home of their own.

PANTO TIME

Snow White and the Seven-Dwarf Brothers

Penny Osborne's father 'Bernard Doswell' has written a pantomime for us to perform at Martin Way during the February half term 2005 (17th-19th Feb) . There will be a read-through on 7 October at 7.30pm

EVERY LITTLE COUNTS

Thanks to all who support me by buying my marmalade, pickled onions, books etc, As a result I have been able to send £100 to St. Raphael's Hospice and still have some left to make a donation to our Church Anniversary. I'll do my best to keep supplies on hand. Please keep on buying!Bill Cox

70TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

This 18 page illustrated booklet has been put together with the assistance of a few of the more mature members of the congregation, to share their memories of the early days of Martin Way.

Donations are asked for church funds or copies may be obtained from Rosemary Keen for £1 post free - write to

Martin Way, Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, SW20 9JZ

CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

Fri	1	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	3	10.30 am	Harvest Festival led by Rev John Nyota
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Andrew Frost & Rev John Nyota
Mon	4	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Annual General Meeting)
Tue	5	10-12 pm	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	6	7.45 pm	Midways (Rev John Nyota - Baby Simba Project)
Thu	7	2-3.00 pm	Seekers' Group
Sat	9	10-12 noon	Midways Coffee Morning - Proceeds to the Nyota Baby Simba Project
Sun	10	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Mon	11	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Tony Loft)
Tue	12	10-12 pm	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	15	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	17	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Dr Arthur Miller
Mon	18	2.45 pm	Fellowship
Tue	19	10-12 pm	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club (John Harding - Something about Music)
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	20	7.45 pm	Midways (Brian Goldsmith - Impressionism)
Thu	21	2-3.00 pm	Seekers' Group
Sun	24	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mr Paul Harvey
		8.00 pm	Service led by Brenda Cannon
Mon	25	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Rev Keith Mitchell -My Father)
Tue	26	10-12 pm	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	29	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	31	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
		6.30 pm	Circuit Service at Wimbledon