

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Where do I begin this month? Well many thanks to many folk in this church who contribute enormously to the life of our church. I dare not mention names lest I miss out someone. Now you already know me and my simple thoughts, don't you? I had one such recently about the numerous words that make very interesting coincidences. Why is it that you add letter **d** to the word evil you get devil and **o** to God you get good? The same would be said of the word church. If you gave it as a test to kids with ch--ch and ask them what is missing most will fill in **u r** which in full is 'you are'.



This answer is at the very heart of what church is all about. There is this Sunday school song we used to sing, 'I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together'. This song is recognition that when you are there and I am we form the church. It is this that makes it important for us to set time each individually to meet every Sunday for worship. Church attendance should never be reduced to 'duty' and 'one of those things' we ought to do. It should emanate from our desire to meet with God in a place of worship.

We at Martin Way have resolved this year to make our church a place where each of us meet with God and with each other. We have resolved that this will be in a friendly and loving atmosphere. We have therefore introduced various ways of doing this and introduced a fourth style of worship. This happens normally on the third Sunday of the month, a day when we celebrate the creative genius of all of us. It is, so to speak, a service led from the pew where the preacher is the moderator and God the felt real centre of the action. We invite as many people as possible to offer items in the forthcoming services.

Indeed this is recognition that we all approach God in different modes and that all of us can lead each other in this journey. There is this proverb in Africa that 'I am because we are and because we are therefore I am'. That is so with church. We cannot afford to privatise our religion so much so that we don't need the support and fellowship of others. One commentator writing on the Church compared Church to a football game:

22 players desperately in need of rest being watched by thousands of fans desperately in need of exercise. To what extent does that illustrate our Church life?

Usually the church is prone to two dangers. Either the Church exhausts by overdosing and overworking the willing. On the other extreme the church may become irrelevant due its feeble message and utilisation of existing talents. It becomes a one-man guitar show hence failing to address the searching questions taping the energies. When one of these happens even people who have been heavily involved in the life of the Church and taken on various responsibilities within it, could stop attending Church and drop out of the Christian community.

Church means 'community'. Church is made up of imperfect folk who recognise their need of God and are trying to live out their faith. Church 'happens' when people of faith meet together to share experiences, to pray with one another, to share one another's burdens, to encourage one another in Christian discipleship and make God's kingdom known here on earth. A Church comes alive when God, through the Holy Spirit, is at work amongst His people, giving them a hunger for worship, a desire for spiritual growth and a yearning to welcome the stranger as well as the friend.

I hope these new services do stimulate thought and action and challenge us all to consider our own commitment and send us out to do the 'work of the Church'. And when your work colleague or neighbour or family member asks you 'Why do you go to Church?' what will you tell them? Will you put them off by moaning about the Church or will you encourage them to come along? Is Martin Way a Church where you would feel at ease bringing a new person to experience Christian worship and to find true fellowship? And if not, why not? God desires His people to truly be His Body here on earth - to be His Church, reflecting His love to a needy world but to do that, He needs us all to play our part, otherwise our witness is seriously diminished.

During this Easter as we re-enact the death and resurrection of our friend and Saviour, Jesus Christ, may our love for him and hunger for each others' fellowship be rekindled to higher levels.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John', written in a cursive style.

A LETTER FROM BARRIE TABRAHAM

WIMBLEDON CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Friends

In view of the many changes we shall shortly be seeing, it seemed appropriate to write a short letter to you all.

At present the Wimbledon Circuit has the code number of **3/13** (London South West = 3, Wimbledon =13), but from September we shall have the code **35/26**, so please make a note of this change!

We also welcome a few new Leaders of Worship to our churches. **Hazel Yu** and **Carol Rowles** are both training for the ministry - the former for the Methodist Church and on placement in this Circuit, the latter to be ordained this October as an 'OLM' (Ordained Local Minister) in the Church of England, and to be based at Worcester Park. **Tony Loft**, who will be no stranger to any of you, has now been given a Note to Preach and will accompany Janet Hamblin at some of her services.

On a sadder note, **Camille Troughton** has now returned with Wayne to New Zealand to be with her family. She has shown great faith and courage in her illness: we thank God for her witness in this Circuit. We also regret to announce that, for personal reasons, **Paul Harvey** has had to withdraw as a candidate for vocational training. **Rev Blanche Baker** died recently at the age of 93; in 1974 she was one of the first women in Methodism to be ordained as a presbyter. Her funeral was held at Upper Tooting on Friday 17th March at 12.30pm. We remember all of these and hold them in our prayers.

You will all know, I am sure, that Stuart Veitch will be retiring this summer. The Methodist expression is 'sitting down', but I doubt whether he'll be doing much of that! He has been a gift from God to this Circuit and will be greatly missed. With the current shortage of presbyters, we are very fortunate to have a replacement, and will be welcoming **Margaret Adams** in September.

When **John and Faith Nyota** came to us in 2003, it was understood that they would return to Kenya for 3 months 'furlough' this year. This both to

give *them* a break, but also to allow Njeri and Kimathi to keep in touch with their roots. Very graciously, they are staggering their visit, so that John will be in Kenya from June to August, whilst Faith (and the children) will be there from July to September. The summer months may therefore find us rather stretched, but we shall survive, and we thank *all* our preachers, both lay and ordained, for the services they offer - no pun intended!

Please note that we are planning a **Circuit Workshop** entitled '**Fresh Expressions**' to be led by **Andy Frost** on **Sunday 4th June at 2.30pm** - probably at Martin Way. Details to follow, but it will focus on the mission strategy of our churches. I hope as many as possible will be able to attend.

Finally, may God bless all you do in his name,

Barrie

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WOMAN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Over 170 people attended this year's three services that were held on the Woman's World Day of Prayer, which was Friday 3rd March, including the Mayor and local members of Parliament. There were a number of reports back to the Committee, all of which indicated it was very well received by all who attended.



Sincere thanks to all who generously gave their time for all three of the services. Karen Smith in the morning; Faith Nyota, Graham, Valerie, Doreen O'Donaghue, Gwen Edwards in the afternoon; Anne Anker-Smith leading our own evening service together with Faith, Margaret Sephton, Pauline, Rosemary, Jane Bryan, Gwen Edwards; Janet for putting a choir together at short notice; Derek showing South Africa slides at all the services and of course those who attended.

Mary Heaton

FAIRTRADE RECIPES

Fairtrade Chocolate Cake

By Jane Asher

For the chocolate cake mixture:

150g butter

7 eggs, separated

175g dark Fairtrade chocolate, melted

125g self-raising flour, sifted

150g caster sugar, plus another 50g for meringue



For the buttercream:

100g butter, softened

175g icing sugar, sifted

1 tablespoon of Fairtrade ground coffee, or 1½ teaspoons of Fairtrade instant coffee, or 1½ teaspoons of Fairtrade cocoa powder

For the chocolate cake:

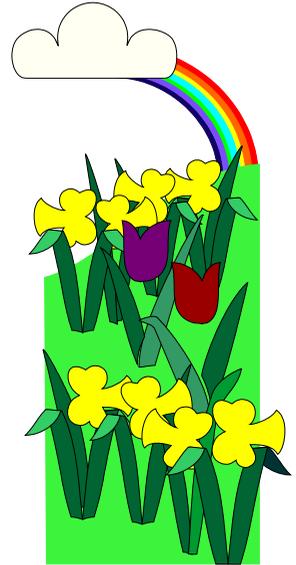
- Preheat oven to 190°C / 375°F/ Gas Mark 5.
- Grease and line the base of a deep 23cm round cake tin.
- Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, then beat in egg yolks one at a time, and then stir in the melted Fairtrade chocolate.
- Whisk egg whites until stiff, then fold in sugar to make meringue.
- Alternately fold in flour and meringue to the chocolate mix.
- Transfer mix to tin and bake for 45-55 minutes, or until the cake is firm to touch and a skewer can be withdrawn cleanly.
- Leave to cool in the tin, then transfer to a cooling rack until cold.
- Split cake in half and fill with Fairtrade coffee or chocolate buttercream.

For the buttercream

- Infuse the ground coffee in a tablespoon of boiled water, then strain; or dissolve the instant coffee or cocoa in half a teaspoon of boiling water.
- Beat the butter until light and fluffy.
- Add the icing sugar to the mix a little at the time, beating well in between.
- Gradually beat in the coffee or cocoa.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

APRIL 2006



I've had one of those awkward days recently. I expect you know what I mean. From the time I got up to the time I went to bed I was dropping things, upsetting things, knocking things over. Do you have days like that too? Fortunately such days don't come too frequently but they crop up every now and again, and of course you never know when they are going to come along.

Every day is a new day and we never know when it begins just what sort of day it will be. We all have our good, bad and indifferent days. We have our happy days and our sad days. Those of us on our own sometimes have our lonely days, although we probably keep quiet about them.

Life would be much less interesting and much less of a challenge if every day was the same. How monotonous and boring it would be. I enjoy a good sing but a most off-putting idea of heaven is sitting around (playing a harp??) and singing all day. Variety, they say, is the spice of life and I feel that will be equally true of the life to come. Adrian Plass, in one of his books, expresses the hope that there will be cricket in heaven, but I don't expect he'd like there to be cricket and nothing else when he gets there. There is a strong creative spirit in all of us and I feel that we shall be given greater opportunities to develop that spirit, perhaps in a different or mature way, in the life that lies ahead.

Meanwhile, let us rejoice and thank God that every day we are given is different, offering fresh opportunities and fresh challenges which we can meet together with Him.

Bill Cox

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"If you are swept off your feet, it's time to get on your knees"

Frederick Beck

ARE WE RECYCLING ENOUGH ?



Most of us have recycling facilities at home and are using this for paper, card, plastic, glass etc. *(If you are not doing this, then you should be!)*

This facility is not available at the Church and I would urge **everyone** using the premises to take home anything that can be recycled instead of just putting it into the bins. Most Wednesdays I come home with cardboard, paper, plastic, etc, that I find around the dustbins outside or in the kitchen.

PLEASE TAKE ANY RECYCLING HOME WITH YOU!!

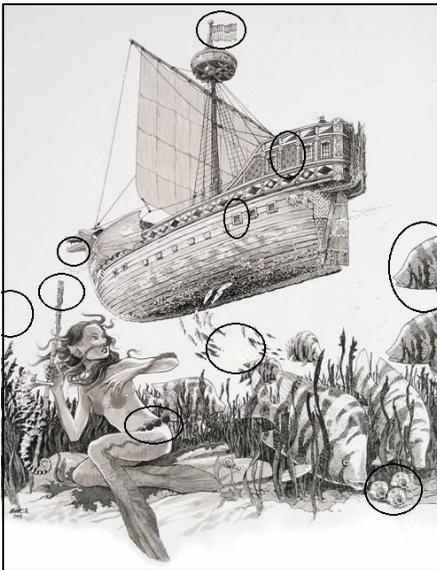
Maralyn Loft

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*“We should all be concerned about the future,
because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there”*

Charles Kettering

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Narnia's 'Dawn Treader' **Spot the Differences Solution**

1. Flag on the ship
2. Missing window
3. Extra porthole
4. Dragon head missing beard
5. Mermaid stick missing prongs
6. Missing seaweed
7. Black belt on mermaid
8. Small fishes missing from shoal
9. Extra large fish
10. Two more snails

JESUS IS THE MESSIAH !!

The Old Testament verses are the prophecy;
the New Testament verses proclaim the fulfilment.

Check them all out for yourself!

Born of a virgin

(Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23)

A descendant of Abraham

(Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18; Matthew 1:1-17; Galatians 3:16)

Of the tribe of Judah

(Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23-33; Hebrews 7:14)

Of the house of David

(2 Samuel 7:12-16; Matthew 1:1-17)

Born in Bethlehem

(Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7)

Taken to Egypt

(Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:14-15)

Herod's killing of the infants

(Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18)

Anointed by the Holy Spirit

(Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16-17)

Heralded by the messenger of the Lord (John the Baptist)

(Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1-3)

Would perform miracles

(Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 9:35)

Would preach good news

(Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-21)

Would minister in Galilee

(Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:12-16)

Would cleanse the Temple

(Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12-13)

Would enter Jerusalem as a king on a donkey

(Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4-9)

Would be rejected by Jews

(Psalm 118:22; I Peter 2:7)

Die a humiliating death

(Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) involving:

- rejection (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:10-11; 7:5,4)
- betrayal by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Luke 22:3-4; John 13:1)
- sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-15)
- silence before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14)
- being mocked (Psalm 22: 7-8; Matthew 27:31)
- beaten (Isaiah 52:14; Matthew 27:26)
- spit upon (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 27:30)
- piercing His hands and feet (Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:31)
- being crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:3)
- praying for His persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34)
- piercing His side (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34)
- given gall and vinegar to drink

(Psalm 69:21, Matthew 27:34, Luke 23:36)

- no broken bones (Psalm 34:20; John 19:32-36)
- buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60)
- casting lots for His garments (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24)

Would rise from the dead!!

(Psalm 16:10; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31)

Ascend into Heaven

(Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:9)

Would sit down at the right hand of God

(Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3)



By the Way

Are you aware that the statistical odds are of one man fulfilling just 7 of the prophecies?

1 in a 100 billion, billion, billion, billion (10 to the 38th power)!!

OUR FIRST ALPHA COURSE

Who knows what God can do with small beginnings!

Our first Alpha Course will have been completed by the time the April Newsletter comes out. During the weeks of preparation, there were times when some of us thought too much about the pitfalls and there was much anxiety if we were going to do it right. As often happens when the doing the Lord's work, the enemy tried his hardest to discourage us. We soon came to realise the need for constant prayer when we could support and encourage each other. Though we have started off small in numbers which became depleted because of sickness, there have been many positive results and it has been proven a deep learning curve for many of us.



The course promised relaxed, low key and fun environment and good food all of which we experienced and more. The food far surpassed the suggested Alpha menus. We could meet people every week at church but not really get to know them until we sit and have a meal. Having a relaxed meal together is a good way to get to know each other. Surprises too. Simon, James and Ellie with their impromptu skits were entertaining and got the message on the theme of the session across. Having live speakers in between the DVD presentations provided variety though each evening was different in content.



The group discussions were also a good way to get to know each other and it was thrilling to see the changes in all of us as the Course progressed. Toward the end there was a lot more freedom in the discussions. When hearing comments like *'before the Course I had no conscience about doing wrong, now I think twice about it'*, it is evident that changes have occurred.

The Away day on the 5th March took place in St Giles' Church hall,



Ashtead when we focused on the work of the Holy Spirit. There was tangible evidence that the Holy Spirit was present among us and used John, Bob and Janet's presentations to enlighten us. Discussion followed as to where do we go from here? The group expressed a desire to meet regularly as a Housegroup which is very

encouraging. The day ended with another meal- the Celebration of Holy Communion when we could not but be thankful for all that the Lord has done through Alpha. A fitting end to a perfect day.

The Course would not have been possible without those who have been willing to serve in various ways. Sincere thanks go to those instrumental in prayer, technological presentations, administration, cooking and serving meals, MC and group leaders.

A great team.



The next Alpha Course is planned to start in September with a Celebration Supper and will be an opportunity for everyone in the Church to invite their friends.

Gwen Wildman

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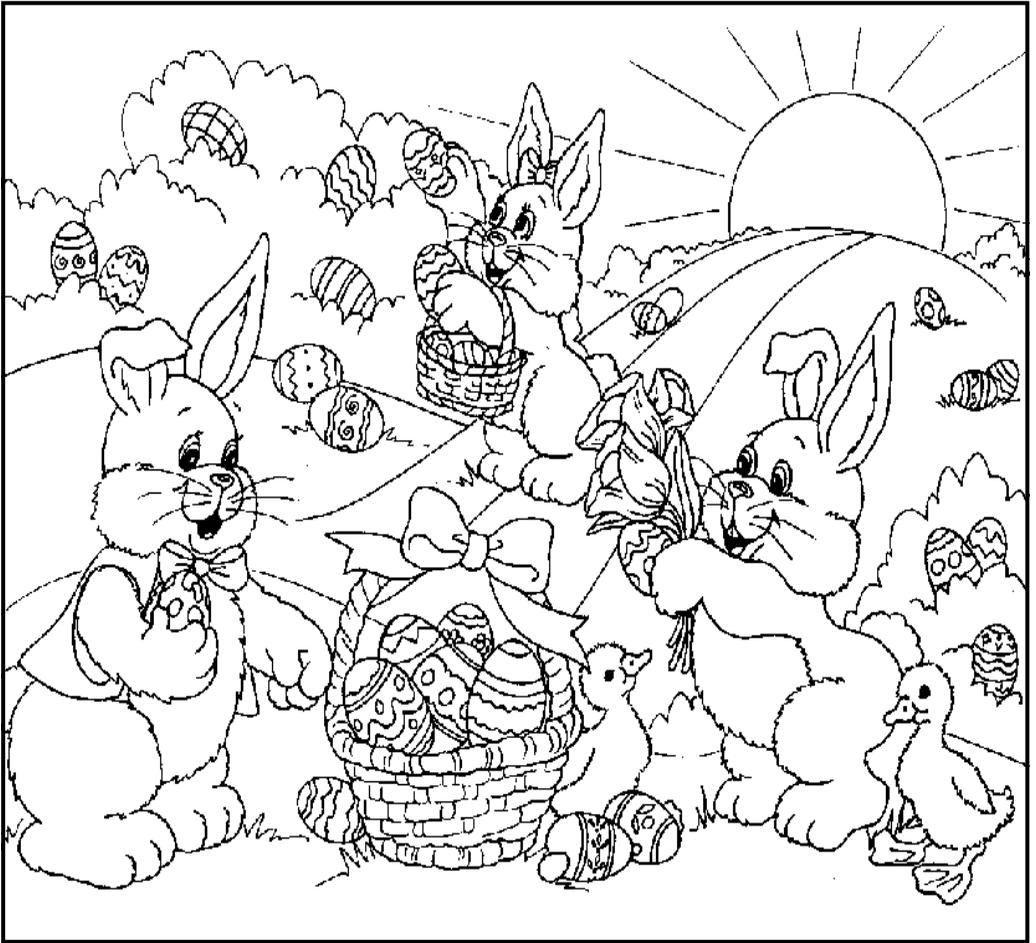
"The impulse of love that leads us to the doorway of a friend is the voice of God within and we need not be afraid to follow it"

Agnes Sanford

"The seed of God is in us all. Given an intelligent and hard-working farmer, it will thrive and grow up to God, whose seed it is; and accordingly its fruits will be God-natured"

Meister Eckhart

PUZZLE CORNER



EASTER PUZZLE COMPETITION !

Colour in the picture and count the number of Easter eggs.

Post your picture in the Easter egg competition box in the foyer by the book stall, along with your name and age and number of eggs and you may win a special Easter treat on Easter Sunday!

Name: _____

Age: _____ Number of Eggs: _____



Easter Around The World

In Belgium and France, mothers sometimes tell their children that the Easter chimes bring their eggs.

Belgian children like to make nests of hay and hide them in the grass for the Easter bunny to fill. In France and some other European countries, church bells do not ring from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. One legend says that the bells fly to Rome until Easter and drop eggs on the way back for boys and girls to find.

In Ireland, some people dance on Easter Day to win prize cakes. They eat eggs at dawn on Easter Day to break the long fast of Lent.

In Italy, a priest blesses the Easter eggs before the holiday. Housewives place the eggs at the centre of the Easter table and arrange other food around them.

In Mexico, at noon on the day before Easter, thousands of people fill the streets. They beat, hang and burn images of Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus. In many places, the Judas figure is a *pinata*, a jar filled with candy which breaks and scatters the candy for the children.

In the Middle East, Armenian and Syrian churches hold foot washing ceremonies on Maundy Thursday. Church officials invite beggars inside, wash their feet and give them gifts in memory of Jesus who washed his disciples' feet.

In Finland, at Easter, the Finns welcome spring, though in March or even April, winter still reigns here in the northernmost corner of Europe. Well before Easter, children plant rye-grass seeds in little pots. Green grass is a sure sign of spring, even if it only grows on the windowsill. Pussy willows are ancient Easter decorations, and birch twigs are placed in vases, where they soon start budding. Nowadays tulips, lilies and daffodils are flown in from the Continent, but that doesn't mean Finns didn't always have Easter 'flowers'. These were made by hand, out of tissue paper and dyed feathers.

CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL

Sun	2	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Janet Hamblin and Tony Loft
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
Mon	3	2.45 pm	Fellowship
Tue	4	10-12 pm	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club – Annual Service
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	5	7.45 pm	Midways Group – <i>Easter Meeting</i> – Bill Cox
Fri	7	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	8		Spring Synod at Central Hall, Westminster
Sun	9	10.30 am	Palm Sunday Service led by Rev John Nyota
Mon	10	2.45 pm	Fellowship
		8.00 pm	Holy Week Meditation
Tue	11	10-12 pm	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Holy Week Meditation
Weds	12	8.00 pm	Holy Week Meditation
Thur	13	8.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri	14	10.30 am	Good Friday Service at Merton Park Baptist Church
		12.30 pm	Good Friday Picnic at Hurst Park
Sun	16	6.00 am	Sunrise Communion on Cannon Hill Common followed by Breakfast at Martin Way Church
		10.30 am	Easter Day Service with Communion led by Rev John Nyota
Mon	17	2.45 pm	Fellowship - No Meeting - Easter Bank Holiday
Tue	18	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club – <i>The Garden Centre Industry</i> Rev Stuart Veitch
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

Weds 19	7.45 pm	Midways Group – <i>Our Trip to America</i> - Lesley and Mike Mortley
Fri 21	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun 23	10.30 am	Praise Service led by Janet and Bob Hamblin
	11.30 am	General Church Meeting
Mon 24	3.45 pm	Fellowship
Tue 25	10-12 pm	Coffee and Chat
	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds 26	10.30 am	Morning Communion led by Rev John Nyota
Sun 30	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev John Nyota

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

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We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday this month a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Celia Johnson on 4th April

Rosie Randell on 10th April

Kim Nyota on 16th April

Phoebe Pallister on 29th April



Sunday 23rd April
GENERAL CHURCH
MEETING

one hour between
11.30 to 12.30pm.

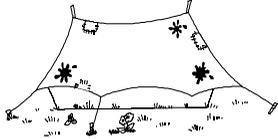
This meeting is for
everyone who considers
this Church as theirs.

Nominations for one
Steward are required
before Easter

SWANAGE !

Once again our **CHURCH**
CAMP at Swanage will be
happening later on this year.
Dates that have booked are
from 22th to 29th July.

Anyone wishing to go please
see Janet or Bob Hamblin
for more details.



SIGMA

A few photos from the February
Sigma Event



Items for the **May Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@aol.com) by **Sunday 16th April** at the latest