

A LETTER FROM BARRIE TABRAHAM

WIMBLEDON CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Friends

Local Preaching & 'Faith & Worship'

You will know that I am a happy sort of person, but permit me to be a 'grumbletonial' (Charles Wesley's nickname for his elder sister Patty) for a moment.

The Wimbledon Circuit has spent a great deal of time in thought, prayer and discussion about ***Faith & Worship*** - the Local Preachers' training course. A Memorial (No. M57) was sent to the recent Methodist Conference at Blackpool, basically asking that the amount of written assignments (but not their standard) be reduced, and the pattern of assessment made more flexible. Their reply, copies of which I am in the process of circulating, can only be described as 'equivocal'. The next stage is to make some specific recommendations to the Local Preachers' Studies Board.

Additional grounds for disappointment were provided by the **Methodist Recorder**, to whom I wrote on 24th May (Wesley Day), expressing the same sentiments, but expressed in more readable language(!) It had the full support of our preachers, and was intended to provoke a national debate - many other circuits had sent in their own memorials to Conference as we did. The result? Nothing!- and it was never published. All that the editorial staff of the Recorder would tell me was that my letter was "under consideration". When our national denominational newspaper - which claims to serve the best interests of the Methodist people - prints letters about 'Dr Who' and 'The Archers' (both of whom I heartily approve, by the way) yet remains silent on issues that affect" our very life-blood as a Church, then I tend to see red.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Local Preachers, and - especially when ordained ministers are in such short supply - should treat them like precious gems, for such they are. Sorry to grizzle, but when men and women are being deterred from pursuing their preachers' studies by

academic bureaucracy, then I feel justified in playing the part of a 'grumbletonial'.

Now for some good news!

Worcester Park

- The '**Future Links**' project at Christ Church with St. Philip, is now in its final phase. Over £800,000 has been raised and donated, which has enabled us to go ahead with the changes in the church itself much earlier than we had anticipated, as well as refurbishing and extending the ancillary premises.
- We shall be holding an **Open Day** on Saturday **6th October at 4.00 pm**, when you are welcome to see the new premises and join us for a 'Faith Tea'. If you forget to bring something to eat, come anyway! There is a concert in the evening at 7.30 pm, and if you would like to stay for this, tickets can be obtained from Mr Brian Lambourne (8330 0458).
- The **church** itself will be formally re-dedicated on Saturday 10th May - further details to follow.

I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come to the Circuit service on **September 30th at 6.30pm at Raynes Park** to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of **Charles Wesley**. We shall be singing his hymns, of course, but recalling and thanking God for his wider contribution to the Church - not just as a hymn-writer. In true Methodist tradition, tea and fellowship will follow the service!

And if you miss this, then there's still a chance to join in the celebrations on the evening of 25th November at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster - more details of which will follow.

A word about **Rev John Nyota's commitments** this coming quarter. As many of you will know, 50% of his time is spent in the Wimbledon Circuit and 50% working for the World Church Office of the Methodist Church. We are very sorry that this second part of his work has now come to an end, but it does enable John to devote more time to his doctoral research.

In order to facilitate this, his pattern of work in the Wimbledon Circuit will be as follows:

- In September, apart from the first Sunday, John will be preaching and conducting worship in the Circuit every Sunday.
- In October he has blocked every Sunday, but will be available should members of Martin Way need him, particularly if emergencies arise.
- In November, John will be partly on duty, partly on annual leave, the precise details of which he will advise the stewards at Martin Way on his return from Kenya on 3rd September.

Needless to say, this slightly altered work pattern will not affect **Faith**, who will continue to serve Full-time in our Circuit.

People in the news

- **Carol Rowles** will be ordained as priest at Southwark Cathedral on 23rd September. Congratulations!
- Our prayers and best wishes also go to **Andy Walker**, formerly a member of Raynes Park, who was ordained at Manchester Cathedral on 8th July. Andy is stationed in the Newport Circuit of the South Wales District.
- **Rev Rob Frost** is making good progress following surgery and treatment in Caesar-Hawkins Ward at St George's Hospital for cancer (malignant melanoma). We shall continue to remember him, Jacqui and Andy in our prayers.
- On 18 November we welcome **Rev Rob Hufton** into our Circuit. Rob, the Superintendent of the Clapham Circuit, is doing a 'pulpit-swap' with Faith.

Some important dates for your diaries:

- ✠ Saturday 8th September 10.00 am - District Autumn **Synod** at Westminster Central Hall.
- ✠ Saturday 22nd September 10.30 am - A District 'Fresh Expressions' Vision Day at Central Hall.

- † Monday 24th September 7.00 for 7.30 pm Circuit Meeting at Stoneleigh.
- † Sunday 30th September 6.30 pm at Raynes Park- Circuit Service to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of **Charles Wesley**.
- † Saturday 6th October 4.00 pm - Open day to celebrate the re-opening of the premises at **Worcester Park**
- † Sunday 27th November (pm) - CW 300th Celebration at Westminster Central Hall.

Peace be with you all.

Barrie

————— < 0 > —————

GREETINGS FROM DORSET

Dear everyone,

Thanks for the lovely send off we had at church during the Platform 10 ¾ cream tea. It was a complete surprise!! We thought the word must have been out about our delicious scones as so many people turned out.

We will really miss worshiping at Martin Way and the friendship and fellowship that we have received over the years. It is a very special place.

It was a hard decision to move away but we prayed about it and felt that at our stage in our lives it was a good time for all of us.

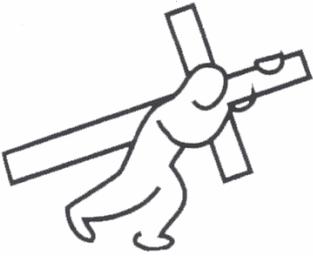
We are moving to an area just north of Bournemouth, so we have the lovely beaches and New Forest on our doorstep. We also both have family very close by in the area.

Please do keep in touch and visit us!!

Our new address is 19 Burnbake Road, Verwood, Dorset. BH31 6ER
Telephone number 01202 813948

Love Andy, Jane, William and Sian Smith

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2007



Once in a talk to a Women's Meeting I spoke of a rough patch that I had been through. One thing after another had gone wrong and I was at a pretty low ebb. My prayers seemed to be getting no response and I was under a cloud of depression. After the talk one of the ladies came up to me and said, "I never knew you had feelings like that!" It seemed to be quite a

shock to her to find that a Local Preacher should have "down" times.

There is a temptation to think that Ministers, Local Preachers and those who lead us in worship are somehow exempt from emotions and feelings experienced by everyone else. I can assure you that this is not so. In his latest quarterly letter our Superintendent Minister, Barrie Tabraham, has a gripe (see page one of this Newsletter for a copy Barrie's letter). He expressed his disappointment about an issue we had raised with the Methodist Conference and the Methodist Recorder, both of whom had responded with unsatisfactory, almost dismissive attitudes. When I read what he had written I mentally gave three cheers because it showed quite clearly that our Super can get as frustrated and up tight as the rest of us.

One of my sermons is based on a text from Job - "My thoughts today are resentful" and there are times in our lives when we know exactly what he meant. Just because we try to follow the Christian way it does not follow that our lives will always run smoothly. We cannot expect to be freed from life's ups and downs. We may even find ourselves being cross with God at times. Have you never in your life thought, "Why me?" Can you honestly say that you have never been resentful? Not one of us is perfect.

Often we take others for granted, not thinking that they may be going through difficult times. One of the ladies on a supermarket checkout seemed worried one day and when I spoke to her about it she told me that her grandson was going into hospital for an operation and she was concerned about him. Yes, those who work and serve us in shops and

other places actually do have lives of their own! None of us lives in isolation...

Next time you go to church remember that the one who is leading worship may be carrying a heavy burden. Next time you pay for your shopping remember that the cashier taking your money may be worried or depressed. "Bear ye one another's burdens" is a text we should always have in mind and be ready to act upon it.

Bill Cox

————— < 0 > —————

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERTON PARK

Many of you might be aware that Gwen Wildman and myself are this church's representatives in the above group. We meet about five times a year and discuss ways in which we can "share" in church life in Merton.

You may also be aware that in January of every year we have ecumenical service where all ministers and congregations take part. We have had two very successful Pentecost services in John Innes Park, with witnessing in the open to the few that dared to watch and many listened. This last Easter our shared service was at the Lower Morden Baptist Church where for our hymn and prayer we stood in glorious sunshine and shared hot cross buns with passers-by and car passengers.

At our meeting on 2nd August 2007 we shared our thoughts, worries and good times. Very much on our agenda was our Gwen Wildman and her voluntary work in Kenya. It was agreed from our meagre funds to donate £100 to Rafiki Trust, and that all our Churches would keep Gwen in their prayers.

We are always looking for new ideas and this proposed play, "The Butterfly's Evil Spell", has come from St. James's Church. It is not a Christian play, but it shows what can be done by Church People other than always talking and witnessing on the Christian Team. So, you Actors out there please go along to the "Meeting of Interest" at St. James's Church Hall on September 16th. Should you wish to know more, please see the article by Geoffrey Owen in this Newsletter.

Derek Heaton



A MESSAGE FROM BARRIE

You will be aware that, since undergoing major surgery early in 2004, I have suffered from periods of ill-health which have affected me greatly, as you will know by my intermittent absences and hospital admissions. I am awaiting yet another surgical procedure, which will take me out of circulation again, but only very briefly this time.

In the light of all this, the Methodist Council Medical Committee has recommended that I be given permission by the Methodist Conference to take early retirement in August of next year (2008).

This has been a very difficult decision, which will have important repercussions for me, Joan and my family and, of course, for the Church. This has been the happiest and most fulfilling period of my ministry since my ordination 1984, and therefore I have very mixed feelings at the moment - a great sense of relief in one respect, but great sadness in another.

In the immediate future, however, the Circuit Stewards, together with the District Chair, will be taking steps to consider how best to fill the appointments which I currently hold. This will entail a process of consultation both at Circuit level (concerning the office of superintendent) and at Worcester Park (concerning its particular needs as a Local Ecumenical Partnership), bearing in mind that a vacancy will also occur at Martin Way in 2008. All this will happen in the period leading up to the Circuit Meeting on 24 September, so that we can be in line with the Connexional stationing timetable.

For the next year, I shall continue to serve the Wimbledon Circuit as its Superintendent, and the members of Christ Church with St Philip, Worcester Park as one of its ministers, where I have been so happy for the past nine years.

Thank you all for the understanding, patience, care and support you have given to me.

bless you all,

G o d

Churches Together in Merton Park

Dear Friends,

We would like to show how much talent there is in our local area by producing a serious play next year. It will be a wonderful opportunity for the Christian Churches to reveal that they have many diverse gifts and talents - not just preaching and praying!



We are looking for actors, dancers (Character /Spanish), movement /mime performers, back stage crew, costume makers, people with make-up skills, Front of House, publicity, box office and ice cream sellers (refreshments). We would also welcome anyone who can play Spanish classical guitar and people who have experience of choreography.

If you have any of these talents, we are looking to use them to put on a 5 day production of Garcia Lorca's little known play *The Butterfly's Evil Spell* in a local venue, 8th - 12th April 2008. A successful production requires regular rehearsals and these will be held over 12 weeks on Sunday afternoons between 4.00 - 6.00pm at St James' hall. As this is not a pantomime or children's production, we will only be looking for people of 18 years and over. There is no upper age limit.

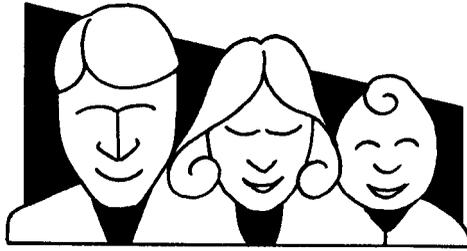
Commitment to rehearsals is essential

If this exciting and challenging event might be for you, then please come to a meeting of interest on Sunday 16th September, 4.00 - 6.00pm in St James' hall Those who wish to be involved in any of the non acting/dancing roles are requested to remain until 7.30pm for further discussion.

We know that the talent is there so if you feel that this project is for you *be brave* and attend the pre-production meeting on 16/9/07! Profits from the staging of this play will be divided between Tearfund and St Raphael's Hospice Cheam.

*Geoffrey Owen
Chair of CTIMP*

CIRCUIT QUIET CREATIVE DAY



This year the Circuit Quiet Creative Day was held at St Mary the Virgin, Cuddington and led by the Rev. Peter Catford, Superintendent Minister of the Kingston Circuit on 2nd June 2007

The theme of the day was The Lord's Prayer, with ten people from around the circuit, based on Karl Barth's writing on this focal prayer of the Church. We had the option of being with the group or going into the church or to find a quiet place.

Peter asked us to consider what for us is the most important word in the first line. Usually we pick 'Father' or 'Heaven' and although we say 'Our', he suggested we usually mean 'My' and continue to relate the prayer to ourselves as we pray. In turn we were given a ball of wool to throw between us and Peter (representing God) to illustrate our connectedness as we pray. This led into thinking through the meaning of the prayer line by line, as we pray to be God's children praying to our Heavenly Father together, partaking in the foretaste of the Heavenly banquet for all humankind. Praying that we have all we need to be and to bear God's holy Name in the world and to do our part in bringing Heaven on Earth from day to day. We pray not to be tempted away from this and to be delivered if we ever want to give up on God, as this is the worst evil that can overtake us.

While we thought and prayed, we shared our visions of Heaven in twos, by making visual representations of what we hope will be in the Heaven of eternity with a multitude of bits and pieces that Peter had brought for us to rummage through. Our resulting creations were shared and appreciated by each other. Later we filled paper plates with representations of everything from food to washing machines and

computers, to carry out our job of being and doing the Kingdom here on Earth.

Our thanks go to Peter for leading a different kind of quiet day that invigorated and refreshed our understanding of The Lord's Prayer, which I am sure, will never be prayed in the same way again, by those of us who were there.

As I will be arranging another of these days, I would be interested to hear from anyone who has any thoughts about what kind of circuit quiet day they would like in May 2008.

Valerie Smith

————— < 0 > —————

A DAY AT ELMHURST

As I am going away, I thought I'd let you know what life at my new school will be like.

Every morning the students have to get up at 7:00am! By 7:30am they go down to breakfast after which they prepare for the day of dance and school lessons. Registration is at 8:30am, this is taken in the Boarding House. Students in the lower school have their dance lessons in the first part of the morning. These include different styles of dance such as ballet, jazz, Irish dancing and contemporary. Each lesson lasts around 45/60 minutes. At 12:30 lunch is served in the Elm's bistro. After lunch there are academic lessons which all high school students would have. School finishes at 4:30pm and then there are extra lessons for dance or sessions with the physio.



Around 6:00pm dinner is served which may include salads, pasta, meat, fish and a variety of vegetables and fruit. After dinner everyone

does their prep (homework). Once completed, students have free time where they can phone home, watch TV or talk to the class mates. Before bed hot drinks are served. Then at 8:45pm everyone goes to bed and lights go out at 9:00pm.

On Saturdays there are dance classes from 9:00am to 1:00pm. And the rest of the weekend is free time. The students can go to the cinema, swimming or shopping. There is also a choir and a drama club which is run for all the students. Visitors are welcome and days out can be arranged. Every third weekend school ends at 4:30pm on Friday and all the students go home to see their families and give the staff a rest !!!

I will keep you updated on my progress and let you know how things are after I have been there a while.

Jack Pallister

————— < 0 > —————

As you see from the above article, Jack starts school in Birmingham this September. He will find it strange to be away from his friends and family. If you have time, he would appreciate a note or card from time to time and maybe even the odd prayer.

His address will be:

JACK PALLISTER
c/o FISHER HOUSE
ELMHURST SCHOOL FOR DANCE
EDGBASTON
BIRMINGHAM
B5 7UH

I have sent him with stamps and note cards, so if you put a return address, you might even get a reply!!

Annmarie Pallister

The Ministry of Healing Summer School 16th-18th July

I had the privileged again this year to attend the 54th Annual Ministry of Healing Summer School in Gregynog and to represent the Presbyterian Church of Wales London district. Each time that I attend I come away



with something different to meditate on and this year was no exception. It challenges me every time I read the heading on the programme cover that the main theme of the Summer School is to; **Preach the Kingdom of God and to heal in the name of Jesus Christ.** What a responsibility we have as Christians in this secular age.

The guest Speaker was the Rt Rev Gordon Mursell, Bishop of Stafford who, in his eloquent and humorous talk said that in his 30 years of Ministry, he has not lost his zeal in communicating the Good News of the Gospel in word and deed. As he was quoting *Isaiah 43:18 Forget the former things do not dwell on the past*, he stressed that we cannot 'go back home' in a sense, we can revisit but it will not be home. The past miracles in Isaiah's day were nothing compared to what God would do for his people in the future. There was much emphasis on water, ancient wells, springs, ditches, broken cisterns, living water etc and the occasional heavy shower outside provided an effective visual aid.

During the 3 days there was ample opportunity to minister to one another with Bible studies and group sharing which was altogether a special blessed time. The Rev Robert Parry an accomplished musician

as well as a powerful preacher made the piano ‘sing’ which added to the atmosphere of the praise and worship. He was itching to get his hands on the magnificent piped organ (especially to play the hymn tune Blaenwern effectively), but unfortunately the organ was out of action and in need of repair to the ‘tune’ of £7000. An appeal was therefore set up for this. In addition to healing the sick the organ too needed the laying on of hands!

I have now found strong links with the Summer School Healing Ministry and it was a joy to renew fellowship with old friends and meet new ones. We were able to share joys and concerns and intercede for our churches and for one another. Last year I met Joyce

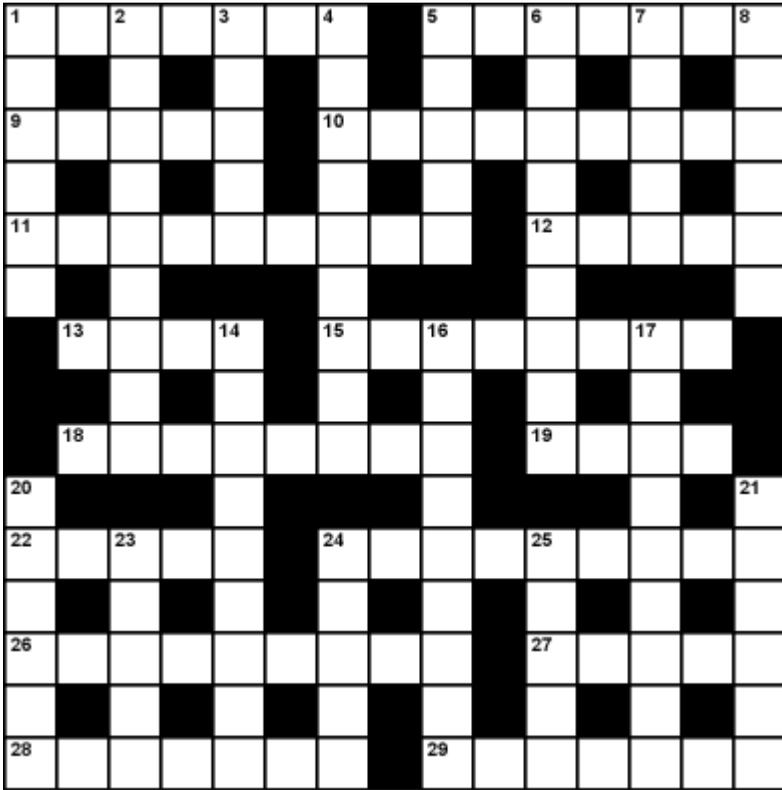


Nuttall who is a real blessing from God. She visited Martin Way Church earlier this year and will be accompanying us on our Kenyan trip. She will be an asset to the team, having herself worked as a Nurse in Kenya for many years. I thank God for Joyce and am grateful to the Healing Ministry team and friends who will be supporting both Joyce and I in prayer during our time in Kenya. This will be a great source of comfort.

The highlight each year is the Blessing Service and we were reminded by Mr Euros Jones Evans in his talk that God is the source of health and wholeness, drawing on the verse from *Philippians 4:13* ‘I have strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me’ The Rev Dafydd Andrew Jones led the Communion Service before we left bidding us to minister to each other, to **preach the kingdom of God** by the example of our Christian lives and to **heal the sick in the name of Jesus Christ**.

Gwen Wildman

PUZZLE CORNER



Across

- 1 Desperation; Praised (anag) (7)
- 5 God, doing this on day 7 (7)
- 9 More refined (5)
- 10 One of Paul's letters (9)
- 11 Uncared for (9)
- 12 Encamp against city (5)
- 13 Charitable giving (4)
- 15 Consecrated (8)
- 18 Abraham received these (8)
- 19 Jesus raised in 3 (4)
- 22 Colour found only in Ezekiel (5)
- 24 Someone who shields (9)
- 26 Continuance of life (9)
- 27 Grind together (5)
- 28 Unusual (7)
- 29 Athalia's cry (7)

Down

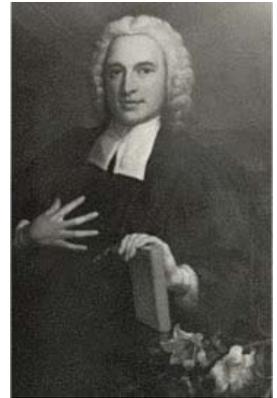
- 1 Rely on (6)
- 2 Tail-enders (9)
- 3 Be in harmony (5)
- 4 Not wicked (9)
- 5 Reigned (5)
- 6 Contented (9)
- 7 Picture (5)
- 8 Good news (6)
- 14 The first, first-aider? (9)
- 16 Fraudulent (9)
- 17 Slain by Moses (9)
- 20 They get the hump (6)
- 21 Parentless (6)
- 23 Prickly shrub (5)
- 24 300 bought ointment to anoint Jesus (5)
- 25 Keen-sighted bird of prey (5)



TERCENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF CHARLES WESLEY

In the 18th century, the **Methodist Movement** reinvigorated the Church. John and his brother Charles, leaders of the Movement, were ordained clergy in the Church of England. Like many other early Methodists, Charles remained a lifelong member of the Church of England.

Charles Wesley was born at Epworth, Lincolnshire 18 December 1707; where his father was Rector of the parish. In 1735 Charles was ordained as a deacon in the Church of England, and worked briefly in Georgia, America, but it was only in 1738 that he found his true callings, as an evangelist preacher and as perhaps England's greatest writer of hymns. He died in his London home 29 March 1788. He is best known for writing about 9,000 hymns, including *Hark the herald angels sing*; *Love Divine, all loves excelling*; *Hail the day that sees him rise*; and *And can it be*.



Britain: The Methodist Church today numbers over 300,000 members. Following divisions in the 19th century, the main branches re-united in 1932. The church is organised into 'circuits', themselves grouped into 33 Districts. The annual Conference is the governing body of the Church.

Worldwide: There are now Methodist churches in nearly every country in the world, and it is calculated that the whole Methodist family numbers some 70 million people. Over the last 40 years major areas of growth have been in Latin America (783%), Asia (690%) and Africa (450%)

Epworth, Lincolnshire: The Old Rectory, the birthplace of John and Charles Wesley, was restored by the World Methodist Council in 1956, and is open to the public.

Bristol: The 'New Room' of 1739 is the oldest Methodist building in the world. Restored in 1929, it retains much of the atmosphere of the 18th century. Above are the rooms where the travelling preachers met and lodged. Nearby is the house where Charles Wesley and his family lived, now a heritage centre open to visitors and for scholarly research.

London: Wesley's Chapel and house in City Road are open to visitors. The Museum of Methodism tells the story of the evolution of the Methodist movement, and the house also contains many items associated with John Wesley. Around City Road are many places also associated with Charles and John Wesley, such as their mother's grave in the Bunhill Fields burial ground.

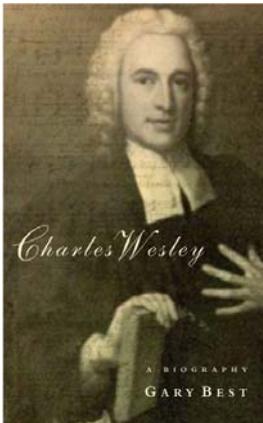
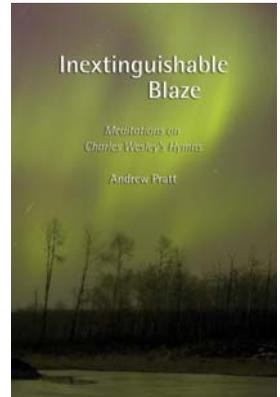
————— < 0 > —————

Two books on the life and contribution of Charles Wesley

Inextinguishable Blaze

Inextinguishable Blaze by Andrew Pratt is a collection of 52 meditations, one for each week of the year, the author, a minister and hymn writer himself, introduces well-known Charles Wesley hymns and less well known ones which show Charles Wesley's ability to reflect on faith, interpret Scripture, to comfort or to challenge, to sow the seeds of hope.

Price £9.99 ISBN 978 1 905958 06 1



Charles Wesley - A Biography

This is the first major biography of Charles Wesley for over a century and a half. Here at last is his true contribution to the development of the early Methodist movement, to 18th century Christianity and to the treasury of Christian hymnody uncovered. The Author, Gary Best is the former Headmaster of Kingswood School in Bath.

Price £19.99 ISBN 978 0 7162 0615 6

MARTIN WAY VISION STATEMENT

The Leadership Team (LT) has over the past months been reviewing our Vision Statement and our mission for achieving that vision. This was last done in 2000 and hands up who can now remember it?

This current exercise has been 3-fold.

1) **Re-Define the Vision**

This has been completed and was published in full in the December 2006 newsletter.

Copies can be obtained from church or by downloading it from www.martinway.org.uk.

2) **Re-Organise the structure**

This stage was approved by the Church Council (CC) in June. Meetings have been reduced in numbers and reorganised to enable more people to have a say in the running of church affairs. The main changes are

- a) No Mission & Service committee
- b) No Family Committee
- c) CC to meet four times a year taking on the business of the above two committees.

3) **Re-Energise the people**

This is currently under consideration by the LT with the aim of re-energising the people that are the church at Martin Way in their faith and mission. The LT ask for your continuing prayers in this respect.

So how is this going to improve things?

Memorable

Like a lot of things in the past, changing things around seemed like a good thing at the time. But usually, once it's done, it's largely forgotten unless it is kept at the forefront of everyone's mind.

The new Vision Statement has been written and designed to be memorable but equally as important, actionable.



It is a 3-level statement

At the FIRST level it is just 4 action words: WORSHIP + GROW + SERVE + SHARE which when combined into a logo also makes it visually memorable.

At the SECOND level each word expands into a one sentence explanation whilst the THIRD level is a full write up on each aspect for those who want to dig deeper.

Actionable

One person from the LT will act as your representative for each of the Vision Statement's four aspects. So:

Mike Mortley	is the rep for	Worship	WORSHIP
Sue Boyd	is the rep for	Pastoral Life	GROW
Anne Conquest	is the rep for	Church Life	SERVE
Tony Loft	is the rep for	Mission	SHARE

Mike, Sue, Anne and Tony are your contacts for any comments and suggestions that you want to raise with your LT. Please use them!

Church Council (CC)

The CC meetings have been reorganised to accommodate the new Vision Statement. It is also being made more accountable to the church members.

There will now be 4 such meetings each year (the next one on the 6th September). At each one both core and vision business 'will be conducted, as follows:

	Core Business	Vision Business
September	Finance	Worship
December	Church calendar	Church Life
March	Safeguarding	Mission
June	Appointments	Pastoral Life

All CC meetings will be OPEN giving an opportunity for a wider consultation on all aspects of church life at Martin Way.

Conclusion

We now have a memorable vision. We also have a plan to keep that vision alive and actions to make it a reality. So these together with more opportunities for discussion should give us a firmer foundation upon which to go forward in faith.

That is the theory. But, and it is a big BUT, it's all down to you to help make it work. It affects everyone - young, old and those in between. Please don't just read this and say "I agree that something needs to be done" and then leave it for someone else to do.

You are this church's life-blood. Please do your bit, have your say and, at the very least, pray for the work of God in YOUR church and community.

! Live the Vision !

Your Leadership Team Contact Details				
<i>The Minister, Rev</i>	John	Nyota	8946 3181	jfnyota@btinternet.com
<i>Church Life Rep</i>	Anne	Conquest	8942 7147	aconquest@btinternet.com
<i>Church Secretary</i>	Caroline	Johnson	8540 3755	caroline.johnson@tesco.net
<i>Church Treasurer</i>	John	Butland	8542 3138	johnbutland@blueyonder.co.uk
<i>Communications Team Rep</i>	Jane	Smith	8330 6411	mwcomms@hotmail.co.uk
<i>Mission & Service Rep</i>	Tony	Loft	8543 0696	tony@theattics.plus.com
<i>Pastoral Life Rep</i>	Sue	Boyd	8542 2377	sueaboyd@yahoo.co.uk
<i>Property Rep</i>	Roy	Ellis	8542 9241	royger22@btinternet.com
<i>Senior Church Steward</i>	Dennis	Clark	8542 8088	
<i>Worship Rep</i>	Mike	Mortley	8540 4961	mike@mortley.org.uk

Important Dates for your diary

2007	<i>6th Sept</i>	<i>Church Council - Finance and Worship</i>
	<i>15th Sept</i>	<i>Anniversary Big Brunch & Gift Day</i>
	<i>16th Sept</i>	<i>Anniversary service and BBQ at Horton Country Park</i>
	<i>1st Oct</i>	<i>Harvest Festival and Ploughman 's Lunch</i>
	<i>6th Dec</i>	<i>Church Council Church Calendar and Church Life</i>
2008	<i>10th May</i>	<i>50th Anniversary opening of the "new" church</i>

VIDA'S BIRTHDAY

Vida Brown would like to thank all her friends who remembered her 95th birthday which she celebrated on 2nd August.

Although unwell at the time, she appreciated all the kind wishes, cards and gifts. It was lovely to be thought of by so many at the start of August in the improved weather.

Val and Graham Currie

————— < 0 > —————

Thank You!

Hi All,

First I would like to thank all of you who collected the plastic lids from milk bottles. This was started a few years ago when Richard's Uncle in Wales was asked to collect the lids for a man who needed a new wheelchair. A charity offered to get him the wheelchair if he could collect his body weight in plastic milk bottle lids!! There started the collection - from then word spread and not only did they collect enough for his wheelchair, several more wheelchairs were also able to be funded. Now the collection of these lids has stopped but I would like to thank everyone who did collect.

Secondly I would like to say a huge Thank you to all of you who supported the Open Doors Big Tea Party on Sunday 10th June. Together we were able to raise £145.00 for the charity. So thank you for supporting the afternoon and look out for some more events like this in the near future.

Abby Herring

giftaid it

Why should I Gift Aid??

Gift Aid donations do, of course, depend upon the giver paying tax, and it is interesting to note the total net refund of tax - after the deduction of £59.60 for Methodist Church administration costs - for the year to the 5th April 2007 was £5959.40.

This is from 40 Gift Aid donations, including single gift payments, which equals £114.60 per week at NO extra cost to those donating BUT five of those gifts will not be repeated because of either:-

- moved away
- died
- single gifts not likely to be repeated.

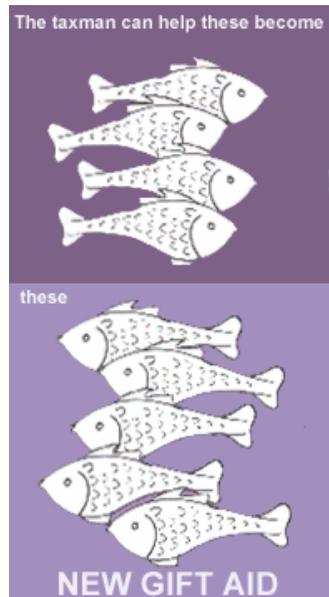
This involved payments totalling £1550.70 and a tax refund of £429.88, which we will **NOT** get again.

If new Gift Aid donations can be achieved of, say, £5.00 per week this would provide £260.00 per annum plus tax return of £71.83, so six new Gift Aid donations of £5.00 per week would replace what has been lost, or twelve @ £2.50 per week would do the same. Any extra - or even lesser amounts - so much the better!

Also to bear in mind is that in April next year the tax rate is due to reduce from 22% to 20% so that the recovery of tax from Gift Aid donations will go down from the current 28p in the £1, to 25p in the £1, so we will have more to make up.

We have, so far, received one new Gift Aid declaration of £260 per annum, so we have five more at this rate still to go, but hopefully even more - PLEASE!

John Butland Church Treasurer



CHURCH DIARY

SEPTEMBER



Sun	2	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Mrs Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Mon	3	8.00 pm	Finance & Property Committee Meeting
Tue	4	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		8.00 pm	Preacher's Meeting at Ruxley
Thur	6	8.00 pm	Church Council Open Meeting
Sat	8	10.00 am	District Autumn Synod at Westminster Central Hall
Sun	9	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
Tue	11	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	12	10-12noon	Frog's Club re-opens (Also at 1.00-3.00 pm)
		7.45 pm	Midways - Welcome back with Bring & Buy Stall
Fri	14	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	15	10.00 am	Big Brunch and Gift Day (finishes at 1.00 pm)
Sun	16	10.30 am	Church Anniversary Praise Service led by Rev John Nyota
		12.30 pm	Church BBQ Picnic & Service at Horton Country Park
Tue	18	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club – <i>Glasgow, Old and New</i> - Russell Humphreys
Sat	22	7.30 pm	Rafiki Concert
Sun	23	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev John Nyota
		6.30 pm	Bible Study led by Rev John Nyota
Mon	24	7.00 pm	Circuit Meeting at Stoneleigh

Tue	25	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	26	10.30 am	Morning Communion
		7.45 pm	Midways - <i>Chris Beere</i> - Anorak in the Antipodes
Fri	28	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	30	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Faith Nyota
		6.30 pm	Celebration Service at Raynes Park Church to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth

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

————— < 0 > —————

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

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Abigail Fuwa on 15th September

————— < 0 > —————



CHURCH ROTA

What with all the talk of recycling, climate change, going green – I’ve been thinking about the Rota and how much paper I use to produce it every 3 months. Here’s a question for you all to think about (and please tell me your views before the next Rota is due – December). What if I emailed all on the Rota (who are on email) to ask for dates they can and can’t do – then send a copy of the Rota to you all via email? This would avoid the mounds of paper I use and also help the church by reducing the photocopying bill. I understand not everyone has email and will be happy to send out forms as I do now.

We always need more people for all the jobs but we are especially short of people to count the collection. Any volunteers??

Abby Herring

Martin Way Methodist Church

The Leadership Team personally invites

YOU

To an OPEN meeting of the Church Council

At Martin Way on Thursday, 6th September 2007 at 8pm

where, following a presentation of the financial accounts,

will be a consultation on

WORSHIP

Please join us for what promises to be a lively discussion

To God you are more than a drop in the ocean.

He values everything about you and everything you do & say in His name.

To prepare for the meeting, please give some thought to the following:

- 1. What do you think is the purpose of worship?*
- 2. How do you prepare for worship?*
- 3. What do you like about our worship?*
- 4. What don't you like about our worship?*
- 5. What do you expect of worship?*

————— < 0 > —————

PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

Solution to the Bible
themed Crossword
from last month's
Newsletter

B	U	R	N	I	N	G	B	U	S	H
O	E	N				E	Y			
R	O	A	S	T		P	E	A	R	L
D	P		E	A	R	S			I	
E	V	E		R		I			A	
R		D	E	P	O	S	E	D		F
	W			R		O	E	L	I	
	A		S	E	E	N		F		L
E	X	A	L	T		E	L	E	C	T
	E		I			R		N		H
U	N	A	D	V	I	S	E	D	L	Y

Items for the **October Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 16th September** at the latest