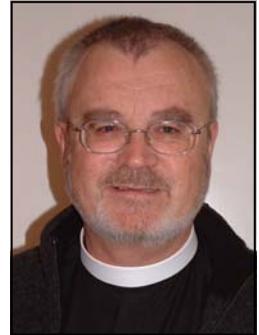


CHANGES AT MARTIN WAY CHURCH



As some of you may be aware, Rev John Nyota's calling as a Methodist Minister is increasingly being exercised in the arena of Kenyan politics. In the light of this, it has been agreed with John that his appointment in the Wimbledon Circuit will be curtailed as from 3rd February.

From 4th February until 31st August 2008, pastoral responsibility for all matters at Martin Way Methodist Church will be in the hands of Rev Barrie Tabraham, our Superintendent Minister. John's final services will be on Sunday 3rd February at Martin Way, after which he will be a Minister without Appointment but residing within the Wimbledon Circuit.



Rev Faith Nyota's status and responsibilities will remain unaltered, and the extension of her appointment within the Circuit beyond 2008 for a further three years will continue as planned.

We will continue to support John, Faith and the children with our prayers, and pray that God will bless John's ministry wherever that is exercised. We wish him well for the future.

from The Circuit Invitations Committee

CAROL SINGING - THANKS

Once again Thank you to all those who braved the elements and joined together to serenade the commuters of Morden with carols during two nights in December. In all, over £730 was raised for NCH Action for Children, this is a wonderful increase to last year.



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MEN'S SUPPER CLUB

Please note that, to avoid clashing with the pantomime, our February meeting will be held on the 12th, a week earlier than usual. Our speaker will be Tom Davies from St John Fisher Church.

Our March meeting, on 18th, falls in Holy Week and we shall be having a thanksgiving service in the Church, which will be open to all. There will be a time for fellowship afterwards and any money raised that evening will go to the charity which the Supper club is supporting. This year it is St Raphael's Hospice.

Since 1987, St Raphael's has offered the special skills of Hospice care to those facing life-threatening illness living in the boroughs of Merton and Sutton (predominantly Wimbledon, Merton, Sutton and Cheam). Their service is completely free of charge, and provides high quality medical and nursing skills, as well as support to family and friends. This service relies heavily upon voluntary contributions and depends upon the generosity of the local community to continue providing a high quality of care.

We hope to arrange a lunchtime Market for this cause later in the year. Your support will be much appreciated.

Bill Cox

FAREWELL TO A DEAR FRIEND



It was with great sadness that we heard the news of the death of Reverend Rob Frost who passed away in November at the early age of fifty-seven. Rob was diagnosed with melanoma, a skin cancer, in June and underwent treatment. He was taken into hospital on 7th November after a family holiday and died of liver failure as a result of secondary melanoma on Sunday 11th November.

Rob founded *Share Jesus International* in 1986, and was the Director and then President Emeritus. SJI is a charity with a mission to share Jesus in many different contexts and countries, bringing together a diverse range of Christian denominations and mission agencies. Andy, Frost 's son, is its Acting Director.

He was also the President of *Release International*, the charity serving the persecuted church, and visited China during 2007 to meet Christians in the official registered church and the 'illegal' unregistered church.

One of his many achievements was founding the Easter People Conference, and he preached and spoke at the 20th and last meeting in Blackpool in April this year.

One of the last projects Rob has been working on is the Pentecost Festival, which will take place May 9-11, 2008. The festival will run across central London in cafes, pubs, boats, churches and other venues and includes comedy, sport, the arts, debate, campaigning, social action and many, other areas. Andy Frost will continue to make this dream become a reality and Rob's vision will continue to have an impact across this nation.

Rob will be fondly remembered not just for what he did, but his sense of humour, his stories, his love for people, depth of compassion and his zest for life.

Over 2,000 people gathered to celebrate the life of Rob Frost, founding director of Share Jesus International. The celebration, held at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, 12th January, was a real tribute to the lives touched by Rob's life. Over 150 people played a part in the service, paying tribute to a life well lived.

He leaves behind his wife Jacqui, his two sons Andy & Chris and his father Ronald. They will miss him greatly but are thankful for his life and pleased that he is now with his heavenly father.

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CHURCH BULLETINS !

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services (not at Martin Way though!!):

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

NEWS FROM KENYA

18th January 2008



Dear friends,

Greetings and a Happy New Year from Kijabe where all is peaceful. After a long spell of dry weather the rains have been refreshing and welcomed by the gardeners. This will be my last newsletter for a while, as I will be returning home at the end of January. Fortunately this is a safe part of Kenya, but we are mindful of the ones who have been bereaved and those living in fear. No doubt you have been watching the news showing the worst hit areas of the clashes and the massacre at a church in Eldoret and those who have been displaced in Kisumu. These are after all isolated incidences but a tragedy that so many lives have been lost.

Life has not been the same for the local people here since the build up to the Election and the long holiday. There are many of the folks who have relatives in the troubled areas and who have had to flee their homes and consequently lost their businesses. The Africa Inland Mission here have been giving food to those who are fearing to go out especially Kikuyus as they are one of the tribes to be targeted. For a time there was a shortage of petrol and some essential foods due to the suppliers being unable to transport to certain areas because of blockades. We are hoping that everything will return to normal now that the 3rd day of the Mass Rally is over.

I was unable to fulfil one of my ambitions to climb Mount Kenya as the planned trip was cancelled due to the crisis. I was very disappointed. Instead I have had an opportunity to visit Maai Mahui (those of you who visited here in August will remember that Maai Mahui is nestled at the bottom of the Rift Valley and visible from Magina) to give food, clothing and support to the displaced families there and this has been a worthwhile experience. More recently there are 120 people that are being helped in the same way right next door to the JS Centre in Magina.

With support from the Rafiki trust UK, 50 Bibles have been purchased along with some Bible study materials and received with sincere thanks. Word has got around recently that we were giving out Bibles so there was an increase in attendance for the Bible Study! But we are giving only to those who are serious and have been attending regularly and the rest will be available in our 'Library'. December being 'Circumcision' month meant that fewer young men were able to attend these sessions.

I was invited to attend an 'initiation' celebration following a week during which the young men had been taught the biblical principles relating to circumcision, and the cultural and ethnic reasons for it. The programme also included teaching by a Doctor who explained the procedure, HIV awareness, respecting women and a Counsellor was available to them for the whole week. After a week of being catered for and camping in the local Church Hall, it was no surprise that many did not want to go back home, feigning that their wounds were not yet healed!

Christmas here was very quiet and relaxed. Instead of being reminded about so many shopping days left until Christmas, we were given a countdown to Polling day. Many local people were unable to visit their family relatives as they were required to vote in their home villages. On Christmas day there was no fuss, overindulgence, or extravagant present buying -just time with families following morning Service. Yes the Christingle service on Christmas Eve was well received and repeated again on Christmas morning. The Sunday following we feasted on the fatted bull, prepared by the men and this is the first occasion that I have seen men in the kitchen! and over 700 people came to the celebration. For some people this would be the only meal of the day for them.

Despite having to change the flight date Moira finally made it here so we are still celebrating and we have much to share in a very short time. We have been able to unload some of the supplies that I requested Moira to bring so she has been welcomed as the bearer of good things to a lot of the local people. Thanks to all who have given gifts and for all your prayers. Hope to catch up with you in 2008.



The Christingle Service



Men in the kitchen!

Gwen Wildman

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THE CENTRAL MESSAGE?

Some of the strangest coincidences are to be found as patterns of numbers in the Bible.

Psalm 118 is the Bible's middle chapter. Just before it, Psalm 117 is the Bible's shortest chapter. Just after it, Psalm 119 is the longest. The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 after it. If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get 1188 chapters. If you take the number 1188 and interpret it as Psalm 118, verse 8, you will find the middle verse of the entire Bible: "It is better to trusty in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

Some would say that this is the central message of the Bible - and not just numerically.

From The Witham Staple

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MORE THOUGHTS

Last year I wrote a thought for each day. Mike Mortley is using his expertise to produce the in the form of a booklet. This will be available on sale and all proceeds will go to our church funds.

Bill Cox

SIGMA 2007 CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

This year SIGMA chose our Christmas production to be 'Topsy-Turvy Christmas'. It was an interesting journey from hearing a version sung by a young school choir to the energy that I felt, came out for our performance on the Sunday night on 16th December.



I am sure that Anne (Conquest), who has taken over SIGMA since Janet Hamblin has moved, had a few restless nights as our ability to learn words isn't the strongest talent we have, but we all have such good times at rehearsals even so.

Mum (Lesley Mortley) gave us all a proper singing lesson, making sure our dots were dotted and our runs ran through the right way (I felt I was back at school!) to fighting with our umbrellas and pretending we were ladies.



The real reason we all do this is because, apart from all the enjoyment we get, is to give God's message in a fun, exiting and different way.

All the cast hope that everyone that attended our performance on the Sunday enjoyed it, I know all the cast certainly did!

Jo Passfield

PARADE SERVICE

The Parade Service on 2nd December was the first for many months and was led by David Eagle.

The Guides and Brownies were joined for the first time by the Rainbows. During the service new flags were dedicated for the 1st Merton Park Rainbows and 2nd Merton Park Guides.



The Rainbows' flag had been designed and made by Janet Hamblin and featured the Rainbow 'swish' on one side and the Guide Association emblem on the other. The Guide's flag had been made by the mother of Maxine Rowe, the Guider, and depicted the Guide trefoil.

The 2nd Merton Park Brownies were unable to attend but other Brownies who come to the church represented them. There was a very pleasing attendance and David Eagle's service was much enjoyed.

Roy Ellis

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TWO OTHER SPECIAL SERVICES



Sunday Club Christmas
Presentation



Christmas Tree Festival



BOTTLE TOP COLLECTION

May I take this opportunity to express OUR thanks for your efforts in collecting plastic bottle tops for a lad who has lost both legs in a Road Traffic Collision.

A few have asked for some more information and I will forward precise details A.S.A.P. As I have been told, a young lad Tom lost both legs (one at the thigh and the other at the knee) in a RTC in Portugal. As you are probably aware, we are collecting plastic bottle tops (Milk, Soft Drinks Etc...) which are then sold for recycling. The money raised will then be used to purchase him a special wheelchair.

Tom's Aunt is in contact with my wife constantly and I am waiting for an indicator as to how well the collection is progressing. I have had in the region of 6 full black refuse sacks contributed so far which is great, but as you can imagine a significant amount of tops will be required, so please continue to send me yours until we are asked to stop.

A few have offered financial assistance. This again is appreciated but the collection is being organised by a club on behalf of Tom and there is no charitable status assigned to the club nor in fact do they want money (Yes, I Know). Bottle tops are all they are requesting and it seems we are happy to oblige.

Once again, your efforts are sincerely welcomed and please thanks those not employed by the authority.

My Mobile is 079815444 03 should you need to discuss further. Alternatively speak to Brett, Tony or Marian Loft.

With Kind Regards

Dave Mills

Red Watch Manager

Enfield Fire Station

Station: 0208 555 1200 Ext. 84155

ADDITIONAL NEW FROM KENYA

Greetings-Jambo!

You will gather that I have safely arrived. When I boarded the plane on Sunday 13th January, I realised I wasn't the only one going to Kenya so why be anxious? I had a good journey making friends with a lady from USA who was part of a group going on 2 weeks Safari; she was very interested to hear about the work of the Rafiki Trust.

Arriving in Nairobi I was met by Gwen and Pastor Simon Muhota and his wife Margaret who gave me such a welcome these are the people who have opened their home to Gwen and to me during my stay in Kenya.

As I was only in Nairobi area but not the centre on my way here I haven't seen any disturbances all is peaceful in this area of Kijabe, Magina and Kimende the towns Gwen visits frequently. The only evidence seen is visiting the church premises next door to the Jambo Sana Centre where displaced families from the Rift Valley are being given shelter; these people have lost everything, not just possessions but homes, grain and for some the death of a family member.

This week I have accompanied Gwen on home visits and attended different group meetings. I was pleased to meet up with Steve (Murongo) John's brother and his father, Mr Kamau Nyota. Today I helped with giving out food and clothing to another group of displaced families. It is very humbling seeing people with needs I know very little about when I think of all I own.....

Before I leave I will have the privilege of presenting Bibles donated by Rafiki Trust to 8 committed young people who been faithful in attending the Bible Study at the Jambo Sana Centre.

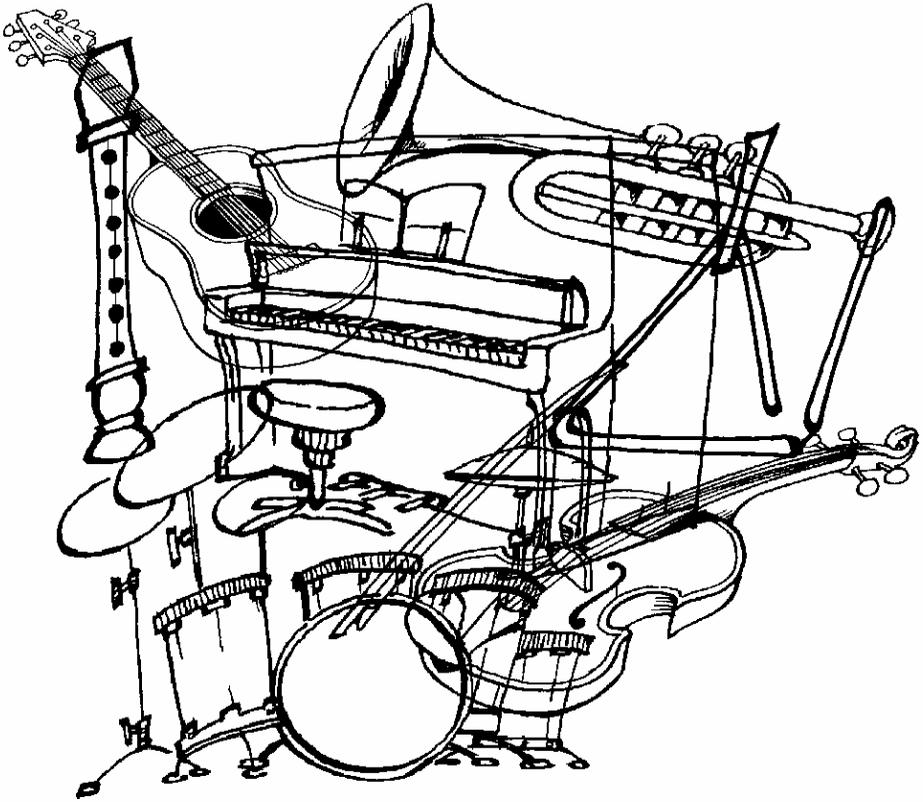
Thank you for your prayers; please remember the situations mentioned above.

Till I return, every blessing in Christ,

Moir

PUZZLE CORNER

In Psalms 150 it mentions that we should praise the Lord with many instruments. In the picture below are seven Instruments jumbled together. Can you name them all?



R _____

P _____

D _____

V _____

T _____

T _____

G _____

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY 2008

By the time you read this, January will have gone. One twelfth of 2008 will be part of history. It came as quite a shock to me when I was still teaching and I found that a new history book mentioned things which I had been through and experienced.



I once referred to the time when I was evacuated at the beginning of the war and my daughter said to me afterwards' "You must tell me all about that, I don't know about it." We tend to think that our children know all about us but, of course, the time before they were born is a closed book to them. The same applies to friends we make on our way through life. They don't know about us and we don't know about them. Together we become part of history in general, but each of us has our own personal history, which is only known to us. Some things we may be pleased or even proud to tell others about, or there may be "a skeleton in the cupboard" which will remain with us all our days.

To some extent we can influence our own personal history simply by the way in which we choose to live our lives. Here's a thought for you to ponder over. *What you are is God's gift to you. What you become is your gift to God.*

Bill Cox

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WOMAN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

"God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding"

Just a reminder about his year's services, both being held on Friday 7th March. It has now been confirmed that Reverend Mary Bide will be giving the address in the morning at trinity United Reform Church at 10.30am. Reverend Wilma Roest will be giving the evening address at Wimbledon Methodist Church at 8pm. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Mary Heaton

**CHURCH
DIARY**



February

Fri	1	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	3	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Rev John Nyota
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
Tue	5	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	6	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Peter Davalle</i> - Tchaikovsky
Sun	10	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Tue	12	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Tom Davis</i>
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	15	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	17	10.30am	Praise Service led by Mrs Brenda Cannon and Mr Tony Loft
Tue	19	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	20	7.45 pm	Pantomime Dress Rehursal
Thurs	21	7.00 pm	Circuit Meeting at <u>Worcester Park</u>
		7.30 pm	Pantomime 'Dick Whittington'
Fri	22	7.30 pm	Pantomime 'Dick Whittington'
Sat	23	7.30 pm	Pantomime 'Dick Whittington'
Sun	24	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Margaret Adams
		6.30pm	Bible Study led by Rev Mr Bill Cox
Tue	26	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat

Tues 26 8.00 pm Time for Prayer
8.00 pm Preachers' Meeting at **Raynes Park**

*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
in February a very

Happy Birthday



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STAMP COLLECTING



“A dog is not just for Christmas” – nor are used stamps! They are needed all the year round to help raise funds for Bible Lands and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Please save any used stamps, both foreign and British, that you get and pass them to Bill Cox, Maralyn Loft, or Derek and Mary Heaton.

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PANTO TIME !

Martin Way Methodist Church present

'Dick Whittington'

February 21st, 22nd & 23rd @ 7-30pm

Adult £5.00 Children £3.00

Book Office 020 8540 4961



THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED

Martin Way made donations to Christian Care and the NCH Action for Children this December as follows. Thank you to those who contributed their time and talent as well you who donated money.

Total of £1468.50 Donation to NCH Action for Children

Carol Singing at Morden Station	£ 734.00
Sigma Presentation of “Topsy Turvy Christmas”	£ 350.00
From Christmas Tree Festival	£ 123.50
Carol Service	£ 76.00
Christingle Service	£ 80.00
Collection at Christmas Day Service	£ 105.00

Total of £100.00 Donation to Christian Care

Retirement Collections	£ 72.00
Allocation from Benevolent Fund	£ 28.00

John Butland

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UPDATE TO YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

Can you please make alterations to your address books, as our Editor, Andrew Fox, has recently moved to:

12 Coniston Close, Raynes Park,

London SW20 9NJ

Tel: (020) 8330 7917

But his email address remains the same!

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