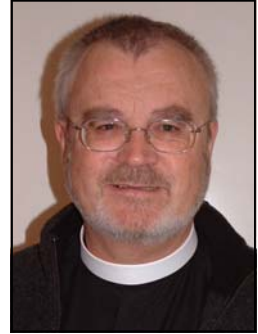


MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Living in the Easter season . . .

I make no apologies for my letter to you this month having an Easter theme, because Easter is the pivotal event in the Church's *history*, as well as its calendar. For without Easter, we might as well – to put it crudely – ‘all pack up and go home’.



Or to put it another way, if I really believed (as some do), that there is nothing more to this life than what we can see and hear and touch; that when we die, we go to dust and the only thing that remains of us is the memories held by our friends and loved ones; that notions of heaven are simply wish-fulfilment I would not be a Methodist Minister!

In fact, if I really believed that the glimpses of perfection you and I are given in this life – moments of pure joy when we can say, if just briefly, that we are utterly at peace, or completely happy – are nothing more than fleeting glimpses, then not only would I *not* be a Minister. I could not, in all conscience, be a Christian, because I could not believe in a God who would play such cruel tricks on his children.

Happily, I do not believe that this life is the end; not do I believe that the moments of pure bliss are not actually hints of something more beautiful and wonderful than we can ever possibly comprehend – the joy and fulfilment of eternal life. I can't prove it to you, any more than you can prove it to me.

However, the older I get, the more I am sure of less and less! If that sounds rather shocking, by it I mean that I have concluded that some of the doctrines and ideas that we are supposed to adhere to in our Christian tradition are perhaps peripheral to the central truths of our faith – whereas the things which are central:

that God is love; that nothing can separate us from his love; that his love was shown to us in his sharing in humanity in Jesus Christ; that *his* victory over death is one in which we can *all* share – that these truths, which represent the core of my belief, are things of which I become more and more convinced as I get older.

That was a huge sentence – sorry! But it’s something I feel so strongly about. But I’m in good company. Read what Paul says towards the end of his first letter to the Christians at Corinth (I Corinthians 15, in particular), and you’ll see what I mean.

So let us not stop celebrating Easter, as the commercial world tends to do very quickly after Easter Monday. Rather, let us celebrate the Easter season from now until Pentecost and each day give thanks for the new life that Christ has won for us all.

For he is Risen. He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

With love and prayers,

Barrie

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note that Bert Hyde has recently moved. We all wish him well as settles in his new home. Should you wish to contact him, his new address is:

Mr Bert Hyde
15 Charlsworth Court,
Whyte Mews,
Anne Boleyn Walk,
Cheam,
M3 8DR

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY 2010



Performed by the local community in the Bavarian village of Oberammergau for the 41st time. The play dates back to the Thirty Years War, after months of suffering and death from the plague the villagers vowed to perform a Passion Play every ten years, to give thanks if they were spared during the epidemic. At Pentecost 1634 they began and performed the play for the first time on a stage built over the graves of plague victims. Oberammergau has kept the tradition alive except for short periods during wars and other times of civil

strife. Now you are offered the opportunity to experience this memorable occasion. Accommodation and Passion Play tickets are difficult to acquire unless sourced early. Going as a group is the best option and with this in mind I'm asking who might be interested.

The option is to arrive in or near Oberammergau for two nights (this is the maximum permitted) and then transfer for five additional nights to the picturesque Tyrol staying at the Schlosshotel Rosenegg in Fiederbrunn for a period of holiday and sight seeing etc. Included in the tour will be a visit to King Ludwig's Castle in Neuschwanstein, a full day excursion to Salzburg (Mozart's birthplace and the backdrop to The Sound of Music), a day trip around the Grossglockner Pass (Austria's highest mountain), and a day trip to Innsbruck. The guide price is £1150 which will include bed, breakfast and evening meal in reasonable accommodation in Oberammergau and a four star hotel facility in the Tyrol, with an outward and return overnight stay in Metz. It is proposed, subject to numbers, to run two ten-day trips 27th June (with the Rev Margaret Adams) and 5th September (with the Rev Stuart Thomas).

These tours are expected to sell out. To make sure of your places we need an initial deposit of £110 per person. Although it is quite some time before departure we need this deposit to secure the arrangements with the

Passion Play Office. When the final details are confirmed if you are not satisfied with the itinerary you will have the chance to cancel and **receive a refund of the deposit paid**. Single rooms will probably be in short supply so you are advised to show an early interest. Optional insurance will also be offered with final confirmations.

Some of **Ruxley Church** went with a group in 2000 and thoroughly recommend the 'Experience'. Once we know if we have a viable number we can then make a more detailed itinerary, which will enable you to make a decision at that time. If you miss this one, you'll have to wait another ten years until 2020. Please let me know of your interest by **31st May 2008** at the latest

Pam & Derek Eade (020) 8393 6885

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ANYONE FOR LUNCH CLUB ?



One of the happy surprises that life at Martin Way provides is the discovery of their Lunch Club. This gathering takes place at 12.30pm in the Coffee Lounge on alternate Fridays from September through to July. Members enjoy an excellent two-course meal with cheese and biscuits plus tea or coffee for the modest price of £3.00.

I will not make your mouth water with the thought of Ann's superb lemon meringue pie or Fern's delicious chicken casserole, but merely mention the pleasure of eating a variety of good food without the hassle of having to prepare and cook it oneself. There is also the bonus of meeting and making friends with other folk who live in the neighbourhood.

And why am I writing about this now? Because recently a number of members have moved away from the district and so we are able to offer membership to new friends and acquaintances.

To find out more, please ring Lesley Mortley on 020 8540 4961.

Rosemary Keen

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH - APRIL 2008



I had great difficulty in knowing where to start this month's thoughts. I sat down all ready to get started, but nothing came.

No that's not true, quite the opposite in fact! Too many thoughts came all at once. It had been an eventful day and I was thinking about the people I had seen and the things that had been said. A friend had given me a challenging quiz to ponder over. I was mulling over ideas

for a service I'm taking at Fulham next Sunday. Then I thought of a couple of letters I need to write and some other things I need to do in the near future. What I couldn't settle on was a thought to offer you in these notes.

It is very difficult to think of nothing. Some thoughts come to us unbidden and unwanted. They may be unpleasant and disturbing. Some thoughts haunt us for ages, like a tune we get 'on our minds' and can't stop singing to ourselves. Sometimes useful thought some to us, perhaps in the middle of the night, and by morning they've gone, vanished as if they never existed.

Our Ability to think is a God-given gift. In his teaching, Jesus often encouraged his listeners to think things out for themselves. Someone asks him a question and he responds with another question, which will encourage deeper thought on the part of the questioner. Or Jesus will tell a story and finish it with a question.

Thinking is an essential part of our spiritual growth. We need to seek answers to questions which arise even if we eventually discover that we are not yet at the stage when new are capable of understanding the answers. All of us need help and guidance in our thinking if it is to be constructive and enhancing. Paul's advice to the Philippians still holds good for us today.

Fill your minds with those things that are good and deserve praise; things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honourable.

And of course, we need to think of others in prayer. Both the one we pray for and us who pray are enriched when we do so.

Bill Cox

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CALLING ALL CRAFTERS !!

As you may already know, are holding a May Fair to celebrate the church anniversary. I have been asked to organise and run the craft stall. I am looking for items to sell. If you have a creative flair or want to have a go at making something, then I would be grateful for any contributions.

If you are stuck for ideas here are a few:

Knitting/crochet - I found lots of ideas on the internet. You can download free patterns and use up oddments of wool

Embroidery, Jewellery making, Glass painting, Card making, Candle making.

I am hoping to have some craft for kids at pocket money prices, so small items will be good too.

I pod covers, Hair clips and hair bands, Book marks, Mobile phone charms.

Happy Crafting

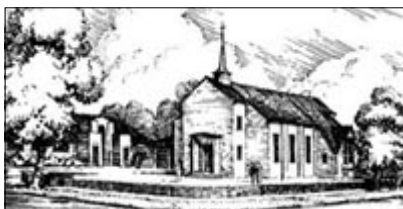
Annemarie Pallister

CHURCH 50th ANNIVERSARY

This May is the 50th anniversary of the church building (not the hall which was the original church that will next year celebrate 75 years). To celebrate we will be holding a May Fair on Saturday 10th May, and on Sunday 11th May, Rev David Chapman will be leading us for our Sunday worship which is also Holy communion.



We would like people to start saving jam jars coffee jars etc and then fill them with something which we can put on a tombola stall. We need a variety of jars suitable for different ages.



Any questions about this please speak to either Anne Conquest, Sue Boyd, or Jane Bryant.

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SPONSORED WALK

On Sunday 27th April - Jenny and Karen Smith will be taking part in a 'Walk for Skin' in Regents Park, to raise money for the British Skin Foundation and the Childhood Eczema Fund.

In its third year, the Walk for Skin 2008, is a series of nine sponsored walks taking place throughout the country, chosen for their scenic appeal and accessibility to all, to help raise vital funds for research into skin disease.

If anyone would like to sponsor Jenny and Karen please see them at Church. As Jenny doesn't particularly like walking, she deserves your support!!



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

I have regretfully decided to resign from the local committee representing our church after 20 years and appeal now for anyone who thinks they could take on this appointment.



It entails the actual Women's World Day of Prayer services on the 1st Friday of March every year; every November a meeting is held to organize these services; each January a further meeting is held to confirm that everything is arranged successfully and then there is a final meeting held each March to discuss how the services have gone. There are usually 20 churches from all denominations taking part.

Over the years, Derek and I have chosen to take the service up to Alexander House and it saddens to think how the residents there will miss out should no-one consider taking this over. It does not HAVE to be the same person doing this who organises the morning and evening services.

Derek has always shown the official country's slides at the start of each service to "set the scene", so maybe another volunteer feels they could take this post on as Derek is also resigning.

Our Church really DOES need to be represented in the future, since this is a very worth while cause, I do urge you all to give this your prayer full support.

Please speak to me if you would like any further details and I will be only too pleased to explain everything.

Mary Heaton

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The degree of our faith is the degree of our prayer.
The strength of our hope is the strength of our prayer.
The warmth of our charity is the warmth of our prayers.

CARLO CARRETTO

THE PENSIONER'S LAMENT

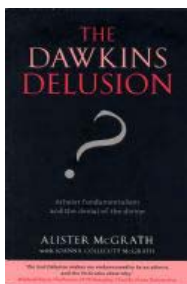
They have brought Thee up to date, Lord, Along with stereos and cars.
They've pensioned off the organist, They're praising with guitars.
They've done it for the young ones, They hope to draw them in,
But I do wish they would worship Without making such a din.
For I'm getting rather deaf, Lord,
And when there's all that noise
It gets so very hard, Lord,
To hear Thy loving voice.
They've written brand new hymns, Lord, With tunes I do not know,
So I hardly ever sing now,
Though I did like singing so,
They've modernised the Bible,
The Lord's Prayer and the Creed,
When the old ones were so perfect
And filled my every need.
My mind is not so agile
As it was some years ago.
I miss the age-old beauty
Of the words I used to know.
So it's very clear to me, Lord,
That I've overstayed my time
And I don't take change so kindly
As I did when in my prime.
But it can't be very long, Lord.
Before I'm called above
And I know I'll find Thee there, Lord, And glory in Thy love,
So till then I'll stick around, Lord, Though It's not the same for me
And while they call on 'You', Lord, Please don't mind if I say 'Thee'



BOOK REVIEWS from RE:FRESH BOOKS

The Dawkins Delusion

by Alister McGrath with Joanna Collicutt McGrath
£7.99



“*The God Delusion* makes me embarrassed to be an atheist, and the McGraths show why” is the endorsement of Michael Ruse, Professor of Philosophy at the Florida State University, on the front cover of this book

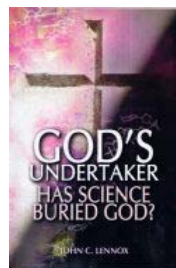
Alister McGrath has trodden the opposite path to Dawkins. A former atheist, he gained his doctorate in molecular biophysics at Oxford and planned to spend his life in scientific research until he switched to theology. Today he is Professor of Historical Theology at Oxford University. He has previously written another book, *Dawkins God: Genes, Memes and the Meaning of Life*. Joanna is Lecturer in Psychology of Religion at Heythrop College, University of London.

They systematically, yet sympathetically dismantle Dawkins’ arguments about the rationality of faith, the existence of God, science versus religion, the origins of religion, the meme theory (devised by Dawkins in 1976 and widely discounted by modern scientists) and the idea that religion is essentially evil and violent. The book pulls no punches in its criticism of Dawkins’ ideas and yet avoids the type of invective that Dawkins himself uses. But be warned, this is no light read.

God’s Undertaker – Has science buried God?

by John Lennox - £7.55

John Lennox, Reader in Mathematics at Oxford University, takes a fresh look at the relationship between science and God arguing that science sits more comfortably with theism than atheism. Chapters look at current issues such as reductionism, intelligent design, the origin of life and the genetic code.



Both of these books are available from re:fresh books & christian resources, 23 The Broadway, Tolworth, Surbiton KT6 7DJ

PUZZLE CORNER

Bible Wordsearch

Creation3

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Puzzle #151

Genesis 1:27 to 2:7

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

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| ACCOUNT | GROUND |
| AIR | HEAVENS |
| APPEARED | IMAGE |
| BEASTS | INCREASE |
| BIRDS | LIFE |
| BLESSED | MADE |
| BREATHED | MAN |
| CREATED | MORNING |
| DAY | NOSTRILS |
| DUST | NUMBER |
| EARTH | PLANT |
| EVENING | RAIN |
| FACE | RESTED |
| FEMALE | SEA |
| FIELD | SEED |
| FILL | SEVENTH |
| FINISHED | SHRUB |
| FISH | SIXTH |
| FOOD | SPRUNG |
| FORMED | STREAMS |
| FRUITFUL | SUBDUE |
| GIVE | SURFACE |
| GOD | TREE |
| GREEN | VAST |
| | WATERED |

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Ecl. 5

MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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THE 'ALPHA' COURSE

Wimbledon Methodist Church are planning to run the 'ALPHA' course again this year. Last year those who led, helped and who did the course, enjoyed the exercise and found it worth recommending to others: Mostly those who did it, found it a stimulating evening, but all enjoyed it very much. The facilities and ambience of the new building at Wimbledon, we felt, was ideal for running 'ALPHA', to welcome and offer hospitality to guests and this was certainly the case.



The course will run from 3rd April to 5th June with a Saturday 'Away Day' to take place on 31st May. 'ALPHA' is designed for new-comers to the Christian faith, therefore do encourage people around you, people who come to your church activities and/or experience it for yourself - it is a good way to find out about one effective way of communicating Christianity today. The course presented is the original 'ALPHA' and every week's topic is open to question. Some lively discussions took place last time.

The church will open from 7.00pm for the meal and the sessions will start at 8.00pm. There will be a short introduction and a worship song, the talks will be presented each week on DVD (the shorter version) and discussion groups will follow. The evenings will end at 9.45pm.

Letters of invitation with reply-slips, are available for you to take or give to others. It would be very helpful if the reply-slips are used for catering and administration purposes.

Any offers of help to facilitate the evenings would be very welcome for cooking or serving one of the 'ALPHA' meals (on site or at home with pans etc. provided) or setting out or clearing away. Most of all please pray that people will come to faith or strengthen their faith through the 'ALPHA' experience.

For more details please contact the course co-ordinator, Valerie Smith whose contact details are in the Circuit Directory and on the invitation letter.

FAIRTRADE RECIPES

Coffee, Pecan & Raisin Whirls

Makes about 9 whirls



250g bought puff pastry
finely grated zest and juice of 1 Fairtrade orange
60g Fairtrade raisins
60g unrefined (golden) Fairtrade sugar
½ teaspoon ground Fairtrade cinnamon
40g pecans
15g melted butter
1 egg, beaten
1 tablespoon warmed runny Fairtrade honey



For the icing

75g icing sugar
1 teaspoon instant Fairtrade coffee granules, dissolved in 1 tablespoon boiling water

First put raisins in a bowl with the orange juice and leave to soak for 1 hour.

- Preheat oven to 220°C/425°F/gas mark 7.
- Roll out the puff pastry to a square, measuring about 24cm. Brush with melted butter, leaving a 2cm gap down 2 parallel edges.
- Mix sugar well with the cinnamon and orange zest. Break pecans into pieces about the same size as the raisins and mix into the sugar.
- Drain the raisins and add to the sugar mixture.
- Spread onto pastry, avoiding the gap along the 2 edges. Brush the gaps with beaten egg. Starting with one of these edges, roll up tightly like a swiss roll. Seal the edge as tightly as possible, using more beaten egg. With a sharp knife, slice the roll into 2cm wide rounds.
- Place on a baking tray and brush top and sides with more beaten egg. Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden brown.
- Brush tops with warmed honey straight from the oven. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.
- Make up icing by beating the coffee into the icing sugar until smooth. When pastries are cool, drizzle with icing.

CHURCH DIARY



Tue	1	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Weds	2	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>A year at Kew</i> – Dr. Peter Branden
Sun	6	10.30 am 6.30pm	All Age Worship led by David Somers Holy Communion led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Tue	8	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Fri	11	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	13	10.30 am	Holy Communion led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Tue	15	10-12noon 7.30 pm 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Men's Supper Club - <i>Morden Library</i> - Andrew Fox Time for Prayer
Weds	16	7.45 pm	Midways Group - Rafiki Trust update
Sun	20	10.30 am	Praise Service led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	22	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Fri	25	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	27	10.30 am 3.00 pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Margaret Adams General Church meeting led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Tue	29	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer

*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 April a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Celia Johnson on 4th April

Rosie Randall on 10th April

Kim Nyota on 16th April

Phoebe Pallister on 29th April



MAY PLANT STALL

I have been asked to run a Plant Stall at the Church's May Market on 10th May and would be grateful for any plants that you could donate or even purchase some plants to sell.

Details of where to leave them will be announced nearer the time.

Mary Heaton

ARE YOU GOOD AT ADMINISTRATION?
DO YOU ENJOY COMMUNICATING WITH
OTHERS?

**The Sutton Circuit
in the London District of the
Methodist Church
is looking to appoint a**

Circuit Administrator

**The post will initially be for 10 hours per week
worked flexibly**

The base will be at Epsom Methodist Church

The salary £8 per hour

Further information and application form

**From: Alan Jameson 20, Woodstock Road,
Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3DZ
Tel. 020 8669 2095 E-mail alanjameson@btinternet.com**

Closing date for applications is

Saturday, 19th April 2008

Items for the **May Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 20th April** at the latest