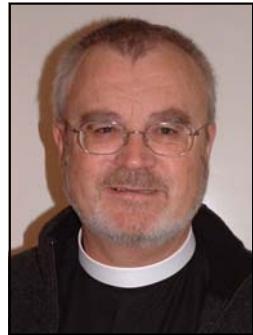


MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Feeding Faith

No – this is nothing to do with Rev Faith Nyota! Rather, I want to share some thoughts with you on a subject which has always been close to my heart – naturally, I suppose, given my background in education.



I can never understand why some Christians can argue that scholarship and study simply ‘get in the way’ of having a genuine faith based on a personal experience of the love and power of God in Christ, whilst others – just as strongly – can argue that a faith which could engage the strongest emotions (e.g. of joy and pain), can prevent individuals being rational in their beliefs and making sense of the world.

As you know, I have always been in favour of ‘having your cake and eating it’, and the way in which ‘reason’ and ‘emotion’ have somehow been seen as mutually exclusive, has baffled me. If you are to *love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength* – that surely implies that you and I must love, worship and serve him with our whole being – not with intellect or emotions alone.

And this is the way in which God has made us, of course.

A short time ago, when I was in a tutorial with Brenda and Tony (for the Local Preachers’ *Faith & Worship* course), we were talking about worship preparation, prayer and study. I remarked that, when I was preparing for a service or writing a sermon, I couldn’t honestly tell the difference between devotion, as such and study. The two, it seemed to me, were inextricably linked.

The process of reading commentaries and studying Scripture and thinking about how to present the Gospel, on the one hand – and making

the words I was reading my own, and absorbing their meaning, and praying, on the other hand – all of these seemed to merge together to form one way of ‘practising the presence of God’, as it were.

You’ll forgive me, I hope, if I find it difficult to put such sentiments into words – but at least Tony and Brenda agreed with me! I think the point is really about keeping in **balance** – heart and mind; emotion and reason – using all the gifts God has given us to love and serve him.

But now comes the challenge!

We cannot ignore the importance of **Christian nurture** in the Church today. Some years ago, the report to Conference “*Called to Love and Praise*” examined some of the attributes of a healthy church in terms of what is it trying to achieve. Two of the points were:-

1. *Is it contributing to the apologetic task?* (i.e. are its members able to show what they believe and why?)
2. *Is it therefore encouraging its members to deepen their discipleship?*

This is one the most crucial areas where our churches can grow – both numerically and spiritually. In recent years much material has become available for churches to use in training new members and in helping existing ones to deepen their faith. Thankfully, Martin Way Methodist Church has always had a tradition which believes that it’s important to make people feel part of a community in which they can share a common quest for truth and meaning. This is because growing in discipleship is an activity in which all Christians should be engaged. We’re all learners.

I have written at some length on this subject because I feel very strongly about it – so thank you for bearing with me! We dare not present our faith in a narrow or simplistic way – especially to our young people. They will not thank us in years to come when their faith is tested by doubt or suffering.

Let us pray that we may all seek to foster an open, inquiring approach to faith, engaging both heart and mind, that will enable us to love and serve the God who knows us intimately and loves us passionately.

With love and best wishes,

Barrie



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Open Doors Great Big Tea Party



The Open Doors Tea Party will be on Sunday 8th June. If you would like to join us for the walk we are meeting at the church at 2pm and going to Banstead Woods for a 2mile(ish) circular walk.

Anyone who would like to join us but doesn't want to do the walk can come along at 3.30pm and meet up with us at Banstead woods for afternoon tea with scones & cream.

The reason for this walk and afternoon tea is to raise money for Open Doors (Charity for Persecuted Christians). So there will be a charge for the refreshments:-

Tea/coffee - 75p

Squash/Water - 25p

Scones, Jam & Cream - £1.50

Anyone wanting more information, requiring a map to Banstead wood or needing transport please speak to Abby Herring.

PUZZLE CORNER

Write the answers to the clues in the boxes to the right of each clue
Copy the letters in the numbered boxes to the other boxes
in the boxes below with the same number.

This will give you verse from the Bible.

astonishment, marvel

2	31	30		25	35



four fingers and a _____

12	13		6	17

apprentice, beginner

10	5	24	14	28

to put oil on in a ceremony

7	15	1		27	32

despair, morose

16	22	21	23	

boy, girl (examples)

11	26	18	19	33

orderly, tidy

4	34	9	20

no fat

3	29	8	

1	2	3

4	5

6	7	8	

9	10	11	

12	13	14	15	16

17	18	19

20	21

22	23	24	25

26	27	28	

29	30	31	32	33	34	35

The above puzzle is thanks to <http://biblewordgames.com>



Youth Weekend Away

2nd – 4th May 2008

Verwood, Dorset



Over the May bank holiday, Platform 10^¾ went away to Verwood in Dorset for a weekend of Fellowship, Fun, and of course FOOD!!

We went to visit Andy, Jane, William & Sian Smith in their new home – of course there wasn't enough room for us to stay there, so we stayed at Holtwood Methodist Church (about 15 minutes drive from them).

We left Martin Way at 7pm on Friday night and arrived at 9.30pm. By the time we had settled in, sorted our bedding out it was time for a drink and Cake!

Our weekend was planned around Unpacking Prayer and we were looking at Matthew 6:1 -14. There was time for discussion, brain storming and even a little art & crafts! Working in 2 groups we looked more closely at the Lord's Prayer and created our own interpretation. The books that we made will be on display in the front entrance to the church in the near future.

We also had lots of fun, we went for a walk in Moors Valley Park on Saturday and along Christchurch beach on Sunday. We spent time at Andy & Jane's House – watching a DVD called 'Evan Almighty' on Saturday evening. (*Well worth seeing if you haven't already*)

We also joined Andy & Jane at their new Church, Verwood Methodist, for the service on Sunday morning. We were warmly welcomed by their Minister Ralph Ward and the rest of the congregation (and we were offered Cake after the service...mmmm....our favourite!). We were invited to join in with their youth group, who were meeting that evening.

A fun weekend was had by all despite the lack of sleep, lots of Cake eaten and maybe the odd bad joke or two!

This is one of many activities we get up to in the year. If you want to find out more about Platform 10^¾ just ask one of us. Another

event we are planning is a Café Worship at Martin Way Church on Sunday 14th June at 8pm. More details to follow, look out in the weekly notices.

Thanks from

Ellie, Tom, Emily, Simon, Katie, Alex, Jenny
Tony, Abby (& Richard – who joined us for the weekend)

————— < 0 > ————

GARDENING FOR GOOD

Plant three rows of peas;
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Plant three rows of turnips
Turnip for meetings
Turnip for services
Turnip to help one another

Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce really love one another



Water freely with patience
Cultivate with love

There is much fruit in your garden
Because you ream what you sow.



To conclude our garden ...



We must have thyme
Thyme for each other
Thyme for family
Thyme for friends
And especially Thyme for **GOD**



With thanks from Bill Goodrum



Celebrate their 21st birthday

While many people were at the May Fair celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the present church, the 1st Merton Park Rainbows were joining other Rainbows from the Merton Division to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Rainbows, the youngest section of Girlguiding UK catering for girls aged between 5 and 7 years old.



Across the country, birthday parties and special events have been held. Locally, on 7th May many Rainbows were allowed to wear their Rainbow uniform to school to mark the formation of the section in 1987 and on 10th May they had a Fun Day at the Scout Headquarters in Motspur Park. Rainbows from the church pack, together with packs from elsewhere in Merton, enjoyed a full day of fun and games with bouncy castles, face painting, sideshows, craft activities, races and a disco. They and their leaders had a great time and went home happy but exhausted. They were given a 21st Birthday badge to sew on their uniforms and a Rainbows purse as a memento. Although they missed the church's festivities at least one Rainbow sent her parents along to the May Fair to represent her!

Marking the fact that Sue Chapman founded the 1st Merton Park Rainbows at Martin Way in 1995, the present Rainbows sent her a birthday card which was given to her when she and David Chapman visited the church on the Sunday. Sue was also given an old photograph of herself in the church with her Rainbows, which at that time included Abigail and Sophie Chapman and Emily Bacon.

Rainbows follow a structured programme which includes activities under the headings Look, Learn, Laugh and Love and they have great fun doing so. Long may Rainbows continue!

Geraldine Ellis

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

JUNE 2008



I am writing this at the beginning of the week of the Chelsea Flower Show. Years ago when I was still teaching I used to cycle to work and my journey along the Embankment took me past the grounds of the royal Hospital, Chelsea. Every year I was fascinated to see the open spaces in the grounds transformed into the beauty of the traditional flower show. Meticulous

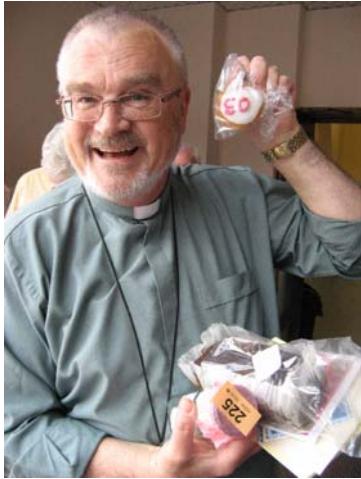
planning must go into it every year. Crowds of people come from all over the country to visit it during the week. Then everything is cleared away and the grounds are restored to their normal simplicity. If I had not seen the transformation for myself, it would have been difficult to believe that it had taken place. To visit the Chelsea Flower Show is a memorable experience. There is so much beauty all around you and those who exhibit long to earn one of the prestigious awards. Everything is prepared with tender loving care. Of course it all takes time and patience.

In a way, when we are born we are like seeds planted in God's garden. All of us are offered his tender, loving care. How we respond to it, is shown in what we become. If we reflect God's love, we add to the beauty of the world, adding the fragrance of kindness, consideration and so on. Those who completely reject God's love are the weeds, which choke and damage others. Like flowers, we may droop from time to time and need a boost to get us back again. Our response to what God offers us is all important. We are not all the same. Just as there are many different flowers in the garden, so there are many different kinds of people, but together we each contribute something to God's garden. Some win awards in the flower show, whilst others are there in the background, offering support. God, the loving gardener, cares about them all.

Bill Cox

WINNING POSTERS FROM THE 50th ANNIVERSARY MAY FAIR POSTER COMPETITION





50th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

When Andy (our Editor) asked us to write a few words about this weekend, we thought really what could be said, as I was in the kitchen most of the time and Mary was on the Plant stall. The only real breaks we had were for lunch, but as always I managed escaped my post a few times.

First reflections, for me, was around 8pm on the Friday evening, tables being set up in the hall and Anne Conquest saying where each stall was to be. A big plus was a great weather forecast so stalls could go outside.

Saturday 8.15am. A quiet start but Tony was already up a ladder putting bunting around the Hall, the car park and Church, but then it all started happening, tables into the car park for the Plant stall and the Bouncy Castle being inflated, whilst inside more tables were now being prepared for the items for the special stalls, such as cakes, books, Karen's bits and pieces, Traidcraft and the Rafiki Treasure Hunt. Things were happening in the kitchen as well, the 60 baking potatoes were cooking whilst the fillings and Quiches were being prepared. Tables laid in the Coffee Lounge and Garden area with Tea, Coffee and juices at the ready.

Saturday 10am, it officially started, we (that is myself and Mike Mortley with Ken Palmer and Suki, our very good friends from the Men's Supper Club) were very quiet supplying drinks for the workers.





When I ventured out of the kitchen into the Hall it was just a mass of people looking and purchasing, and Sue worried that no one was buying her ice creams! What was great was the colour, most of the ladies in summer tops or colourful dresses with us guys showing winterised white legs because of shorts.

Back in the kitchen, as teas and other drinks were being served the next couple of hours were a blur. We sold 59 of the filled potatoes plus the quiches and salads, what was really great was seeing all the folk of all races and creeds that ate. It was great atmosphere and all enjoying a typical festive experience.



On my quick escapes outside I saw Mary and helpers very busy at the Plant and Potato Sack stall. Other busy areas included the Paint the Face, Knocking the Cans Over, the Raffle Table and of course the display of Our Church, the cause of the celebration, full of Historic and Happy photos. There was also a

lovely flower arrangement made by the Elizabethan Flower Group.

Mary from her outside Plant Stall saw and heard everyone enjoying themselves in the beautiful weather, she noticed passers-by look, and then attracted by all that was happening, come in. The Guide's stall catching the ducks and the youngest having their faces painted together with the laughter of the children in the bouncy castle all added to the joy of the occasion. Mary was so grateful for all of her helpers on the stall, especially the very capable Tyler.



was clear for our friends The Arthritis Care to have their regular meeting, they too bought bits and pieces.

What a great effort by Anne and her team and on the day lots of help from all ages. It was a great time and for all those folk that visited whilst passing added to the event. In addition to all the enjoyment a good monetary result was also achieved.

Derek Heaton

SUNDAY MORNING COMMUNION & ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



What a wonderful treat it was to welcome our old minister, the Rev David Chapman, with Sue his wife and their two daughters Abigail and Sophie, to take the 50th Anniversary Service.

David was his usual self, remembering names and happenings

from his time with us, and as he told me prior to the service it was a very emotional time meeting all the folk again.

After the service we all adjointed to the Hall to enjoy the Celebration Cake and to chat about old times. We were blest by the presence of our older members and friends, some now moved away, being with us. They brought with them the memories of Weddings and Christenings of long ago and those sad times that go along with those many years.

What a wonderful weekend, full of memories, happy festive folk enjoying the sunshine, the fun of the Fair and then a service of Happiness and Thanks led by David.

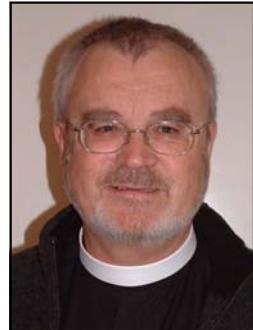
We have a great church and family, lets do our best to support one another as the days and years pass us by.



Mary Heaton

**A LETTER FROM BARRIE
TABRAHAM**
WIMBLEDON CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENT
June 2008

Dear friends,



My Hero!

All of us have heroes in the Bible. For some it's Moses for his courage and leadership; or Joseph, for his grace and wisdom; or Ruth for her faith and faithfulness; or Peter, for his boldness and humanity; or Paul for his energy and conviction. Mine is **Barnabas**, and it's no accident that in *Brother Charles* I wrote that Charles Wesley '*was, in a sense, a 'Barnabas' to John's 'Paul'*'. As I explain why, I hope you will see this as a sort of parting testimony from me, as it sums up what I have tried to be as a Methodist Minister since my ordination in 1984.

Barnabas was a Jew who originally came from Cyprus. When, as a new convert to Christianity, he sold his estate and brought the proceeds to the apostles, he is given a new name: 'Barnabas' – which means '**son of encouragement**'. It couldn't have been more appropriate, for it was Barnabas who:

- persuades the fearful disciples that Paul is a genuine convert (Acts 9:26-27);
- sees the potential of the new church in Antioch (Acts 11:22-26), and who
- insists on giving Mark another chance, even if it meant going against the wishes of Paul himself (Acts 15:36-39).

I hope that, in some small way, I too have been able to be a 'son of encouragement' in my own ministry. It is one of my firmest beliefs that one of our greatest needs is to be encouraged. We all know, of course, that uncritical praise *can* lead to complacency and inertia. However, to see individuals and churches grow and flower in the knowledge that God has blessed them with gifts and will bless their development in the future – to see this, has been a rare treat.

I was trained as a historian, not a philosopher, but my theology has always had an existential ‘flavour’ to it. And so, whereas you won’t have heard the phrase, ‘*saved by the blood of the Lamb*’ from my lips very often, you will, perhaps, have heard me say that, ‘*He became as we are, so that we might become as he is.*’ For me, salvation has always been a matter of growing into the people that God intends *us* to be – knowing that this process lasts a lifetime and continues in the life to come.

When I was being interviewed at Wesley College in April 1981 by the Connexional Candidates’ Examinations Committee, one of the last questions I was asked was: “*Barrie, what is your gospel?*” (What answer would *you* have given, by the way?) I actually replied, quite spontaneously, “*People need to be loved.*” In the twenty-seven years since, I’ve not changed my mind: knowing that we’re loved, enables us to become who we’re meant to be.

Stationing Matters

At the time of writing, there is nothing further to report. Even though it increasingly looks as though there will not be a direct replacement for me this September, I do believe that the spiritual strength of this Circuit will enable you to continue in the ministry and mission which God has entrusted to you, and which is a happy partnership of lay and ordained, young and old, radical and traditional – all bringing your varied gifts to furthering the ministry of our Lord. And in all this, the Circuit will be in the safe hands of Rev Margaret Adams when she becomes Superintendent in September. I wish her well and will pray for her future ministry with you.

Other Items of News

- Concerning the ongoing struggle with the exemptions policy of the **Local Preachers’ Department**, I have now had a (most unsatisfactory) conversation with Dr Barrow, the Local Preachers’ Secretary, but am still ‘hammering away’, as it were!
- You will see on the Circuit Plan the initials “BC” at **Wimbledon** once a month in the evenings. This is a special service called

“Be Church”, which has arisen from the happy partnership with the Share Jesus team, and which, appropriately, will be led by Andy Frost.

People in the news

- Congratulations to **Andy Frost**, who has been appointed as Director of Share Jesus International.
- Congratulations to **Andy Frost** and **Jo Wells** upon their marriage at Raynes Park on 15th June.
- We're pleased to welcome into the Circuit this quarter **Elizabeth ('Liz') Richardson**, who will be ordained as deacon at Guildford Cathedral on 29th June and serve as curate at Ruxley.
- Welcome also to **Revs Finatti** and **Leigh** who will be sharing in services at Ruxley.
- And, sadly, farewell to **Andy Jacobson**, whose curacy at Ruxley is shortly coming to an end and who will be leaving to take up a new appointment in the Guildford Diocese in July.
- Finally, we're delighted that **Faith Nyota** will be received into the Full Connexion at the Methodist Conference at Scarborough on 6th July – this will mark her official transfer to British Methodism!

Some important dates for your diaries:

- † Saturday 7th June – **Circuit Training Day** for Church Stewards (and Wardens!)
- † Wednesday 18th June 7.00 for 7.30 pm **Circuit Meeting** at Martin Way.
- † Sunday 20th July 4.00 pm – **Circuit Service** at Worcester Park.

† Wednesday 3rd September – Circuit Welcome Service at Stoneleigh for new staff and Rev. Margaret Adams as Superintendent Minister.

And finally, a note from me . . .

I will say more on July 20th, but for the moment, can I say what a joy and a privilege it has been to serve in the Wimbledon Circuit for the past ten years. In 1998 the prospect of succeeding the late Brian Duckworth as Superintendent Minister was a little daunting to say the least. I needn't have worried. Your commitment and enthusiasm have made it easy for us to share a happy, fulfilling ministry that, with God's help, has seen a lot of exciting developments.

Joan and I will be moving – temporarily at any rate – to Upminster in Essex, though eventually we hope to settle in the Guildford area, nearer family and friends. Upminster, as you all know, is the eastern terminus of the District Underground. I believe and pray, however, that it will represent a change of focus for my ministry – not the end of the line! Our address from early August will be:

**101 Heron Way, Upminster, RM14 1EF
(01708) 229261**

Peace be with you all,

Barrie

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CLEAR OUT TIME



In July we will be hiring a skip to dispose of all the rubbish that has accumulated on the premises. If any group that meets on the premises has a cupboard it wants to clear out, now is the time to do it. Anything to be disposed of should be placed outside the kitchen in the space beside the garage. Also, any unclaimed lost property from the coat stand in the corridor will be thrown out - so now is the time to claim any property that is yours!

CHURCH DIARY



		JUNE	
Sun	1	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by David Eagle
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Tue	3	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thurs	5	8.00 pm	Church Council - Appointments and Pastoral Matters
Fri	6	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	7		Circuit Training Day for Church Stewards
Sun	8	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Stan Brown
		2.00 pm	Meet at the Church car park for The Great Big Tea Party Walk
		3.30 pm	The Great Big Tea Party at Banstead Woods
Tue	10	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	11	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Mike Mortley</i>
Sun	15	10.30 am	Praise Service led by Brenda Cannon & Tony Loft
		8.00 pm	Café Worship
Tue	17	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club – <i>John Goodrum</i> - Bill's actor son
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	18	7.00pm	Circuit Meeting at Martin Way Methodist Church
Fri	20	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club

Sun 22	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Bill Cox
	6.30 pm	Bible Study led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Tue 24	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds 25	7.45 pm	Midways Group – <i>Fish & Chip Supper</i>
Sun 29	10.30 am	Morning Service led by David Eagle

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 why celebrate a
birthday this month a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Simon Ward on 3rd June



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PUZZLE CORNER

Bible Quotefall Puzzle Answers from last month

Quotefall 41
Blessings crown the head of the righteous
 (Proverbs 10:6) (NIV)

Quotefall 42
Professing themselves to be wise they became fools
 (Romans 1:22) KJV

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Copies of my ‘Thoughts for each Day’ have so far raised over £90 for church funds. Should you still wish to get a copy, Mike Mortley has a few remaining, at only £2.50 each.

Bill Cox

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ST RAPHAEL'S UPDATE

Thanks to generous donations from others, apart from members of the Men’s Supper Club, the total collected so far for St Raphael’s now stands at £375. Should you wish to make a donation please speak to Bill Cox.

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50th ANNIVERSARY MONEY RAISED

Apart from everyone having a splendid time at the 50th Anniversary May Fair on 10th May, we also raised over £1000.

I had hoped that by now we would have known the result of the collection of 50p coins on the Notice Board prepared for this purpose, but it has, however, been decided to go on collecting, and hopefully completely fill the board which will result in a further £60 to £70. So if you have the odd 50p in your pocket, please add it to the board.



I can say that so far the amount I have banked is £1090.20. A really splendid result, as I am sure you will agree - with a little more to come.

John Butland

Items for the **July/August Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 15th June** at the latest