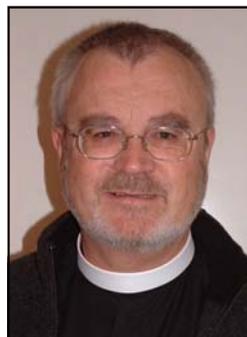


MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

All good gifts around us . . .

Oh dear – no sooner than I was writing my first letter to you in the March issue, than I find myself writing my last, in this one! What does one say at a time like this?



If you look back at my March letter, you will see that I wrote about the need to face the future positively. I could have almost repeated every word, because I believe the reassurance that Isaiah (40:31) gives, applies even more so at the present moment.

By the time you read this, I trust you will have good news concerning my successor. But whatever happens, please do remember this: God has given you all the gifts you need to fulfil your role as a Christian community in the future. That is so important for you all to celebrate. It means that, within the congregation of Martin Way Methodist Church, are all the resources that God needs to continue the ministry of his Son. And I'm not just 'laying it on with a trowel' or simply 'buttering you up'. I'm writing out of a deep conviction – and not a little experience of helping churches to grow over the past quarter of a century.

The theology behind this is simple. All we have – our material possessions, our gifts and talents (even each breath we take !) – is given to us by God, to be held in trust and used to honour Him and serve our sisters and brothers. If we don't consider ourselves to be specially gifted, then we are in danger of denying God's generosity and creativity.

But Methodists are notoriously modest! So permit me to offer a short testimony . . .

Before I offered myself as a candidate for the Ministry in May 1980, I went through about 18 months of agonising indecision. All kinds of questions went through my mind, including these three:

1. *“Am I good enough?”*
2. *“Do I have the gifts to sustain a ministry of nearly thirty years?”* and (throwing the net wider)
3. *“Will we cope as a family with a hugely reduced income, domestic upheaval and the demands of Circuit life?”*

What helped me resolve these issues was a passage from Luke – Chapter 11, verses 9 to 13. I’ll leave it to you to look them up, and you’ll see what I mean. The answers to those questions, I came up with were:

1. *No !! No one could ever be.*
2. *Yes, because whatever contribution we make as individuals, our gifts are given to us by God; those whom he calls, he also equips.*
3. *Of course, because God does not deceive or play tricks on us.*

This line of reasoning might seem a little naïve, but I believe the theology behind it was (and is) sound. So my parting word to you, my friends, is:

“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

I’ve been blessed with a very happy ministry – six in the St Helens & Prescot Circuit; eight in the Woking & Walton Circuit, and ten here in

Wimbledon. Of course there have been times of difficulty and sadness, but hugely outweighed by the joy of being a Methodist Minister.

So, finally, thank you all for the care and support you have given to me – not just over the past six months, but since I came to the Wimbledon Circuit in September 1998. May God bless you richly and bring you great joy in all the future endeavours into which He will lead you.

With love and best wishes,

Barrie

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CAFE CHURCH

15th June 2008

A huge thank you must go to the Platform 10³/₄ and the other young people who made Sunday evening's cafe service such an uplifting one. Also everyone else who took some part either playing, singing, providing a mountain of cakes and scones, making smoothies and manning the computer.

A real time of praise and worship in a different style which was modern and lively without losing any sight of our reasons for being there and look forward eagerly to another service in the not too distant future.

These young people do need our support and encouragement, so please do try to attend next time, it will be quite an experience.

Joan Harding



SPONSORED WALK RESULTS

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

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who sponsored us. We have raised £235 for the British Skin Foundation and the Childhood Eczema Fund.

We enjoyed the walk around Regents Park. We hadn't been there before and the walk followed various paths around the park and the big lake. We did get wet but managed the walk in about 1 hour and a quarter. We also received goodie bags containing skin products. Many thanks again for your donations.

Karen and Jenny Smith

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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!



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH JULY 2007

Thanks to Access to Art, a charity which arranges visits to art galleries for disabled people, I was able to visit the National Gallery the other day. One of the very knowledgeable guide/lecturers took us round and talked about three or four paintings in the couple of hours we were there. The paintings we looked at dated from the fourteen hundreds and looked as good as new. (I found myself wondering how much of the work of our present day artists will be displayed six hundred years from now?) Our guide pointed out many things in the paintings which we had not noticed although they were obvious when she showed them to us. She opened our eyes, showing us what to look for.



My daughter, Chris and her husband Gary, go for long walks in the country whenever they can. With the initial aid of reference books they have learnt to identify trees, birds, wild flowers And so on. They see what is there for all of us to see, but we need to know what we are looking at. We need to look rather than just glance. God gave us eyes to see with. He also gave us intelligence so that we may learn from and about the things we see.

Much the same applies to our Spiritual lives. We may hear a word or a sentence in a service which stops us in our tracks and makes us think. We are given new insight although what has been revealed has been there all the time and we have not seen it. We can never know all the answers in this life, but whether it be in the realm of art, the natural world all around us or the spiritual side of our make-up, we can make progress by using our God-given intelligence and never giving up the desire to learn more.

Bill Cox

AND A THOUGHT FOR AUGUST.....



So we come to shut-down month again. The assumption is, presumably, that every one goes on holiday. In reality only those who have to ~ parents with children still at school ~ go on holiday in August. Prices are pushed up, so most people avoid August. For those living alone, August can be the loneliest month of the year and they are relieved when things start up again in September.

Hopefully this August will be a special time for me, because, all being well , I should become a great-grandfather. I'm told that a boy is expected but the important thing, of course, is that the baby should be born fit and healthy. Like so many things we take for granted, we forget that every birth is another miracle and another addition to God's world-wide family. And, of course, every wanted baby brings a bit more love into the world.

Enjoy the summer the best you can.

Bill Cox

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THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Copies of my 'Thoughts for each Day' are still available from Mike Mortley who has a few remaining, at only £2.50 each.

Sales of these 'thoughts' have so far raised almost £100 for church funds. Thank you to all who have already bought them.

Bill Cox

PUZZLE CORNER I

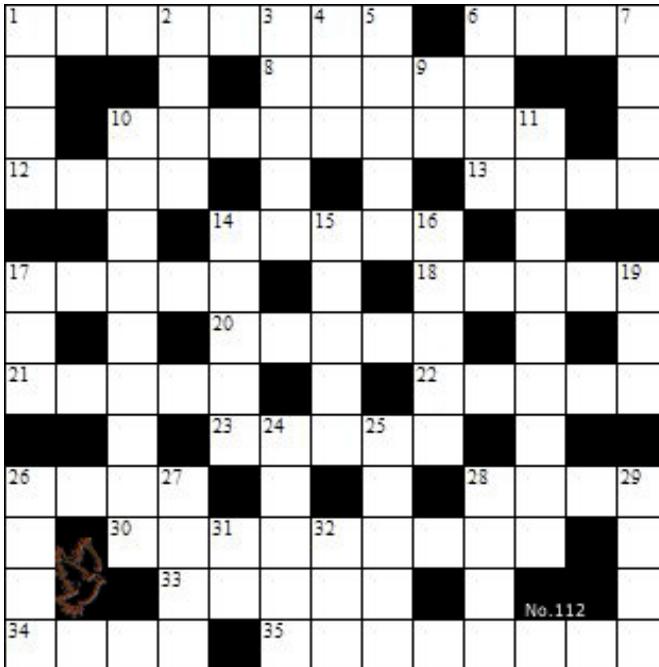
As Summer is here we have a puzzle and a colouring picture for you!



Noah and
the Animals

PUZZLE CORNER 2

Bible Crossword



Across

- 1 They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they ___ the deeds of the wicked (Jer 5:28) KJV
- 6 They hatch the ___ of vipers and spin a spider's web (Isa 59:5)
- 8 When you make a vow to God, do not ___ in fulfilling it. (Eccl 5:4)
- 10 I will honor, but those who despise me will be ___ (1 Sam 2:30)
- 12 O Sovereign LORD, ___ well with me for your name's sake (Ps 109:21)
- 13 Daniel, close up and ___ the words of the scroll until the time of the end (Dan 12:4)
- 14 do not reap to the very ___ of your field (Lev 23:22)
- 17 Jesus went into the synagogue and ___ to teach (Mark 1:21-22)
- 18 the judgment of the great ___ that sitteth upon many waters (Rev 17:1) KJV
- 20 Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for ___ (Acts 19:24) KJV
- 21 Bring the whole ___ into the storehouse, that there may be food (Mal 3:10)
- 22 Heal the sick, ___ the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy (Matt 10:7-8)
- 23 a time to mourn and a time to ___ (Eccl 3:4)
- 26 The woman came and knelt before him. " ___, help me!" she said (Matt 15:25)
- 28 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as ___ (Matt 28:3)
- 30 ___ the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days (Num 9:20)
- 33 the ___ of vipers that glide in the dust (Deut 32:24)
- 34 Their breastplates were fiery red, dark ___, and yellow (Rev 9:17)
- 35 Now you ___ in Jerusalem and men of Judah (Isa 5:3)

Down

- 1 a man who ___ him ten thousand talents was brought to him (Matt 18:24)
- 2 those who ___ against me use my name as a curse (Ps 102:8)
- 3 the lot fell to Matthias; so he was ___ to the eleven apostles (Acts 1:26)
- 4 As Jesus walked beside the ___ of Galilee, he saw Simon (Mark 1:16)
- 5 I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not ___ (Ps 26:1) KJV
- 6 But Noah found favor in the ___ of the LORD (Gen 6:8)
- 7 The ships were wrecked and were not able to set ___ to trade (2 Chron 20:37)
- 9 On one occasion ___ expert in the law stood up to test Jesus (Luke 10:25)
- 10 Your sons and ___ will prophesy (Joel 2:28)
- 11 as I passed by, and beheld your ___, I found an altar (Acts 17:23) KJV
- 14 So he ___ their days in futility and their years in terror (Ps 78:33)
- 15 ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy ___ from Egypt (Gen 42:3)
- 16 How he ___ unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God (Ps 132:2) KJV
- 17 "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." ___ they laughed at him (Matt 9:24)
- 19 mother of Seth (Gen 4:25)
- 24 Therefore now ___ your ways and your doings (Jer 26:13) KJV
- 25 "Why? What ___ has he committed?" asked Pilate (Mark 15:14)
- 26 flowing from the throne of God and of the ___ (Rev 22:1)
- 27 I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a ___ (John 1:32)
- 28 Go, ___ everything you have and give to the poor (Mark 10:21)
- 29 The first woe is past; two other ___ are yet to come (Rev 9:12)
- 31 Come, follow ___, " Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men (Matt 4:19)
- 32 as a thread of ___ is broken when it toucheth the fire (Judg 16:9) KJV

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PUZZLE CORNER ~ Answer for last month

Astonishment = WONDER, Four fingers and a = THUMB
Apprentice = NOVICE, To put oil on in a ceremony = ANOINT,
Despair = GLOOM, Boy, Girl = YOUTH, Orderly = NEAT,
No fat = LEAN.

By copying the letters in to the grid you should have got the verse.

Owe no man anything but to love one another

(Romans 13:8)

A “NIGHT OUT” IN AFRICA

A Memory from Joyce Nuttal on her visit to Kenya in August last year.

The light was rapidly fading. Our patient matatu driver was anxious to be heading back to Magina village. The rain was a steady drizzle, he was anticipating further muddy lanes to negotiate.

Nightfall came early in Kenya, dark by 7pm. We were en-route to meet the hosts with whom we would spend the night and accompany to church the next day. Most of the group were going in pairs but because of previous experiences in Africa, I was to be on my own and the farthest away from our base. The matatu stopped near to Kamae, a name located on the tourist map. Funny how little things are a comfort when facing the unknown. This was to be my *night out* in Africa.

Waiting by the roadside kiosk was Rose Wanjui. I was travelling light but the essential bottles of drinking water weighed heavy in my small rucksack. Rose took hold of my sports bag, we turned to wave as the matatu disappeared into the mist. This was the night I'd anticipated for so long. To see first hand how people in rural Kenya were managing in the 21st century.

Joined by Charity, we proceeded along the lane, chatting. How different my life to theirs. One thing of great importance, we shared a Christian faith. Our conversation turned easily to God's love for all people, prayer, forgiveness & reconciliation. Three ordinary women; life changing issues. Charity reached the gate to her shamba but our walk continued. The cattle on their evening trek to the safety of the farm yards had churned up the mud. Oh for Welly boots! My attempts to avoid the worst patches must have been amusing. Clinging to the flimsy bamboo fencing, my colourful hat snagged in the thorny hedgerow. Beginning to flag, how much further? At last we ducked through the gateway passed a couple of cows, through the bamboo fence into the yard. Oh no; more mud, right up to the door.

The children came out greet us. The girls Njeri & Carlo busy preparing the meal. The boys, Davies, Alex & George each having jobs to help around the shamba. Their greeting was warm & welcoming. My

immediate dilemma was the mud. It was a relief when Rose assured me not to worry. We both stepped into the living room. The rough concrete floor inevitably ingrained with the dark tenacious trails. How to describe this house? modest bungalow, large tin hut? Yes. But no. So concerned about the mud & how to stay upright I'd failed to pay much attention to the surroundings, but looking around I was amazed. The walls painted apple green, adorned with white lacey material hung from ceiling height. Garlands of plastic flowers strung along the picture rails. Christian themed pictures & a calendar advertising agricultural products. A framed collage of family photos & puzzling, not quite complete clock. Wooden settles cover with bright turquoise & white crocheted throws. Delicately embroidered cloths. Such amazing effort, a room transformed, a welcoming home.

Soon the girls brought in a large cooking pot & placed it on the floor. Rose took a wooden ladle & pounded together the potato, maize & beans. Large mounds were piled onto plates & handed round. The older children, very polite but shy, disappeared into what must have been a bedroom. I heard the lively beat of pop music. Avocado pears followed the main course, then a mug of steaming tea. Njeri & Carlo, cleared the table. Kenyan women were so hard working." A woman's work is never done." Certainly true in this society.

The one luxury was solar powered lighting! After a bit of coaxing, the single bulb sprang into life. The younger boys, Alex & George, sat by the table & looked at the postcards & book of scenes from Wales. Photos too, of family & Llandderfel village, so many sheep they exclaimed. Things to show their school friends. Primary education is free but fees had to be paid for secondary schooling. Rose spoke English fluently. She had been educated in a Catholic school, taught by English speaking missionaries. Her husband, a teacher was away on study leave in Milton Keynes. He wouldn't be home for many months. He was struggling with student life in England but hopeful for a better future.

Rose told of her concerns for the children, the struggles after failure of the maize crop, the prolonged wet season, preventing the planting of potatoes. The lack of health care in the community was the chief worry. The nearest hospital was miles away, even basic dispensary facilities,

minimal. Kamae hospital action committee had shown us their proposals & spoken passionately about the need. Rose had tree seedlings planted on the shamba, one of the schemes to raise funds. Basic facilities we take for granted, were no-existent in this community. *By Kenya standards were visiting a well off area!*

Through all the discussions Rose kept telling me of the goodness of God & His blessings. Much mutual support was given by the church family.

With bed time approaching I was asked if I wanted to go outside. Getting the meaning & glad to have the head torch, I safely made it to the, hole in the cement floor, toilet.

Back inside, the girls had vacated their room for me. Just space for a bit bigger than single bed. A school trunk in the corner, a few clothes hung from wires stretched across the room, and a pair of red court shoes sitting on the shelf formed by the wooden frame around which the house was constructed. Seventeen year old Njeri's red shoes, touched my heart.

The clean sheets were damp. So much wet weather, impossible to dry the washing. Travel towels to the rescue, not forgetting the thermal underwear. Sleep was fitful. The cockerel crowed at 4am, rain pounded on the roof, but several more hours before the light seeped through the gaps in the corrugated sheet walls. I'd not slept in a windowless room before. At last the household were on the move.

A wet-wipe wash, then out into the sunshine. The first break in the clouds for days. The cow was milked. Carlo had walked a distance to collect water. Everyone busy. I joined Rose who was preparing breakfast. We sat on low stalls around the open fire. The fuel was broken bamboo collected from the forest. Smoke escaped through the many holes in the rough wood walls of the outside kitchen/storeroom. Flat rounds of unleavened maize meal bread were fried in a large skillet. The next meal for the family would be in the evening. I was left to look around, the tin house shone in the sunlight, bright yellow flowers bloomed in the fencing & tall red flowers grew by the doorway. A white lace curtain hung at the only window. Roofs of other houses were a distance away & on the horizon the forest of the Aberdare Mountains.

The family reappeared, ready for the hour's walk to church. What a transformation. Dressed in their best clothes, a good photo for the family album and a wonderful reminder to me of a memorable **night out in Africa**.

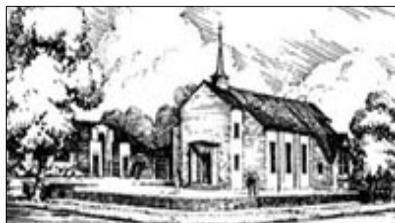


Joyce Nuttal

Joyce and friends, she is the second from left in the back row, on their journey in Africa.

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50th ANNIVERSARY THANK YOU



I would like to say how much I enjoyed the celebrations for the Church's 50th Anniversary. It was lovely to meet up with old friends and to remember the happy times spent at Martin Way. Beside happy memories of the days, I purchased beautiful book marks to use in our hymn books and bibles which we use in our Church here in Aberdeenshire so they will be a constant reminder of the days.

It was also nice to meet up with the Rev. David and Sue Chapman and to be remembered by them!

Jean Fincham

Alford Aberdeenshire
watersidescotland@btopenworld.com

July



CHURCH DIARY

Tue	1	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	4	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	6	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by David Morgan
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Charlotte Elvey
Tue	8	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	13	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
		3.00 pm	Strawberry Tea - Farewell to Barrie and Joan
Tue	15	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club – <i>Irene & Brian Goldsmith</i>
Fri	18	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	20	10.30 am	Praise Service led by Brenda Cannon & Tony Loft
		6.30 pm	Circuit Service - Barrie Tabraham's Farewell
			Service held at Worcester Park
Tue	22	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	27	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30 pm	Bible Study led by Mark Williamson
Tue	29	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

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

CHURCH DIARY



Sun	3	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Tony Loft
Tue	5	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	10	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Charlotte Elvey
Tue	12	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	17	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	19	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
Sun	24	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Bill Cox
Tue	26	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	31	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Michael Meech

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We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday
during these months a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Jessica Haze on 26th July
Emily Bacon on 5th August
Rebecca Smith on 11th August



THE MARTIN WAY BAND, SIGMA AND THE STRAWBERRY TEA

You all know about the band at Martin Way, well there have been discussions recently about band practice, learning new songs which could be used in services and just generally extending our music knowledge. Now I know everyone is busy but here's a thought - we could possibly practice on a Sunday afternoon once a month and invite anyone from Sigma (and anyone from Martin Way who wish to join us) to sing along and learn the songs together with the band.

Sigma will be starting back in September (& this may be every Sunday pm) to practice for Christmas so to try & not take up their space, it is proposed that band rehearsals started at 3.30pm for just an hour (that would mean people might want to get there slightly earlier to set up instrument possibly?). At the rehearsals we will not always be able to practice songs that may be coming up in services but if we practice together a wide variety of old & news songs it will help (hopefully?!).

I know I have talked about September but we are going to trial a practice out on Sunday 13th July at 4.30pm. This is being tagged onto the Strawberry Tea party being held by Platform 10 3/4 - for Barrie & Joan Tabraham to say Goodbye to them & best wishes in their Retirement. So please come along to the tea & practise if you can make it and we can discuss together the possibility of band practise becoming regular.

Now please let me know what you think. Also I am inquiring if there is anyone willing to help lead the singing in these sessions, any volunteers?

Abby Herring

Items for the **September Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 17th August** at the latest