

MINISTER'S LETTER

"Hundreds of thousands of people took to the web this morning to hunt down ancestors and former occupants of their homes – or simply take a peek at other people's lives almost a century ago – as the 1911 census records of more than 27 million people in England went online, 3 years earlier than planned."

Guardian, Tuesday 13th January 2009



It seems that people are now more interested in ancestry research than perhaps ever before. Undoubtedly the growth of the internet – and the increased availability of census material and other records that this has brought – has played a huge part here but so too surely has the BBC television series, *Who Do You Think You Are?* Seeing celebrities tracing their family history – and making remarkable discoveries along the way – has proved a huge spur to people to participate in such an adventure for themselves.

A while back I read an article that suggested that ancestry research helps people construct their own personal stories in the midst of a confusing world. "By tapping into the stories of their past" writes Chris Sunderland, "people are gaining a foothold in a confusing world. They discover a story about themselves, which is unchanging, and which gives a sense of belonging both to place and people, which is like an anchor for the soul in a shifting sea."

Christmas is behind us again for another year and, as I write, we are already a fortnight into a New Year. After all the hustle and bustle of our Christmas celebrations, it's time to take a deep breath so that we are ready for what is to come. Each New Year presents us with an opportunity to look forward but also, of course, to look back.

Whatever church services you attended over Christmas, I very much doubt whether you heard one particular passage read aloud. No matter what year of the Lectionary cycle we are in, one passage always gets ignored. The overlooked passage to which I refer is, of course, the genealogy of Matthew 1: 1-17. Our love of story – and the romance of the Christmas story in particular – means that we launch directly into Matthew or Luke's narrative, avoiding the seemingly endless list of often

unpronounceable names at the beginning of Matthew.

Yet this too is an important story of origins and by continually skipping past it we risk missing a great deal of important information about who Jesus is, what he will stand for and whom he will stand with. For here, as in our own family histories, there are stories to be delved into and uncovered. And here there are stories that will help us to understand more about God and the way that God works in the world. There is an anchor to be found here.

Like the other stories of origins found within Scripture, this family tree is perhaps more interested in a truth of significance than in historical truth but it is no less rich as a result. There are names here that we would perhaps expect to see – Abraham and David to name but two – people we know all about, great heroes of the faith. But there are others – not least the four women referred to – with “interesting” stories to tell. Now that Christmas is again behind us, why not take the opportunity to read the stories of Tamar (see *Genesis* 38), Ruth (see *Ruth* 2-4), Rahab (see *Joshua* 2, 6) and the wife of Uriah (not given a name here but it is Bathsheba – see *2 Samuel* 11, 12). Enjoy uncovering these and other stories associated with the genealogy.

In each case, ask yourself why Matthew might have wanted to include this person in Jesus’ family tree. Ask yourself, ‘What does the inclusion of this person add to my understanding of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection?’ or even, ‘What does this genealogy say about the way that God works in the world?’

We are apparently fascinated by family ancestry. So why not take the plunge – and some time – to look into Jesus’ family tree? Some of the stories that we uncover will perhaps surprise and shock us. Some of them will lead us to a better understanding of what God in Jesus was – and is – all about. All of them will help to prepare us for the story that is to follow. You never know, you might well find an anchor in here that will serve you well in the all-too-confusing world in which we live.

Looking back can sometimes help us to look and move forward.

With every blessing,

Paul

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH

Have you ever sat in church and thought about the flowers at the front? Well each week one of the ladies on the flower rota will purchase and arrange the flowers and then these flowers are given to someone who needs our particular prayers and good wishes.

Sue Boyd and I have spent some time thinking about this part of church life and we would like to introduce a few changes to the set up of the system.

At present we have a few ladies who arrange the flowers and church members donate money for particular dates they want flowers. Over the past few years the number of arrangers and donors has dwindled. The other difficulty has been delivering flowers to those who need flowers or a visit.

Therefore we are asking for help in all aspects of this service. Could you:

- Arrange flowers
- Donate some money
- Deliver flowers

There is a list of dates for the year 2009/10 outside the Vestry and if you would like to arrange flowers or donate some money the list is there. If you don't want a particular date, but would just like to contribute something, then we can add this to the general flower fund and that money would be used for weeks when no one has donated money or for festivals e.g. Easter, Harvest or Mothering Sunday. This money should be given to John Butland.

We have placed a book in the vestry to record the people who have received flowers and names can be added to this book if there is someone you particularly would like to receive flowers. We also need volunteers to distribute the flowers and this may mean popping in on your way home from church to deliver the flowers. It may not seem a particularly important issue of church life but when members have received flowers they have been very touched and appreciative.

Annemarie Pallister

FRED WARREN

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Fred Warren on Monday 22nd December 2008. Fred's funeral was on Friday, 9th January, at the NE Surrey Crematorium followed by a thanksgiving service at Martin Way Methodist Church.



Fred was well known and loved member of Martin Way and what follows are contributions from a few of his many friends.

Andrew Fox (Editor)

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“Do not let your hearts be troubled”, says Jesus. “Believe in God, believe also in me. In my father’s house there are many...”

...and then nobody’s quite sure how to translate the next word. The original Greek word is obscure and various suggestions have been made as to its possible meaning. Some say “homes”, some would argue “dwelling places” and still others, “rooms”. They’re all possibilities. But Fred liked the idea of “mansions” – “I’m going to a mansion” Fred would say as his life drew towards its end.

Fred was born into a family of builders and who spent his entire working life in and around the building trade. Although Fred was a builder, his preference was for the theoretical rather than the practical and here he was in his element, telling others what they should be doing or pointing out what they should’ve done. A mansion, it seems to me, would provide far more opportunities for Fred to do this than a mere room, dwelling place or house.

Fred enjoy a close walk with God throughout his life, Fred’s family was a close one. As a loving and caring brother, husband, father and grandfather, Fred enjoyed his journey through life with his family closely at his side.

Frederick Ernest Warren was born on 25th April 1924 in Acton,

London. He was to be the first of two children born to Edith and Frederick Warren, a daughter, Muriel, being born to the couple about four years later.

Fred's mother was a teacher and his father, like his grandfather, a master builder. The family building firm moved to the Morden area between the wars, the family duly moved too.

Education for Fred took place at Poplar Road Primary School, Merton Park and then, later, Rutlish, also in Merton Park. Whilst Fred didn't talk much about his school days, the fact that he enjoyed attending the Rutlish re-union each year suggests that the experience of school wasn't too painful.

On leaving school Fred worked for a number of building related firms and suppliers. When the country went to war Fred failed his medical due to problems with his feet – he'd spent 6 months with his legs in irons as a young boy – and wasn't called up by the Armed Forces. Instead, Fred served the country in the Home Guard.

In his youth, Fred's neighbour Mr Barber, the Sunday School Superintendent, had introduced Fred to Martin Way Methodist Church. It was here that Fred met a certain Doreen Young.

Romance blossomed and, in early February 1954 in the office of the builder's yard in Crown Lane, Fred proposed to Doreen. They were married on Easter Saturday 17th April 1954, at Martin Way Methodist Church. The summer of 1954 duly saw Fred and Doreen move into 17 Woodville Road. This was to be home for Fred for the rest of his life. Bill was born in November 1955, Julia in March 1959.

At this time Fred was very involved with the Rotary Club and, in the early 1960s served as President of Morden Rotary Club. By now Fred's father was winding up the family business and Fred began looking for something else. Fred found work with the clerks of works in the London Borough of Southwark and embarked on obtaining qualifications, attending night school at the Brixton School of Building. It turned out to be Fred's dream job.

His working life aside, Fred loved to travel and family occasions. He enjoyed celebrating his and Doreen’s silver, ruby and golden wedding anniversaries in style. But then Fred loved his family and would do anything for them. He was fiercely proud of both of his children, Bill and Julia.

In retirement Fred took one or two part-time jobs, one as clerk of works at Cranleigh School in Surrey. Once he’d reached the age of 70 however, and quite understandably, Fred decided that his working days were over.

But if Fred’s life is to be defined by anything, however, it must surely be by his faith – that, after all, has helped to shape not only the person that he became and the person we knew and loved but also the way in which he treated other people – ourselves included. It also helps us to understand why Fred gave so much of his life to the church – and this church in particular – serving God through it as he did in ways too numerous to mention. Fred’s faith was both personal and deep.

After some weeks of serious illness, and 84 years of living and loving, death came to Fred on Monday 22nd December 2008.

Our prayer for Fred must surely be that his journey with God continues.

Fred, may you continue know the holding and the hand that holds.

Paul Timmis.

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It is difficult to speak only of Fred as I seldom saw Fred on his own; it was always Fred and Doreen!

Fred along with Doreen invited me to the House group they hosted in their home shortly after I came to Martin Way in 1996, they continued to host until Fred became ill. It was



Fred who answered the door with a warm welcome; he seemed delighted and honoured to be sharing his home in this way. During the study time he was always keen to read the scriptures in his slow but emphatic way.

I found Fred to be a man of few words but what he said counted. The meeting always concluded with a cuppa made and served by Fred and included Doreen's delightful treats which Fred enjoyed too.

Taking over Win Edwards's class/pastoral group which included Fred and Doreen was another avenue of frequent contact which led to good fellowship. During several visits to the home over these years we enjoyed rich times of sharing and prayer. Fred liked to share his concerns about his health appreciating the listening ear and the limited knowledge of my past nursing experience.

My observations of Fred over these 12 years is that Fred took Christian service very seriously, attending worship, bible study, church business meetings and social events, also along with Doreen the role of pastoral leaders. He was a gracious and humble man, faithful in his walk with God. He has received, I'm sure his 'well done' in being promoted to glory. Thank you Fred for being a friend.

Moira Bailey

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When Doreen asked me to say a few words at Fred's Thanksgiving Service I was so pleased, but when I sat down and thought about what to say, it became not so easy. I've known Fred through mainly a Church environment for nearly 45 years. In these later Church years Fred not always accepted change easily but started to sit back and let others worry about such matters, but still let his feelings be known.

Over these many years Fred had held many Church offices including Circuit Steward and Sunday Superintendent which he did to the best of his ability. His very deliberate way of speaking, his reasoning had always

been deeply thought out and his presentation was always articulate.

Fred always enjoyed his family and readily shared news of his son, Bill, and his family, especially when Bill became an Anglican Minister. Then, in the next breath he'd be talking about his daughter, Julia, and her husband Will running in their latest Marathon in the wildest of weathers. Church Picnics of yesteryear saw Fred enjoying cricket and generally having a good time. Now, church concerts must have been Doreen's nightmare when Fred with coat off, hands on braces and getting redder in the face as he jumped about singing "Boiled Beef and Carrots". What a character.

These last 15 years he had been a very active member of the Mens' Supper Club, always attending early to put up the tables and chairs and laying the cutlery, then clearing up afterwards. He enjoyed many of the meals he'd never before tasted, such as Palestinian, Italian, etc. And he never forgot to say "thank you" to the cooks.

Another enjoyment of Fred's was Freemasonry, having been introduced by his father 58 years ago into Putney Lodge. Fred held the office of Chaplain until his death and some of his Masonic friends joined us at Fred's service to say their farewells.

Fred and Doreen have hosted a house group and they have been class leaders in caring for those around them.

Although a private family, we have all enjoyed the Celebrations of their Silver, Ruby and Golden wedding anniversaries and we were honoured to be able celebrate Fred's time with us, with many personal and fond memories of a Kindly Gentleman.

It's very right to say he will be sadly missed, his manners, his clarity in readings here at Martin Way on a Sunday morning, his good, honest argument at meetings and his help to others, and not forgetting that wonderful rendering of 'Boiled Beef and Carrots.'

Derek Heaton

THANK YOU

I should like to express my thanks to all the friends at Martin Way who have been so supportive during these last difficult months of Fred's illness.

He Greatly appreciated all the hospital visits and the love and prayers that surrounded him.

He is now at peace and with the Lord he faithfully served. His Thanksgiving Service was an uplifting occasion and I know he would have appreciated such a joyous "send off" with all his family and friends present.

I would like to give special thanks to our Minister, Paul, who has been with us on this difficult journey and supported Fred and us every step of the way.

Doreen Warren

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Friendships begun in this world will be taken up again, never to be broken off.

St. Francis de Sales

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CAROL SINGING - THANKS

Once again Thank you to all those who braved the elements and joined to together to serenade the commuters of Morden with carols during two nights in December.



In all, over £609 was raised for NCH Action for Children.

BIBLE STUDIES IN KENYA

Having just returned from an exciting and thrilling two month's visit to Kenya, I am struggling to get acclimatised again to the British winters. On the eve of my departure I was enjoying sitting in a garden of a restaurant in Nairobi gorging on a sumptuous meal which included my first dessert in two months, only to be informed 12 hours later that we were approaching Heathrow Airport where the temperature was 2 degrees! Exciting because it was a return visit to see friends that have enriched my life since meeting them last year, and thrilling to find that the Bible Studies which started in October 2007 was very much alive, thriving and has increased to form another 3 groups.



As I look back and recall the highs as well as the challenges of my time in a different climate and environment, I cannot but make comparisons of the two different cultures. From visiting several Churches in the Magina area where praise and worship was exuberant and contagious, the Preacher and the PA system considerably loud, our Church services back in the UK seems a much quieter affair. Our tendency to have a quiet, meditative time of worshipping God would be different but not alien to our African friends, just as raising voices a certain decibel is an affront to some of the western congregations. Even so I appreciated the warm welcome that I received during my visits and the hospitality that way surpasses the westerners' way.

One of the highlights of my adventures was a visit to the Bible League office in Kasarani and to make contact once more with Pastor James Gichuki, a valued friend. It is not often that I am greeted with such an uplifting and affirming introduction as; "This is Gwen, a dear sister in the Lord and we love her so much" but this is how Pastor James introduced me to his friends. It is no wonder that I am drawn and have a heart for these beautiful people of Kenya. With generous donations by friends from all parts of the UK, my friends and I collected 140 Bibles which were ordered for the 3 groups that have now started in Magina, Kinale and Kimende as a result of the initial Bible study group in the Jambo Sana centre in Magina. When we discovered that our load was more than

we could manage, the Lord provided us with a friend who was visiting the Kasarani office and who kindly gave us a lift to Nairobi with our treasured possessions. Bwana Asifiwe!

During my stay I was privileged to be part of the Graduation of the Magina and Kimende Bible study groups where the students were presented with Bibles in the language of their choice; Kiswahili, Kikuyu or English. For some of these students this is the first time that they have possession of a Bible of their own, something that we in the West who, most likely, have more than one each, do not always appreciate. One gentleman in his seventies was so excited at receiving his Bible that when he returned to his home church, created quite a stir amongst his fellow worshippers, he is now planning to share what he has learnt and is willing to lead another Bible study group. Bwana Asifiwe!

I am indebted to Pastor Gichuki for his enthusiasm and interests in the Bible Studies especially for his willingness to travel to Magina and Kimende for the presentations, and also to Bible League for the provision of Bibles in the different languages. I also thank our Heavenly Father for Monicah Thuku who is coordinating the study groups very ably and has a vision to help young people. It is a comfort to know that Monicah is very much committed to ensuring that the present three groups continue to flourish. The leadership of Pastor Karanja in Kimende, and Pastor Wandere in Kinale is also greatly appreciated and without their enthusiasm these groups will not grow.

The Bible League started in Indiana in 1938 by William and Betty Chapman. Whilst convalescing in a hotel room following a near death illness, William noticed a Gideon Bible and asked why shouldn't every home in America have the same privilege? From his own savings he purchased 1000 Bibles and together with his wife started distributing to homes that did not possess any. I now realise that these Bibles that the graduating students received have been given at great sacrifices by the donors and are therefore to be treasured and used. Please uplift the work of Bible League and the Bible study groups in prayer and for my fund raising endeavours during 2009, in order for these studies to continue and more people will get to know Jesus through his powerful Word.

In summarising my experiences of different projects that I was involved in during my stay in Kenya, it is the Bible studies that come prominently to mind. One young person said to me that since being part of a group, she is more confident in sharing her faith with unbelievers. Another young man felt compelled to give his Pastor his new Bible so that the Pastor's church can start discussing Bible passages. There are many similar stories with lives changed as a result of delving deeper into the scriptures, some of which are known only to the Lord himself. To Him be the glory, great things He has done.

Gwen Wildman

**Graduation day at
Kimende
on the
11th October 2008**



**Graduation day at
Magina
on the
26th October 2008**



Bible study group at Kinale with leader Pastor Wandere (left of photo)

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Thank you Martin Way

The Ladies of the Africa Inland Church in Kijabe, Kenya were delighted to receive tea towels on the 19th October 2008 - a gift from Martin Way Methodist Church



THE WORLD'S LARGEST CHOCOLATE FONDUE PARTY

Thank you to everyone who came along to this event on Saturday 29 November 08. The evening was full of chocolate (too much for some of us!), fun and laughter. We spent the evening together learning about the charity 'Stop the Traffik' and what their Chocolate campaign is about, through a quiz, discussion, a DVD and the Chocolate game!!



We raised £185.00 for Stop the Traffik – so thank you to all who donated.



Sorry to say Anne Conquest didn't win the competition for the most unusual dipper with her Ready salted Crisps dipped in chocolate. Have a look at the news article dated 6-01-2009 on the website for the winners – you will never guess what won (not for the squeamish!!)



You can also visit their website www.stopthetraffik.org to find out more about this Charity.

Abby Herring

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED

Martin Way made donations to Christian Care, Methodist Homes for the Aged 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 £1230.56 Donation to NCH Action for Children

Carol Singing at Morden Station	£ 609.06
Sigma Presentation of “Oh no, not the Nativity”	£ 325.00
Midnight Communion - Christmas Eve	£ 21.50
Christingle Service	£ 155.00
Collection at Christmas Day Service	£ 120.00

Total of £140.00 Donation to Christian Care

Retirement Collections	£ 140.00
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Total of £96.00 Donation to Methodist Homes for the Aged

Christmas Post Box	£ 96.00
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John Butland

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BIBLELANDS - THANKS



Thank you to everyone who contributed to Biblelands last year, either by purchasing from their Easter or Christmas catalogues, by collecting stamps or by simply sending donations.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will continue to support those less fortunate than ourselves.

Bless every one of you.

Mary and Derek Heaton

**TAIZÉ PRAYER
and PRAISE
2009**



Dear friends,

I feel I must draw your attention to the following prayer to be found in Brother Roger of Taizé's Journal for the years 1979/9 called:

“And Your Deserts Shall Flower”

“Lord Christ, sometimes we are strangers on this earth, -
disconcerted by all the violence, the harsh oppositions.
Like a gentle breeze, you breathe upon us the Spirit of peace.
Transfigure the deserts of our doubts and prepare us to be
bearers of reconciliation wherever you place us,
until a hope of peace arises in our world.”

You will agree, I am sure, that despite the 30 years in between, the world still needs our prayers! When we next meet let us pray this prayer together, remembering that the world is His creation and look what we are doing with it. Jesus must be weeping!

Please note that all our meetings are on the third Monday of the month not the second, as heretofore, commencing at 8.00pm as usual.

DATE	VENUE	LEADER
19 th January	3 Elm Close	Jean
16 th February.	3 Elm Close	Christine
16 th March	St John Fisher	Gwen
(Church Hall or small Chapel, Please make every endeavour to attend and bring a friend)		
(5 weeks interval)		
20 th April	St John Fisher	Cathie or Hazel
18 th May	St John Fisher	Hazel or Cathie

15th June

St John Fisher

Tom

(5 weeks interval)

20th July

‘Shared meal’ @ home of
(Tel No: 9287 0176)

Christine & Tom
22 Aylward Road

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

I now wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR and may the Peace of our Lord be always with you and those close to your heart.

In His Love

Jean Mann

Taizé Contact for Dates and also apologies.

(Tel No: 8542 5929)

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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERTON PARK

Update January 2009

The Churches Together in Merton Park last met on the 8th January 2009 at the home of Rev. Tom Kavanagh, with all five churches represented.

Foremost on the agenda was discussion and the preparation for the **Unity Service** to be held at Merton Park Baptist Church, Bushey Road on 18th January at 6 30pm. This Service marks the beginning of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (18th-25th January). The services to which all are welcome during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are as follows;

Tuesday 20th at 9am St Mary the Virgin

Tuesday 20th at 8pm Martin Way Methodist

Thursday 22nd at 10am St James Merton

Friday 23rd at 9am St John Fisher RC

The theme for this year's service 'Reconcile Your People' is rooted in the experience of the churches in Korea. In their context of national division the churches have turned for inspiration to the prophet Ezekiel who longed for the unity of his people. It is hoped to have a speaker from Christian Solidarity Worldwide to talk about the plight of persecuted Christians around the world and update us on the situation in Korea.

The Offertory will be divided between Christian Solidarity Worldwide and Christian CARE, our local charity. Christian CARE was formed as a result of a Lent Course looking at homelessness that C.T.M.P. were organising 40 years ago during which those taking part were challenged and consequently prompted to do something for the homeless people in Merton.

A Service of Wholeness and Healing will take place on the **3rd March at St James of Merton at 7pm**. This service is offered in order that the different denominations of the Church here in Merton can witness together their shared desire for the wholeness and healing not only of ourselves, but also of the wider community and among the nations, where the healing of past and present enmities is a concern to us all.

Christmas leaflets. Due to lack of volunteers in 2 of our churches to distribute these leaflets, it is hoped that the Street list will be reviewed later this year.

Joint Acts of Worship. The Good Friday Silent Act of Witness will again be held outside St James' Church at 11.00am for 45 minutes. It was also suggested that the open air Pentecost service at John Innes Park should be re-introduced this year on the 31st May 2009 as it provided another opportunity for Christian witness in our local area.

Reports from each church

Martin Way. Dennis Clark was welcomed to the committee as C.T.M.P. representative and will be commissioned along with the present committee members at the Unity Service on the 18th January. The SIGMA presentation and Christingle service were well attended.

The annual Covenant service took place 10.30am on the 11th January followed by the Young people service led by David Somers at 6 30pm. The thoughts and prayers of the church family are with the family of Fred Warren a life long member of Martin Way who died on the 22nd December.

Merton Park Baptist. The Church's 80th anniversary year proved to be very positive and provided opportunities of outreach to reconnect with the local community. The next Alpha Course started on the 19th January at 7pm. Previous Courses have attracted up to 30 people and increased the numbers presently attending house groups. All Christmas services were well attended including New Years' Eve Watchnight service.

St Mary the Virgin. Two performances of 'Journey's End and the Music and Praise event for the youth had been a success. All Christmas services went well with 999 attending. A second Christingle service was held with a attendances up to 580.

St James of Merton. The Christmas Eve communion service attracted the most people this year. The church is still in the interregnum but blessed to have Father Graham Derriman to lead much of the worship and will be leading the Service of Wholeness and Healing on the 3rd March.

St John Fisher RC. There was a large attendance at the 6pm Christmas Eve Eucharist and 700-800 attending the Family Eucharist.

Future events.

The committee were given a list of ideas and activities that churches can do together in the future. It was suggested that events already taking place in some of our churches i.e. trips to Walsingham and Wintershall could be opened to include the five churches. This list will be made available in the respective churches and new ideas welcomed. The proposed Pentecost walk of witness will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 12th March 8pm** at 104 Grand Drive

PLATFORM 10 ³/₄

Who are and what have Platform 10 ³/₄ been up to recently?

We are a group of young Christians named 'Platform 10 ³/₄' based at Martin Way Methodist Church in Morden. Platform 10 ³/₄ was formed a few years back by Janet & Bob Hamblin and the reason for the groups name is – as Harry Potter began his magic life by going through the barrier on Platform 9 ³/₄ at Kings Cross Station, so we teenagers are invited to enter and explore another dimension as they begin to think about spiritual things.

Among various forms of activities & fun which we like to partake in when we meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month (usually involving food!), we like to push ourselves and our ideas further by compiling cafe style worship services, devised around a specific topic in an informal setting (our church hall, seated around tables) where we can meet with each other, friends from our own church, other churches or just any person of any age who has any interest in listening to what a bunch of 12-19 year olds have to say!

For our second outstanding service we explored the theme 'The Body of Christ'. We invited everyone to join us from 6.30pm for hot chocolate, cookies and cakes to take to their tables and to be enjoyed through the service. Worship started at 7pm, with a mixture of celebratory and reflective music, prayer, drama, activity for all (there was a short break in which more cake and drink could be obtained!) and reflection together.

Thank you to all who joined us on Sunday 11th January and if you missed it not to worry there will be more so watch this space.....

Jenny Smith, Alex Pallister, Emily Bacon, Tom Linton-Smith, Katie Budd, Ellie Budd, Simon Ward and our Leaders Tony Loft, Abby Herring.

P.S We welcome any new members from age 13 years old and up – just have a word with any of the group.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



In Christ There Are Many Members Yet One Body

A Service Prepared by Christian Women of Papua New Guinea

Friday 6th March 2009

10.30am

St. Mary's Merton

Church Path, Merton Park

Speaker Canon Hilary Johnson

and

8.00pm

All Saints' Church

All Saints' Road, Wimbledon

Speaker Mrs. Brenda Cannon

Coffee and Tea served after each service



**ALL WELCOME
MEN WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**



CHURCH DIARY



Sun	1	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Mr David Somers
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	3	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	4	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Derek & Mary Heaton</i>
Fri	6	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	8	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	10	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thurs	12	8.00 pm	Pastoral Meeting
Sun	15	10.30am	Parade Service led by Mr Mark Williamson
Tue	17	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Rosie Greaves</i> - Food Facts and Fads of the British Monarchy
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	18	7.45 pm	Midways Group
Fri	20	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	22	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Stuart Thomas
		6.30pm	Bible Study led by Rev Margaret Adams
Tue	24	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thurs	26	8.00 pm	Finance and Property Committee

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

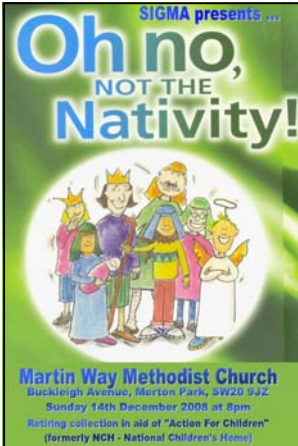
We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday
in February a very



Happy Birthday

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SIGMA CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION



Do you ever get the feeling that Christmas comes at the wrong time of year?

There is so much to get done.

Getting all the presents, sending off masses of Christmas cards to people you have not seen in years, decorating the house, getting ready to receive guests, office parties, seeing friends, mince pie making, sorting out the turkey and all the other myriad tasks and obligations of this time of the year.

In our household, it is a frenetic time.

And then on top of that, Sigma.

Rehearsals to attend, lines to learn, music to practise – there is so much to get done.

Celebrating Christmas at the end of the year – it can feel it is really just too much!

The title of the production therefore seemed very apt “Oh no – not the Nativity!”

Sigma this year investigated Christmas by using some gentle parodies of various television programmes. So instead of the X-files investigators Mulder and Scully, we had Mouldy and Sulky played by

David and Rosie Wills. These two held (what passed for) the plot together as their characters sought to find out the true nature of Nativity.

Also appearing were singers, actors and musicians from all over the circuit. Particularly memorable, in my view, were Andy Smith and Steve Pallister as Faisil and Quaniel in the “Baldy Towers” Inn at Bethlehem?

Also there were another group of performers who were brilliant. My judgement here may be biased and I ought to give a warning – so here it is.

PROUD PARENT ALERT!

The children were great. Tyler, Natalie and Celia [were brilliant/did a brilliant sketch of being] shepherds being interviewed by investigators Mouldy and Sulky. Phoebe gave us a magical dance that Jack would have been proud of. Wonderful.

In between the sketches there were songs by the choir in great voice ably supported by the musicians.

There is not room to mention everyone – so I must apologise to the great majority of the participants that I have not named. However, there is one more person that must be individually praised and that is Anne Conquest who directed the performance and brought it all together.

Finally the candlelit finale was over and we went home, tired but happy. And at this time of cold and darkness my final thought was “Thank God for Christmas!”

Tim Johnson

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