

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Anyone who's ever set out on a journey will know that time spent in preparation for a journey is time well spent. Looking at a map and understanding its symbols will always be helpful: it enables us to better negotiate the terrain or the route ahead.



So, for example, noticing that a symbol that looks like a tuft of grass means not 'long grass' but 'marsh' might have some bearing on our choice of footwear. Realising that parallel broken black lines with white in the middle means 'other road, drive or track' and not 'quaint country lane' might have some bearing on our choice of vehicle. Apologies are long outstanding then to my friend Simon whom I once confidently led through a marsh with him only wearing plimsolls and to my friend Tim, whose Renault's suspension was never the same again following a drive down a particularly rocky track, again courtesy of my map reading!

In each case, time spent preparing thoroughly for the journey would have led to a different route being taken. Knowledge of the terrain that we were going to encounter would have enabled me to better identify our limitations in the face of it. Indeed, in each case, noticing and understanding those map symbols would have forced us to at least ask ourselves the question as to whether we were equipped to face the journey at all.

For those of us who say that we want to follow Jesus, it is vital that we spend time preparing for the journey. Such preparation will help us to anticipate that which lies ahead and be as ready as we can be for it and/or it will force us to wrestle with the question as to whether we are in a position to make the journey at all. And sometimes, we will have to conclude – however disappointed we might feel about it – that we simply cannot.

One day, when he was out walking, Jesus met some people along the road. Each of them considered following him (Luke 9: 51-62).

To the first, who says, 'I will follow you wherever you go', he replies 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' Fair enough, we might think – a tad abrupt perhaps, but fair enough: it's only right that he spells out the uncertain nature of the journey ahead. But when he says to the second, 'follow me' and gets the reply, 'I will – but let me first go and bury my father' don't we squirm just a bit when Jesus comes back with the 'let the dead bury their own dead' stuff? This is hardly the kind, sensitive, gentle, caring, understanding Jesus that we have grown to know and love, is it? And when Jesus seemingly rejects the offer of the third person to follow him, because that person first wants to go and say some farewells to those at home, do we not begin to feel just a little bit embarrassed or ashamed by his response? After all, imagine the pain and anguish that would be caused should a member of your family simply disappear.

But Jesus is not being unnecessarily harsh. He is asking tough questions because he wants to be sure that those of us who say that we will follow him have thought about the implications of doing so. He wants to be sure that we are prepared for the journey. And so he asks, 'Do you understand what following me will mean? Do you know how much it'll ask of you? Do you realise how much it'll cost you?'

But, equally, Jesus is realistic. Jesus knows that some people, at certain points in their life, will need the security of home. Jesus understands that those who are recently bereaved will simply not be in a place to go anywhere or do anything much. And Jesus realises that there'll always be some people who need to be with their families. Jesus is not saying that these things are not important. He is acknowledging that they are, that they are very important, and he is saying that those who say that they will follow him need to do some serious thinking before making such a claim.

Jesus is saying, 'I know how incredibly important these things are. I

just need you to understand that my work is even more important. I want you to be aware of the fact that following me might well cost you those things that are most important to you. Are you prepared for that?’

This summer, as you perhaps enjoy the fruit of all the preparations that you made for your holidays – sitting on a terrace with a refreshing drink or lying on the beach with a good book – why not spend some time thinking about your life and about what Jesus asks of you? Why not begin to prepare yourself for the next stage of your journey?

Wishing you a restful, if challenging, summer.

With every blessing,

Paul

————— < 0 > —————

Women’s Network Welcome to the Feast

Women’s Network will publish a spirituality resource pack, ‘**Welcome to the Feast**’, in August. Based on the Feeding of the 5000, the Regional Resource day in July will explore how this vision – of a feast of good things to which everyone is invited – can encourage, equip and enable us in the service we offer to our churches, circuits and neighbourhoods.

The Women’s Network Regional Resourcing Day will be held on Saturday 17th July at Wesley’s Chapel, City Road, London, tickets will cost £5.00

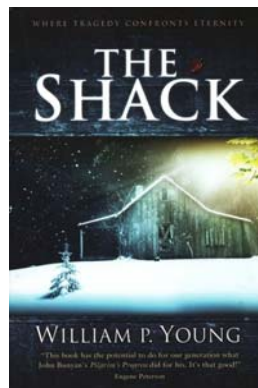
If you are interested in going to this special day, please speak to Mary Heaton.

Summer Book Club

You are warmly invited to join us as we read and share our thoughts on 'The Shack' by William P. Young.

Our next meeting will be taking place on Wednesday 7th July at 8pm at my house. It is hoped that all will have read the whole of the book by then.

For more information or if you are interested in joining us please let me or Abby know.



Jane Smith

————— < 0 > —————

Bottle Top Collection



The Diamond Riding Centre (for special needs children) in Carshalton are asking for help in collecting bottle tops.

Please pass any of your (clean) **plastic milk bottle tops** to Abby Herring to help this worthwhile group. For more information about the Centre visit their website at www.diamondcentre.org.uk

————— < 0 > —————

Christian Aid Reminder



To date over £500 have been collected for Christian Aid, with more promised.

If you are one of those who still owe sponsorship money or promised a donation please make sure you pass it to Tony Loft by Mid July.



*The
BIG
CHURCH*

*DAY OUT
2010*

Colin Smith

It reminded me a bit of Greenbelt, except not quite as big and you only go for one day. It was basically an afternoon of music set in a beautiful location right next to the South downs at Wiston House.

Just like any festival there was a main stage which hosted the big acts such as Hillsong United, Israel Houghton, Brenton Brown and Tim Hughes, whilst further afield you had a couple of smaller stages one of which was right next to the tea tent – fantastic!

There we saw Lou Fellingham of Phatfish fame and also some chap called Graham Kendrick!



All in all it was a jolly good day out. We took our camp chairs and a picnic and Ella enjoyed the pony rides, big wheel and ice cream!

But let's not forget that we were **united with the wider church family, simply celebrating our faith in God.**

Interested in going next year or want to know more? Speak to Colin or Jane Smith. Or go to www.bigchurchdayout.com



Harvest Fare 2010

Saturday, 25th September 2010

PHOTGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Theme: "Summer Holidays 2010"

**Closing date: Sunday 29th August
2010**

Competition Rules

1. Photos will be judged in two age groups: under 16 and 16 & over
2. Prizes will be Jessop's vouchers for the winner and runner-up in each age group.
3. Entries to be **PRINTS ONLY** with a size between 6"x4" and 12"x8"
4. Photographs should have been taken within the last 12 months i.e. this Summer!
5. A maximum of 3 entries per person may be submitted
6. Each entry must include your name, age, a title and location
7. This competition is not open to any person involved in the running of the competition
8. Entries must be entirely your own original work, not defame anybody nor breach any copyright
9. When photographing people, always ensure they have consented to their picture being taken
10. The judge's decision is final
11. Winning photographs may be reproduced in Martin Way publications and on the Martin Way website.
12. The winning entries will announced and prizes awarded at the Harvest Fare on Saturday, 25th September 2010



**Entries may be handed to Colin Smith or Mike Mortley or posted to:
Mike Mortley, 73 Southway, Raynes Park, London, SW20 9JG**

Grand Quiz

In aid of MCW Rafiki Trust



Saturday 3rd July
At Wimbledon Methodist
Church

6.30 for 7pm start

Park free on local streets from 6.30pm

Tickets £5 including supper
(Vegetarian option available)
and raffle

Bring a team of up to 6 people
or come and join a team on the night

For more information contact :

Dawn Downes (020) 8543 4774

or

Angela Linton-Smith amls62@yahoo.co.uk

Come and support your favourite team



Play, make, chat, eat, sing, dance
All are welcome
Free

MARTIN WAY
ONE BIG FAMILY FUN DAY
October 3rd
3pm - 7.30pm

Families come in all shapes and sizes and here at Martin Way we celebrate the fact that, despite our differences, we can come together as one big family, rich with diversity of experience, expertise and expectation. We are delighted to announce a fun day to which **all** are welcome, whether you're one or 101. This event is an open invitation to all who use our church buildings during the week, recognising that, although we meet at different times in different ways, we are all part of one big family.

We will begin, on Sunday October 3rd, at 3pm with messy play - all the fun, none of the clearing up. Come and make, experiment, draw, paint, build, dance, sing, create, chat, find friends. After a short celebration in church, there will be a sausage sizzle and ice cream at about 5pm, and the evening will then be set alight with the band 'Tongues of Fire'. And it's all free.

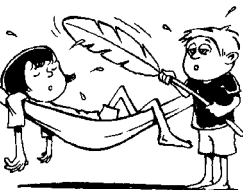
Obviously, in order to make this happen, we are going to need people power, so please, show us that you're with us. Whether it's on the day or during the preparation time, and however small you think your offer of help is, it could be you that makes the difference between an average afternoon out and a fantastic one. So come on - let's join together.

To volunteer and for further information, please contact Rebecca on 0208 337 2348 or Abby on 0208 543 9093

————— < 0 > —————

The Church is the family of God.
It is seen in miniature in each family.
John Ferguson

July



CHURCH DIARY

Fri	2	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	3	7.00 pm	RAFIKI Grand Quiz at Wimbledon Methodist Church
Sun	4	10.00 am	All Age Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	6	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	11	10.30 am	Cafe Worship with Communion led by Rev Paul Timmis and Platform 10 ^{3/4}
Tue	13	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	16	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	18	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
		12.30pm	Church Family Day out at Horton Country Park
Tue	20	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club with Midways - <i>Summer BBQ</i>
Sun	25	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mark Williamson
Tue	27	10.30am-noon	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	1	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	3	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	8	10.30 am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
Tue	10	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	15	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	17	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	22	10.30 am	Morning Service
		6.30 pm	Communion & Healing Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	24	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	29	10.30 am	Morning Service led by David Eagle

————— < 0 > —————

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





**SUNDAY 18th July 2010
12.30 onwards**

Those who went to Spring Harvest were given £10 each by the charity HOPE HIV and asked to increase it for them.

So we are holding this Family Day Out to increase our money. Tickets are £7.50 adults and £5 for 10 year olds and under.

The day will include:

**BBQ from 1.30pm - Burger and Sausage in a bun
Green Salad/Potato Salad/Coleslaw
Pudding
Tea/Coffee/Squash**

Fun, Games and Treasure Hunt for all ages

Time to relax together

**Ending with an Open Air service with Holy Communion
led by Rev Paul Timmis at approx 4pm.**

If you need transport or can offer transport there will be lists on the Notice Board.

For further information contact Abby Herring or Tony Loft.

Items for the **September Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 21st August** at the latest