

MINISTER'S LETTER



Of all the books that I read at school, it has undoubtedly been Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* that I have returned to most in the years since. Exposing, as it does, the absurdity of racial prejudice and the subsequent injustices that it creates, this novel has touched me deeply. And some of its words have remained with me almost 30 years after encountering them for the first time.

‘You never really understand a person until you consider things from his [or her, I would add] point of view - until you climb into his [or her] skin and walk around it.’ So says Atticus Finch, father of Scout, the little girl through whose eyes the story is told.

These words have returned to me powerfully this week. Having ruptured the Achilles tendon in my left leg in a freak table tennis injury(!), I am now having to adjust to life with a cast and crutches.

Just a couple of days on from the incident and already I am discovering just how difficult some of even the most basic of daily tasks can be for some. Getting washed, dressed, downstairs, breakfast etc., have now all become major challenges fraught with difficulty. Even sitting at my desk isn't easy (which is why this letter could well be shorter than usual!) and all this before I've even contemplated going out.

But whilst I have been viewing my predicament as a temporary inconvenience, I am more than aware that for many this lack of mobility is/has become a way of life. If this is you and I am aware of it, please know that I now have even more admiration for you than I did before. If I am not aware of your daily struggles, please let me and others know. And if, like me, you haven't for a while found yourself considering what life might be like for someone else, please spend some time reflecting on the words of Atticus Finch:

‘You never really understand a person until you consider things from

his [or her] point of view - until you climb into his [or her] skin and walk around it.'

These words might not be found in Scripture but they wouldn't be out of place there.

With every blessing

Paul

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A Child's View of Thunderstorms



A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning.

The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school. She also feared the electrical storm might harm her child. Full of concern, the mother got into her car and quickly drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along.

At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. More lightning followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called, "What are you doing?"

The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty because **God keeps taking my picture.**"

Joan Arnold

27th September 1918 – 11th February 2012



It's with great sadness that we have to announce the death of our dear friend Joan Arnold. Joan passed peacefully away last Saturday morning the 11th February.

Joan was a life long member of Martin Way Church until she moved to Devon with Jan & Bob and her sister Betty a few years ago. Joan moved into the Morden area in 1941 and married her late husband Albert at Martin Way.

Joan was a very active member of the church over many years. Jan remembers at the age of 10 years her mum becoming a practicing Christian when she entered into full membership of the church. Joan took on many roles at Martin Way over the years; she was a class leader which also involved carrying out pastoral visiting. She became the flower secretary after having been taught by Mr Maggs, also a past well known member of Martin Way. She was also the Christian Aid week organiser and in the early years ran the women's sewing work group. Joan was superb at needlework having attended a tailoring course at evening class, Jan remembers this very well as a small child because she would always 'kick off' when her mum had to go out to the class! Nevertheless Joan continued with her evening classes and from needlework and tailoring moved on to pottery classes, I'm not clear if Jan still 'kicked off' or perhaps had got over that stage by then!

Joan was a qualified milliner and made her own beautiful hats. I remember when I first joined Martin Way back in the early 70's Joan would never be seen in church without wearing one of her hats, that, of

course, always matched her outfit. She always had material to spare and I remember her making my daughter Sarah a lovely Easter bonnet for the school competition.

Joan was a devoted daughter to her own mum especially when she became old and needed extra care; Joan lovingly looked after and cared for her. She was also a wonderful carer/babysitter for Peter and Andrew again over many years which enabled Jan and Bob themselves to become very active members of the church, preaching and leading the Circuit Youth Choir. Joan was lovingly known as Grandma not only by her own grandsons but I'm sure by my own son John, who I believe thought he had an extra granny when he was growing up as he always called her Grandma, but then so too did many of us! I'm sure largely, Joan will undoubtedly be remembered in her role as the Sunday School Superintendent. She took this role very seriously indeed and as a past Sunday School teacher I have never forgotten the regular meetings we had at her home in Southway; there would always be a warm welcome and of course refreshments were always supplied.

Joan was a lovely lady and a devoted Christian, she had many friends at Martin Way some of whom have already been 'called home' but many of us who are still here will always remember her. Jan told me that Joan did make new friends at the church in Kingsbridge so I'm sure not only will she be missed by us her old friends and of course her family, but also by the new friendships she made in Devon.

For those who were unable to attend the funeral in Devon on the 24th February, there will be a memorial tea at Martin Way a week or so later. Jan and Bob would like this to be a relaxed time of catching up with the folk at Martin Way and sharing memories of Joan. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan, Bob, Pete and Andy at this time and pray that they may feel the presence of the comforter about them and rest in the knowledge that 'Grandma' is now at peace with Him.

Brenda Cannon

CREATING SAFER SPACE

Foundation Module

Dear all,

I have recently been on the Methodist Church 'Creating safer Space' Foundation Module about Safe guarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable adults. Angela Linton-Smith (who is now our Circuit's Safe Guarding Coordinator) and Margaret Adams have also attended this course and we have been asked to roll this training programme out to all our Churches for those in a role listed below:

- Presbyters with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- Deacons with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- Pre-ordination students and probationers
- Lay employees & Volunteer Workers with pastoral responsibility
- Pastoral Visitors
- Anyone working with 0 – 18 year olds in the name of the church
- Anyone working in activities targeted at adults who are vulnerable (e.g. luncheon club for the housebound
- Church stewards
- Circuit stewards
- Local preachers
- worship leaders
- Those training for local preaching or worship leading
- Church and circuit safeguarding representatives
- Choir/music group/drama leaders – where there are 0-18 year olds or vulnerable adults in the group.

People in the above roles who have received safeguarding training in other positions (e.g. as a teacher, police officer or social services) still need to attend. The training is specific to the church context. In the same way, such a person would NOT be exempt from education/police training, because they have done the church training. Their attendance is also valuable because of the expertise they can share with other trainees.

It is required that anyone in these roles must attend the training by September 2012 otherwise they will not be able to continue in their position. It may seem like a drastic statement but this subject is a very important and by attending the training it helps to protect you as well as the Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

We really would appreciate you attending this course it takes between 2 – 2½ hours and we have 2 dates for you to choose from;

- Tuesday 15th March 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at Wimbledon Methodist Church
- Thursday 27th March 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at Martin Way Methodist Church

The *Creating Safer Space* training will help you:

- know that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and integral to being church
- to have a better understanding of good safeguarding practice within the Methodist Church
- to know when to have concerns about the safety and welfare of a child, young person or vulnerable adult
- to recognise blocks within the church and responding to it.
- to appreciate your responsibility for sharing concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult
- to be aware of who in the church to go to with any concerns.

Please email or phone Angela Linton-Smith or myself to let us know which training session you will be attending so we have a rough idea on numbers by Sunday 11th March at the latest.

Thank you for your time and look forward to seeing you at one of the courses.

Abby Herring

Tel: 07739185814 email: abbyloft@googlemail.com

Angela Linton-Smith

Tel: 020 8785 4187 email: amls62@yahoo.co.uk



'Let Justice Prevail'



Friday
2nd March
Women's
World Day
of Prayer

www.wwdp-natcomm.org

Registered Charity Number 233242



Praying for Malaysia

11am

St Mark's Church

St. Mark's Place, Wimbledon SW19

(Behind the Wimbledon Library)

and

8pm

Raynes Park Methodist Church

Worple Road, Raynes Park SW20

(57 and 131 bus stop near to the church)

Coffee and Tea served after each service

All are welcome - men, women and young people



Trinity United Reformed Church Wimbledon

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA
office@trinitywimbledon.org
telephone 020 8946 9281

You are warmly invited to an evening with

Barry and Margaret Mizen

who will speak on

A sparkle of hope

at Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Road, Wimbledon
on the evening of Wednesday 21 March 2012 at 8pm



Barry and Margaret Mizen have known suffering and loss at first hand. They will tell how they have coped with the murder of their son Jimmy, on the day after his 16th birthday, four years ago. He was, they say, their 'sparkle of hope'. Jimmy was killed in a violent attack on him by 19-year-old Jake Fahri in the Three Cooks Bakery in Lee, south-east London, on 10 May 2008. In a rage, Fahri, who was sentenced to a minimum of 14 years in prison, threw a heavy oven glass dish at Jimmy's face. It shattered and severed the main blood vessels to and from Jimmy's heart. He died in the arms of his older brother, Tommy.

Since then, Barry and Margaret have set up the Jimmy Mizen Foundation in his memory. It promotes the development of young people, through supporting youth organisations and apprenticeship placements. They are working on initiatives with the bereaved parents of Damilola Taylor and Rob Knox, the Football Association and the Scouts – to which they donated two new minibuses with £50,000 they had raised in Jimmy's memory. Following a ceremony at Westminster Cathedral in May

2010, they met Prince Charles and Kate McCann, whose daughter Madeleine vanished on a holiday in Portugal. They also spoke to the thousands gathered in Hyde Park, London, during the Pope's visit to Britain. The Mizens say that they want people to discover faith, hope and love. They will tell their moving story.

A collection will be taken in aid of the Jimmy Mizen Foundation (registered charity no: 1130228).

8pm till 9.30pm. RSVP for group bookings only to: mikeandjansmith@blueyonder.co.uk

Dear Martin Way,

We at Trinity URC Church in Mansel Road, Wimbledon, would like to warmly invite you to join us at our church meeting on the evening of 21st March. We have invited the guest speakers Barry and Margaret Mizen, founders of the Jimmy Mizen Foundation, to tell their moving story of redemption following the tragic murder of their son Jimmy on the day after his 16th birthday, four years ago. The evening will be in the presence of the Mayor of the London Borough of Merton, Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender.



If anyone would like to come, please would you kindly let me know how many we could expect to join us from your church. The event is on the evening of 21st March, and it would be a great help to us to know numbers if possible before the evening of 7th March, when we have our elders council meeting.

Please see the opposite page for further information about the evening and the Jimmy Mizzen Foundation.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Smith

Member, Council of Elders
Trinity United Reformed Church
Mansel Road
Wimbledon SW19

Home number: 020 8947 7101

Email: mikeandjansmith@blueyonder.co.uk

CHURCH DIARY



Thurs	1	8.00pm	Leadership Meeting
Fri	2	11.00am	Women's Day of Prayer service at St Mark's Church, Wimbledon
		12.30pm	Luncheon Club
		8.00pm	Women's Day of Prayer service at Raynes Park Methodist Church
Sun	4	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	6	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	11	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
Tue	13	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	14	7.45pm	Midways Group - <i>Derek Heaton</i> - Norway
Thurs	15	7.15pm	Creating Safer Space Course at Wimbledon Methodist Church
Fri	16	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	17	10.00am	Big Brunch
Sun	18	10.30am	Mothering Sunday All Age Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	20	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Shirley Cornish</i> - Building Houses, Armenia
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	25	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		6.30pm	Communion Service by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	6	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

Tue 27 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat
 7.15pm Creating Safer Space Course at
 Martin Way Methodist Church
 8.00 pm Time for Prayer
 Fri 30 12.30pm Luncheon Club

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

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



Happy Birthday

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Church Ladies With typewriters . . .

Many thanks to those unknown church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services (more will follow in future issues!)

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.
 Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone
 who doesn't care much about you.

For those of you who have children and don't know it,
 we have a nursery downstairs.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24
 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their
 School days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be
 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.



New Life for One Big Family

Come and join us
3.00pm craft and messy play
4.30pm story and sharing time
4.45pm hot cross buns

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT:

Abby: 8543 9093

Rebecca: 8337 2348

Sunday 1st April - and we're not joking!

Items for the **April Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 18th March** at the latest