

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

London's Hayward Gallery is currently running an exhibition entitled, *Invisible: Art about the Unseen 1957-2012*. I understand that some fifty "invisible" works by famous artists such as Andy Warhol, Yves Klein and Yoko Ono are on display - including a blank piece of paper, an empty plinth, a canvas of invisible ink and an invisible labyrinth.



Much has been made of the £8 entrance fee that is being charged for an exhibition of works that cannot be seen, yet Ralph Rugoff, director of the Hayward Gallery, was recently quoted in *The Independent* (Saturday 19 May) as saying, "I think visitors will find that there is plenty to see and experience in this exhibition of invisible art..." which "...highlights that art isn't about material objects, it's about setting our imaginations alight, and that's what the artists in this show do in many varied ways."

I haven't yet made my way to the Hayward Gallery to experience this for myself but I might before it closes on 5th August for, whilst my initial reaction to news of this exhibition was to scoff, further reflection leads me to think that there might be something of value here.

In conversation with the writer Steve Tomkins the other day, I was reminded that *Third Way* magazine, once led with a largely blank editorial. I will leave you to speculate as to why this situation might have arisen but, instead of the usual column of words there was a simple five-lined statement at the top that concluded '...under the conviction that less is sometimes more, this month's editorial ends here.' The rest of the column contained no ink. Perhaps for some it became an empty space to be skipped over quickly. To others, however, and as subsequent letters to the magazine revealed, it became something else entirely - a blank page onto which people

could write their own thoughts, a blank canvas that set people's imaginations alight.

As we move into the summer months - a time when groups and organisations cease to meet and the usual round of church meetings is mercifully put on hold for a while - it can feel at times as if the church has closed down, that there's very little happening and all but nothing to see.

I invite you to see this time not as an empty space to be skipped over quickly but rather as a God-given gift to be treasured and cherished: a blank canvas to set your imagination alight.

With every blessing,

Paul

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PUSS IN BOOTS

If you would like a part in next year's panto, Puss in Boots, then come along to the read through and the auditions.

The panto will be performed during the February 2013 half-term.

Panto read through

Sunday, July 8, 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Panto Auditions

Sunday, July 22, 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Please speak to Jack Pallister for more information.

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MCW RAFIKI TRUST OLYMPIC BBQ



Come along to the MCW Rafiki Trust Olympic BBQ, on Saturday 14th July, at 116 Ardrossan Gardens, Worcester Park, KT4 7AY.

Proceedings start at 12 noon and run until 3.00 pm. There will be a cake sale, garden games and quizzes with an Olympic theme along with a fantastic BBQ.

Don't worry about the weather as if it is wet all will be held indoors.

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CLIFF COLLEGE SPONSORSHIP

I am sure you will be delighted to hear that, thanks to the kind generosity of the church families within the Circuit, £5300 has been forwarded to Cliff College in sponsorship for Arigon's graduation. Sincere thanks to everyone.

Margaret Adams



A Day in the life of a Spring Harvester

I can't believe that it is nearly 3 months since we returned from Butlins at Minehead where we had attended this year's Spring Harvest gathering. As I write this snapshot of a day in the life of, I am reminded that I have only 5 days ago booked for a group of 12 to attend next year's event in April, doesn't time fly!

What do we do when we are at Spring Harvest, well that's easy; we have a holiday – I wish. No we all spend some time with like-minded people worshipping God and learning more about our wonderful God and His Church (This year's theme was Church Actually split into 5 sub themes).

The same theme is used by all ages from the youngest to the oldest so no matter what group you find yourself in, you will study the same sub theme for the day (all be it in different ways which is more appropriate to the age group).

To write down all that I did let alone what everyone else did would take every page in this News Letter and the next 3 editions as well. So I have picked just 1 day from the excellent programme for the weeks.

Day 4: Get up before the others in my bungalow, it's about 6.30am get myself washed and dressed then off to look for the Harvest News (Published each day – gives up to date information for that day).

Return to the accommodation units armed with the Harvest News, enough so that each bungalow occupied by members of our group can have several copies, and then the part I always enjoy knock on their

doors to give them the Harvest News (but really to get someone out of bed).

After breakfast Mike and I go to the Big Top (A very large tent holds 3000 people) for what is called the Big Start at 9am (it's a half hour of fun for all the family – which relates to the days sub theme today it's 'Our call – to touch the world with God's love'. the rest of the group (those who got up) can watched the Big Start on the TV.

After Big Start, Mike has gone to his first session while I stay in the Big Top ready for my first session which is Bible Study led by Andy Hickford and today it's John 13:1-36 which starts at 10am and finishes at 11.15am (if anyone said I would sit on a plastic seat in a tent for 1¼ hours I would have said you must be joking) But here I am again and somehow Andy holds my attention for the whole time. 11.15am and it's a mad rush to find a coffee and get to my next session in ½ hour, at 11.45am. Everyone, that's about 8000 of us appear to have the same intention - find coffee and get a move on to get to next session. (the whole morning has different sessions in different venues throughout the Butlins site). Today I'm trying the Watch Zone taking place in the Skyline (that's the central part of Butlins – the main meeting point) this session is led by Simon Mall, who uses visual products such as film and video clips to help get the point over. Again this is a 1¼ hours and Simon is good and gets the theme over, but unfortunately due to the amount of light in the Skyline it's hard to see some of the film clips.

Now I'm ready for lunch it's 1pm and my head is starting to spin with all that I have taken in this morning – but I wouldn't change a thing.

Back to the bungalow where we all get stuck in and sort out our lunch (It's a bit of a free for all – but it works). The afternoon's programme is set out to Seminars covering different subjects – don't fancy any of them so will give them a miss and instead visit the exhibition area and bookshop in the Skyline. Then I think I will text the others to say that I'm opening a counselling session in the café bar if anyone would like to join me. (I know that the young people will not, as they will be either in the swimming pool or at the on-site funfair). Text the others at 3.15pm to see if anyone fancied a drink (of any kind) some of the

others arrive and we sit and chat about what we have been doing, (I get a chance to find out what the other morning sessions are about). As for the counselling that's not strictly true – but we do have a time where everyone can chill out and relax in the middle of what would be otherwise a very busy day. I think it works well, we did it the last 2 days and it proved popular so think I will do it again tomorrow.

Back to the bungalow for dinner, tonight it's Angela's turn to prepare and cook dinner. After dinner it's back to Skyline by 6.45pm for the alternative to the Big Top Worship. (It must be my age; but it's just too much these days – all the noise and the repetitive words of the songs – which are often sung over and over again and again).

This year in the Skyline they are trying a new type of alternative worship it's called Encounter Café and who better to lead this than Andy Frost [The late Rob Frost's son] and his wife Jo. It's great to be able to chat with Andy and Jo - I haven't seen them for ages and it's just a shame that we couldn't spend more time chatting but they have a job to do. This worship time is very relaxed where we are given quiz questions to get us warmed up and then the theme is brought to life in a way that really got to me and has helped me with all that I have heard and learnt today (in the morning sessions and what the others have said this afternoon).

It's 9pm and time to return to the bungalow, but before I go back I'll have another look around the bookshop. I could go to one of the After Hours treats (10.20pm to 11.45pm) tonight Jonathan Veira is on Centre Stage – he's good I have several of his CD's I know that Mike is going and several of the young people are going to see IDMC (don't know who or what they are) in the Crazy Horse.

Think I will give the after hours a miss tonight I have just seen some of the others and feel another counselling session coming on – yes that's what I will do – I will sit and chat; we all have a lot to offload.

Arrived back at the bungalow it's now 11.30pm and feeling that my bed is calling but what have I learn today about 'Our call – to touch the world with God's love'. I've been reminded that the Gospels offer us

parallel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus. They take different angles and perspectives, sometimes on the same events, but they all portray one central fact with absolute certainty.

In three years of ministry Jesus touched those in need around Him. The feet of Jesus carried Him to those in need, and the hands of Jesus brought them help and healing. Love, for Jesus, is embodied in real human life and expressed in human touch.

The Church, called to be ‘the Body of Christ’ in the New Testament, is given the task of continuing this love: of being today the feet and hands of Jesus. That’s what I have been reminded of: I too have feet and hands that I should use for God’s work, so that His Church continues in His love and grace.

Well it’s time for lights out it’s just past midnight, very tired but I’ve had a great day and there’s more tomorrow.

Well, if you are still with me after that abridged version (yes it is abridged) of a day in the life of a Spring Harvester then well done.

As I said this is only my thoughts and all the others have their memories; but this I know we all got something from our Spring Harvest experience.

I finish knowing that next year’s theme is ‘The Source - encountering Jesus today’ and I can’t wait.

Tony Loft



To find out more about Spring Harvest either speak to Tony or visit the official Spring Harvest webpage at www.springharvest.org

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

Pentecost is a festival of the Christian Church occurring on the seventh Sunday after Easter, to celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. On a fine summer's afternoon the 27th May, Churches Together in Merton Park met in John Innes Park for a Service to celebrate this important event in our Christian calendar.



Reverent Graham Derriman from St James' Church opened with an introductory welcome and prayer followed by the opening song; *'All over the world the Spirit is moving'*. This was led by the choir members from



Martin Way and St John Fisher churches, who, before the service had already regaled those present with toe-tapping music to set the scene.

The familiar Bible passage from Acts 2; a

fulfilment of John the Baptist's words about the Holy Spirit's baptising with fire, and of the prophet Joel's words about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was ably and clearly read by Thomas Davis (St John Fisher). Gillian Thick (Merton Park Baptist Church) followed by a story telling of 'The Gift' by Hilary Faith Jones and Christine Davis (St John Fisher) prayed 'Spirit Unseen' by the same author:



*Spirit unseen burn strong within my soul!
Spirit unseen let me breathe you deep within.
Spirit unseen awaken me to realise
that God is at the very heart of my existence,
so that the ordinary happening
is wondrously filled with God-light.
The Truth is, I am loved. I am loved.*



After this, Charles Wesley's hymn 'O Thou who camest from above' was the appropriate response in presenting lives as living sacrifices to God in humble prayer and fervent praise. As was Brenda Cannon's powerful words from her personal story that followed. She gave evidence of the way God has been instrumental in her life as a person, in the past, in the present and will be in the future. Her changed life and enthusiasm for sharing her faith is further proof that the Holy Spirit continues to work powerfully in her life. After this moving testimony the choir led in singing meditatively 'Breathe on me breath of God'.



Setting the scene further, Pete Boyd, Karen Smith and Jack Pallister from Martin Way Methodist Church enacted an imagined meeting between Simon Peter and two police officers in Jerusalem which



included Peter's speech. 'That's the Spirit' vividly recounted the events of the first Pentecost in a memorable and humorous way.

Prayers for the Church's Mission were led by Barbara Moreland and Neville

Squires from St Mary's Church and had positioned themselves as to allow everyone to hear them and no one in the park was excluded. 'God's Spirit is in my heart' was the closing hymn exhorting us, as was mentioned in the prayers, to 'go tell everyone the news that the kingdom of God has come'.

The fire and the outpouring of the Spirit that came down at Pentecost were in the hearts of those who attended this joyous celebration. A big thank you to all who pray fully organised the service, those who took part and helped to make it a success, To God be the glory.

Gwen Wildman

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WEDDING BELLS

Heartiest Congratulations to our Newsletter Editor, Andrew Fox and his fiancée, Adriana Surowiec, on the happy occasion of their forthcoming Wedding in Warsaw, Poland, on 3rd August. We wish them God's Richest Blessings for their marriage and in all the years to come.



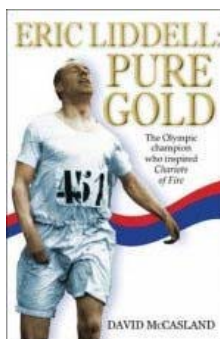
May they have a house full of sunshine, hearts full of cheer, and a love that grows deeper each day of the year.

Mary and Derek Heaton

BOOK REVIEWS from RE:FRESH BOOKS

Eric Liddell: Pure Gold by Davin McCasland
224 pages, paperback, £9.99p

Pure Gold tells the larger story of Eric Liddell: his upbringing in China as the son of missionary parents, his deep love for his devoted wife Florence, his zealous and outspoken faith and his tragic death at a Japanese internment camp just months before the end of the Second World War. Includes 16 pages of photos and significant supplementary material.

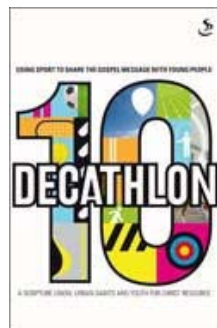


Decathlon

80 pages A4 paperback, £11.99

Many young people love sport and it's a great way to open up the gospel with young people from outside a church community. Decathlon helps you do just that!

Using games derived from ten different sports, Decathlon takes young people through some of the essentials of the Christian faith, such as who God is, God's grace and the freedom offered by Jesus. Each session offers material to use in an assembly, a youth group setting or a longer holiday-time programme.

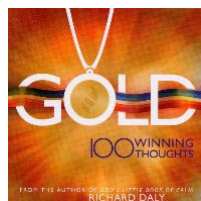


Young people explore different truths about God through sport, games, Bible engagement, discussion and more.

Gold - 100 Winning Thoughts by Richard Daly

Published by CWR £4.99p

This little booklet provides 100 simple thoughts and an associated Bible text for each to provide inspiration and encouragement in the race of life. It follows a sporting theme throughout - 'nurture your gift', 'learn from your mistakes', 'get up again' etc.



All of these books are available from re:fresh books & christian resources, 23 The Broadway, Tolworth, Surbiton KT6 7DJ



**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

NIGERIA: 300 suicide bombers ready to attack churches

After a triple suicide bomb offensive on churches, the Islamist sect Boko Haram is claiming to have around 300 suicide bombers ready to attack churches and plans to make June “the bloodiest month yet”. CSW is launching 30 days of prayer for Nigeria in response to calls for prayer from Nigerian Christians.

Speaking to a Nigerian agency this week, a spokesman said this would be the bloodiest month yet, with the group planning multiple church attacks, a huge bombing in Abuja and assaults on government facilities. The group claims it has 300 suicide bombers ready to target churches in predominantly Christian southern Kaduna State and Plateau State. The sect also planned to attack or take over government buildings in Kano, Kaduna, Yobe and Gombe States, along with a major assault on the Federal Capital Territory at the end of June. The sect reportedly wants to prove that Nigerian security forces have not hampered its operations, and cannot match its deadly force.

Please pray:

- For all those who have lost loved ones, asking God to comfort and uphold them, sustaining them with His peace.
- For an end to the cycle of retaliatory violence, and that security forces would be able to calm situations using minimal force.
- Pray fervently for every attack planned against churches or government facilities to fail, and attackers to be apprehended.
- Ask God to move in power to expose Boko Haram’s plans, members, funders and backers and bring an end to every aspect of the violence perpetrated by the group.
- That regardless of their creed, Nigerians would unite against Boko Haram. For the urgent restoration of peace and true reconciliation between religious communities in Kaduna.

To find out more about CSW visit their website at www.csw.org.uk/home

Extreme Willingness

(A young girl's story from the Philippines)

Taken from: Extreme devotion, the voice of the martyrs from the co-authors of Jesus freaks. Serious followers of Jesus pay a price, and extreme followers often pay the ultimate price. Each story is true.

“My dress,” the young girl murmured, her words slurred through swollen lips. “Please give me my dress. I want to hold it.”

The Christians surrounding the girl's bed were sad. Because of her extensive internal injuries, doctors could do nothing for her. Weeks ago, the believers had bought her a white dress to celebrate her new life and pure heart in Christ Jesus.

Her father had not been pleased with his daughter's decision to follow Christ. One night, in a drunken rage, he attacked his daughter, beating and kicking her. He left her lying in the muddy streets to die.

When she did not show up for church, her Christian friends went looking for her. They found the girl unconscious, lying in a heap, her formerly snow white dress now covered in blood and mud. She was brought to a doctor, but her injuries were severe.

Now she was asking for her dress.

“The dress is ruined,” her friends told her. They tried to talk her out of it, thinking that seeing the ruined dress would break down the girl's spirit.

With the simple faith of a ten-year-old, she whispered, “Please, I want to show the dress to Jesus. He was willing to bleed for me. I just want Jesus to know that I was willing to bleed for him.”

God is not interested in our ability. We may be talented. Resourceful. Wealthy. Professional, popular and punctual. Offering our various abilities in God's service, however, is nothing like offering our availability. Our abilities are about ourselves—we can see ourselves doing this or that for God. In contrast, our availability is about God alone—we can only imagine how God will use us in his service. Being available to God means being willing to obey no matter what the cost. God wants our willingness to serve him regardless of our specific abilities. How do we become so willing? That, too, is God's gift. He gives us the “want to”—the will or desire to be available to him.

July



CHURCH DIARY

Sun	1	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Caroline & Tim's House Group
Tue	3	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	6	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	8	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		4.00 - 5.30pm	Panto Meeting - First Read Through
Tue	10	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	15	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	17	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club (with Midways) - Pizza evening - <i>Paul Burgoyne</i> - Organ Recital (Mixed Music)
Sun	22	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		2.30- 4.00pm	Panto Meeting - Auditions
Tue	24	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	29	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	31	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	5	10.30 am	Morning Service - All Age Worship
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	7	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	12	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	14	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	19	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	21	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	26	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	28	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

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

Happy Birthday

to:

Francesca Heald on 5th July

Anne Jenkins on 12th July

Jessica Hazen on 26th July

Rebecca Smith on 11th August



**and especially to Emily Bacon on 3rd August
as she celebrates her 18th Birthday**

Beanie Hat

Pattern

You will need:

Double knitting yarn
No 8's or 4mm needles
No6 needles



Cast on 80 stitches using No 8.

Work in K1, P1 rib for two and a half inches or knit same in garter stitch if preferred.

Change to No 6 needles and work in stocking stitch (1st row knit and 2nd row is purl) until work measures 5 inches from commencement.

Shape Top. Right side facing:

1st row: * K8, K2 together. Repeat from* to end of row.

2nd row: Purl

3rd row: *K7, K2 together. Repeat from * to end of row.

4th row: Purl

5th row: *K6, K2 together. Repeat from * to end of row.

Continue decreasing thus until 16 stitches remain.

Break off wool, thread through remaining stitches, draw up and fasten off securely.

To make up:

Pin out and press on wrong side under a damp cloth.

Join seam. Press seam.

Note: K = Knit

P = Purl



Items for the **September Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 19th August** at the latest