

## MINISTER'S LETTER

In my letter last time I touched on the matter of inclusivity. I thought that we could explore this a bit more this time.

In a recent conversation with *The Telegraph*, Archbishop Rowan Williams highlighted the deep divisions that exist within the church, particularly when it comes to the matter of women bishops and, perhaps even more especially, homosexuality.

But why is it that we find it so hard to move beyond these distinctions and become, well, more inclusive?

Scratch the surface of the arguments that take place within the church about the role of women and matter of homosexuality and we soon discover that at their heart lies an issue of interpretation - about what the Bible is and what it's saying (or is not and isn't saying). But interpretation is not easy and, with the best of intentions, sincere and worthy followers of God can get things wrong. Interpreting God's law, interpreting God's will, interpreting the Scriptures isn't easy. Nothing is straightforward even if at first it seems so. Given that women can, quite rightly, hold any position within the Methodist Church, let us consider homosexuality.

Some of you will be familiar with the letter to Dr Laura Schlessinger. I know this because I recently read it in church one evening. But for those of you who aren't aware, Laura Schlessinger is a US radio personality who dispenses advice to people who call into her radio show. A little while back she said that, as an observant Orthodox Jew, homosexuality is an abomination according to Lev 18. 22 and cannot be condoned in any circumstance.

The following are excerpts from an open letter to Dr Laura penned by a US resident and anonymously posted on the Internet:



Dear Dr. Laura

*Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law. I have learned a great deal from your show, and I try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate.*

*I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some specific laws and how to best follow them.*

*When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odour for the Lord (Lev 1:9). The problem is my neighbours. They claim the odour is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?*

*I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?*

*I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness (Lev 15: 19-24). The problem is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offence.*

*Lev 25: 44 states that I may indeed possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighbouring nations. A friend of mine claims this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians? Can you clarify?*

*A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an Abomination (Lev 11:10), it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this?*

*Lev 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here?*

*My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev 19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing*

*garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? (Lev 24:10-16) Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev 20:14)*

*I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding me that God's word is eternal and unchanging.*

*Your devoted disciple and adoring fan.*

I don't wish to trivialise the debate. But I believe that the church should be an inclusive church and I want to ask, 'Why do we treat homosexuality any differently to any of these other rules?'

These rules are clearly culturally conditioned and we can quite rightly consider them obsolete and lay them to one side. So the question arises, 'Does the Bible know anything of, or have anything to say about, loving, committed, co-equal, same-sex relationships?' and if it doesn't, and I don't think it does, are we raising the issue of homosexuality to a certain level simply because we're not comfortable with it?

As we seek to interpret God's law, God's will and the Scriptures for today, let's not do so too rashly, making quick assumptions or offering inherited certainties. Interpretation has never been easy. With the best of intentions, sincere and worthy followers of God can get things wrong. Instead, let's remember how Jesus of Nazareth broke down barriers, moved beyond such earthly distinctions and lived a gospel of inclusiveness. Let's remember and follow, examining the condition of our own hearts and not worrying so much about standing in judgement over others.

If love is present, so too is God, for God is love and love is God. That's the important thing. That's what matters.

With every blessing

*Paul*



## FAIRTRADE RECIPES

### Nutty Chocolate & Coffee Brownies Makes about 12 brownies

*An ideal treat for Halloween parties!*

- 110g butter
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 50g plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- pinch of salt
- 100g hazelnuts (chopped in half)
- 225g unrefined (golden) Fairtrade sugar
- 50g dark Fairtrade chocolate, roughly broken up



#### *For the frosting:*

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 100g butter, softened to room temperature  | 100g icing sugar  |
| 1 tablespoon strong black Fairtrade coffee | 100g cream cheese |

Pre-heat oven to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4. Grease a tin measuring approximately 27cm x 18cm and line with baking parchment, allowing paper to rise 3cm above the tin. Toast hazelnuts in oven for 10 minutes (maximum) until lightly browned. Melt chocolate and butter in a bowl over a pan of simmering water. Sieve flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl. Stir in sugar. Beat in eggs and chocolate mixture until well-mixed. Stir in hazelnuts. Pour mixture into the tin and bake for 30-40 minutes until centre springs back when lightly pressed.

Remove from oven and allow to cool completely in tin.

To make frosting, beat butter and icing sugar together until pale and fluffy. Beat in cream cheese and coffee. Spread frosting on the cooled Brownies. Chill in fridge for 30 minutes, then cut into squares before serving.

## **ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON**

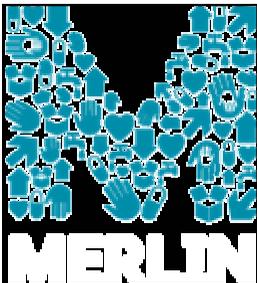
On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October I will be taking part in the Royal Parks Half Marathon in central London, named after the four parks (Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park) through which much of the route goes.

I am running in aid of Merlin, a medical aid agency which I used to work for. Merlin is the UK's leading international health charity and treats on average 13 people across the world every minute. It responds immediately to natural disasters like the earthquakes in Haiti and Pakistan, or the East Asian tsunami, but it also stays as long as necessary to rebuild hospitals and health systems.

Much of its work is in strengthening national health services and working with governments so that they are able to support and sustain their health system when Merlin has finished its work.

Merlin has worked in 40 countries and currently has over 6,000 staff members, the vast majority of whom are local health workers, some of them trained by Merlin itself. For example, Merlin runs a midwife training school in rural northern Afghanistan which trains local women to be the midwives for their own villages, and more recently set up a similar school in Liberia.

While I was at Merlin (in London) I met people who worked in many countries and on a wide variety of programmes, and I was always impressed by the vital and successful work they undertook. So I am very pleased to be able to raise money for them in this way.



If you would like to sponsor me then please see me after the morning service / before the Harvest Lunch on 30<sup>th</sup> September, or go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MartinHarker>. For more information about Merlin please see [www.merlin.org.uk](http://www.merlin.org.uk) or have a chat with me some time.

*Martin Harker*

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Can't remember if I told you that:

I have moved out from Beggars Alley, located at 2 Poverty Lane at the corner of Down and Out Circle. As of today, I have a brand new home.

My new address is Living Well on 231 Abundance Terrace, located at the corner of Blessings Drive and Prosperity Peak .

It's in the God Can neighborhood.

No longer will I allow myself to travel to the other side of town on Begging Peter-to-Pay-Paul Route, located at a dead-end-intersection called I Don't Have, which connects with Borrowers Junction!

I no longer hang out at Failure's Place, near Excuses Avenue, next to Procrastination Point.

I've moved to an upscale community called Higher Heights with unlimited potential and opportunities for me to succeed. I can do ALL things through CHRIST who strengthens me!

Life is good because God is good!

Care to change your address? My Father's house is on Blessed Assurance Ave and There are many more vacancies!

Great is thy faithfulness Oh Lord! I am well blessed and so are you, in spite of our temporary circumstances.

Don't tell God how big your storms are; Tell your storms how big your God is.



## MARGARET IN UGANDA.....

Never did I expect when during my sabbatical last year I visited Uganda it would have such a profound effect on my life.

I was concerned about travelling, never been on a long haul flight before and suffer from travel sickness. However I had clearly felt drawn to go.

My brother Andy founded a charity **Care for Uganda** in 2003 and I went to take part in the summer Developmental Support Programme. I was moved by what I saw, there is so much poverty, and yet the people are



so friendly and were incredibly appreciative of our visit. It was clear to me that the Ugandan people valued the support that was being offered, that they really yearned for change in their lives and were prepared to work alongside us to enable their dream to become a reality.

Care for Uganda have built their headquarters in Bbowa, which is a rural area in the Luwero District of the Buganda Kingdom of Uganda. The presence of a building in Bbowa has provided some hope for the people that Care for Uganda intends to stay and help them over a period of time to improve their lives.

The Child Sponsorship Programme helps individuals and families through contributing towards school fees, uniforms, scholastic materials and food during term time during primary education. We also plan to hold a number of short vocational training courses over the next year to give opportunities to those who less academic ability.

The Community Sponsorship Programme enables various project to be carried out. Piglets, goats, seedlings and energy saving stove have been given to needy people in the area. These people are encouraged to use



these things to improve their income and therefore their standard of life. There is clear evidence that this is beginning to happen as whilst visiting people whilst on the Developmental Support Programme we are able to hear the stories and see for ourselves achievements that are being made. In time recipients

give back to Care for Uganda, livestock or plants, these can then be offered to others to enable the projects to be sustainable.

Malaria is the number one killer in Uganda. Largely due to support from within the Wimbledon Circuit we have been able to launch a mosquito net distribution programme this will help to reduce the mortality rate.



We have also launched a scheme providing layettes for babies at the local health centre as an incentive to encourage mother to attend the clinics and have their baby at the centre. In addition we have been able to supply magnesium sulphate to Nakaseke hospital due to the generosity of the charity “Life for

African mothers” which will help to reduce maternal mortality rates.

Wherever possible, Care for Uganda works in partnerships with others. This results in greater efficiency and effectiveness. We have joined with three other NGOs for a thirty month programme developing integrated primary care networks in Uganda. For the district of Luwero, this means 30 Village health Teams will be trained and a motorbike ambulance will be provided.

We take so much for granted in this country. We do not realise the struggles that our brothers and sisters in other countries have. They have no running water for example – water has to be carried long distances. Many people do not even have mattresses to sleep on let alone any other



furniture in the dark small homes in which they live. It is difficult to adequately describe the lives these people live. They are so happy to see us and are extremely grateful for any support we give.

We do not want to create a culture of dependency, therefore our projects are aiming to enable them to work towards self sufficiency. Recognising this will take time.

There are many ways you could help Care for Uganda. Collecting boxes are available for collecting "loose change". (please see Mike Mortley if you would like one). You may like to become a "Friend" of Care for Uganda, we are looking for people who are willing to make a regular commitment to giving at least £2 a month.

There are other practical ways you can help. This can be done by donating baby clothes, knitting cardigans for babies or baby blankets, giving exercise books, pencils etc. every little helps, we can all do something to make a difference!

Or maybe you would like to be part of a Development Support Programme, these give opportunity for individuals or groups to gain first hand experience of development within a community of great need in Uganda. We have found teams of between 5 and 12 people working for one or two weeks can have a huge impact.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact me or visit their website at [www.careforuganda.org](http://www.careforuganda.org)



*Margaret Adams*

## Worship Space - The Future?

For the past couple of years the Leadership Team has been thinking about the worship life of our church. More specifically, it has been thinking about the worship space - about what it feels like and the impact that this might have upon our worship.



We dedicated the last General Church Meeting to beginning a conversation with the wider church community. There we reminded ourselves of some of the fundamentals of worship and raised the question as to what our worship space says about our life as a worshipping church.

We are more likely to be uplifted if the surroundings are uplifting. But what impact does it have on us if a place looks old and tired. Due to this we explored the possibility of having the walls painted (we can't as we have to leave the bricks to breathe). We considered getting some artwork panels to be located between the windows and either side of the cross or individual banners. Juliet Hemingray visited us and produced some samples that have been on display in the church over the last few weeks.

We have also considered the need for a more flexible worship space. This is not an argument about the relative comfort of pews vs chairs, but how we worship by having fixed pews. With fixed pews we are constrained - physically and mentally. This is not an argument against pews, but an argument against fixed pews and straight lines. Chairs are always more flexible than pews, but it is possible to buy movable, stackable pews of varied lengths. There is no point just replacing lines

of pews with lines of chairs. We need to think again on how we use or want to use our worship space. With a more flexible space we could make more creative use of the space. Once again sample pictures of the chairs and movable pews were on display.

The Church Meeting did not - and was never intended to - make any kind of decision. Change is never easy. Things might feel odd or uncomfortable for a while whilst we experiment with the layout. The hope of the Leadership Team is that we will have the courage both to embrace the changes and to journey into that place of experimentation to see what emerges; believing that what will emerge will transform not only the worship space but also the worship that we offer to God.

We desired that a wider conversation took place and that people's thoughts, comments and opinions were heard. We want to say thank you to all those who took the time to give us your comments on the possible refurbishment of the worship space. Over 35 replies were received. The Leadership Team will now analyse the comments and bring the findings to the Church Council meeting on 4th October. We'll keep you posted on the outcome.

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## Operation Christmas Child

Not many Knitting days left until we will be asking for the contributions you have been able to create, so this month there are two patterns to have a go with! Why not make a matching set with the hat and wrist warmers?

### Chunky Wrist Warmers

**You will need:**

**Wool** – Chunky wool of any colour

**Needles:** Size 6 needles

**Abbreviations:-** k knit, p purl,  
rep repeat, st(s) stitch(es), tog together



## Pattern

Cast on 30 stitches.

k1 p1 until it measures 7" (18cm)

Cast off loosely.

Sew up the sides, leaving a gap to form a thumb hole.

### To make the flower,

Cast on 66 stitches.

\*K1, cast off 9, repeat from \* to end of row (16 stitches).

Cut wool, and with a sewing needle thread wool through the remaining stitches.

Pull together and hey presto!

Sew flower on to back of each wrist warmer with a button in the middle of each if desired - or a couple of brightly coloured buttons will be just as effective.

## Stretchy pull on hat

This hat fits most children as it is very stretchy. It is quick to knit and uses up odd balls of wool of any ply. The hats will come out slightly different sizes according to the yarn and tension but this is fine as head sizes also vary. The children can choose whether to turn up the brim or keep the hat pulled well over their ears.



### You will need:

**Wool** – Use 2 strands of DK or 3-4 strands of 4 ply or any combination of differing plys that gives a reasonably chunky feel. You can do plain colours or combine different colours to give a tweedy effect or you can do stripes etc.

**Needles** Size 2 (7mm) for the single rib at the start

Size 0 (8mm) for the rest of the hat

OR Size 1 (7½mm) throughout

Cast on 57 sts fairly loosely with the smaller needles, leaving a length of wool at the start of the row that you can use later to sew up the finished hat.

### **Pattern**

**1st row** \*k1, p1, rep from \* to last st, k1

**2nd row** p1, \*k1, p1, rep from \* to end

Rep these 2 rows twice more (or more times if you want more depth of single rib)

**Change** to bigger needles and proceed as follows:-

**1st row** k2 p1, \*k3, p1 rep from \* to last 2 sts, k2

**2nd row** p1, \*k3, p1, rep from \* to end

These 2 rows form a pattern. Rep them until you have done 18 rows in pattern altogether (9 repeats of the 2 rows) You should have a pattern that looks the same on both sides.

Now shape the top of the hat as follows:-

**1st row** k2, p1, \*k3tog, p1, k3, p1, rep from \* to last 6 sts, k3tog, p1, k2. 43 sts

**2nd row** \*p1, k2 rep from \* to last st p1

**3rd row** k2 \*p1, k5, rep from \* to last 5 sts p1, k1, p1, k2

**4th row** as 2nd row

**5th row** k2tog, \*p1, k1, p1, k3tog, rep from \* to last 5 sts p1, k1, p1, k2tog 29sts

**6th row** p1, \*k1, p1, rep from \* to end

**7th row** \*k1, p1, rep from \* TO LAST ST K1

**8th row** As 6th row

**9th row** k1, \*k2tog, rep from \* to end 15 sts

Break off the yarn about 6-9 inches from the knitting and thread it through the 15sts. Pull up tightly.

Sew up the hat from the ribbing to the top and fasten off the ends securely. Add a pom-pom if you feel like it.

# CHURCH DIARY

# OCTOBER



Tue	2	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Pastoral Committee
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thurs	4	8.00 pm	Church Council
Fri	5	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	7	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by David Eagle
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	9	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	14	10.30 am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	16	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - Rev Paul Timmis
Fri	19	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	20	10.00 am	Big Brunch
Sun	21	10.30am	Morning Service led by Mike Mortley & Brenda Cannon with Platform 10¾
Tue	23	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	28	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Stuart Thomas
Tue	30	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

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



We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday this month a very

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Jennifer Smith on 13th October**

**Tyler Butland-Brooks on 26th October**

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### **Church Ladies With typewriters . . .**

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! 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 other issues!):

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow..

***Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.***

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

***Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered..***

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

***Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.***

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

## **A NOTICE FROM THE CIRCUIT INVITATION COMMITTEE**

Over the past few months, the Circuit Invitation Committee has consulted with the churches in the Circuit regarding the extension of the invitation to Rev Margaret Adams and Rev Paul Timmis. Consultation took place with both ministers, the churches for which they have pastoral charge and the wider circuit regarding the Superintendency.

As a result of the consultation, a recommendation to re-invite both ministers for a further 5 years commencing September 2013 was made and agreed at the Circuit Meeting on 12th September 2012.

*Angela Linton-Smith  
On behalf of the Circuit Stewards*

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## **MEDAL 2012**

Unfortunately the conference currently planned in relation to Medal 2012 has been postponed.

A new date will be advised as soon as possible.

### **For Further Information**

Contacts: Rev. Margaret Adams  
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[margaretjadams@btinternet.com](mailto:margaretjadams@btinternet.com)

Rosie & David Wills  
0208 5432 477

[d.a.j.wills@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:d.a.j.wills@dunelm.org.uk)

Items for the **November Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 17th October** at the latest