

MINISTER'S LETTER

I haven't yet managed to visit the art installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* at the Tower of London but I fully intend to before it closes on 11th November. Given the images that I have seen, not least those of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh walking amongst the poppies when they visited a few weeks ago, it appears to be something not to be missed.



Opening on 5th August - one hundred years on from the first full day of Britain's involvement in the First World War - the Tower's moat has subsequently been progressively filled with ceramic red poppies. By 11th November there will be 888,246 of these poppies in place with each one representing a British military fatality during the war. The sheer scale of the installation reminds us powerfully and visually of the magnitude of British losses in this first truly global conflict. Imagine how far the poppies would have to spread and how the scene would look, however, if there was a poppy for each of the 10,000,000 military personnel and 7,000,000 civilians killed in this war - and that's before we consider the additional 20,000,000 people who were wounded. The figures are staggering but such is the impact of war on human life and communities. It is important that we remember these and other victims of war not least because, scale aside, each single life, whether or not represented by a poppy, is reason enough for us to reflect on the futility of war.

At school I was told that studying history was important because a good understanding of the subject helps us to avoid repeating past mistakes. But where is the evidence that, as human beings, we ever learn anything when it comes to war? Just over twenty years after the cessation of hostilities in 1918, the world was again at war - in a conflict that would claim over 60,000,000 more lives. Since 1945 there have been a further 248 armed conflicts. Every year we remember those whose lives have been devastated by these wars when we don our poppies and hold our two minute silences. And every year a new conflict commences, it seems. Whether it be pro-Russian separatists in

Ukraine, the Israeli army in Gaza, Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, this year has been no different.

However just a cause may or may not be deemed to be, war always represents a failure to communicate. And every use of violence is a denial of the Jesus who calls us to love our enemies and to pray for those who'd attack us; a denial of the Jesus who in the face of utter hatred and absolute violence, refused to respond to violence with violence himself and interjected when others did; a denial of the Jesus who, when dying on the cross, prayed for those who'd put him there.

So this November let us remember the casualties on both sides of that Great War of one hundred years ago together with those of all other conflicts since. It is right that we do. But let us also remember who it is that we are following and what it is that he demands of us.

With every blessing

Paul

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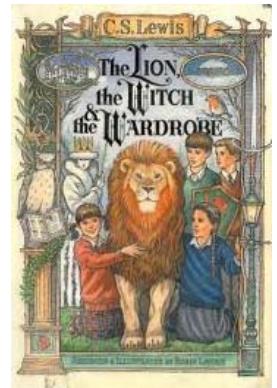
SIGMA CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

SIGMA are now meeting every Sunday between 4.00pm to 5.30pm at Martin Way Methodist Church for rehearsals of their Christmas presentation.

This year it will be the C.S.Lewis story of 'The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe', which will be performed at the church on Sunday 14th December.

For more information please contact
Anne Conquest.

Tel no: (020) 8942 7147 or Email aconquest@btinternet.com



The 2nd Merton Street Pastor Hour of Prayer

Date: Monday 3rd November 2014

Time: 8pm – 9pm

Venue: Elim Pentecostal Church,
Love Lane, Mitcham, CR4 3AU.

(Accessed by car from Western Road)

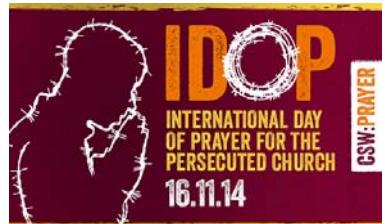


We would like to gather together our volunteers and supporters, as well as those with a concern for our streets, for an hour to pray for the Merton Street Pastor ministry. Please do extend the invitation to your family, friends and churches.

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**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS



On **Sunday 16 November 2014**, churches all over the world will join together in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

Bloomsbury Baptist Church, London

7.30pm-9pm, Wednesday 12 November 2014

As part of the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP), Christian Solidarity Worldwide will be holding a number of special events up and down the country so that Christians can gather together and pray.

CSW is concerned at the ongoing targeting of clergy for kidnapping in the Central African Republic (CAR), following reports that a Polish Catholic missionary was kidnapped in Baboua, 550km north-west of the capital city of Bangui, on 12 October.

Fr Mateusz Dziejdzic was kidnapped by eight men from the rebel group Democratic Front of the Central African People (FDPC) and is reportedly

being treated well. The group has demanded the release of their leader Abdolaye Miskine, who was imprisoned in Cameroon in September 2013.

CSW's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said, *"We are deeply concerned for the welfare of Fr Mateusz Dziezic and call for his immediate and unconditional release. Religious personnel should be able to carry out their work without fear of threat or violence, and CSW calls on the international community to ensure that every party to this conflict adheres to humanitarian standards with regard to the treatment of religious leaders and religious establishments. We also urge the international community to address the threat posed by transnational groups such as the FDPC, and call for the full implementation of UNSC resolution 2149 and the full deployment of the UN peacekeeping mission in CAR to assist with security and the upcoming electoral process."*

CSW has learned that Pastors Behnam Irani and Matthias Haghnejad, and Deacon Silas Rabbani, who previously had capital charges against them dropped, have been each given six-year sentences by an Iranian court.

The verdict, issued by Judge Asef al-Hosseini, ordered Pastor Irani to serve his sentence in a prison in the northern city of Zabol, while Pastor Haghnejad and Deacon Rabbani will be transferred to a prison in Minab, an island in the Persian Gulf. All three are appealing their sentences.

The cities of Zabol and Minab are infamous for their extremely hot climates. Moreover, the prisoners' families will be forced to travel long distances in order to visit them, which will prove to be challenging, both financially and physically.

The additional six-year sentence handed to Pastor Irani means he will serve a total of 12 years in prison. He was initially arrested in December 2006, and sentenced in 2011 to six years imprisonment for "action against the state" and "action against the order."

These fresh sentences are indicative of the surge in repression under the Rouhani presidency targeting religious and ethnic minorities. This has occurred despite his earlier promise to uphold the rights of religious minorities during the run up to elections last year.

CSW's Chief Operating Officer Andy Dipper said, *"We are deeply concerned by the six-year sentences given to Pastors Irani and Haghnejad and Deacon Silas Rabbani, and the fact that they will serve these sentences so far from their families and home towns. We are particularly appalled by the extra six years given to Pastor Irani, who has already endured ill-treatment whilst in prison and now faces nearly a decade in prison on trumped-up charges. We urge the Iranian government to release without delay every person who is imprisoned for their faith. Their incarceration contravenes international covenants guaranteeing freedom of religion or belief, to which Iran is party."*

Cuban Baptist pastor and religious freedom activist Reverend Mario Felix Leonart Barroso has received official notice that he may face criminal charges if he does not break ties with "counter-revolutionary elements" in and outside of Cuba, and if he does not stop giving radio interviews. His wife, Yoaxis Marcheco Suarez, was summoned for an interview with security services on 15 October.

CSW's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said, "Once again we call on the Cuban government to cease its harassment of Reverend Leonart Barroso. We are deeply concerned that the Cuban government appears to equate the defence of freedom of religion or belief with 'counter-revolutionary' activity, even as it publicly maintains that these fundamental rights are respected in Cuba. CSW reminds the Cuban government of the provisions in the ICCPR and the ICESCR, which it has signed, to protect and uphold religious freedom and the civil rights of its population. We urge members of the international community to make representations to the Cuban government in support of Reverend Leonart Barroso and to hold the Cuban government to account for its continued violations of religious freedom."

"I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling." 1Timothy 2:8 (ESV)

Extreme Soldiers

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.

Emperor Constantine legalised Christianity in the Roman Empire in A.D. 320. However, Licinius, who controlled the Eastern half of the empire, broke allegiance with the West and continued to suppress Christianity.

When Licinius demanded that every soldier under his command sacrifice to the Roman gods, the forty Christian men of the "Thundering Legion" refused. Their general, Lysias, had them whipped, torn with hooks, and then imprisoned in chains. When they still refused to bow down and give up their worship of God, he ordered them stripped of their clothing and left in the middle of a frozen lake until they relented.

A warm bath was poured for any who would give up their convictions. The men prayed together that their number would not be broken. However, as it grew dark, one could not bear the cold any longer and ran to the warm bath.

One of the guards who had watched the forty brave soldiers sing to Christ became angry that one would give in to Lysias's orders. His anger turned to conviction, and then his conviction turned to faith. He tore off his clothes and ran out on the icy lake, fulfilling their promise to be "forty brave soldiers for Christ!"

The forty died together that day. The one who gave up on his faith for a warm bath also died.

Christian community is made up of several committed individuals who act in one accord. Whether it is a Christian campus, a Christian ministry, a church, or a family, the band of sisterhood and brotherhood is a force with which to be reckoned. We always stand stronger whenever we stand together. Throughout Scripture, God exhorts us to come together in a community of commitment -- a family of faith. More than the principle of strength in numbers, a Christian community encourages its members' faith. Like this story, the strong compensate for those who are weak. Have you identified your Christian community? Have you assured your church or family or other group of your love and allegiance despite all costs?

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 2:3)

Variety Evening to raise money for Spring Harvest 2015

As you know every year we hold several brunches and lunches to raise money toward Spring Harvest, however this year we thought we would shake things up a little and put on a night of entertainment for all the family as a fun and enjoyable way to do fundraising! However a show like this entails a lot of help not just on stage but off too.



If you are interested in performing or helping with the event, or just want to know more information about it then do contact Jack Pallister or Emily Bacon

Emily - 07935 006452/ emily_bacon@ymail.com

Jack - 07955 744464/ pallister30@qooqlemail.com



All talents and skills welcome so please do get in contact!



Lest We Forget

Rather than just getting the usual plastic poppy a friend of mine also purchased a ceramic poppy this year. This was in memory of her Great Uncle who perished in the Great War. She never knew him, but heard of him through her family and decided that he should have a poppy planted in his name rather than allowing him to be one of the unknowns in the field of 888,246 ceramic poppies that are being



planted outside the Tower of London. The display is called *'Blood swept lands and seas of red'* after the poem by an unknown soldier.



On attending the planting ceremony and the playing of the Last Post, she found her heart swelling with great pride as his name

was read out. A man she had never met but at least he is not forgotten, along with the other thousands who died in the conflict we now refer to as the First World War.

It is now 100 years since the start of this war. The last 'Tommy', Harry Patch, died in 2009, and with him the last soldier who lived through

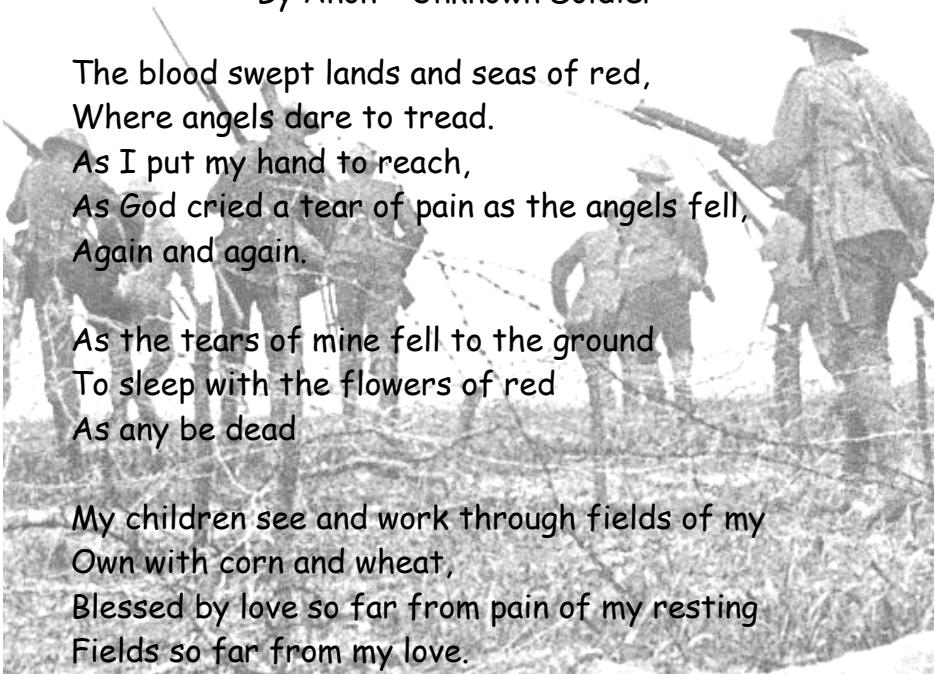
'the war to end all wars'. Unfortunately this was not the case, but we should always remember those that have lost their lives in conflicts, which is why Remembrance Day is so special.



Andrew Fox

The Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red

By Anon - Unknown Soldier



The blood swept lands and seas of red,
Where angels dare to tread.
As I put my hand to reach,
As God cried a tear of pain as the angels fell,
Again and again.

As the tears of mine fell to the ground
To sleep with the flowers of red
As any be dead

My children see and work through fields of my
Own with corn and wheat,
Blessed by love so far from pain of my resting
Fields so far from my love.



It be time to put my hand up and end this pain
Of living hell, to see the people around me
Fall someone angel as the mist falls around
And the rain so thick with black thunder I hear
Over the clouds, to sleep forever and kiss
The flower of my people gone before time
To sleep and cry no more

I put my hand up and see the land of red,
This is my time to go over,
I may not come back
So sleep, kiss the boys for me

Bourne Hall Christmas and Craft Fayre

Saturday 15th November

Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell, KT17 1UF

10.30am - 3pm

An ideal opportunity to buy your Christmas
presents and Stocking fillers

- Crafts
- Gifts
- Cakes
- Tombola
- Raffle
- A visit from Father Christmas
- Many more exciting items

Sponsored by Paul Killoughery

Admission - Adults £1 Children FREE

All proceeds to


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Star Chase**
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Three Welsh Celebrities

This year Wales has been commemorating three great men namely Hywel Harris, Thomas Charles and Dylan Thomas and celebrating their influence on the nation with events, exhibitions, services and concerts throughout the country.



Howell Harris (1714 – 1773)

Founder of Welsh Methodism and ‘the last great enthusiast’. More than just a pioneer of Methodism, Howell Harris contributed to a broader culture of religious diversity in Wales the traces of which persist to this day.

A schoolmaster and compulsive diarist, he converted to Methodism after receiving a divine revelation in church. He became a fiery itinerant preacher, travelling the hills of mid and south Wales.

A determined man of unshakeable beliefs, his obstinacy contributed to the split -or ‘separation’- of Welsh Methodism in 1750 that isolated and forced him to change direction. ‘Y Teulu’ (the family) the religious community he founded at his Breconshire birthplace a vibrant and industrious place, even boasting its own publishing house.

Harris himself invented agricultural machinery and developed new farming methods. Today Coleg Trefeca is home to a museum and conference centre dedicated to the memory of its dynamic founder.

More than 20,000 people attended Harris’s funeral, a mark of the widespread following he had commanded. The dissenting culture that he epitomised and promoted led eventually to the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Wales in 1912.

Thomas Charles of Bala (1755- 1814)

This giant man of God was a pioneer in at least four areas;

1. The circulating schools - setting up night schools for children and adults.
2. Sunday schools - bringing literacy to a significant proportion to the population of Wales



3. The production and editing of Bibles - The story of Mary Jones and her barefooted walk to Bala for a Bible is well known, as are the subsequent labours of Thomas Charles to stir support in the London religious societies for printing Bibles. The response of Joseph Hughes of Battersea to one of Charles' address to the Religious Tract Society in 1802 was "If Bibles for Wales, why not Bibles for the world?" and the ultimate result was the foundation of "The British and Foreign Bible Society" in 1804.
4. Literary works: children's catechism and Bible Dictionary.

St Beuno's church in Llanycil, Bala with the help of the Bible Society has been transformed into a £1million Visitors Centre that tells the story of the Bible's impact on Wales and the rest of the world. This centre recently been opened to coincide with the bicentenary of Thomas Charles' death.



Dylan Thomas (1914 - 1953)

Though not an actively religious man, Dylan Thomas certainly used religious imagery in his poetry. He also received in his childhood various influences through his mother, his relatives, from the reading of the Bible, the hymns, the preachers and from Sunday school.

'And death shall have no dominion' inevitably raises the question concerning the extent to where Dylan Thomas can be called a religious writer. How often have we identified the cry of the heart when someone is losing their fight for life and 'Rage, rage against the dying of the light'.

Many events and exhibitions took place throughout the year to mark the centenary and celebrate Swansea's most famous son. The focal point of celebration will be at the well-established Dylan Thomas Festival which runs from 27 October - 9 November (the dates of his birth and death).

We are indebted to these three giants whose lives made an impact not only the people of Wales but throughout the world. May we not forget them or let them 'go gently into the good night'.

Gwen Wildman



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CHURCH DIARY



Sun	2	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	4	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	9	10.30 am	Remembrance Sunday Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	11	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	12	7.30 pm	AGM Christian Care at Morden Baptist Church
Fri	14	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	16	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	18	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - Rev Paul Timmis
Sun	23	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
Tue	25	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	28	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	29	10.30 am	Big Brunch
Sun	30	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis

*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
this month a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Megan Sweby on **7th November**

Jack Pallister on **9th November**

Amy Chilcott on **15th November**

Jacob Passfield on **27th November**



We also have some very special birthdays
this month.

Anthony and Lizzie Chilcott
both turn 40 this month.

Mary Heaton celebrates her 80th.

*We wish all three of them very
happy birthdays!*



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CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to David Heaton, from a very proud Mum and Dad, on receiving his Freedom of the City of London, at a moving ceremony at the Guildhall on October 14th.

The ceremony dates back to 1237 and confers the Freedom of the City of London to the participant.



Derek and Mary Heaton

Who Controls your Tongue?

The reason a dog is man's best friend is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

However, this may not seem to work with humans. No, we have to learn to engage our brains before opening our mouths. This is something always done in hindsight, the millisecond some word of discouragement or gossip come out of our mouths we regret not thinking about the damage we might have done by our words.



The perfect passage to read is James 3.

Joan Harding

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Cleaning the Church

After 26 years' loyal service to the church, Mitch Maylin has now retired from his role as church cleaner. During his long period of faithful service he has done many small maintenance jobs for us as well as cleaning the premises. We send best wishes to him and his wife Eileen for a more restful future.



In his place, we now welcome professional cleaning company DB Services who also clean the Worcester Park and Epsom Methodist churches. We may not see much of their staff in person as they will be working early in the morning and finishing by 9am, but hopefully their efforts will be apparent!

Roy Ellis

Items for the **December Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 16th November** at the latest