

MINISTER'S LETTER

This week, Rebecca and I were fortunate enough to see the National Theatre's production of *War Horse* for a second time - this time courtesy of a substantial *Get Into London Theatre* discount. We first saw it five years ago at which point I declared it to be the best thing I had ever seen in a theatre. Five years on and a second viewing later, I still haven't changed my mind.



As you are most probably aware, this play is based on a novel by Michael Morpurgo and, set against the backdrop of an horrific and costly war (WW1), tells the story of the relationship shared between a teenage boy (Albert) and his horse (Joey). Albert is heartbroken when he discovers that his father, a struggling Devonshire farmer, has sold Joey to the army and so risks everything to journey through the carnage and devastation of the battlefields in pursuit of his horse and best friend. Quite simply, this is a love story beautifully told and one that has now reduced me to tears on two separate occasions. I very much hope that it will do so again.

The puppetry is incredible, the acting superb and the staging fabulous, but this week I have found that the music has got under my skin almost as much as the story itself. Quintessential English folk music composed by Adrian Sutton and arranged by John Tams, this score includes, and closes with a reprise of, *Only Remembered*.

I hadn't realised before that this was originally written as a hymn - the words being attributed to Horatius Bonar (famous for *Fill thou my life, O Lord my God* and *I heard the voice of Jesus say*) and the music composed by Ira David Sankey (of Sankey and Moody fame). Whilst John Tams has adapted it for *War Horse*, many of the original words and sentiments remain and it's oft repeated refrain survives largely

untouched:

*Only remembered, only remembered,
Only remembered for what we have done;
Thus would we pass from this earth and its toiling,
Only remembered for what we have done.*

As I sit with bereaved families, hearing the story of a deceased person's life - something I have been doing a lot of lately - I am repeatedly reminded of the truth of this statement. 'What we have done' doesn't have to be something writ large across the world. Very few people ever write themselves into the history books. As human beings, we do though each have the capacity to touch and affect the lives of others.

How we do this - how we show and share our love with those around us - is what really matters. This is what we will ultimately be remembered for. Not for what job we did. Not for how much money we earned. Not for the things that we owned. But for how we have loved.

If we are reminded of how costly love can be in *War Horse*, so too are we reminded of it in the Bible, in the story of God's ongoing relationship with humankind, in the story of Jesus of Nazareth's life, death and resurrection - stories that we will reflect upon once again in the coming weeks and months. As we head into February, many of our New Year's resolutions may already have fallen by the wayside. If we can only remember to do one thing in the year ahead, it should surely be to take seriously Jesus instruction, 'Love one another.' By this everyone will indeed know that we are his disciples.

With every blessing,

Paul

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Love cures people - both the ones who give it
and the ones who receive it.

Carl Menninger



Update January 2015

Nigeria

Boko Haram's violent campaign in the north east of Nigeria has left hundreds dead in Baga and at least 15 villages in Borno State, and increased the vulnerability of the state capital Maiduguri.

On 3 January, Boko Haram insurgents stormed the town of Baga killing hundreds, forcing around 20,000 people to flee, and overrunning the headquarters of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) comprising of troops from Nigeria, Niger and Chad. Reports indicate that troops from Chad and Niger withdrew from the camp prior to the attack, leaving the Nigerian army and civilian vigilantes to defend the town.

CSW's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said, "We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in this latest series of terrorist attacks in Borno and Yobe. Particularly despicable is Boko Haram's continuing use of vulnerable girls as disposable commodities to fulfill its murderous purposes. While Europe and America stand together in mourning recent events in Paris and assisting efforts against ISIL, we must also extend our solidarity and assistance to the people of Nigeria, who have lost so many over the years to the nihilistic violence of Boko Haram, and offer effective assistance to the Nigerian government, in order to bring these daily assaults on innocent civilians to an end."

Sri Lanka

CSW urges President Maithripala Sirisena to uphold his election pledge to ensure religious harmony, and to adopt measures to ensure the promotion of freedom of religion or belief.

President Sirisena secured 51.3 percent of the votes in Sri Lanka's presidential elections on 8 January and will lead a coalition government formed of key opposition parties, which is reported to have strong support from the minority Tamil and Muslim communities

CSW's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said, "In his manifesto, President Sirisena acknowledged the need to protect religious minorities from the threat of violence from extremist groups and we welcome his commitment to ensuring religious harmony in Sri Lanka. We encourage the new Government of Sri Lanka to prioritise measures to address the violence and discrimination

suffered by its religious minorities, especially Christians and Muslims, and to guarantee freedom of religion or belief for its citizens.”

Iran

CSW has been informed that Amin Khaki, a member of the Church of Iran denomination, was released on bail on 3 January.

Amin Khaki was part of a group of eight Christians who were detained and interrogated following a picnic on 5 March 2014. While most of them were later released, Mr Khaki, Hossein Baraunzadeh (Daniel) and Rahman Bahman (Zia) were arrested. Amin Khaki was transferred to the Interim Ward of Ahwaz Prison on 7 May, where he is reported to have suffered severe mistreatment. Mr Baraunzadeh and Mr Bahman, who were imprisoned in Desful, were released in December 2014.

CSW’s Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said, “While we welcome the news that Amin Khaki has been released on bail, we call for all charges against him to be dropped so that he can be free to get on with his life without fear of further harassment. CSW is extremely concerned at reports that Pastor Fathi Malayeri has been given an additional one-year sentence despite clear evidence that there was no validity to the accusations levelled against him. This is yet again another example of the authorities seeking to justify his imprisonment on trumped-up charges and together with the disappointing continuation of annual Christmas raids, it is further evidence of the ongoing suppression of freedom of religion or belief. We continue to call for Pastor Fathi Malayeri’s immediate and unconditional release, and for the release of all other prisoners of conscience who are unjustly detained in Iran. We also continue to call on the Iranian government to ensure due process and to allow the country’s religious minorities to enjoy freedom of religion or belief, as guaranteed under Iran’s own constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which it is party.

North Korea

CSW is aware of media reports surrounding the accuracy of the testimony of North Korean defector Shin Dong Hyuk. We are saddened and disappointed by this news. However, the UN Commission of Inquiry into human rights in North Korea relied on the testimony of over 320 people and found there to be widespread and systematic human rights abuses which continue to this day. CSW continues to stand with the people of North Korea and to call for the UN Security Council to act on the report recommendations, including referring North Korea to the International Criminal Court.

Visit www.csw.org.uk for latest news and information

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

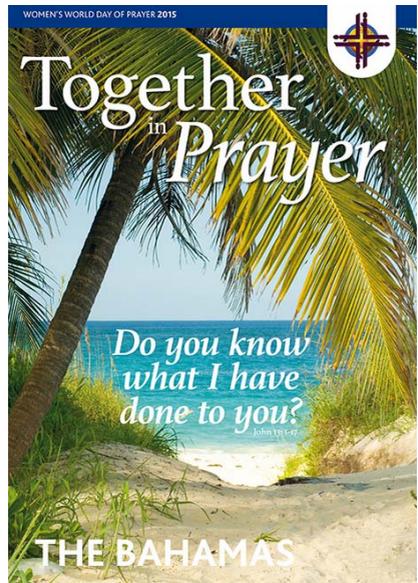


Friday 6th March 2015

'Do you know what I have done to you?'

The Day of Prayer service for 2015 has been written by the Christian women of The Bahamas. Although written by women, all are invited. Increasingly men and children are participating. Over 36 hours, 170 countries will have taken part. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland over 5,000 services will be held, focusing on the theme of 'Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"'

The Bahamas is an expanse of water with scattered islands, covering approximately 100,000 square miles of the Atlantic Ocean. You can learn all about The Bahamas and not only from the tourist's point of view!



Here in Merton a time of prayer and meditation will take place with a morning meeting at Christ Church, 16 Copse Hill, SW20 0HG starting at 10:30am, and an evening meeting at Martin Way Methodist Church, SW20 9JZ, starting at 8.00pm.

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend. Further information and resources, can be found on the WWDP website at www.wwdp.org.uk



Sponsored Children

Following the talk I gave on my visit to Uganda at our Harvest Festival Lunch, where I hoped we could sponsor 2 children between the church members, I am very pleased to say that members of our church are between them sponsoring 3 children and 2 individual members of the church are each sponsoring a child. So with the child that I am supporting: 6 children and their families in Uganda have a better future because they are able to get the education that will (hopefully) change their lives for the better.

The three children are Samuel Sekamate, Sarah Nanfuka and Jannifer Nakiwala Kisaakye.

Samuel is 11 years old and is an only child and lives with his father, Fred. He will be attending Green Belt School.

Sarah is 10 years old and has two sisters (Christine, aged 13, and Harriet, aged 3) and one brother (Edward, aged 6). They live with their parents Jesca and Moses. She will attend Kagogo School.

Jannifer is 5 years old and is an only child and lives with her mother. She will attend Waluleeta School.

All three children are from Bbowa, which is the middle of the so called 'Luwero Traingle - and area devastated by the civil war in the 1980s, where literally thousands of people lost their lives. The area has never recovered and there is still deep poverty and feelings of hopelessness amongst the people who live there.

In addition to the money for sponsorship, Care for Uganda are also receiving from members of our church a small fixed amount of money for them to use in the work etc. in Uganda.

I have been asked over the past months to speak at different groups about my time in Uganda with Ruxley Tuesday Fellowship being a couple of weeks ago. I was willing to just go and tell them of the great work that Care for Uganda are doing and how the money is very well spent, but after my talk they gave me £70.00 for Care for Uganda

(which I passed on with grateful thanks). It was not and is not my intention to ask for any money as I only wish to spread the word about the great work that is happening in Uganda and should you or anyone you know wish to hear about my experience then please contact me.

Having said that I do not ask for money when I give a talk, I would make an appeal that if you are looking for a charity to support then please consider Care for Uganda – I know that all the money they get is used to benefit many people in Uganda and they would love to do more but that takes money.

God Bless to you all, please speak to me if you want to know anything about Care for Uganda.

Tony Loft



Jannifer Nakiwala Kisaakye



Sarah Nanfuka



Samuel Sekamate



Sigma's Music
Aslan's

Sunday 14th Dec
With thanks to Paul





Real Production s World

December 2014
Timmis for the photos





RAISING MONEY FOR SPRING HARVEST 2015



Martin Way Methodist Church Variety Show 2015



A night of music, comedy, dance, singing, raffles and good old fashioned entertainment!!



28TH FEB 2015
@ 5PM



AT MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH



Adults- £7 Children (Under 12)- £3.50

Ticket includes Food/drinks and Great Entertainment

Contact Jack Pallister 07955744464 or Emily Bacon 07935006452 for tickets



NHS England London region are trying to improve the way that Community Services are delivered.

Community Services are the services that are delivered outside of the hospitals and exclude GPs. These services include:

- District Nurses;
- other nurses and therapists such as physios, Occupational Therapists, speech and language therapists, dieticians and podiatrists who see people in their own homes, in community clinics and in schools;
- Nurses working in GP practices;
- Health Visitors and School Nurses;
- Wheelchair services

If you have used any of these services and would like to share your views, we would like to invite you to participate in our online conversation. You can sign up to take part at <https://transformldn.cleverttogether.com/> - this involves filling out a short form. You will then be emailed with details of how to take part.

The conversation will only be open until the 12th February, so please join in as soon as you can! Please feel free to share this link with friends and family who may have used these services.

If you would prefer a paper form, please email me at Viccie.nelson1@nhs.net and I will post or email a form to you.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to have your voice heard!

Viccie Nelson

Transformation of Community Services Lead

Transformation Directorate
NHS England (London region)
Southside, 105 Victoria Street,
London SW1E 6QT

Christian Care are in need of furniture for some of their families. If you are planning to update your own furniture or can offer any of the items wanted please talk to Sue Boyde, Brenda Cannon or Mike Mortley.



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|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2 bunk beds | 2 ironing boards - URGENT |
| Lamp | Rice Cooker |
| 2 Fridge Freezers | Washing machines – URGENT |
| Gas & Electric cookers | Tumble dryers |
| 2 Flat screen digital TVs | Coffee tables |
| Small floral sofas | 3-piece suites (preferably leather) |
| Chests of drawers (pine or white preferred) | |
| Light wardrobes (pine or white preferred) | |

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THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED

Martin Way made donations to Methodist Homes for the Aged and Action for Children this December as follows. Thank you to those who contributed their time and talent as well you who donated money.

Unfortunately we collected less this year for The Methodist Homes than we did in the last two previous years, lets see if we can improve next year.

Total of £1,241.98 Donation to Action for Children

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|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Carol Singing at Morden Station | £ 670.00 |
| SIGMA performance - ‘Aslan’s World’ | £ 200.28 |
| Carol Service | £93.72 |
| Christingle Service | £ 161.46 |
| Collection at Christmas Day Service | £ 116.52 |

Total of £165.81 Donation to Methodist Homes for the Aged

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| Christmas Post Box | £ 165.81 |
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Roy Ellis

Extreme Audience

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.

ROMANIA : PASTOR RICHARD WURMBRAND

Even when Romanian pastor Richard Wurmbrand was placed in a solitary prison cell devoid of light and sound, he continued to preach to an unseen audience.

After his miraculous release from prison and his eventual migration to the United States, Pastor Wurmbrand wrote several books describing his prison experience and the sermons that he composed and memorised while in solitary confinement. After a few years, he received this letter:

Dear Pastor Wurmbrand,

I was raised in a godly home, but I strayed and eventually ended up in prison here in Canada. I wanted to return to God but didn't know how, so I prayed, "God, if somewhere in the world there is another lonely prisoner who knows you, please bring me his thoughts." I heard an inner voice telling me to sit quietly and confidently and that God would reach me.

Miraculously, night after night I began hearing a kind of sermon that seemed to come from far away. I repented, and after my release from prison, I ran across your book, *Sermons in Solitary Confinement*, in a Christian bookstore. I immediately recognised these sermons as the same ones I had heard in prison. Thank you for delivering them!

Pastor Wurmbrand received two other letters from different countries that contained nearly identical stories. Truly, angels had carried the sermons to others crying out to God.

It is said that Christians often leave angels unemployed because of their lack of faith. Too often believers are content to live good lives with occasional blessings. But God longs to give us more than what is good for us. He longs to bring us to better things and even what is best; however, he has reserved his best blessings for those who ask in faith. Why should we ask God if he already knows our needs? We must ask in faith to demonstrate our dependency on him. Have you been content with the good things God has given to you? Then ask in faith for better. Settle for nothing less than his best in your life.

You do not have, because you do not ask God. (James 4:2)

CHURCH DIARY



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|-----|----|--------------|--|
| Sun | 1 | 10.30am | All Age Worship led by Tony Loft |
| Tue | 3 | 10.30am-noon | Coffee and Chat |
| | | 8.00pm | Time for Prayer |
| Sun | 8 | 10.30am | Morning Service led by David Eagle |
| | | 6.30pm | Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis |
| Tue | 10 | 10.30am-noon | Coffee and Chat |
| | | 8.00 pm | Time for Prayer |
| Fri | 13 | 12.30pm | Luncheon Club |
| Sat | 14 | 10.00am | Big Brunch |
| Sun | 15 | 10.30am | Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis |
| Tue | 17 | 10-12noon | Coffee and Chat |
| | | 7.00pm | Men's Supper Club - Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Service |
| | | 8.00pm | Time for Prayer |
| Sun | 22 | 10.30am | Morning Service |
| Tue | 24 | 10.30am-noon | Coffee and Chat |
| | | 7.00 pm | Circuit Meeting at Martin Way Methodist Church |
| | | 8.00pm | Time for Prayer |
| Fri | 27 | 12.30pm | Luncheon Club |
| Sat | 28 | 5.00pm | Martin Way Methodist Church Variety Show |

*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
in February a very



Happy Birthday
and especially to:

Ashleigh Hillhouse on 1st February

Joshua Fuwa on 20th February

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**Martin Way Methodist Church Variety Show
28th February 5pm**

Come along for a night of music, comedy, dance, singing, raffles and good old fashioned entertainment!! The cost includes food: jacket potato with various fillings and fruit crumble.

Tickets £7 for adults, £3.50 for under 12s. Available from Emily Bacon and Jack Pallister at Martin Way, Angela Linton-Smith at Wimbledon and Raynes Park.

Do you have any items you could donate for the raffle? If so, pass them to Emily, Jack or Angela.

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CONTAINERS WANTED



The 1st Merton park Rainbows are doing a project that needs empty 500g or smaller butter/margarine/spread containers (but not the lids).

If you have one to throw out before Sunday 8th February would you please let Roy or Geraldine Ellis have it for the Rainbows please.

CAROL SINGING - THANKS

Once again Thank you to all those who braved the elements and joined together to serenade the commuters of Morden with carols during two nights in December, and we must not forget Tony's wonderful array of hats that were worn for the occasion!



The singers are going from strength to strength, each year the performances are raising more money. This year there was an increase of over £100.

In all this year, £670 was raised for Action for Children by the singers.

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A NEW YEAR DIET

The Pasta Diet and Your Health

ITALIAN PASTA DIET -- IT REALLY WORKS !!

- 1.. You walka pasta da bakery.
- 2... You walka pasta da sweet shop.
- 3.. You walka pasta da Ice Cream shop.
- 4.. You walka pasta da table and fridge.

You will lose weight!

Items for the **March Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 15th February** at the latest