

# MINISTER'S LETTER



In November 2013 I used this letter to write about worship - what it is and isn't and what it might be. I stressed that worship in church is something that we do together and that, as such, it is a corporate act that takes us beyond the realm of personal devotion. I suggested that participation is key if an act of worship is to be truly representative. And I quoted Stephen Burns who highlighted the fact that, 'Among the first words of the *Methodist Worship Book* we find the claim that 'worship is the work of the whole people of God: a congregation is not an audience or a group of spectators.' You can easily access the letter in full via our fabulous new-look website (thank you Mike!) but, for those of you who can't or don't wish to do this, here's one more quote from Stephen Burns that I made use of:

*'The Methodist Worship Book's stress that the congregation is not an audience resonates with a comparison made by the eighteenth-century Danish Lutheran philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, who in his writings compared worship to the theatre. The staging of a play, he suggested, involves three groups of people: the actors, who perform; prompters, who enable the actors to perform well; and the audience, who listen and observe. Kierkegaard made the point that many of his Christian contemporaries might make the analogy between worship and theatre like this: the clergy or leaders are the actors, God is the clergy's prompter, and the congregation is the audience, watching – and judging – the clergy's performance. Kierkegaard argued that such an understanding is profoundly mistaken and, rather, the whole congregation are the 'actors' in worship, the clergy role is analogous to the actors' prompters, helping them to perform as best [sic] as possible, and the audience is God! God is the one before whom the whole congregation enacts worship.'*

Stephen Burns, *Liturgy* (SCM Study Guide; 2006) p. 7f

In the months that have passed since I wrote that letter we have

continued to seek to make use of our “new” flexible worship space - and in particular the “space in the middle” - in the hope of increasing the participation of all those who gather for worship.

We have made and laid down white doves amongst poppies, shared communion in the round, played sharing games, laid footprints representing times when we have felt God especially close to us, focussed on postcard pictures of conflict and laid them before God in prayer, displayed fruit from around the world and eaten it, shared in conversations between young and old (and those in between!) and laid out a red carpet to welcome Jesus and thrown our palm branches upon it. The children have led us through the Christmas story both with puppets and (more recently) invited us all to participate in a DIY Nativity. We have done other things too but these are things that have taken place on a Sunday that have stuck in my mind. Beyond that there have been acts of worship shaped and led by members of the church house groups - each of which has been a positive and fruitful experience for all concerned. All of this though hopefully represents but a start.

I mention all of this because the Leadership Team has been considering the possibility of replacing our regular All Age Worship services with Café Worship for a while now. This has already been mentioned at the General Church Meeting and at Church Council but I can now share with you that we are going to experiment with this in the Autumn. This year then our Harvest and Remembrance Sunday services will take the form of Café Worship - recognising, of course, that Café Worship can be as reverential as any other form of worship. Before this, and on the evening of Wednesday 12th August at 8pm in the church, we will be holding a meeting for anyone who is interested in Café Worship in general and the possibility of playing a part in shaping and/or leading one or both of these Café Worship services in particular. Worship is indeed the work of the whole people of God - so please join us.

With every blessing,

*Paul*

## God's Adventurer at Martin Way

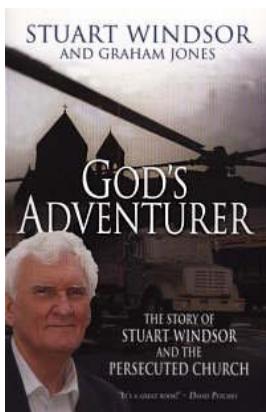


Stuart Windsor was Christian Solidarity Worldwide's National Director for nineteen years and is now CSW's Special Ambassador.

Throughout his time with CSW, he has seen the work achieve a high profile for advocacy on religious freedom throughout the world.

He became a Christian in Northern Ireland whilst serving in the RAF in the 1960s and is now in constant demand to speak at churches and conferences.

Stuart has travelled extensively to countries where Christians and others suffer persecution for their religious beliefs. He has carried out briefings in the US Congress and Senate, given evidence in hearings at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and has spoken at the European and UK parliaments. In recent years, his work has involved securing the safety of several Christian families from a number of countries who had to leave their homes because of their faith. Very recently he briefed the UN's Commission of Inquiry on North Korea.



Stuart is author of *God's Adventurer*, an exciting and moving account of his work with persecuted Christians.

We look forward to hearing him speak about his work **at Martin Way Methodist Church on Sunday July 26th at 10.30am**

*Gwen Wildman*



Well I have looked every year when the leaflet is given out at Martin Way in June and think to myself it is so near I must join in but just doesn't seem to happen. So this year I made a decision I would join in at some point this year and I did.

With Karen Smith we joined in with the book club on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at Costa Coffee in Raynes Park at 7.30pm. Not having time to read the book it was clearly stated in the programme we did not need to read the book to join in the conversation and they were right.

The book they were discussing was *'The Sunflower'* by Simon Wiesenthal which is a true story of the author's time while imprisoned in a Nazi concentration Camp, he was taken to the bedside of a dying member of the SS who wanted to obtain absolution from a Jew. This book challenges us to think about what our response to this plea for Forgiveness would be. There was also a guest speaker Marina Cantacuzino who is an award winning journalist who has founded *The Forgiveness project*.

There was a question and answer time with Marina about her project and then discussions around our tables at first then with everyone about the book and how we think about forgiveness and what the story provoked in us. Very thought provoking and I now have 'The Sunflower' on my to read list .....maybe it could even be our Church Summer book club read? Anyone want to join me to discuss this book and the subject of Forgiveness?

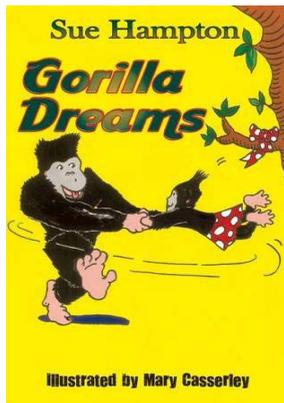
Then On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June, myself, Karen and Tony went to The Prince George's Club for a debate between Sanderson Jones who (with Pippa Evans) started the global movement known as *The Sunday Assembly* an atheist Church with 28 chapters around the world and Dr. Russell Rook, Christian Theologian and CEO of Chapel St – *is Church without the story of Jesus is really Church*. It was a very interesting evening and it is hard to explain what Sanderson had to say about Church without Jesus in this piece. But I came away feeling much more grounded in my Faith in Our beloved God and how he is always with me from what Russell had to say and even from what Sanderson said in a bizarre way. You'd need to ask

Tony and Karen what they felt but it was a good evening and I was pleased to be able to join in.

I end by saying if you have ever thought about going along to an event in The Raynes Park Festival I would strongly recommend you just do it! The 2 events I attended were thought provoking and with such great events just on our doorstep – it is a shame not to get involved!

*Abby Herring*

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## **Gorilla Dreams**

A review by Amélie Timmis

Gilbert has a secret. A secret that no other gorillas know of. Until one night somebody sees... This heart-warming story should be read by children of all ages. Sue Hampton has done an excellent job on making this book's characters come to life. This novel is unputdownable and you really get to know Gilbert's personality - shy, super and

secretive. When someone does discovers his hidden talent it looks like all will be lost and his secret will be out and all will be revealed. The author has done an brilliant job at writing this story and I would recommend it to anybody who is interested in reading this book.

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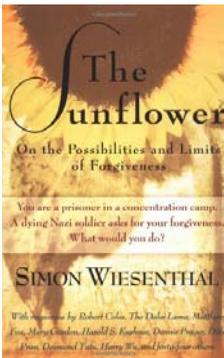
Sanyu wants to dance. But he doesn't have anybody to dance with...that is, until he meets Akello, a girl who adores dancing. This bond between friends will make hearts of readers blossom. But, there is a twist...can Akello and Sanyu keep their talent a secret before the village find out? When Sanyu is captured by some visitors, it is up to Akello to save him... I recommend this to anyone who is able to read. The author has done a spectacular job of constructing this fairy-tale. Mary Casserley has done a superb job of doing the illustrating.

## A little about the Author of Gorilla Dreams



Sue Hampton is proud to be an ambassador for Alopecia UK. She's also an ex-teacher who was inspired to write by the stories of Michael Morpurgo, because she witnessed their emotional power over young readers. Like him, she aims to write deep, compelling novels that will make people think and feel - and like him, she has many adult fans. Now a full-time author, Sue visits schools of all kinds and works with young people of all ages. Many of her passions can be detected in her novels, which are all different, (some historical, one futuristic, one magical and funny) but have in common themes like love, courage, freedom and our right to be different. Sue herself looks a little different from most women because she has alopecia, having lost all her hair in 1981.

Sue has written a number of books suitable for readers of all ages and they are available through most good bookshops, or her own website ([www.suehamptonauthor.co.uk](http://www.suehamptonauthor.co.uk)), where you can also find more information about Sue and her books.



The book Abby mentions, *'The Sunflower'* by *Simon Wiesenthal*, is a fascinating book in which fifty-three distinguished men and women respond to Wiesenthal's questions. They are theologians, political leaders, writers, jurists, psychiatrists, human rights activists, Holocaust survivors, and victims of attempted genocides in Bosnia, Cambodia, China and Tibet. Their responses, as varied as their experiences of the world, remind us that Wiesenthal's questions are not limited to events of the past.

Again the book is available through most good bookshops or via your local library.

*Andrew Fox*

## SUMMER BOOK REVIEW

from **RE:FRESH BOOKS** (now part of **CLC Bookshops**)

*Take it & Leave it!*

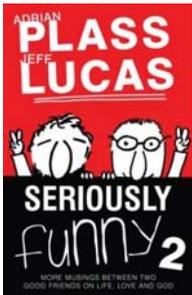
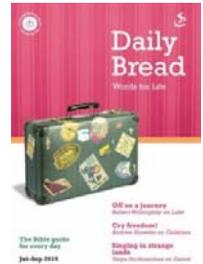
*Take a good Christian book on holiday, read it, then leave it for other holidaymakers to read. Many holiday venues have a 'library' area where holidaymakers can exchange books*

### *Daily Bread July September 2015*

by Scripture Union - £3.99

Daily Bread Adult Bible study notes

The Bible guide for every day. The July to September edition features Robert Willoughby on Luke, Andrew Knowles on Galatians and Tanya Ferdinandusz on Daniel



### *Seriously Funny 2:*

#### *More Musings on Life, Love and God*

by Adrian Plass & Jeff Lucas - RRP£8.99 - 168 pages

'Seriously Funny 2' brings you yet more musings from the Church's best loved comedy duo and an invitation to help yourself to another generous serving of wit and wisdom from two of the most entertaining and enlightening authors and speakers in print and on the stage today. Adrian Plass and Jeff Lucas drop their guard and let you listen in on another series of profound and frivolous conversations between the writer of *The Secret Diary of Adrian Plass*, *Salvation and Bacon Sandwiches*, and *War of the Worlds*, and the compiler of *Lucas on Life and Premier/UCB* broadcaster.

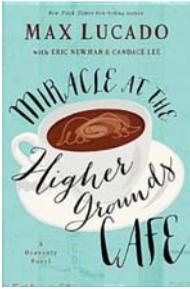
### *The Lost Garden*

by Katherine Swartz - RRP£7.99 - 288 pages

Deftly weaving dual narratives, exploring the complicated emotions of grief, anger, sadness, duplicity, even joy, "The Lost Garden" features interchangeable tales of two women who have both suffered loss and seek solace by undertaking the restoration of a walled garden.



In the present day, Marin Ellis and her fifteen year old half sister Rebecca need a new beginning following a family tragedy. Ninety years earlier Eleanor Sanderson, a vicar's daughter, is mourning the wartime death of her brother and seeks comfort in creating a memorial garden.



## ***Miracle at the Higher Grounds Café***

by Max Lucado - RRP£9.28- 176 pages

After a public split from her NFL superstar husband, Chelsea Chambers takes a bold step out of the limelight and behind the counter of the Higher Grounds Café, an old-fashioned coffee shop in dire need of reinvention. But when her courage, expert planning, and out-of-this-world cupcakes fail to pay the bills, Chelsea finds herself desperate for help. Better yet, a miracle.

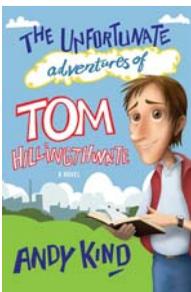
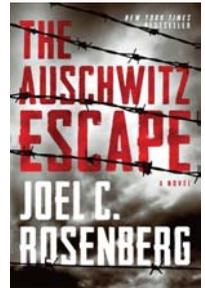
Then a curious stranger lands at Chelsea's door, and with him, an even more curious string of events. Soon, customers are flocking to the Higher Grounds Café, and not just for the cupcakes and cappuccino. They've come for the internet connection to the divine. Now the café has become the go-to place for people in search of answers to life's biggest questions.

## ***The Auschwitz Escape***

by Joel C Rosenberg - RRP£10.49 - 428 pages

As the Nazi war machine rolls across Europe, young Jacob Weisz is forced to flee his beloved Germany and join an underground resistance group in Belgium. But when a rescue operation goes horribly wrong, Jacob finds himself trapped in a crowded cattle car headed to southern Poland.

Sentenced to hard labor in the Auschwitz labor camp, Jacob forms an unlikely alliance with Jean-Luc Leclerc, a former assistant pastor who was imprisoned for helping Jews. They've been chosen for one of the most daring and dangerous feats imaginable--escape from Auschwitz.



## ***The Unfortunate Adventures of Tom Hillingthwaite***

by Andy Kind - RRP£7.99 - 192 pages

Andy Kind's 'The Unfortunate Adventures of Tom Hillingthwaite' might just be the funniest book to have come out of Christendom. It's certainly the first in a new line of comedy novels to arise from the growing number of active Christians on the UK comedy circuit.

*These books (and more) are available from*

*Re:fresh Books & Christian Resources,*

*23 The Broadway, Tolworth, Surbiton KT6 7DJ*

*You can also order these books online from [www.eden.co.uk/clc](http://www.eden.co.uk/clc)*

**The Slaves Next Door:**  
**How do we fight human trafficking in London and beyond**  
**Wednesday 15 July, 6.30pm**  
**at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL**

On the doorstep of every home and business in Britain lurks a dark network which trafficks humans for forced labour and exploitation. This modern slavery is on the rise. As of December 2014, the Home Office estimated there were between 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims of slavery in the UK alone.

Every person has a responsibility to help combat this global endemic, but where do we start? This panel event will discuss the realities of human trafficking, which is taking place across our neighbourhoods and communities. How can government, business, and faith leaders stop these horrors? What changes can we make personally to end these crimes?

Speakers:

Amy Jasper, UK Community Network Co-ordinator, STOP THE TRAFFIK  
The Revd Marcus Walker, Associate Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome  
The Revd Steve Chalke, MBE, Founder of STOP THE TRAFFIK and Oasis UK  
Andrew Wallis, CEO of Unseen UK

Chaired by The Revd Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James's Church, Piccadilly



Admission is free, but booking is essential. Visit [www.justshare.org.uk](http://www.justshare.org.uk) for more information and the booking form.

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Freedom! No word was ever spoken that has held greater hope,  
demanded greater sacrifice, needed more to be nurtured, blessed  
more the giver . . . or come closer to being God's will on earth.

*Omar N. Bradley*

## **Interfaith service to mark the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

**2.30-3.30pm, Thursday 6 August  
at Friends House, London (opposite Euston Station)**

We are all invitation to a service of commemoration and commitment to mark the anniversary and commit to a world in which that can never happen again. It will include short readings from each of the major faith traditions represented in the UK, some music, silence, the lighting of a candle sent from Hiroshima, and a contribution from one of the survivors of the atom bomb 70 years ago.

The service will be followed by light refreshments and the opportunity to view an exhibition on the global effects of nuclear weapons production, testing and deployment since 1945 as well as stalls from peace organisations and a selection of workshops.

At 6pm, there will be a showing of the film 'Dr Strangelove' followed by an interactive discussion about moving to a world without nuclear weapons.

This event is free and open to all but you are asked to register via an online form at <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/hiroshima/> or for those who do not have internet contact Kristin Skarsholt on 020 7663 1121.

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We will be holding a **Cream Tea on Sunday 13th September 2.30 to 5pm** at Martin Way Methodist Church in aid of Care for Uganda.

The Welfare Officer Brother Monday & Field Officer Julet from Uganda will be with us - so please come along and meet and talk with them. Please speak to me for further details.

*Tony Loft*



**Lantern**  
artscentre

**Present at 7.30pm on  
July 8th - 11th**

**JOSEPH**  
AND THE  
**AMAZING Technicolor DREAMCOAT**

**Lyrics by Tim Rice, Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber**

**Come and journey from Canaan to Egypt with us as we stage the much-loved 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. Full of familiar songs that will have your feet tapping and your face smiling!**

**Tolverne Road, Raynes Park, SW20 8RA**

**Beside Raynes Park Methodist Church**

**BOX OFFICE 020 8944 5794**



## **Charity Challenge The Great Wall of China Trek 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

### **Part Two - Days 6 to 9**



In April Rachael Conquest and I took on a challenge with Charity Challenge (that Anne Conquest had previously done) - to walk along parts of The Great Wall of China. It is somewhere I have always wanted to go but to able to do it and raise funds for Charity was a must! In last month's

newsletter I wrote about our first 5 days, now read on as you join us in our adventure...

#### Day Six: Jinshanling Loop

After an early breakfast, we start today's trek straight from the lodge.



The walk from Jinshanling towards Simatai was a spectacular one that is partly on original unreconstructed Wall and partly on renovated sections, with many steep, crumbling staircases and ruined watchtowers along the way. Unfortunately, it is no longer possible to trek all the way to Simitai as the authorities have closed the area. We walked for 7kms along quite a demanding and steep path followed by a 3km walk along a pathway in the shadows of the wall. Again we had amazing panoramic views with mountains stretching all around us with the wall snaking its way along the tops of them as far as the eye can see. We were very

lucky to have another clear day and we could look out over the best part of eighty miles of mountains, with Mongolia on one side and China on the other. It certainly did not take much for our imagination to take us back several centuries to when the wall was the frontline defence of Imperial China. Tonight we stayed at Fairytale Hotel – a lovely hotel and tonight’s entertainment was to be Karaoke.

### Day Seven: Mutianyu

This reconstructed section of the Mutianyu Great Wall is where visiting heads of state are usually brought. Today we had a short transfer to the village of Xizhazi, where we started our trek. We began with an uphill trek to the tower of Zhenbeilou, where we joined the Wall. To join the wall we had to climb 2 hand made ladders and in this watchtower we received our Charity Challenge medals for completing the challenge (even though we still had 3 or 4



hours of trekking ahead of us!). From where we joined the wall - Zhenbeilou, the entire section of wall stretches in front of you, undulating through the mountains. Here we joined the section called Mutianyu, which is a more touristy stretch of wall but is beautifully restored, with picture perfect scenery. Again it was a clear day and the Wall was visible on the mountains all around, we then descended from the Wall, down the hundreds of steps that take you back to the coach and back to Beijing. Here we would be staying at The Landmark hotel – 4 stars, luxury for us

wearry trekkers but our day didn’t end there. We went out in the evening to see an acrobatic show, then onto dinner and bed ready for our day of sightseeing tomorrow.

### Day Eight: Full Day City Tour of Beijing

As a reward for all our hard work, a day of leisure followed with a guided tour of the many attractions of China's capital city, including the

Old Imperial Palace known as the Forbidden City & Tiananmen Square followed by a walk in Jingshan Park previously known as ‘coal hill’ behind the Forbidden City. Coal Hill used to be the highest point in the imperial city of Beijing, from where you can get great views of the Forbidden City. We also visited the Temple of Heaven where the emperors worshipped god and prayed for good harvests. Also within the grounds is where retired people meet for leisure time. Did you know that when you retire in China their pension increases each year you are retired



– thus encouraging all to keep fit and healthy for as long as they can. There where many groups exercising on park machines (like the ones we now have in our local parks), playing fly ball, dancing, Ti chi, knitting, chess, poker and many other leisure time pursuits. Here we also saw a tea ceremony and were told about the many different

teas they have and their health benefits. Later we were dropped off at the market to shop for souvenirs. This evening was our celebratory dinner which was the Peking Duck Banquet – and I can say that was the only meal I truly enjoyed on our trek. Although I have always wanted to visit China and The Great Wall – I have never been a fan of their food and have not been converted I am afraid!



### Day Nine – Our flight Home

Well after an amazing week our adventure had come to a close, we were going home. Here we left half our group as they had chosen to continue on some optional excursions – we had to return as term started the next day. It had been an amazing week and we have met some amazing

people. Now we are planning where to go next.....

*Abby Herring*

## Extreme Vision

*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.*

**The prisoner was brought before the deputy commander, a harsh, angry, red-faced woman with broad shoulders. "So, you have been speaking to the prisoners about God again. I am here to tell you it must stop!" Her face illustrated the rage in Communist prisons in Eastern Europe.**

The prisoner stood quietly but steadfastly. She informed the commander that nothing could stop her from speaking about her Saviour.

The commander raised her fist to strike the prisoner, but suddenly stopped. "What are you smiling about?" she demanded.

"I am smiling because of what I see in your eyes."

"And what is that?"

"Myself. I used to be quite impulsive, too. I was angry and used to strike out until I learned what it really means to love. Since then, my hands do not clench into fists anymore." She continued, "If you look into my eyes, you will see yourself as only God could make you, just as he did with me." The prisoner could see how her former self might have defended her rights, returning insult for insult. However, because of her new life in Christ, she only showed kindness and gained the right to continue her witness.

The commander's hands dropped to her sides. She seemed completely stunned and said quietly, "Go away."

The prisoner continued to witness for Christ throughout the prison, with no more interference from the deputy commander.

*The commander's attempts to rile the prisoner were like arguing with a dead person. It was as if she were trying to provoke a corpse. Finally, the commander saw the prisoner for who she really was: a new creation in Christ. The old person that would have once responded to hatred with more hatred was gone. In its place, the prisoner allowed the commander to see only Christlike repose and kindness. In the same way, we must see ourselves in a new light. We are no longer bound to respond to our enemy with worldly animosity. We have died to the former way of life. When you are poked, prodded, and provoked by the enemy to act unbecomingly, take a lesson from the prisoner in this story. Play dead.*

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self...and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22,23)

## **The Methodist Conference 2015**

This year's Methodist Conference takes place in Southport at the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre from 25th June to 2nd July. The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.



Highlights this year include:

- the induction of the new President (the Revd Steven Wild) and the Vice-President (Dr Jill Barber) on Saturday 27 June at 2.15pm, followed by the addresses
- new ministers being received into Full Connexion and ordination services on Sunday 28 June from 10.45am
- Courage, Cost & Hope: the Report on the Past Cases Review on Monday 29 June at 11.15am
- issues of Connexionalism on Tuesday 30 June at 11.15am
- mission and heritage activities resourced by the President and Vice-President on Tuesday 30 June at 2.15pm
- discussion of fossil fuels and ethical investment on Thursday 2 July at 9.30am
- induction of the Secretary of the Conference on Thursday 4 July at 11:15am.

Video of debates and Conference worship will be streamed live online through the Methodist Conference website from **Saturday 27th June** onwards.

**<http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2015>**

This website is also the first place to go for Conference news and information.



**Steve Wild**  
**President of the Conference 2015/2016**

Born in Rochdale in 1954, Steve Wild gave his life to Christ at a Cliff College Mission in 1968. He worked as a printer but heard God calling him to the Methodist ministry when he visited Taize.



**Jill Barber**  
**Vice-President of the Conference 2015/2016**

Jill Barber grew up in Kent where she attended Petts Wood Methodist Church with her family. At 16, she became a Sunday School teacher and has enjoyed working with young people ever since.

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### **A new resident in Merton**

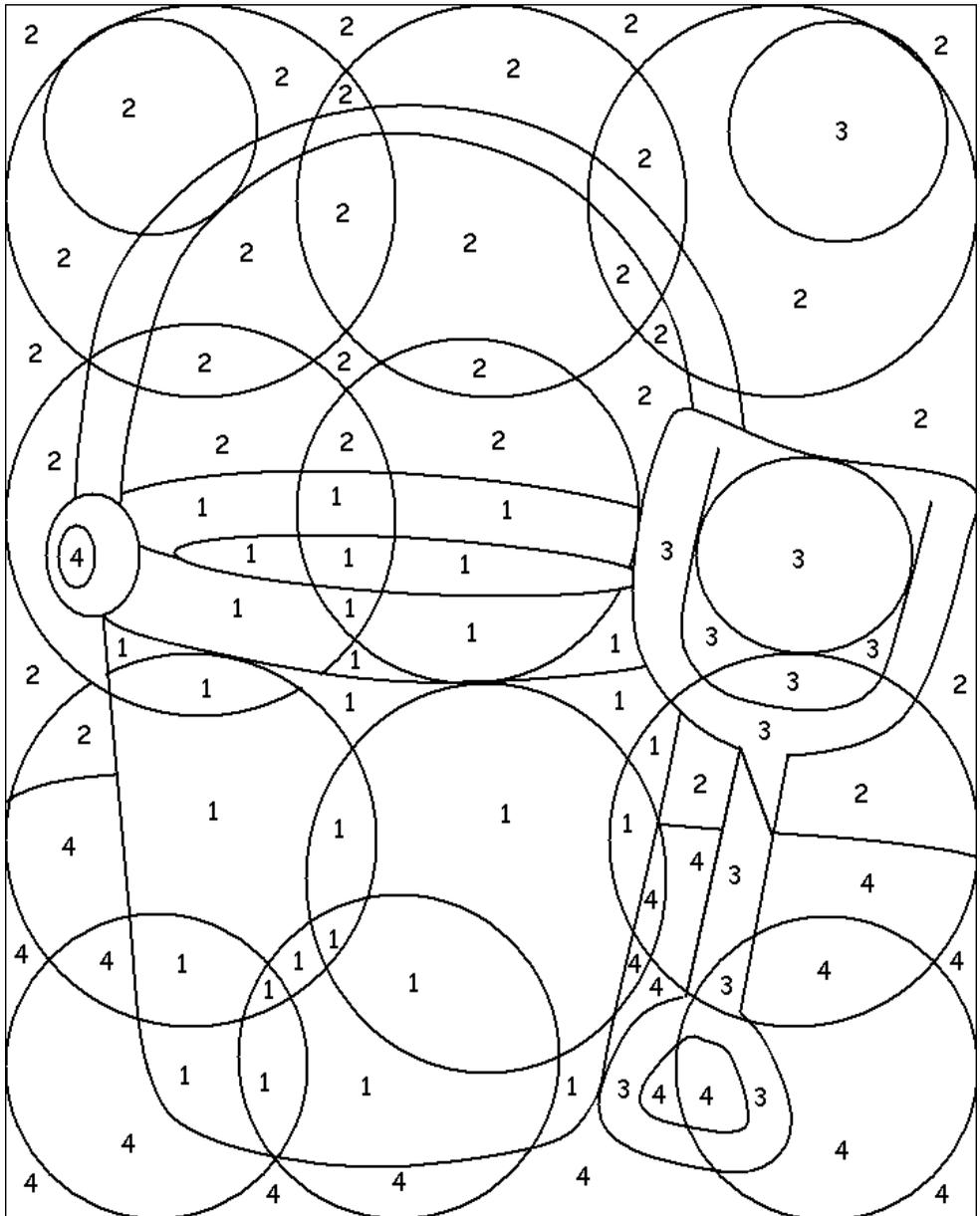
With thanks to Alison Cowie of St.Mary's Church, Merton Park for this splendid photo of the one of the pair of sparrowhawks who arrived in the Glebe Fields in April.

I wonder how many of us will be lucky to see one of these birds of prey or perhaps they will be visiting the gardens of those of us with bird feeders...



## Summer Colouring Page

Get ready for the beach and find the items by colouring the areas following the numbers.



1 = red

2 = blue

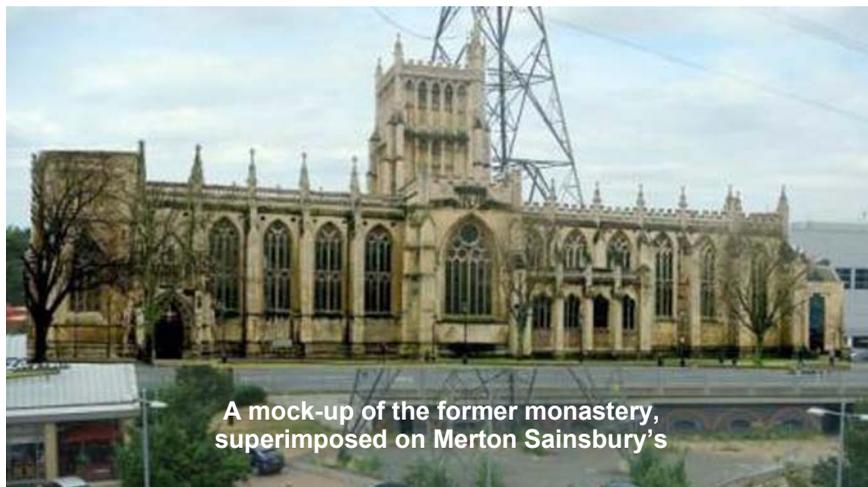
3 = yellow

4 = light brown

# Merton Ecumenical Service

Saturday 11 July

Noon to 1pm at the Merton Priory chapter house.



***It is always good when Christians pray together.***

For this reason we are inviting you to join Merton's only borough-wide ecumenical service in the historic setting of Merton Priory's chapter house.

The service includes priests, ministers, leaders and worshippers gathered from across the borough's Christian community, in association with the Merton Priory Trust.

Our event is open to everyone. This year we are focusing our prayers and thoughts on the great diversity of cultures that make up our neighbourhood, and in particular on the most vulnerable groups among us.

Merton Priory chapter house is located in a special vault beneath the road that runs between the large Sainsbury's/M&S and the Merton Abbey Mills car park, accessible through the pedestrian underpass from either end.

All the churches in Wimbledon, Mitcham, Morden, West Wimbledon and Colliers Wood are invited to take part this short but important act of ecumenical witness.

This event is co-ordinated by the Merton Priory Team Ministry and Mitcham Parish Church. Contact [nick@nmayhew.com](mailto:nick@nmayhew.com)



Well somehow I offered to take some of the Platform group camping over the 2<sup>nd</sup> May Bank Holiday weekend and join in the Big Church Day Out Music weekend. This event is held in the grounds of Wiston House, West Sussex on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> until Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May. I have been to this festival a few years back just for the day and camping is not very high on my list of fun things to do but I was pleasantly surprised. The camping experience was good - thank you to my fellow campers Emily Bacon, Emily Johnson, Rebecca Smith and Phoebe Pallister as well as the Simon, Yvonne and Elizabeth Turnbull, as well as being blessed with great weather too! We also had people join us just for the day with Tony Loft joining us on the Saturday and Jane, Colin and Ella Smith coming on the Sunday.

The Festival started in 2009 and has grown every year. There is a variety of music over the weekend from very lively worship bands and singers on the main stage, on the mini arena 'Illuminate stage' there was fresh and alternative Christian music, The Tearfund Tea Tent where you can relax in the Wiston house gardens enjoying a cup of tea or cream tea while listening to smooth tunes from various leading Christian Bands, orchestras and singers and Big Church Kids tent with number of activities and workshops for children and families to join in throughout the day. Then new for this year was Wiston Church where you could worship, sit and soak in God's presence alone or have someone to pray with you and over the day there were quiet music to reflect upon.

By camping it enabled us to not only enjoy the fellowship with our little group; we could enjoy all the festival had to offer. With the countless different stages to chose from we had a number of bands/singers during

the day/evening and we had a lot to decide but there was more with numerous activities and attractions you could also visit – such as The Big Church Fete where there were a number of marquees with children activities, small farm, fun fair games and rides and many, many other stalls to look around.

To be part of this event was amazing and I am thankful to God we can join in fellowship with many Christians of all denominations from all over the UK (and many further afield!) - worshipping God together with various music styles that appeals to all ages and tastes! If you want to know more about The Big Church Day Out have a look at the website ([www.bigchurchdayout.com](http://www.bigchurchdayout.com)) or chat to one of us who went. It is worth trying it out even if it is just for the day if Camping isn't your sort of thing!

*Abby Herring*

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## **Stationing**

The consultation for the stationing process to invite a presbyter or deacon to a circuit appointment will take place in July and August. **Presbyters and Deacons are of equal standing and fully ordained.**

The Circuit Stewards will undertake this process of consultation with the churches to enable discernment regarding the priorities for ministry in the churches and circuit. All churches could be affected by the decision made.

Following this consultation the Circuit Invitation Committee will make a recommendation to the Circuit Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

*Angela Linton-Smith*



# JULY

## CHURCH DIARY

Fri	3	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	5	10.30am	All Age Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	7	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	14	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mike Mortley
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	16	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	19	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	21	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Summer Members' Evening</i>
Sun	26	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Gwen Wildman
			with guest speaker Stuart Windsor of CSW
Tue	28	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*

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### **Big Brunch returns!**

On Saturday 12th September  
The Big Brunch restarts.  
Running from 10.30 until 1pm,  
come along and enjoy the food and  
the company.





## CHURCH DIARY

Sun	2	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	4	8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	9	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	11	8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	16	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	18	8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	23	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	25	8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	30	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft

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

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Francesca Heald on 5th July**

**Anne Jenkins on 12th July**

**Jessica Hazen on 26th July**

**Rebecca Smith on 11th August**



## Two of the Organisations that use Martin Way Church as their meeting place



ARTHRITIS CARE

### Arthritis Care Merton, Morden and Sutton Branch

Living with and coping with arthritis

Arthritis is not a life sentence, but it can be life changing. Arthritis Care was set up so that people with arthritis can meet up and support each other. A number of beneficial services are provided by the volunteers who run the group, including:

- a social network
- support through sharing experiences
- providing information – through Arthritis Care publications and guest speakers

The Merton, Morden and Sutton Branch meet on the second Saturday of each month from 3pm - 5pm. More information can be found on the website [www.arthritiscare.org.uk](http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk)



### FITNESS WITH NATASHA

Fitness & Weight Management Classes

Previously a Rosemary Conley franchise, Natasha has helped a lot of people get a lot fitter and slimmer. Aerobic classes are varied, interesting and challenging. At the end of each class there is a toning section which targets different parts of the body.

Classes are for all abilities, shapes and sizes.

The following sessions are available at Martin Way:

- **Monday** 7.00pm to 8.05pm
- **Thursday** 10.00am-11.15am

For more details visit Natasha's website at [www.fitnesswithnatasha.co.uk](http://www.fitnesswithnatasha.co.uk)

Items for the **September Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 16th August** at the latest