

Martin Way Methodist Church

serving the communities of

Morden & Merton Park



Minister: Rev Paul Timmis

(020) 8337 2348



Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JZ

Newsletter

November 2017

www.martinway.org.uk

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MINISTER'S LETTER



As legend has it, five hundred years ago in October, an act of rebellion took place in Germany that would serve as a catalyst for a series of events that would become known as the Protestant Reformation. On 31st October 1517, an obscure professor of theology, Martin Luther, famously launched an attack on the Roman Catholic Church by nailing his list of criticisms known as the *95 Theses* to a church door in Wittenberg. It is in this form that the story that has been passed down through the generations ever since.

Whether or not events unfolded quite like this is something that scholars continue to debate. What is beyond question is that, in looking at the Church of which he was a part, Luther identified areas of its life and practices that he believed to be corrupt - the most obvious example of this being the practice of selling “indulgences”, certificates meant to assure the buyer that their sins would be forgiven.

This is, of course, a very simplistic reading of these events and, in all honesty, I do not possess enough knowledge to guide you through them. What I am certain of, however, is that this anniversary should not be used to focus on the differences between denominations, or to proclaim any one superior to another. Thus far I have only seen the first episode of BBC's Saturday night drama, *Gunpowder*, but, with the anti-Catholic rhetoric contained within it - not to mention the gruesome torture scenes depicted - it is a helpful reminder in this month of remembering of where such a path has taken us in the past.

I mention the anniversary of Luther's nail-knocking radicalism because it is also a helpful reminder of something else - namely that in each and every age it is our task to ask deep and searching questions of our own beliefs, practices and traditions and to challenge injustices and lazy assumptions as and where we find them. This is true of us as individuals, as church communities and as distinct denominations.

During November we always spend a lot of time remembering. We remember different things and people on different days. There's All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday and the

International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women (White Ribbon Day) on 25th November.

With all this remembering, perhaps we should use the month to do some re-remembering as well. If we use 're' as a prefix, if we put 're' in front of a verb, it means that we do that thing once more. So just as we can view something (look at something), we can re-view something, we can look at it again - which is what Martin Luther was surely doing.

It is in re-remembering that we open ourselves to the possibility of God's Spirit leading us on into new understandings, places and possibilities.

With every blessing

Paul

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A personal remembrance



Geraldine never knew her Uncle Bryan. He died during the Second World War, 10 years before she was born, when he was only 22 years old. His mother and sister (Geraldine's grandmother and mother) seldom mentioned the circumstances of his death or talked about the war. Since marrying Geraldine I have been keen to know more about Bryan and to ensure that his sacrifice was not forgotten. Geraldine and I were entrusted by her mother with the care of his medals, some photographs and correspondence, including the letter of condolence from King George VI. From these we discovered that he was once a Boy Scout with Harry Worth who was born in the same village in Yorkshire and who also joined the RAF and later became a television comedian. We learned that Bryan also had a talent for sketching and composing poems and was a jovial lad by nature – his nickname was Bubbly. We had his three medals and some of these documents framed and subsequently our grandchildren have taken them to school as part of projects on the war. In 1985, with the permission of Geraldine's mother, I made some initial enquiries of the Ministry of Defence about Bryan's career in the RAF and received an outline record of his postings and qualifications. He joined the RAF in July 1940 and in August 1941 became an air gunner and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. But still I wanted to know more.

This year I eventually got round to making an enquiry of the National Archives at Kew. Annotations on photographs in our possession indicated that Bryan had died over Duisberg in Germany and this is what had hitherto been understood to be the case, but information from Kew revealed otherwise. As a member of 97 Squadron he had indeed been the front gunner/bomb aimer in a Lancaster bomber for a raid on the industrial city of Duisberg. The aircraft took off from RAF Woodhall Spa with a multi-national crew of seven and apparently reached the target but encountered low cloud and difficult conditions on its return and crashed into the sea only four miles off Wells-Next-The-Sea in Norfolk. Only one crew member was rescued but he subsequently died in hospital. Two bodies were recovered but not Bryan's. He has no known grave and consequently his name is recorded on the Runnymede Memorial. Perhaps it is a blessing his family did not know how close he was to the safety of his base. So near and yet so far.



By coincidence, the week after learning about the location of the crash, Geraldine and I were due to visit Norfolk for a family reunion and we decided to call at Wells. Geraldine selected a pebble from the beach, wrote on it a message of thanksgiving and remembrance, and cast it into the sea. We brought home a shell from the beach as a memento of our visit.

We now know much more about Bryan's life and death but there remains an underlying thirst to learn more. We plan to visit two of the airfields in Norfolk where Bryan was based and to find out more about the sorties he flew on. I have no doubt that further avenues to explore will emerge.

Bryan was only one of the thousands who gave their life during the war and only one of those remembered each Remembrance Sunday. Having a personal connection serves to emphasise the sacrifice that was made for our sake by so many young men and women. However, our interest, respect and gratitude are enduring and the fact that our grandchildren have learnt about the war and developed an interest in their great great uncle's role merely serves to lend meaning to the expression that **“their name liveth for evermore”**.

God bless you Bryan and all the other men and women who gave their lives for us.

Brewers
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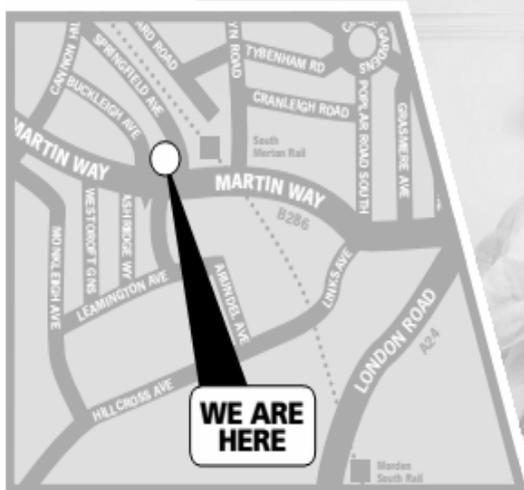
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*Proud to support Martin Way
Methodist Church*

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**FREE DAILY
DELIVERY**

WALLPAPER PAINTS WOOD TREATMENTS TOOLS FABRICS BLINDS CURTAINS



Platform 10 ¾ will be taking part in Operation Christmas Child 2017.

They will be packing Shoeboxes the evening of Sunday 19th November and invite you to join in by either donating gifts, or money or even doing a shoe box yourself

Choosing gifts to put in your shoebox is a really fun part of getting involved in Operation Christmas Child. There is something very rewarding about giving to a child you will probably never meet in this world – especially when you know your simple act of kindness will be felt and appreciated in more ways than you can ever imagine.

Once you have decided whether to give your shoebox to a boy or girl, you need to think carefully about gifts that would be most appropriate for the age group you have selected (either 2-4 or 5-9 or 10-14 years old). You can also enclose a note or greetings card to the child and a photo of yourself or your family.

Please see the list on the next page of what we can and can't accept.

Boxes are situated in the Church entrance and by the doors near the Hall for you to place your items into. If you are unsure of what to get, but would like to make a monetary donation towards the shoebox appeal please do as we are required to send £5 per box made.

Please visit the website, www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child, to find out more about the Samaritans Purse charity and the work they do.

Abby Herring

No Thanks!

No Food

especially chocolate or other food items

No medicine

or vitamins of any kind

No war related items

toy guns, soldiers or knives of any kind

No clothing

other than listed

No fragile items

glass containers, mirrors

No liquids

including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols

No dangerous items

sharp objects, scissors or razors, marbles

No novels

Nothing of a political nature, racial or religious nature

No hand-knitted stuffed toys without a CE mark

YES PLEASE

Toys

Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy trucks, stuffed animals (with CE label), harmonicas, yo-yos, skipping ropes, balls, small puzzles etc.

School Supplies

Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks and paper, solar calculators, colouring and picture books etc.

Hygiene Items

Toothbrush and toothpaste, bar of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

Other Items

Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (sell by date must be at least March of the following year).

Knitted items

Hats and gloves

EYES WIDE OPEN

Sharing moments all around us in pictures.



A Sunset and the Harvest Moon in the Cotswolds



Please submit your images, digital photographs or scanned artwork to Andrew (Newsletter Editor) at roife@hotmail.co.uk. Every picture tells a story (or so they say) but if you want to add just a few words to accompany your image, please do.



Forever Living Products

The Aloe Vera Company

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I'm looking for a number of local people to try out a variety of different products for me FREE of charge, for approximately 2-3 days at a time.

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The VIP Experience Packs available are:



Perfect Skin

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Anti-Ageing Skincare



(Feel free to try as many as you like, completely free of charge)

Please contact me to arrange delivery of the packs.

Feel free to share with a friend or colleague if you think they might like to try too!

Mike – 07956 369579

mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk

mikefuwa@flp.com

Unforgettable moments of our Holiday in Norfolk (part one)

An advert in my Police retirement magazine for a self-catering holiday caught my eye. It was something we had never done before and as it wasn't too far away to drive and, although apart from visiting Mary's family donkey's years ago, we really didn't know Norfolk.

The advert read "The Holt, Elmham Mill", "A little piece of Heaven in the Norfolk Countryside". Like most adverts it sounded really suitable for our needs. We booked late September for two weeks with a slight concern that the end of September, early October, the east coast could be getting chilly.

We took the M25, for once with no dreadful hold-ups, to Brentwood, Essex for an overnight stay with Keith, our youngest son, and his family before heading the next day to North Elmham. Travelling in beautiful weather with fantastic countryside that had a slight tint of autumn, we found a lovely roadside restaurant for lunch near Brandon before journeying on to Swaffham.

After lunch we found ourselves in the country roads with all their twists and turns. We discovered the road to the dwelling, but managed to pass its entrance twice; missing its all important name. The gates were closed but on pressing the bell our host, Mrs Dee Baker, activated them and we drove across the bridge over the River Wensum onto the island, frightening an Egret and some rabbits as we did so. After a short journey

through woods, orchard and lawns we arrived at the place that would be our home for two weeks.



Dee took us up by lift to our apartment named "The Holt". It was more than we expected, three rooms all beautifully furnished and all had this wonderful view along the River Wensum.

The next day, after a very peaceful sleep, we opening the bedroom curtains to a beautiful day and there below us was the gently flowing river. With the crystal clear water flowing under the Mill and an overflow stream snaking off to our right and just below our bedroom window was 3-4 moorhens, a couple of coots and one small diving duck. Under our bathroom window was a double bird feed with most of the tit family, together with chaffinches, goldfinches and robins. The following day there was a Kingfisher perched on top of the feeder, a mere 3½ feet away from the window, he dived off the feeder into the water for his food. This sort of happening was every day, eventually we saw two Kingfishers.



We went into the local town Dereham, once a market town, where we got food supplies for our needs, looked at local shops and found a Methodist Church for the next day. We then found a nice pub with lovely garden were we once again sat outside for lunch. As we drove back the three miles to the Mill we pulled off the road to view a massive pig farm with hundreds of pigs going about their business. All were spotlessly clean and no nasty smells. Back at the Mill we were able to sit in the garden in the late afternoon sunshine.

Sunday, after standing at the kitchen window eating our breakfast whilst watching the feeding birds, we left for church. It was their Harvest Service and we were made very welcome and invited to their Harvest Shared Lunch, a lovely group of 40 top 50 folk, mainly all Senior Citizens. What came across was that not many of them were local born. They were from South Wales, the Midlands and London, all now retired to this area, it was great sharing time with them.

Do you remember maybe 40 years ago the Reverent Hedley Lyddon and his wife Rosemary, well after they left Martin Way they went to Hayes, then on to full retirement in Shrewsbury, where years later Hedley passed away. To be near their daughter Rosemary moved to a Christian run home just outside Dereham . Starting off in a bungalow and now because of age and lack of movement is now in a lovely room overlooking the garden. So after church we visited her for a couple of hours, we chatted through all the memories of yesteryear and had a real smashing time. It was pleasing to see her looking so well, I think now in her 92nd year.

Rosemary sends her love and best wishes to all who remember her.

Derek and Mary Heaton

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A promotional poster for a fundraising quiz night. On the left, a spiral-bound notebook with a pink cover is open, showing a handwritten note in black and yellow ink. The note reads: "SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2017", "7pm Lantern Methodist Church Wimbledon", "Start: Church Wimbledon", "Griffiths Road, SW19 1SP", "Free street parking from 6:30pm", "£7 per person including a hot meal", "Teams of up to six; or join a team on the night!", and "Raffle: All welcome!". A blue pen lies across the notebook. To the right of the notebook, the words "Fundraising QUIZ NIGHT" are written in large, stylized, dotted letters on a wooden background. Below this, the text "To help support young people going to Spring Harvest" is written in a dark blue, cursive font.

To Book // info - Dawn Downes: 020 8543 4774 or Angela Linton-Smith: 62aml@gmail.com

Concert in aid of

'Gift Bags for the Homeless'

Come and enjoy a fantastic evening of music and help make Christmas a little bit better for homeless people this year. All donations will go to **Gift Bags for the Homeless** and will be distributed in the run up to Christmas 2017

Saturday 18 November 2016
7:30–9:30pm

MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH
Buckleigh Avenue, SW20 9JZ

A great evening of
entertainment.
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Led by the charismatic,
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entertaining
Elliot Sutcliffe

www.rockchoir.com www.rockchoir.org

FREE ENTRY

*(There will be a retiring collection for you
to show your appreciation of the concert)*

On the night, if you can, please donate any of the following:

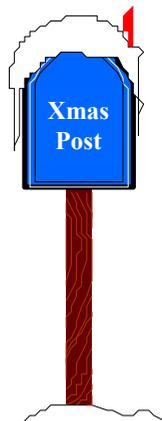
- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- New Socks
- New Underwear (female and male)
- Pocket Tissues
- Shampoo
- Face cloths
- Wet wipes
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Shower gel
- Soaps
- Deodorants
- Ladies sanitary products
- Small bottles of water/soft drinks
- Small cartons of juice
- Washed Sleeping bags
- Tins of fruit (ring pull)
- Individually wrapped cakes, biscuits, etc.
- Crisps
- Sweets, treats, chocolate bars, etc.
- Hand sanitiser gel
- Money, to buy more items!
- Anything else you may like to donate, that would be of use to a person currently without a home

CHRISTMAS POST BOX AND CARDS

As it has been our tradition over the years, we will again place our Christmas post box. The church Christmas post box will be outside the vestry from Friday 1st December to Friday 15th December for those wishing to send cards to members of the church family.

As in previous years, you are invited to make a donation which will go to Methodist Homes for the Aged.

Please address all cards clearly using surnames and initials or forenames to avoid confusion. If you prefer, you are welcome to post a single card addressed to the whole church family. Such cards will be placed on display panels in the vestibule.



The cards will be available for collection on
Sunday 17th December.

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EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST

Copies of the charity's gifts and cards catalogue are now available so please help yourselves from the Vestibule. As the first page says, "profits from these cards go to helping people where Christmas actually began". Please support this worthy cause and so help Christian partners show God's love to vulnerable and marginalised people in the Middle East in life-changing ways every day.

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CAROL SINGING

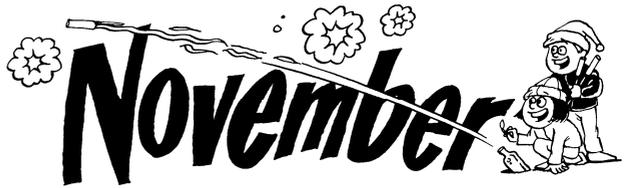
I know it is only November, but this is just a quick advanced notice. We are planning some carol singing at Morden Underground Station in December as we do every year.

We are awaiting confirmation of the dates which we hope will be Monday 18th and Wednesday 19th between 5pm and 7pm.

Tony Loft



CHURCH DIARY



Fri	3	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	5	10.00 am	Café Worship with Baptism led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	7	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	12	10.30am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	14	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Christian Care AGM
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	17	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	18	10.30am-1.00pm	Big Brunch
		7.00 pm	Rock Choir Concert
Sun	19	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Chris Morley
		6.30 pm	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>More Words</i> - Richard Polley
Weds	22	8.00 pm	Leadership Meeting
Sun	26	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	28	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

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

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 26th November

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Church Family News

The baptism of Luke Jonathan Michael, son of David and Rosy Wills, will take place on Sunday 5th November during the Café Worship.



Congratulations to Sue and Pete Boyd, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary last month.

Well done to Martin Harker, for completing the Royal Parks Half Marathon in 1 hour 38, which is 2 minutes below his personal best. To date he has raised £240 for Action for Children (NCH). You can still give sponsorship money online via the link <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MartinHarker> or just pass it to Martin or Ruth.



Big Brunch



Big Brunch has returned! The next Big Brunch is on **Saturday, 18th November**, serving from 10.30am until 1pm. Come along and enjoy a full English breakfast including coffee/tea, fruit juice and toast for only £4.

The company is not bad either. You'll also be supporting our youngsters for their trip to Spring Harvest.

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Christmas and Craft Fayre

Come along to our Christmas and Craft Fayre at Bourne Hall, Spring St, Ewell, KT17 1UF on **Saturday 2nd December 2017** from 10.30am to 3pm.



We will have over 40 stalls with unique and unusual crafts and gifts. If you are looking for that extraordinary Christmas Gift this is place to be. Not only will you be delighted with what you see you will also be supporting a very worthwhile charity the Shooting Star Children's Hospice.

There will also be face painting Father Christmas and Sand Art for the young and the not so young! We will also have a raffle, tombola and children's tombola.

If you are a crafty person and would like to have a stall please contact me on 07803724989 the price is only £35.00

Sylvia Baxter

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

Are you looking for a part-time or full-time income?



We are Recruiting

We are looking for:

- The employed looking for additional PART-TIME income
- The unemployed looking for FULL-TIME employment.
- Retired/looking into retirement with no hope of enough retirement income.
- Mothers at home who want to look after their children and want a steady income.
- Graduates/undergraduates with no employment and no work experience.
- Students who fear huge students loan debts after graduation.



For further information contact:

Mike: 07956 369579

www.mof.flp.com

www.iforevercare.com

Church Activities

SUNDAY	Morning Worship	10.30 am
	Morning Communion (once a month)	10.30 am
	Evening Communion (once a month)	6.30 pm
	Sunday Club	10.30 am
	SIGMA—the Circuit Choir (occasional)	4.00 - 5.30 pm
	Platform 10¾ YPF (1st & 3rd Sun- days)	8.00 - 9.30 pm
TUESDAY	Coffee & Chat	10.30 - noon
	Men's Supper Club (3rd Tuesday in month)	7.00 pm
	Time for Prayer	8.00 pm
WEDNES- DAY	Frogs Club (for Carers & Toddlers)	10.00 – 12.00
	Rainbows (1st Merton Park)	5.30 - 6.30 pm
	Guides (2nd Merton Park)	7.30 - 9.00 pm
THURS- DAY	Brownies (2nd Merton Park)	6.00 - 7.30 pm
FRIDAY	Luncheon Club (Fortnightly)	12.30 pm

House Groups, Coffee Mornings, Concerts, etc. (as advertised)