

# 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**

# **February 2020**

[www.martinway.org.uk](http://www.martinway.org.uk)

[enquiries@martinway.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@martinway.org.uk)

## MINISTER'S LETTER



By the time you read this, the European Parliament will have approved the terms of the UK's departure from the European Union and the 23:00 GMT on 31 January deadline will have passed. There will be an eleven month transition period in which the two sides will hope to negotiate their future economic relationship - and who knows what that will bring? - but that will be that. We'll be out of the European Union.

Some will be delighted by this news, others will be more than a little disappointed. You will know by now, of course, that I put myself very firmly in the latter category believing that, in an increasingly fragmented world, we should do all that we can to build bridges rather than put up walls. But we are where we are. And, if, as a nation, we can deal with our disagreements in a fruitful way and move on, I certainly won't miss the animosity and vitriol that the past few years have brought us. It is quite a big 'if' though. The current air of post-General Election resignation is unlikely to last forever.

As a church we are currently in the middle of a year-long conversation about marriage and relationships, following the *God in Love Unites Us* report presented to and debated at the Methodist Conference last summer.

*As the accompanying study guide reminds us, 'The title of the report has been carefully chosen. God in love unites us because we are all beings who are created to love in many and various ways. But God in love unites us in redemption because we abuse the gift of love and use it to our own selfish ends. And we pray that God in love unites us when, as so often, we find aspects of human love to be divisive and some of the issues that this report explores – divorce, cohabitation, and same-sex relationships – have been issues on which Christians have passionately disagreed.'*

Such passionate disagreements continue to divide the Church the world over. Our sisters and brothers in the United Methodist Church in the United States are currently tearing themselves apart over such issues. Indeed, early in January, a separation plan was proposed. It will be debated in May but, if passed, the church will split into two separate

denominations, with one that will allow same sex marriages and “practicing” LGBTQ clergy and the other that will not.

My hope is very much that the Methodist Church in this country will be able to do rather better. Early signs are promising. The film produced by the Task Group responsible for *God in Love Unites Us*, is, I think, deeply moving.\* If this can offer us a picture of our church in microcosm then all will be well. The spirit in which the debate at the Conference was conducted was also a joy to behold. And, at our recent Circuit meal and conversation on the report, whilst differences of opinion were expressed there was an overriding feeling of hope in the room.

As each and every one of us is a key part in the body of Christ, much will depend upon our ability as individuals to be able to find a way of moving forward together, living with differing and often contradictory convictions. If this sounds impossible, consider this - the two most prominent and influential figures in the life of the early Church, Peter and Paul, didn't agree on much at all. Indeed, as Dean of St Albans, Jeffrey John, has highlighted, ‘...as far as we know Peter and Paul only met three times, they never got on with one another, and the third and last time they met they had a blazing stand-up row.’ And yet, each saw Christ at work in the other and, as a result, they were able to find a fruitful way forward in spite of their very different beliefs and outlooks. Back to Canon John and a sermon he preached on these two:

*“If not a compromise, there must have been at least a reconciliation of tensions between them, and with miraculously fruitful results, because after their deaths the Church exploded into growth. But that could only happen because they stayed in the same Church. It would have been so easy for Paul, after he had created the Gentile Church almost single-handed, to have said “push off” to Peter: “I’m setting up on my own”. But he didn’t. And Peter for his part too, didn’t presume to declare that Paul wasn’t a real apostle and have him kicked out. By the grace of God the Church that was founded on these two antagonistic giants somehow stuck together – traditional and radical, hierarchical and charismatic, disciplined and free.”\*\**

Those within the Church have always lived with contradictory

convictions. Quite why issues of human sexuality have proved to be as divisive as they have in recent decades is beyond me and, I suspect, beyond many people beyond the Church who look on in disbelief. But, as with differing opinions about Brexit, we have a choice - to allow ourselves to be torn apart or to learn to live with and respect our differences, engaging with one another openly, honestly, prayerfully and graciously' and treating each other with respect and dignity.\*\*\*

I finish by sharing two prayers with you. Each has been offered by the Methodist Church: the first addresses our departure from the European Union, the second our ongoing Marriage and Relationships Conversations:

**A prayer for Brexit day by the Revd Barbara Glasson,  
President of the Methodist Conference**

However we feel about today  
We mark this Brexit day  
As people who grieve or celebrate together  
One people  
Loved equally, freely and unconditionally  
By the one wise all-seeing God  
Either way let us hold this day gently  
Giving ourselves permission to leave  
Without elation or despair  
Determined to love our neighbour  
Support the weak and welcome the stranger  
Lord of all life  
Let your servants depart in peace  
And live according to your Holy Law.

**God in Love Unites Us: A prayer**

Merciful God,  
help us  
to speak in love what is in our minds,  
and to hear in love what is said by others;  
to feel in love what is in our hearts,

and to sense in love what is in the hearts of others;  
to confer in love to discern your truth,  
and to be open in love to your guiding Spirit.  
Through our disagreements guide us;  
in our agreements direct us.  
Together may we share the mind of Christ,  
in whose name we pray.  
Amen.

Whatever our differences and differing convictions, may God help us to continue to learn from one another as we travel together as fellow pilgrims.

With every blessing,

*Paul*

## References

\* To watch the film referred to, see:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/film-the-work-of-the-marriage-and-relationships-task-group/>

\*\* For Jeffrey John's full sermon see:

<http://www.saintthomashollywood.org/html/2003/09/a-sermon-by-canon-jeffrey-john/>

\*\*\* See A model statement on Living with Contradictory Convictions:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/managing-group-conversations-around-marriage-and-relationships/a-model-statement-on-living-with-contradictory-convictions/>

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## **Flower List**

The flower list for 2020 is now on the notice board in the corridor. If you are able to help by donating flowers one week please sign your name on the list.





# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A women-led, global, ecumenical movement



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

COMMERCIAL ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT TN1 2RR

Tel: 01892 541411 Fax: 01892 541745 Email: [office@wwdp.org.uk](mailto:office@wwdp.org.uk) Website: [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

## *A Letter from the Chairperson of the National Committee, World Day of Prayer*

### **Informed Prayer – Prayerful Action 365 days a year**

*‘Why do you take so much trouble? It’s only one day a year!’*

I’m always shocked when I hear these words, especially when the questioner is someone who I thought had more sense.

Prayer is a 24 hour 365 (or even 366) day business and we are a prayer movement. OK – the Day of Prayer is a significant date each year but, just as Christian Aid’s activities extend way beyond Christian Aid Week, so the work of World Day of Prayer – our informed prayer and prayerful action – lasts all year round.

Currently, our main focus is on informing ourselves about Zimbabwe and getting everything together for next year’s Day of Prayer. But at the same time our thoughts and prayers are with Slovenia and the projects we are supporting there and on the charities that have received grants from us over the past 12 – 18 months. You can read about some of them on our News and Grants pages and, from now on, we shall be highlighting a different project we have supported every month.

WDP Zimbabwe is active throughout the year, supporting children with special needs and their families and other health and social care projects. If your local WDP Committee is supporting any local charities or initiatives, please tell us about them.

Let’s demonstrate that World Day of Prayer is alive and well – 365 days of the year.

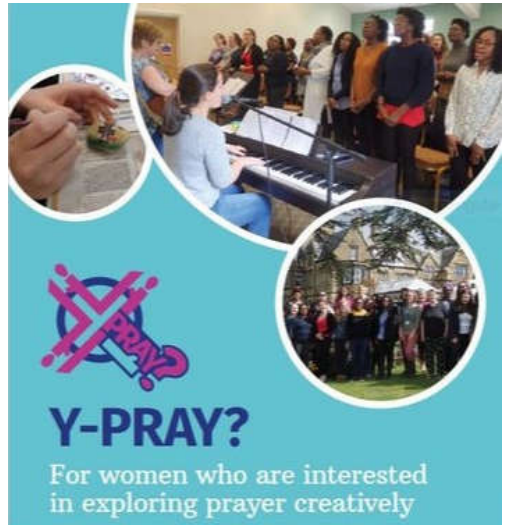
Elizabeth Burroughs

Chairperson, National Committee for England, Wales & Northern Ireland

## **Y-PRAY? 2020**

Will be taking place at  
King's Park Conference Centre,  
Northampton, NN3 6LL.  
**1st – 3rd May 2020**

The weekend starts on Friday evening and finishes after lunch on Sunday. Accommodation is in ensuite bedrooms and all meals are provided. The programme includes worship, bible study and creative prayer, plus more light-hearted activities and an opportunity to discover what WDP is all about.



### **Main speaker for the weekend: Rev Laura Hewitt**



Laura Hewitt, our main speaker, was ordained 16 years ago and is currently the Vicar of St James, New Barnet. Laura is very involved with New Wine and was their first woman Regional Director. She set up 'Inspire' – a mini New Wine for the North. Her passion is to enable all to walk a spirit filled life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

### **Saturday evening entertainment: Anna Nicholson**

Meet the nominees for Woman of the Year in her award-winning character comedy show; a Geordie Instagram star, a vicar with a rival, a mischievous granny and a bra saleswoman stirring up the next generation. Who will win? You decide.



The cost for the weekend is £140 based on two sharing or £150 for single occupancy.

To find out more or to book your place visit the website  
<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/y-pray-2020/>

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



**Friday 6th March 2020**

## **Rise! – Take Your Mat and Walk ZIMBABWE**

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer. Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas - before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

The services in our area will be held at:

**10:30am**

**St John Fisher Church**

207 Cannon Hill Lane, London SW20 9DB

**8:00pm**

**Christchurch West Wimbledon**

Cottenham Park Road, SW20 0RZ

*Refreshments will be served after each service*

For further information and resources see the WDP website: [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)





# THE EGG THAT SHARES THE EASTER STORY



**Special Edition**  
(RRP £9.99)



**Dark** (RRP £5.50)



**New 24  
page Easter  
story-activity  
book**

**Fun Pack**  
(RRP £5.00)



**Original**  
(RRP £3.99)

**NOW  
PLASTIC  
FREE**



**PALM OIL  
FREE**



## 10th Anniversary edition

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010 but the supermarkets turned down the idea at first. It was left to churches and church schools to place orders to fund The Meaningful Chocolate Company to make The Real Easter Egg.

Ten years on, more than a million eggs have been sold with over 750,000 sent through the post directly to churches and schools. The rest have been sold through retailers and supermarkets.

The success of The Real Easter Egg has meant that the production of Fairtrade chocolate has moved to the UK. Over £275,000 has been raised from sales for charitable causes.

## Where to buy

The whole range can be ordered online at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) or from Traidcraft, Eden.co.uk, TLM trading.com, Redemptorist Publications, Embrace the Middle East. Christian bookshops and some cathedrals also have stock.

You can also buy the blue Original egg from Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons and Asda.

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

The Original and Dark eggs include a 24 page Easter story-activity book. They are Palm Oil and plastic free, and include a competition. The Dark also contains a simple Easter guide, designed for adults and 3 dark Mini Squares.

The Fun Pack has an Easter story activity poster and 6 milk chocolate eggs.

The Special Edition has a Bethlehem olive wood cross keyring, a simple guide to Easter, an orange milk chocolate bar and a luxury milk chocolate egg.

See the full shop list or order at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

## **EYES WIDE OPEN**

*Sharing moments all around us in pictures.*



*Please submit your images, digital photographs or scanned artwork to Andrew (Newsletter Editor) at [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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.*

David and Amanda Featherstone are Everyday Sutton Venue Pastors, and spent the whole of October 2019 on a Sabbatical - this is the second part of their account experiences of that time in South Africa and Mozambique.

*Andrew Fox*

## **MOZAMBIQUE SABBATICAL**



We flew to Johannesburg and on the transfer flight to Durban, Amanda got into conversation with a young South African man sitting next to her. He told her that he was a nervous flyer and she offered to pray with him. He readily agreed and during the flight shared more about his hopes and fears. Amanda spoke to him naturally and straight forwardly about Jesus and before we landed he had committed his life to following Jesus. What a start to our trip!

In Durban, we spent a couple of days with a couple of old friends from Everyday Wimbledon. They showed us great kindness and even drove us across the border into Mozambique, dropping us at IRIS Ministries Zimpeto Children’s Centre in Maputo. Maputo traffic is something to experience and I will never complain about the Sutton one way system ever again!

IRIS Zimpeto is home to over 240 children aged from babies to teenagers. Children come to the centre because they have been abandoned, abused, lost, orphaned or their family is simply unable to manage the child’s health needs. IRIS has focused increasingly on finding homes in the community or enabling children to be cared for by relatives but this



isn’t always possible. Although many of the children’s stories are heart breaking and conditions on the base are basic (cold showers, simple food, homemade toys) the atmosphere is happy and joyful. It was clear to us that the children are loved and they know it. Singing and dancing is a constant feature of life on the base and the worship times that we experienced with the children were truly memorable.

We were on the base for nearly three weeks and were welcomed to join in with everything that was happening. Consistent care for the children is provided by the long-term missionaries and local “Tias and Tios” (uncles and aunts) who serve on the base, while visitors like us are encouraged to provide extra attention that the children clearly craved. We met Brits, Americans, Brazillians, South Africans, Australians, Germans as well as local Mozambicans who have given their lives to caring for these children.



Amanda particularly gave herself to the babies’ and toddlers’ house, spending part of each day there. Her Portuguese stood up very well and she was able to play with the children and sing songs about the love of Jesus.

IRIS Zimpeto also serves the surrounding area by providing a school, community clinic, special needs programme, Library, Bible school, Church and feeding programme on the base. In addition, outreach teams led by IRIS pastors go out into the city several times a week and we were invited to join them. We had opportunities to preach to prisoners at a local police station, join in worship with street children and pray with patients at the city hospital. We were greatly impressed by the Pastors who led these outreach teams and felt that we so much to learn from them.



Perhaps it was our visits to the Boccaria that had the biggest impact on me. This is a

huge landfill site where many people try to make a living. Last year a landslide destroyed homes close to the Boccaria and killed many people. As a result the government cleared many of the remaining buildings, including the IRIS Church which served the community. It's hard to describe the Boccaria. My first impression was apocalyptic; a mound of waste rising four stories high and stretching into the distance, numerous fires burning, in the smoke people searching through the rubbish. I was acutely aware of being an outsider and felt it would be an intrusion to take pictures, yet everyone we met greeted us warmly. It was clear that Pastor Serge, who had taken us there, and IRIS were well known and respected. We found out later that Pastor Serge, and several other members of the IRIS team, had lived on the Boccaria as children before being found by IRIS and taken to live at the centre. Most had gone on to attend the Bible School and are now pastors serving the communities they had come from.

Pastor Serge took us to some of the homes nearby and we had the chance to talk and pray with the families that lived there. The hospitality and dignity of these people, who seem to have so little, was humbling. As we were leaving one of the homes a young man approached Pastor Serge and asked if we would come and pray with his friend. We were led through sandy back streets to a one room home. The only furniture was a bed and a very old sofa. In the bed was a young man who was unconscious and very gaunt. With her medical background Amanda knew that he was barely clinging to life. Led by Pastor Serge, we prayed with him and the young woman who was caring for him. We teams compassion and connection with this desperate young couple was deeply moving. At



Pastor Serge's suggestion, we left some money to pay for the young man to be taken to hospital. IRIS have seen many miracles over the years, including blind people regaining their sight. While we saw no miracle on that occasion, we certainly saw God's love in action and continue to pray for the people we meet.

After we left the young man, we went to the new church IRIS had just

completed to replace the one that was demolished. Like the surrounding homes, it's a very simple concrete block construction with no glass in the windows. Bright banners at the front made a simple back drop to the stage. Local people and lots of children joined us for a joyful time of worship. Again, we were invited to speak and remembering God's word to us at Ashburnham, we told them about his peace trusting that this was the word God had sent us with. Many of them came forward to be prayed for.



Before we left I asked Pastor Serge to pray for me. I wanted something of his heart to lodge in me, I wanted to connect with the need in our community they way he has with his. I told him that the poverty around us is usually hidden. The people around us are usually well fed, well housed and safe but in the things that really matter they are often in desperate poverty, the tragedy is that most don't even know it.

Everywhere the IRIS Pastors go they hand out bread. Their burden is to feed bodies and souls. We return convinced that, as God's people, he has put into our hands the only bread that truly satisfies. I pray that God will help us to share it where he has placed us, just as Pastor Serge is doing where God has placed him.



*David and Amanda Featherstone*

IRIS Ministries have recently recorded a video at the Zimpeto base where David and Amanda stayed. It features many of the people they met and you can find it by going to this YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFC1faNXXvE&fbclid=IwAR0kZltoLFUvhlkbea-xCvuBmxHVHfPc2Bf6eMDyy5RPQf2HRNZskGX7eDA>

# West Barnes Singers GOSPEL SINGING WORKSHOP

With Rachel Huggins

Twice a finalist in the BBC Gospel Choir of the Year competition, Rachel is grounded in gospel, soul and jazz, and has directed several Gospel Choirs, as well as directing music in a number of schools. She is also a performer in her own right, with various albums to her name.



**Saturday 8 February 2020 10.15 am to 1.15 pm**

**Venue: New Malden Methodist Church, 49 High Street, KT3 4BY**

**Cost of Workshop: £15**

**Come and join us - open to all singers**

For more information please contact Penelope Prendergast: 020 8648 3987



[westbarnessingers.co.uk](http://westbarnessingers.co.uk)

[www.westbarnessingers.co.uk](http://www.westbarnessingers.co.uk)



[@wbarnessingers](https://twitter.com/wbarnessingers)

## **Embrace the Middle East**

Copies of the January Magazine have just been delivered, along with the February-July Prayer Diary. Please help yourselves from the Vestibule!

Also available is the Charity Gifts & Cards Spring Catalogue which has lovely Easter cards, also cards for Lent.

Finally, a Half Price Sale leaflet is also available, but please note the Christmas Cards have already sold out!!

Our grateful thanks to everyone concerned for your support in 2019, especially for the Stamp Donations.

*Mary and Derek Heaton*

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## **GOURMET MEAL** **Sunday 16th February**

Our Gourmet meals will commence on Sunday 16th February and this time we will be visiting Italy.

Once again there is no charge and all we ask, is for a generous donation to raise much needed funds for the church. Lunch will be served at 12.30, just after the morning service.

If you would like to come please put your name on the sign up on the notice board along with the number of guests. Please also indicate if you would like the vegetarian option or a jacket potato instead of pasta.

The menu is:-

Minestrone Soup with Ciabatta Bread

Penne Bolognese or a Jacket Potato (a vegetarian option will be available for both dishes) all served with an Italian Salad

Tiramisu.

For further information please contact Sylvia at [sylvia.baxter1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sylvia.baxter1@tiscali.co.uk) or telephone 07803724989.





## **January Update from CSW**

### **Iran:**

CSW, in collaboration with Article 18, Middle East Concern and Open Doors International, published an annual report on the situation of Christians in Iran on 20th January, highlighting individuals and churches that were targeted by the authorities during 2019.

The report states: *“During 2019, Iranian Christians, along with other religious minorities, continued to suffer multiple violations of their right to freedom of religion or belief.”*

It details a number of publicly available cases of Iranian Christians who were arrested in 2019, including that of Pastor Matthias Haghnejad. It also highlights the cases of several Christians who remained imprisoned, and of churches that remained closed in 2019.

The organisations urge Iran to fulfil its obligations under national and international law by releasing all those detained on spurious charges related to their faith or religious activities, returning confiscated church property and materials, and upholding the right to freedom of religion or belief for every citizen.

The report also calls on the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, to investigate the ongoing mistreatment of Christians and other religious minorities in Iran, and for Iran to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Iran, Javaid Rehman, to visit the country.

### **Nigeria:**

The Abubakar Shekau faction of the terrorist group Boko Haram executed the chair of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Adamawa state, Reverend Lawan Andimi, on 20th January.

Rev Andimi was abducted on 2nd January 2020, when terrorists wearing military fatigues ransacked Michika town and forced him into a vehicle.

News of Rev Andimi's death was broken in a tweet posted on 21st January by Nigerian investigative journalist and Boko Haram expert Ahmed Salkida, who received a video of the beheadings of Rev Andimi and an unnamed soldier.

Mr Salkida wrote: *“To break some news items can traumatize. I’m battling with one of such. Reverend Andimi, abducted by BokoHaram was executed yesterday. Rev. Andimi was a church leader, a father to his children and the community he served. My condolences go to his family.”*

In a proof of life video sent to Mr Salkida earlier, Rev Andimi had asked his colleagues and particularly the president of his own denomination, the Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN – Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), to speak with the Adamawa state governor and other relevant officials to secure his release. While expressing confidence that he might return to family and colleagues “by the grace of God”, he added: “If the opportunity has not been granted, maybe it is the will of God.” Rev Andimi concluded his statement with the following words: “Don’t cry, don’t worry, but thank God for everything.”

### **Leah Sharibu:**

One of five aid workers released by the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) faction of Boko Haram on 15th January has said that Leah Sharibu, the 16 year-old schoolgirl abducted from her school in northeast Nigeria in February 2018, is alive and well.

Jennifer Ukambong Samuel, who works for Action for International Medical Alliance (ALIMA), was abducted on 22nd December 2019 while travelling along the Borno-Mungono road to the Plateau State capital Jos, by terrorists wearing military fatigues who spoke in English as they profiled travellers and executed several of them. Also abducted were her colleague Miss Asabe Cletus Musa; Solidarity International employee Arthur Ibojekwe China; and private security guards Adamu Auwal Ozeshi and George Danbaba Michael, who survived by pretending to work for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Red Cross.

All five were released following negotiations involving ALIMA and Solidarity international. It remains unclear whether a ransom was paid.

Leah Sharibu was the sole Christian among 110 schoolgirls abducted by ISWAP from their school in Dapchi, Yobe state on 19 February 2018. While her surviving classmates returned a month later following government negotiations, she was denied her freedom for refusing to convert as a precondition for her release.

For more information go to:

[www.facebook.com/cswuk/](https://www.facebook.com/cswuk/)

[https://twitter.com/csw\\_uk](https://twitter.com/csw_uk)

[www.youtube.com/user/ChristianSolidarity](https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristianSolidarity)

[www.instagram.com/csw\\_uk/](https://www.instagram.com/csw_uk/)

**CSW is a Christian organisation working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights, in the pursuit of justice.**

# CHURCH DIARY



Sun	2	10.30am	Café Worship with Communion led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	4	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	7	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	9	10.30am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Emma Cusack
Tue	11	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sat	15	10.30am	Big Brunch
Sun	16	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Dawn Canham
		12.30am	Gourmet Lunch
Tue	18	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Recalling famous and unusual catch phrases</i> - Peter Redway
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	21	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	23	10.30am	Morning Service led by Viv Newitt
Tue	25	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer

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

We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday  
in February a very

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Ashleigh Hillhouse on 1st February**

**Joshua Fuwa on 20th February**



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### **Church Family News**

Marjorie celebrated her 80th birthday in September. She is delighted to be able to share an image of the special card and words from her grandson.

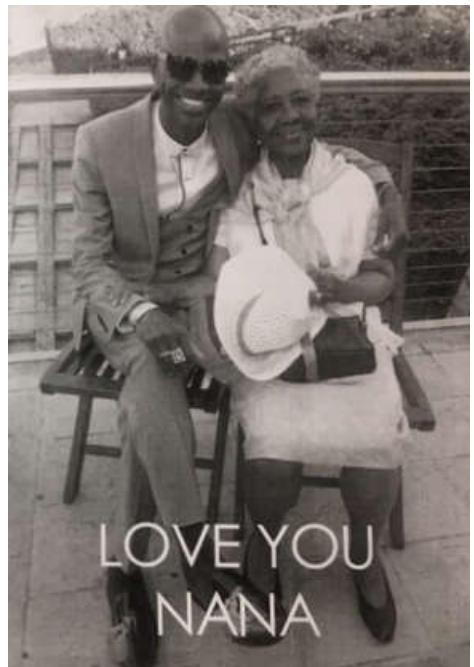
*Thank you Nana, for always keeping a place for me at your table  
and for always keeping my plate and heart full.*

*Thank you Nana for your kindness  
and generosity and for always  
providing such hilarious television  
commentary!*

*Thank you Nana for our Mother  
and never letting us forget to love  
and look after each other.*

*I hope you know that how  
incredibly loved you are - like the  
grateful petals of a flower  
spreading in the sun, I feel so  
incredibly blessed to be your  
Grandson.*

*Happy 80th Birthday Nana, love  
from Corey*



## THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED

Martin Way made donations to a two causes from our special Christmas Collections. Last year's figures are shown in brackets. Thank you to those who contributed their time and talent as well you who donated money.

### Action for Children - £1,334.37

Carol singing at Morden Station	£632.00 (£650.00)
Carol service	£120.00 (£201.16)
Christingle	£394.22 (£235.68)
Christmas Day service	£188.15 (£185.30)

### Methodist Homes for the Aged (from the Christmas post box) - £141.60

A slight increase compared with last year.

*Roy Ellis*

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## Winter Night Shelter Volunteers Wanted

The Winter Night Shelter involves 20 faith groups across Merton providing shelter, hot meals and so much more for our guests; local rough sleepers.

This year we are hosting at Wimbledon Hillside Church rather than the Lantern Church for seven Mondays starting from 20th January 2020. We have three shifts split across 5pm to 9am and are happy to be flexible on dates and times.

If you are interested in volunteering or want further information please contact Peter Day at peterday789@gmail.com or telephone 07769255214

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**When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear  
"the call of God".**

**However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile.**

**Thank you for turning off your phones.**

*A notice found in a Church in France...(translated)*

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

## 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 (Twice monthly)	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
WEDNESDAY	Frogs Club (for Carers & Toddlers)	10.00 – 12.00
	Rainbows (1st Merton Park)	5.30 - 6.30 pm
THURSDAY	Brownies (2nd Merton Park)	6.00 - 7.30 pm
FRIDAY	Luncheon Club (Fortnightly)	12.30 pm

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

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