

# 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**

# **March 2020**

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

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

## MINISTER'S LETTER



Creating a climate of change.



It doesn't seem that long ago that I used this letter to address the global climate emergency that the human race is being called to wake up to. Having checked, however, it was in fact in October - six months ago. Given that most of the scientific community was predicting that we'd reach some kind of tipping point in 2020 (i.e. *this* year) it seems reasonable to return to this most pressing of issues once again - not least because we have now entered Lent, a period that lends itself to self-reflection and even repentance.

If you're about to put this letter down, believing that I'm now going to issue a Jeremiah-esque message of doom and call upon people to don their hessian underpants and cover themselves in ashes, please bear with me. I'm not. For all that the climate emergency is a stark reminder that we haven't always been good stewards of God's creation, at the heart of Lent - and indeed Jesus' life and message - is an invitation to receive and accept God's forgiveness and move on in a different direction.

And this is where *Living Lent, 2020* comes in. *Living Lent* invites Christians to gather as a community and journey together towards radical change for the climate. It acknowledges both that our lifestyles and choices have played a role in damaging creation *and* that many of us are desperate to change because we very much hope to see creation flourish as God intended it to. It then asks the all-important question, 'So where do we begin?' and offers some practical suggestions.

Much of these can be found on its website: <https://livinglent.org> where people can sign up to receive daily reflections and commit to making some positive commitments towards change. *Living Lent* asks us:

- Could you give up single use plastics for Lent?
- Could you go meat free for Lent?
- Could you commit to finding alternative modes of transport this Lent?
- Could you reduce your electricity use by 10% during Lent?
- Could you commit to living locally this Lent? (This is about where our food comes from)
- Could you buy nothing new for the whole of Lent? (Excluding food, medicines and basic toiletries).

For each of these questions there are further suggestions as to what making such a commitment will mean, look like and what difference it will make. To make the challenges engaging for younger members, there are family resources available (including a Bible study, a family challenge and a craft idea): <https://livinglent.org/resources/family-resources/>

Obviously, we can each choose to tackle one or more of these challenges but the idea behind *Living Lent* is that, as we engage with the challenges, we begin to recognise that changing our climate is not just an activity, but a lifestyle. The good news is that, as the *Living Lent* community, this is something that we will share in together, encouraging and challenging one another as we journey through Lent.

Please give this your serious consideration and, if there is anyone who does not have access to the internet who would like more information about any one of these challenges, please do not hesitate to let me know and I'll arrange for you to receive the information by other means.

With every blessing

*Paul*

## THIS LENT, COULD YOU...



Take up alternative forms of transport?



Give up single use plastics?



Live locally?



Buy nothing new?



Give up meat?

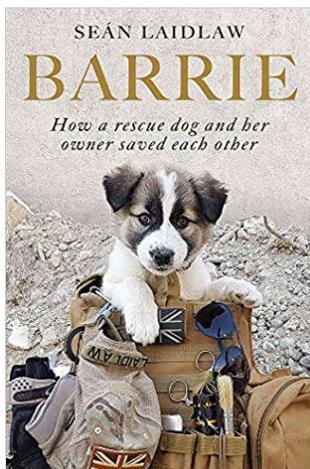


Reduce your energy use by 10%?

TO CHANGE YOUR IMPACT ON THE CLIMATE?

TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE AT  
[LIVINGLENT.ORG](https://livinglent.org)





## A Recommended Read

Way back in August last year I came across one of the most inspiring write-ups in the Daily mail of a forthcoming book to be published. It captured my attention and I asked Derek to order a copy for me for Christmas.

It turned out to be one the most uplifting books I had ever read and I would now recommend it to anyone. It was called “Barrie, How a rescue dog and her owner saved each other” by Seán Laidlaw. I just couldn't put it down and read it in four days flat!!

Former Royal Engineer Seán was working as a bomb disposal expert in Syria, when he heard whimpering from the rubble of a school that had exploded and collapsed. Upon further inspection he found that the source of the noise was a tiny, abandoned puppy, surrounded by her four dead siblings.

Seán cordoned off the area to ensure it was safe from explosives and returned with food and water. After a few days Barrie grew to trust Sean and eventually the two became inseparable in the three months he was in Syria.

He credits Barrie with helping him with his PTSD and their story is a powerful reminder of the incredible bond that dogs and humans have, and how both can save the other.

When Seán had to return to the UK, leaving Barrie behind, when his contract wasn't renewed, but he knew he had to bring Barrie home. The two had created an unbreakable bond and they were reunited in emotional scenes that have made headlines all over the world.

A charity called “Warpaws” arranged after many hiccups to fly Barrie out of Syria, across the border of Jordan and then onto Paris, where Seán and his Polish girlfriend, Nettie, had driven to collect her - now a very large dog who had never forgotten him. Even though Nettie would become his wife, Seán said Barrie would always be his best mate.

If you do get the chance to read this uplifting story, I hope you enjoy it as much as I did with all its laughter and tears.

*Mary Heaton*

*The hardback version of this book is published by Coronet (ISBN: 9781529380651) and the paperback (ISBN: 9781529380682) is due to be published in early July 2020*

*To find out more about 'Warpaws' and their work visit their website at [warpaws.org](http://warpaws.org)*

# The Methodist Church

## **Flooding**

The Rev Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference, has written this prayer for those affected by the current floods.

*For people battered by forceful storms  
For communities battling rising floods  
For emergency services stretched to the limit  
We pray  
For farmers losing straw and crops  
For shopkeepers losing high street trade  
For repeat victims losing strength and hope  
We pray  
For resilience and resolve to change  
For impatience with using flood plains  
For commitment to protect riverbanks and coasts  
We pray  
In Jesus' name we pray  
Amen*



## **Coronavirus Guidance**

At this time, the UK Chief Medical Officers consider the risk to individuals from Coronavirus as low.

The Methodist Church is monitoring the situation and has issued the following guidance to ensure the risks are reduced, recommending practical precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

- Wash hands with soap and water often or use hand sanitiser gel. This is particularly important for servers at Holy Communion.
- Churches may wish to use the traditional small glasses for communion to reduce the chances of infection.
- Ministers should consider whether it is appropriate to share the peace during services, especially if some members feel they are unable to participate.
- It is probably a good time to remind Communion Stewards that communion wine once poured out should never be returned to the bottle to be reused later. Any remaining elements should be reverently consumed or *put to ground*.

Revd Paul Wood, Interim Director of the Ministries Team, commented: “Our prayers are with all those who have been affected either by the illness or the measures to prevent its spread”.

## **Gourmet Meal**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Italian Gourmet Lunch on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February. I think from the laughter and chat everyone enjoyed it. A total of £402.56 was donated and after the expenses of £141.54 a grand total of £261.02 was handed to Roy to go into church funds for whatever is needed!



Also a request was made for the next Gourmet lunch to be the United Kingdom! So watch this space for the date and the menu.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped me on the Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February, without your help it would have been impossible. I will not name names, you know who you are! So until the next time. Thank you.

*Sylvia Baxter*

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## **Can You Help? Do you drive to church?**



We have several members of our congregation who struggle to get to church now and are so grateful if we can offer transport. This would not be a regular weekly commitment, but it would be useful to have a list of people who could help out occasionally.

If you feel you can help, please speak to Brenda or Sue.

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## **Volunteers for the New Rota**

A new rota for March to May 2020 has been posted up in the Coffee Lounge.

If you feel that you could help take part in our Sunday morning fellowship by stewarding, welcoming people as they come in or preparing and serving refreshments then consult your diary and enter your name against the slots you would like to adopt.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved then ask one of the regulars - you will be playing a vital part in our ministry.



# 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.

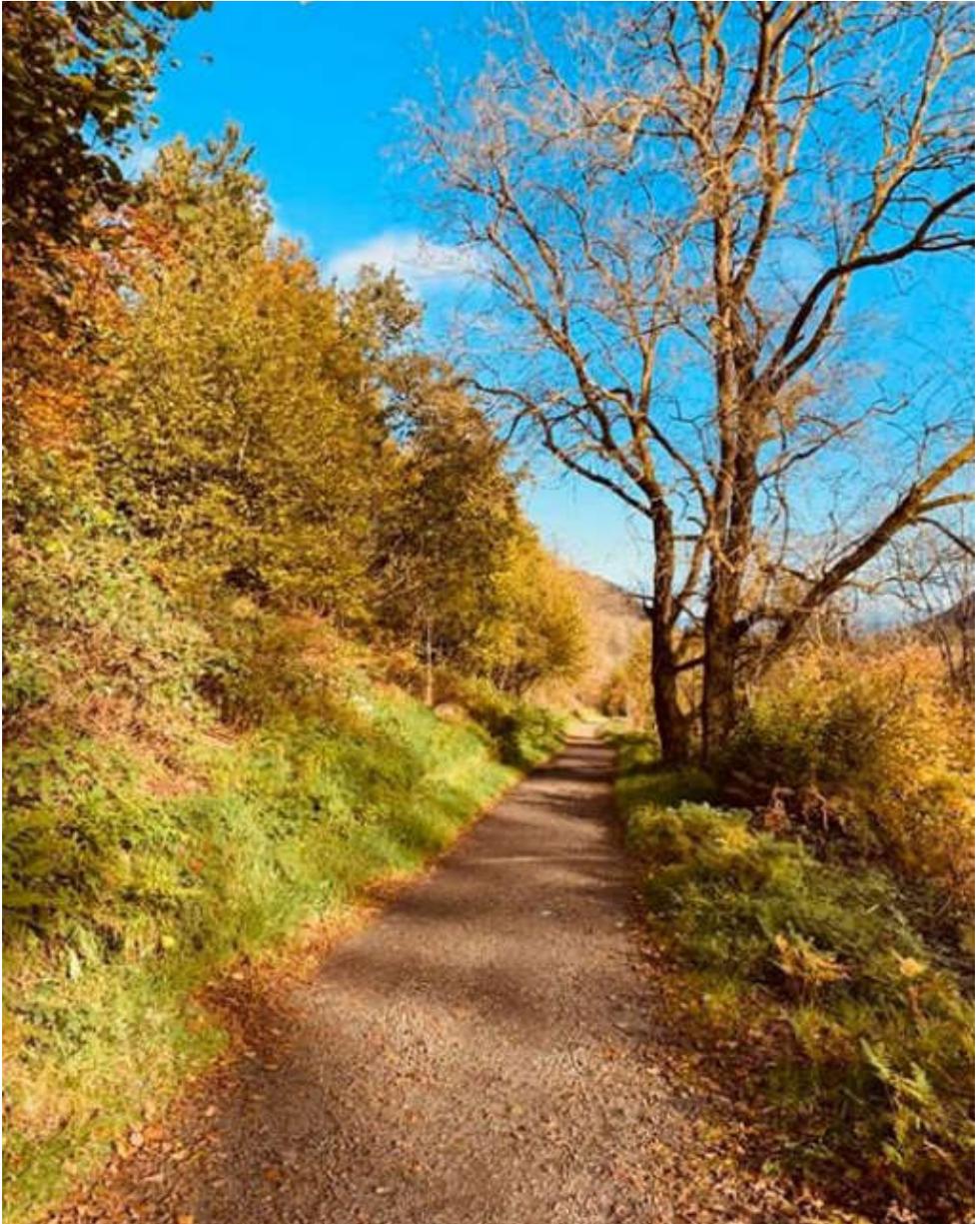
The Fun Pack has an Easter story activity poster and 6 milk chocolate eggs.

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 final part of their account and their reflections of that time in South Africa and Mozambique.

*Andrew Fox*

## **MOZAMBIQUE SABBATICAL**



After leaving Mozambique we returned to South Africa to enjoy two days on the Nambiti Game Reserve before flying to Cape Town to stay with Sid & Jen Rall who used to lead Everyday Southfields. It was so good to catch up with them and other former Everyday Church friends. Cape Town is a beautiful city; Boulders Beach and climbing Table Mountain were definite highlights.

Our final day was spent with Dean and Paula Finnie with whom we have had warm links for many years. They live and serve in a poor community near Macassar. We shadowed them as they prepared and ran their homework club and soup kitchen and were so impressed by the way that they serve those around them. It was great to meet many regulars and we are delighted that Everyday Church will be sponsoring the Soup Kitchen Christmas Dinner again year.

**Reflections**:- We are so grateful to Everyday Church for making this trip possible. It will take a while to process everything that we experienced but here are some of immediate lessons we feel we have learned:



**Give thanks always** –The most common phrase we heard in Mozambican worship was “Obrigado Senhor – thank you Lord!”. It is so impressive that people, who seem to have so little and whose future seems so precarious, overflow with gratitude for everything God gives. I am convinced



that this wasn't just an "African thing" it was evidence of the Holy Spirit and we return with fresh determination to cultivate this attitude ourselves and pass it on others.

**Trust God** – We were often put on the spot and asked to share something without warning. It was a joy to find again and again that when we stepped out, God always gave us something to share. Like the boy with the loaves and fishes when we give our little to Jesus it is always enough.

**Invest in others** – We noticed how the outreach pastors usually had teams of younger people with them and it was often they who took the lead. This is a principle that we are already committed to but it was good to see it in action. IRIS have planted literally hundreds of churches across Mozambique in the last twenty years, this is the secret.

**We can make a difference** – The need in Mozambique is huge and it's easy to dismiss the difference we can make. But in the twenty years since the base was founded many lives have literally been saved and transformed because men and women left their comfort and safety to serve. IRIS say they are experiencing revival in parts of Mozambique with thousands coming to faith. Even my Lonely Planet guidebook confirmed that the protestant church in the country has grown rapidly in recent years. It's hard to look at what this means in London. We feel the challenge for us, as God's people in our context, is to stop and love the person in front of us, to give our time in practical help for the poor, the marginalised and the isolated. We need to trust that God works through each one of us wherever he places us, pouring out his love through the Holy Spirit and working in people's lives as we connect them with Jesus. As Heidi Baker has written, "God is not about using the mighty, but the willing."



*David and Amanda Featherstone*

## Church Family News

### A Special Happy Birthday

Eileen celebrated her 95th birthday on Friday 21st February. We wish her a belated Happy Birthday from all the church family.



### In Memory

As many of you know Gwen's brother died in December. For the Flower Display on Sunday 23rd February she donated this wonderful bouquet of flowers for the church in his memory.

### 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 (or money) one week please sign your name on the list.



## **February Update from CSW**

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’ (John 10:10)*

### **Pray for Nepal:**

Jesus brought a message of freedom and the fullness of life. This month, pray this verse over two cases in Nepal where Christians face unjust criminal charges of attempting to convert others.

Last April Pastor Dili Ram and four others were arrested at a Christian leaders’ conference in Dang, Nepal. They were charged with distributing money to ‘allure people to convert to Christianity’ – despite telling police that the conference was simply to equip Christian leaders. Their case is due to be heard on Tuesday (25 February), after being postponed several times.

After he was arrested, Pastor Dili Ram was held in remand for seven days before being released. During that week he was denied all visits, and even though he’s diabetic he was not given adequate meals.

A few weeks ago we asked you to pray for Chinimaya and Pastor Tamang, a social worker and church leader from Nepal, who were also charged with attempted conversion in relation to their work with orphans. After many delays their case is also due to be heard this week, on Thursday.

### **In summary, please pray:**

- That the hearings for Pastor Dili Ram, Chinimaya and Pastor Tamang would take place as scheduled this week after many delays.
- That all the unfair conversion charges would be dropped and all the accused would be freed unconditionally.
- For restrictive conversion laws across the South Asia region to be repealed, so that no one else is criminalised for legitimate peaceful activities.

## **Pray for Nigeria:**

Rebecca Sharibu, the mother of 16 year-old schoolgirl Leah Sharibu, joined a protest outside the Nigerian High Commission in London, organised by CSW to mark the second anniversary of her daughter's abduction and calling on the Nigerian government to do everything in its power to secure her release.

Leah Sharibu was the sole Christian among 110 schoolgirls abducted by the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) faction of Boko Haram 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 release.



Speaking outside the Nigerian High Commission, Rebecca Sharibu said: ***“Today Leah has spent two years in captivity. We don’t know where Leah is, we don’t know the condition or the situation that Leah is in. I want to thank you once again for the encouragement I receive from all of you, and plead with you to continue praying until Leah is out.***

***I'm pleading with [the UK] government and with our Nigerian government, with President Buhari... to fulfil his promises that he has made to me personally, that he is going to rescue Leah and ensure that she is released, and not just Leah, all the others in captivity.”***

Mrs Sharibu, accompanied by CSW's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas, subsequently delivered a petition with over 12,130 signatures to the High Commission, calling on the Nigerian government to take action to help Leah.

Eritrean gospel singer Helen Berhane, who spent two and a half years imprisoned by Eritrean authorities in a shipping container on account of her faith, sang Days of Elijah, while Pastor Ayo Adedoyin, the Executive Director of the International Organisation for Peace Building and Social Justice (PSJ); and Pastor Fred Williams of Spirit Life Missions prayed for Leah's release.

Pastor Fred Williams, also speaking outside the High Commission, highlighted the wider situation in northern Nigeria: ***“The number of kidnappings in northern Nigeria is not reducing, it is increasing and they are targeting***

***Christians... Every part of northern Nigeria now is being covered by this trend. This is not going away... What is happening in Nigeria is going to spread, its not going to stop in northern Nigeria, it has already spread to other parts. We need to respond to this global issue, we need to be proactive."***

In October 2018 ISWAP declared that Ms Sharibu and Christian nurse Alice Loksha Ngaddah, who was abducted on 1 March 2018 during an attack on Rann, would be enslaved for life, and that it was now "lawful" for the terrorists to "do whatever we want with them." Most recently in January 2020 one of five aid workers released by ISWAP reported that Leah was alive and well.

### **Pray for India:**

A group of 70 Christians were attacked on 5 February whilst travelling home from the Third National Congress of the Synod of Pentecostal Churches in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

Three men on motorcycles targeted the bus and minivan, in which the group was travelling at approximately 12:15am at Anna Nagar, on the Bhavani Sagar Road, Erode, Tamil Nadu. The men verbally threatened the passengers before smashing the windshields of the vehicles, causing injury to the driver and passengers, which included women, children and the elderly.

Pastor Paul Raj, one of the passengers, immediately called the police, who arrived at the scene 15 minutes later. A First Information Report (FIR), which is necessary to start an investigation, has reportedly been registered against the perpetrators and investigations have been initiated.

The National Congress of the Synod of Pentecostal Churches was attended by an estimated one hundred thousand people. Local sources report that the attack is believed to have been perpetrated by religious extremists who were aware of the national congress and planned the ambush on the Christians.

The national congress focused on calling on Christians to pray for peace in India at this time, particularly as Christians are experiencing a rising number of hate campaigns that involve church closures, prayer meeting disruptions, police complicity and targeted attacks with impunity by non-state actors. The leadership of the Synod had also called on the government of India to protect religious minorities in the country who are living in fear and to respect the fundamental freedoms of the Indian Constitution. There was also a call for the government to revoke the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) which are criticised widely in India for their unconstitutional nature.

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

# CHURCH DIARY



# MARCH

Sun	1	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	3	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	6	10.30am	Day of Prayer service at St John Fisher Church, 207 Cannon Hill Lane, London SW20 9DB
		12.30pm	Luncheon Club
		8.00pm	Day of Prayer service at Christchurch West Wimbledon, Cottenham Park Road, SW20 0RZ
Sun	8	10.30am	Holy Communion led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	10	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	15	10.30am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	17	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Kate Brown</i> - Making music against the odds
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	20	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	22	10.30am	Café Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tues	24	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	25	7.00pm	Circuit Meeting
Sat	28	10.30am	Big Brunch
Sun	29	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Emma Cusack
Tue	31	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer

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

*Happy Birthday*  
and especially to:

**Ruby Day on 3rd March**

**Matthew Loft on 9th March**



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# Charity Easter Cake and Crafts Sale

Anne and Rachael Conquest would like to invite you for tea and cake  
on

**Saturday 4th April 2020**

at

**7 Malden Park, New Malden, KT3 6AS**

**From 11am till 4pm**

As well as cake, you will be able to buy crafts from:

**Daisy Chain Crafts by Annemarie Clare**

<https://daisychainscraftsbyannemarie.squarespace.com>

and

**Fused and Stained-glass designs by Wendy Day**

<https://wendoodle-designs.com/28-2/>

in addition

**Flamingo Cards** will also be on sale

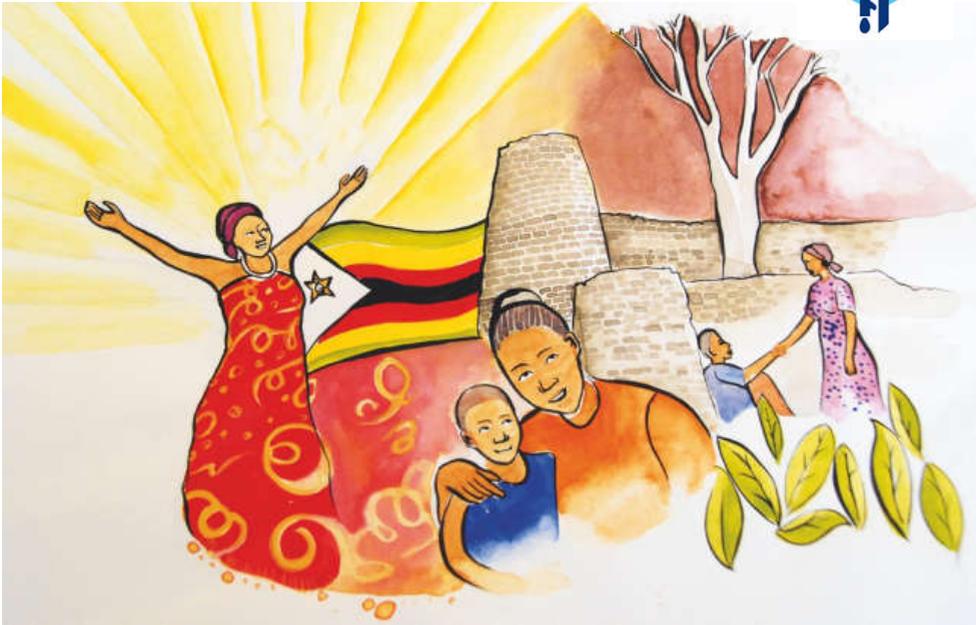
All proceeds will be going to



**Alzheimer's  
Research  
UK**

Make  
breakthroughs  
possible

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



## **Rise! – Take Your Mat and Walk** **Friday 6th March 2020**

**10:30am**    **St John Fisher Church**  
207 Cannon Hill Lane, London SW20 9DB

**8:00pm**    **Christchurch West Wimbledon**  
Cottenham Park Road, SW20 0RZ

*Refreshments are served after each service.  
Men, Women and Children Welcome!*

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

Items for the **April Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,  
(email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 22nd March** 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)

Raise FREE funds for us every time you shop on line via  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/martinwaymc/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/martinwaymc/)

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Booking.com

DEBENHAMS

next

SCREWFIX

Sainsbury's

ASOS  
discover fashion online

Viking

moonpig

JUST EAT