

MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear friends,

I hate to sound a bore but this Easter was once again a great time for us as the church family. It started with Palm Sunday where we were all blessed to participate in the baptism of little Joshua. Joshua reminds me of a little 5-year old girl who was so fond of me when I was in college. I still remember her running to me every time I returned to college from holidays with some kinda wobbly legs, jump on me and say 'Ngumissite' which is Kenyan version of the word I have missed you buckets. Now let me get to the point which is this little girl used to wear a very nice top with the words 'If you think I am cute you should see my mum'.

Now Joshua is cute in all sense of the current usage of the word cute. I can forgive him for carrying some Tottenham Hotspur blood in his veins. I can even forgive him for bringing such a big Army of Spurs into my church. At least his hair (not his dads) qualifies him for a red-hot Man U shirt. Truth be said , Joshua is peaceful. Did not say a word as I splashed him with the water and signed him with the sign of the cross. To crown it, Joshua has a lovely name fit for Easter. This Hebrew name means Jehovah is generous or Jehovah saves. Palm Sunday was about a people so generous to Jesus the celebrity who would drive out the Romans. They hailed the king, made way and spread out their garments with great shouts of Hosanna in the highest. Unknown to them though was that he was much more than that. He had come to change all of us for we all have some genes of the mean spirit- arrogant-corrupt Roman conquerors. There is ego in each one of us that needs to be conquered so that we can allow our generosity and goodness to be felt by all that know us.

How sad that very few, if any, around Jesus knew this. For the very next day the son of man was to be drugged to the courts by these Romans. The happy palm Sunday when we received the cute, peaceful little Joshua leads to Monday when, thanks to Tony and Brenda we were treated to the bitter cocktail in the garden. Here Jesus' friends were very indifferent. Where were they as all unfolded? Nowhere near! One of them was so materialistic that he thought of Jesus as good for nothing. For thirty pieces

of silver he gave him up to the highest bidder. Damn materialism that appetite that thinks of only the self. Judas cashed in this popular guy who he considered a cheat. As for the members of the gang well sleep got the better of them. When he was finally arrested it was of course a cue for each to sign out. Back to the nets or whatever each knew best.

Oh no there was one! To be fair to Jesus gang of vagabonds one of them did accompany Him all the way as he was whipped and drugged through lower to supreme courts. This was happening at night and he stayed warming himself. He had tried his best even a chop of one of the soldier's ears. But when the going got tough and questions about his accomplice started flying from far and wide even from a beautiful blonde by the fireside, he did what humans do best. He opted to save at least the life of one. At least that one would live to tell the story. You know whom I am talking about. It had to be his life. Peter, who else? No need to go down with you mate. So when finally the question was shot again, something like, "Let's get this straight Pete, yer. Did I not see you with him? Actually is not yours that strong Galilean accent." This was too direct so it needed a strong rebuttal. So he cleared his throat, sobered up from the few jars of wine and shouted, in a feigned town accent, "Can't you leave me alone? I swear I have never met that criminal" he said."

His voice must have thundered right to the eardrums of Jesus. He turned and their eyes met. And as they were held magnetically through eyesight, the voice had even awaked the cockerels who crowed in amazement of the folly of humans. Shame on you, humans they crowed! You keep no promises. You leave for yourselves. That is why your world is worse than that of the cockerels. As for us our life is short and happy. We share the spoils from the garden so that every cock, chicken and chick has enough. Except of course when you guys spoil it with your mutilation of the earth which kills all of us. Peter could hear it. So he run away and grieved like he had never done before. Thanks God for Moira and Gwen who stood in for me on Wednesday to tell this story and Faith in the majestic new church at Wimbledon for washing our feet and letting us relieve those painful moments.

And so came good Friday and thanks God for all of you who continue to turn up in great numbers this time at Morden Park Baptist. The story of

his death is gory and painful. But without it we can never know the joy of Sunday. Because He sure came back and hugged Peter and loved him back. He continues to do it to us when we leave him. That was a glorious Sunday was it not as we went to Cannon Hill common for the sunrise service and behold the sun did actually rise as we were in the middle of the service. My colleagues from the Baptist, James and Keith continue to make this service all the more beautiful as we share with them and their folk in that celebration. Then came the all age and communion celebration where we looked at how we break up with friends.

Fredrick's answer to the question why we break up with friends will remain with me for the rest of my life. He said that sometimes we do nothing but friends just decide to leave us. You think and think and think but cannot lay a finger to why you broke up. Jesus experienced this pain but welcomed them back. Imagine him saying to Peter I love you. To Peter it meant I still love you while to Jesus it was I have never stopped loving you. He never leaves us does he, neither is he ever too hard on us when he finds us or when it is time to make up with him. That is the beauty! He is never like the friends of this world. And because he rose and because he lives, our pain of friends we hurt or hurt us or we left or left us can be healed.

So we walk into the month of May in confidence. This is a month that feels and tastes different. All the darkness of winter is long forgotten, hopefully. It is a bright sun and long shiny days. Sweaty and smelly but that we can handle. And for those of us just from spring harvest, we match in their full of the mountaintop experience. We all walk in there knowing that our friend Jesus lives. Our hosannas on that palm Sunday, or is it Cute Joshday do count. He is king and has not left the throne. He will eventually chase the Romans. But the worst Romans to be conquered are in us. This world could be better if only we know why he came. May we allow him to walk us down the aisle to Emmaus so our eyes can be opened and we can shout that he alone is lord lives and none other.

Will you?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JA' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Come and sing your favourite Charles Wesley hymns for

BBC Television's

Songs of Praise

in

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, LONDON

on

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 28th MAY 2007

The **BBC** will be recording in **WESLEY'S CHAPEL**, 49 CITY ROAD, LONDON EC1Y 1AU, the 'Mother Church of World Methodism' on **Monday 28th May** and invites anyone who can sing (especially if you sing soprano, alto, tenor or bass) to join us for this exciting television event.

Choir Rehearsal

Monday 21st May

7pm-9.30pm

Songs of Praise conductor **Paul Leddington Wright** will conduct this essential rehearsal - an enjoyable evening and a chance for all singers to properly prepare for the television recording.

Television Recording

Bank Holiday Monday 28th May

7pm-10.30pm

The hymn singing will feature in two future editions of *Songs of Praise*.

The first is due to be shown on BBC1 on Sunday 14th October and will feature interviews with people who've studied the lives of those closest to Charles Wesley. The second, to be broadcast the following week, will feature the stories of those whose lives have been changed by his hymns.

To guarantee a seat (and help the BBC gauge numbers) you will need to apply for a **free ticket – ideally before Monday 21st May.**

Apply by:

Post: Songs of Praise (Wesley's Chapel)
Room 5012, BBC, Oxford Road
Manchester M60 1SJ

Telephone: Call the *Songs of Praise*
ticketline (**0161 244 3473**) and
leave a short message including
your name and telephone number
and someone will call you back.

E-mail: songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk



FAIRTRADE RECIPES

Fairtrade Tiramisu

By Michael Barry

2 eggs, separated*
10 sugared sponge biscuits
75g/3 oz icing sugar
300g/12 oz mascarpone cheese
75g/3 oz Fairtrade chocolate
125ml/5 fl oz double strength Fairtrade
ground coffee
Aerosol can of whipped cream



- Place the mascarpone cheese, two yolks and a little sugar in a mixing bowl and beat until well mixed.
- Whip egg whites until stiff, then add the rest of the sugar. Fold into the cream mixture.
- Pour some double strength filter coffee into a bowl, and dissolve a couple of teaspoons of icing sugar into it.
- Dunk five of the sponge fingers into the coffee, soaking thoroughly before placing them in a serving bowl or basin. Make sure they don't get too soggy.
- Grate half the chocolate over the mixture.
- Create the second layer by repeating steps 4 - 6.
- Finally, decorate with cream.

** If you are concerned about the use of raw eggs in this recipe, Michael Barry has suggested that as an alternative you could use 100 ml/4 fl oz of Greek yogurt. However, he added - with a hint of regret in his voice - that it wouldn't taste quite the same.*



AN INVITATION FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MEN'S SUPPER CLUB

Please come along and support us on SATURDAY 19th MAY when we are holding a LUNCH-TIME MARKET from 11.00am until 2:00pm to raise money for Bible Lands to build a house in the poorest part of Egypt. We need to raise one thousand and seventy three pounds for the house before our meeting in November. So far we have raised just over four hundred pounds. Money we get over our target will go to the Rifiki Trust.

Come along, have lunch, spend some money and enjoy the fellowship.

P.S.

If you have anything to contribute to the bric-a-brac / good as new stall please let me or Derek Heaton have it. I am hoping that the ladies of Midways are going to help us by running a cake stall, so contributions to that will also be gratefully received. Monetary donations will also, of course, be welcome.

Bill Cox

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THE FELLOWSHIP

It was with much regret and reluctance, that due to a greatly diminished membership over the last year or so, it was agreed amongst us that were left, to disband. We hope to keep in touch with each other so that the fellowship we enjoyed together, will to some extent be maintained.

We would like to thank those who through the last difficult months supported us as speakers and entertainers.

Eileen Handy

WIMBLEDON CIRCUIT
St. Mary the Virgin, Cuddington

2nd June 2007
10.30am – 3.30pm

QUIET DAY

The day will be led by the Rev. Peter Catford from the Kingston circuit.

Please bring a packed lunch, drinks will be provided throughout the day.

A map showing the location of St Mary's church is available from Valerie Smith.

All Welcome

◆ Connexional Women's Network serves Methodist mission projects encouraging, enabling and equipping through local churches

◆ **This event is organized by Wimbledon Circuit Women's Network**

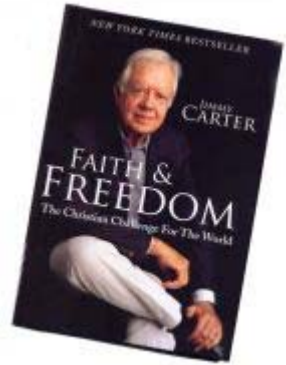
Contact: Valerie Smith
Tel: (020) 8540 1414

A WIMBLEDON CIRCUIT EVENT

BOOK REVIEW from RE:FRESH BOOKS

Faith & Freedom – *The Christian Challenge for the World*
by Jimmy Carter - Hardback £12.99

George W Bush and former president, Jimmy Carter, both profess a strong Christian faith but their philosophies are radically different. Carter, a Nobel Peace Prize Winner, advocates diplomacy to resolve international conflict; Bush took America and its allies into Afghanistan and Iraq.



Carter wrote *Faith & Freedom* for an American audience but it is published in the UK by Duckworth. It explores religious, social and political issues such as Christian fundamentalism, homosexuality, abortion, the death penalty, sexual equality, human rights, environmental issues and the poverty gap. Current American foreign policy in North Korea, Cuba, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Israel are scrutinized.

Faith & Freedom is an indictment of modern American politics. Carter attacks the influence of “Christian fundamentalists” on the political agenda and, incidentally, on Southern Baptist policy. Whether one accepts this premise or not, *Faith and Freedom* makes compelling reading for anybody concerned about justice, compassion and peace in our troubled world and challenges our own prejudices and responses.

Review by David Williams. First published in *Christian Marketplace*

*This book is available from Re:fresh Books & Christian Resources,
23 The Broadway, Tolworth, Surbiton KT6 7DJ*

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Belief is a truth held in the mind.

Faith is a fire in the heart.

Joseph Newton

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH - MAY 2007

It was sad to hear that the Monday Fellowship has had to cease meeting. Not so long ago we lost our choir. As I went around preaching, I used to tell people that our choir was the last one remaining in Methodist Churches for many miles around. Sadly circumstances changed and particularly after the death of our dear Jean Butland and with Douglas Gear moving to the wilds of Sutton, the choir was left leaderless and had to disband.

What a pity it is that organizations such as the choir and the Fellowship seem to pass into history without any thought or any thanks being given to those who gave so much in the past. Looking back at the Fellowship, much stalwart work was done by people such as Kit Cousins, Maralyn Brenton, Win Edwards and my own dear wife June. Recently Eileen Handy, with strong support from her husband Fred, has done her best to keep the Fellowship going, but the time has come to call a halt. Mention should be made of Joan Baker who has been a loyal member of the Fellowship for many years and has acted as the Treasurer. Thanks to them for what they have done.

I read an article by Terry Waite recently in which he stated that the Church of England is no longer the church that he knew even before his captivity. The same can be said of the Methodist Church. It has changed in many ways and not all of the changes have been for the better. We have lost our choir, we have the Fellowship. The thing that worries me is that we have nothing to put in their place. There is less and less to offer anyone new coming into the Church. In the words of the Hymn-

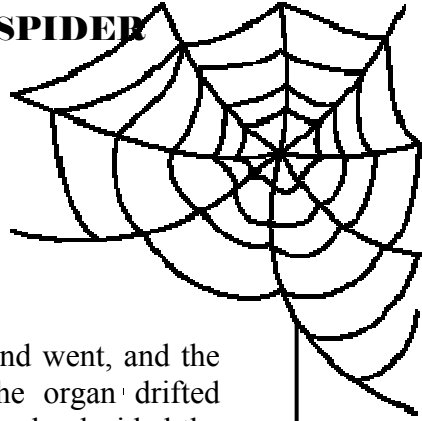
*Lord thy church on earth is seeking
Thy renewal from above.*

(Hymns and Psalms No 774
and if you look that up also have a look at No 775!)

Bill Cox

THE STORY OF THE SPIDER

Many years ago, up in the rafters of an old church, a spider hatched out of its egg. It was dark and cosy up in the roof – no-one ever dusted that high! – and the spider lived happily with her brothers and sisters for a long time.



Far below her, in the church, people came and went, and the sound of music from their singing and the organ drifted upwards. The spider was interested. One day she decided the time had come to move and spin a new web lower down, so she could see more of what was going on.

She made sure she fixed her thread firmly to a cross beam, and slowly and carefully she began to let herself down. Down and down she dropped, telling herself that if she didn't like it, she could always climb back. As she lowered herself, she looked for somewhere to spin a new web.

Suddenly she spotted a dark corner which looked just right. She began to swing her thread from side to side, until she could reach the beam which ran into the dark corner. She landed on all eight legs and ran along until she was hidden in the shadows. It was a perfect place! Carefully she anchored the end of her thread to the beam and began to spin her new web round it. It took her some time, but eventually her work was finished. She made a cosy nest in a dark corner and waited for her lunch to arrive!



Fly after fly landed in her web, and the spider was happy. She grew bigger and bigger and enjoyed her life. Every so often she would let herself down to frighten an unsuspecting member of the congregation, but most of the time she was happy listening to the music and watching the comings and goings below her.

One lovely Spring morning, the spider woke up and decided to do a little spring-cleaning. She crawled round the edges of her web, clearing out loose threads, bits of dust and fly's wings. She worked systematically, beginning at the bottom and gradually moving upwards. When she reached the top of her web she came across a thread which disappeared upwards into the darkness. She couldn't see where it went and with a wave of her front legs, she cut it off.

Her whole web collapsed!

That long thread was the one which connected her to the place she had come from and on which she had built her new web. She had forgotten that she needed it and cut it off.

Many of us have built our lives on our understanding of the love of God. We have moved on, done our own thing and forgotten where we came from. Our life-line is the ability to talk to God at any time and we can always do that wherever we are. Don't sever that line!

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2007 is a year of several significant Methodist anniversaries. Primarily it is 300 years since the birth of Charles Wesley, and 200 years from the first Methodist 'camp meeting'. Many events celebrating these anniversaries are taking place across the country and an events diary can be found at the Methodist Anniversaries website

The Methodist Church is seeking to register 300 events and properties to celebrate the 300 years since Charles' birth.

For more information why not visit the anniversary website www.methodistanniversaries2007.org.uk



PUZZLE CORNER

Answers to the Characters in the Gospels Quiz

- To which country did Mary and Joseph escape to when Herod killed all the babies in Bethlehem?
Egypt
- John the Baptist ate...?
Locusts and honey
- The elderly widowed prophetess in Jerusalem, who saw Jesus as a baby was?
Anna
- Jesus was what age when he was baptised?
30
- Who said to Mary, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"?
Elisabeth
- What gift did Salome ask for, after she danced for Herod?
John the Baptist's head
- What was Peter's profession?
Fisherman
- Which disciple looked after Mary, after the death of Jesus?
John
- What does the name "Matthew" mean?
Gift of the Lord
- In which Gospel does Jesus state that he is the "Bread of Life?"
John
- How many silver pieces did Judas Iscariot betray Jesus for?
30
- What was the name of James and John's father?
Zebedee
- What was the affliction of Bartimaeus?
Blind
- Who was the father in law of Caiaphas, the high priest at the time of Jesus death?
Annas
- In what town did Martha and Mary live?
Bethany
- What proportion of his goods did Zaccheus give away to the poor?
Half
- Who was Nicodemus?
A Pharisee
- Which ruler of the synagogue asked Jesus to heal his sick daughter?
Jairus
- In what town did Jesus turn water into wine?
Cana
- In the Sermon on the Mount, what did Jesus say would happen to the meek?
They will inherit the earth

PUZZLE CORNER

Pentecost Wordsearch

Find the hidden words, left-to-right, up and down.

a	f	r	i	g	h	t	e	n	e	d	e	b	y	t
g	n	e	l	e	t	r	j	w	v	x	r	a	m	l
s	b	o	p	u	k	k	e	w	l	v	b	p	t	i
r	s	x	h	o	l	y	s	p	i	r	i	t	n	a
j	w	o	r	r	y	h	u	e	l	m	p	i	d	f
w	i	d	o	u	p	e	s	n	k	l	w	s	c	r
j	n	p	m	w	e	l	x	t	o	u	g	e	e	a
a	d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s	m	r	d	l	i
w	u	l	n	s	d	e	g	c	h	a	n	g	e	d
u	e	a	p	l	k	r	e	o	g	e	n	x	b	w
y	i	o	f	l	a	m	e	s	r	b	h	u	r	p
h	u	o	p	m	i	w	x	t	r	d	q	m	a	j
q	o	e	a	s	t	e	r	h	u	r	m	c	t	b
v	h	j	o	l	k	l	a	n	g	u	a	g	e	s
m	k	h	i	i	o	y	b	j	g	f	e	v	d	w

afraid

disciples

helper

languages

baptised

easter

holy spirit

pentecost

celebrate

flames

jesus

wind

changed

frightened

CHURCH DIARY



Tue	1	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Wed	2	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Brian and Irene Goldsmith</i>
Sun	6	10.30 am 6.30 pm	All Age Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
Tue	8	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Fri	11	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	12	10-12noon	Midway's Jumble Sale - <i>Proceeds for church funds</i>
Sun	13	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
Tue	15	10-12noon 7.30pm 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Men's Supper Club - <i>Nurse Mary - Pilgrimage to Lourdes</i> Time for Prayer
Wed	16	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Annual General Meeting</i>
Thur	17	8.00 pm	Preacher's Meeting at Wimbledon
Sat	19	11am-2pm	Men's Supper Club Lunch-time Market
Sun	20	10.30am	Praise Service led by Rev John Nyota
Tue	22	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Fri	25	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	27	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service led by Rev Charlotte Elvey Combined Evening Service at Wimbledon

Tue 29	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed 30	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Pauline Riley/Beverly Knight</i>

Our Northern Childhood

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

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We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday this month a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

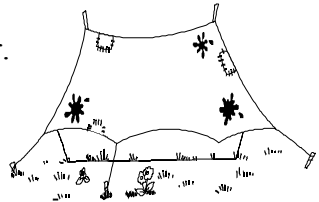


Seleso Sepanya	on	3rd May
Lesedi Sepanya	on	17th May
James Smith	on	18th May
Alex Pallister	on	19th May
Sherie Nyota	on	24th May

SWANAGE !

Once again our **CHURCH CAMP** at Swanage will be happening later on this year. Dates that have booked are from 21st - 28th July .

Anyone wishing to go please see Marie Randall for more details.



**Alexander House
Residential Care Home
60th Celebration**

**Come and help us celebrate
the 60th Anniversary of the
Home being built**



Saturday 9th June 2007 2.30 to 5.00pm

Opening by Deputy Mayor

£2 including Strawberry Tea

Various Stalls, Games and Entertainment

**Tickets available from John Butland and Val Currie
- or simply pay at the door**

**Alexander House Residential Care Home
12 Clifton Road, Wimbledon SW19**

Christian  Aid

Christian Aid week commences on 13th May 2007.

If you could/would like to help with the door-to-door collection, please see Tony Loft. **The more helpers the easier the task!**

At the end of Christian Aid Week, on Sunday 20th May 2007, there is a sponsored walk around London. Tony and several others will be walking; if you would like either to join them or sponsor them, please let Tony know.

Items for the **June Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 20th May** at the latest