

MINISTER'S LETTER

As Paul is away on a Sabbatical, a number of our Leadership Team have offered to write in Paul's place for the Newsletter. Our first contributor is Mike Mortley.



Are you as avid a devourer of books as I am? Crime novels are my favourite especially authors such as W J Burley (Wycliffe), Peter Robinson (Banks) and Ian Rankin (Rebus). I also like travel books, biographies and ok, I admit it, novels by Maeve Binchy.

I also enjoy listening to Desert Island Discs on Radio 4. This programme was created by Roy Plomley in 1942 and is still going strong. The format is simple: a guest is invited by the presenter, Kirsty Young, to choose the eight records they would take with them to a desert island. In addition they are allowed to choose one book and one luxury item to take with them.

They are also given a copy of the Bible and the Complete Works of Shakespeare as a matter of course, but I'm always curious as to how the guests manage to choose just one book from the vast range on offer. Would they choose a novel or a book to study or an anthology of poems or maybe a book on survival?

I know that I'd be hard pressed to choose just one. A novel is really a one-off read so I probably wouldn't choose that, even if it was the most exciting detective story ever. A book to study? It certainly would be a chance to learn something new or to study a favourite subject in more depth without fear of interruption. How about an anthology of poetry? Now that could be something to savour. Perhaps, given the circumstances, a book on survival would be more useful.

But then again, the Bible really covers all these types of book. It is a library in its own right containing 66 books offering drama, romance, poetry, intrigue and many other styles.

For example, the story of Ruth and Boaz is one of true romance. For poetry, you can't beat the Psalms for capturing the mood of their authors. Intrigue? Well the story of Joseph and his brothers has that in plenty. Survival? You only have to look at the book of Exodus to see how the Jews escaped from slavery in Egypt and survived in the wilderness before arriving in the land that God had promised them. And that only covers a small part of the Old Testament.

But overall the Bible is a book of love, the love of God for his people. It may not seem like it at times, with wars, destruction and sacrificial lambs. But God was dealing with wayward people who one minute were singing his praises and the next were worshipping other idols. However, God never gave up on his people.

We read how the New Testament fulfils the writings of the Old Testament Prophets when God's own son, Jesus Christ, was born to Mary and grew up to bring "Good News" to all who were ready to listen. He made many friends along the way, but also enemies as they thought he was threatening their way of life. However, his three years or so of teaching, revealing God's love and healing people's minds and bodies, resulted in him being crucified on the cross. Sacrificed for us, taking the troubles of the world upon his shoulders and forgiving mankind for all the wrongs they have done, not only in the past but today and in the future too. But it didn't stop there as three days later, God raised him from the dead for "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 (NIV)). That is the "Good News" I referred to earlier. That is the message of Easter.

This year, 2011, is the 400th anniversary of the Authorised King James Bible. It soon became a firm favourite and even today is preferred by some because of the beauty of its out-dated language. Many other translations have followed bringing the language up to date so if you haven't yet got a Bible or are looking for a new one, it's worthwhile having a look at a few before choosing one to suit you.

The Bible really is a thoroughly good read and I would heartily

recommend you to do so. It is not the stuffy old book that some people make it out to be. Nor is it irrelevant for today. True it was written for the people of its time, but the fundamental truths apply today and form the foundation of our society. It may not be an easy read in places but if you encounter a passage that you don't understand, then ask someone. Two books that I found useful for exploring the Bible are "The Bible Book - a Users Guide" by Nick Page published by Collins and "The Lion Handbook to the Bible", both available on Amazon. There are of course numerous commentaries to choose from as well. The other great thing about the Bible, is that it provides so much material for discussion in Book Clubs and House Groups. So it would be worthwhile seeking one out to join.

However, this doesn't help me choose one other book to take with me to the desert island. I think I might settle for an anthology of English poetry. But on the other hand ...

The luxury item I'd take? Well it would have to be a solar-powered, satellite radio so that I could continue to listen to Desert Island Discs (and the Archers).

Happy reading.

Mike Mortley
Leadership Team

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How well do you notice things?

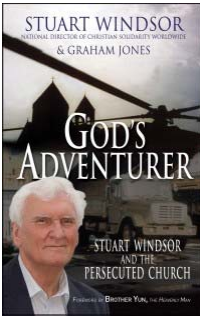
This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. It is highly unusual though, as it is missing a highly found thing. Study it and think about it, but you may still may not find out.

An evening with

Rev Stuart Windsor and Canon Andrew White

Join two extraordinary men as they share their heart for those who suffer

Join CSW's National Director, Stuart Windsor and Canon Andrew White, the "Vicar of Baghdad", as they speak about and launch their books.



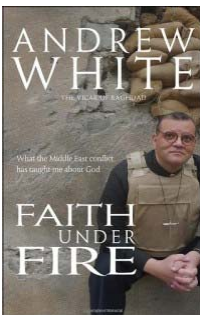
Stuart's book, "God's Adventurer", takes you on a moving journey, as Stuart's work with persecuted Christians, often in conflict zones, has seen him dodge bullets, bombs and potential death. Stuart continues to work tirelessly for those still facing persecution, helping to secure their safety and freedom.

Stuart Windsor is a former Barnardos boy, intelligence officer and Assemblies of God Minister. He has been involved in extraordinary adventures from delivering aid under shell fire in Nagorno Karabakh to redeeming slaves in Sudan. Along the way he has met many heroes of today's persecuted church.

"Almost unputdownable – racy but nonetheless deeply serious, taking the reader to Iran, Pakistan, Mongolia, Southern Sudan ... A great book to get and to give!" – Bishop David Pytches

"Stuart has worked with me on over 60 missions. Together we have faced blizzards and artillery in Nagorno Karabakh, and helped to redeem slaves in the Sudan. He is a trusted ally, valued companion and true friend." – Baroness Caroline Cox

Stuart Windsor is an absolute tonic! He is indeed God's Adventurer and God's Activist. What a great story." – Canon J. John



Andrew receives death threats, his church (St Georges Baghdad) is bombed, people he loves are killed and he goes for weeks on end without seeing his family. In addition, he has to live with the physical pain of his illness, which is terminal. Andrew's book "Faith Under Fire", Sub-titled '*What the Middle East Conflict has taught me about God*', Andrew White's new book reflects on experiences he has passed through, people he has met and his own walk with God through his

years as a minister and peace broker in the troubled city of Baghdad.

You will also hear from Jonathan Aitken, Vice Admiral Sir Peter Woodhead and Dr David Barnardo. There will be music from Bryn Haworth and of course, you will be able to buy signed copies of the books.

What is it like to work in war zones, dodging bullets, bombs and potential death?

Stuart's story of his work with the persecuted church is laced with examples of God's miraculous provision and protection. His purpose in telling it is to show what God can do when ordinary Christians are obedient to the Holy Spirit's leading. Come and hear his story in his own words, and find out how you too can become part of the adventure!

Through April, May, June and July Stuart Windsor will be travelling across the length and breadth of the UK and Ireland sharing both his story and the story of the persecuted Church.

Event details

Friday 8th April, 7.00 - 9.30pm

St Michael's Church
4 Chester Square
London, SW1W 9HH

Saturday 9th April, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Book signing event - An opportunity to meet Stuart and get your books signed!

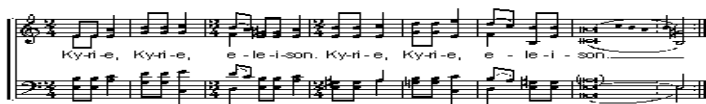
Re: fresh books,
23 The Broadway
Tolworth, Surrey, KT6 7DJ

Saturday 9th April, 7.30 - 9.30pm

Stuart Windsor with Canon Andrew White, the "Vicar of Baghdad"
St John the Divine, Kingston Road
New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3RX

Taize Prayer and Praise

Kyrie 10



Music: J. Berthier
© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé-Communauté



The Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. The 100-strong community of Roman Catholic and Protestant monks is drawn from 30 countries across the world. It was founded in 1940 by Roger Louis Schutz-Marsauche (known as 'Brother Roger'). The 90-year-old monk died in August 2005 after being stabbed during a prayer service.

Today Taizé is one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage. Each year tens of thousands of young pilgrims flock to the small village of Taizé in central France to share in the community's way of life.

Prayer and silence are at the heart of the Taizé experience. Young people from every corner of the globe are encouraged to live out the Christian gospel in a spirit of joy, simplicity and reconciliation.

Ecumenism (a movement promoting Christian unity among Churches) is the key to Taizé's appeal, making it a magnet for people of many different cultures and traditions.

Brother Roger

The next Taize Prayer and Praise

Meet on the 11th April

St John Fisher Church 8pm

All welcome

Christian CARE Food Collection



Martin Way is taking part in the Churches Together in Merton Park initiative to collect items for food parcels for Christian Care to distribute to families in great need in the borough.

Each Sunday during April we will be collecting the following items:

Rice – long grain and basmati – 1kg & 2kg packets

Cereals – corn flakes, rice crispies, coco pops, sugar puffs, variety packs, Readybrek

Pasta sauce in large jars – tomato, cheese

Tuna - in brine/spring water

Tinned vegetables – especially sweetcorn, green beans (please no mushy peas or pulses!)

Tinned fruit – especially peaches, pineapple, oranges

Sugar

Drinking chocolate

Coffee

Squash – especially orange, blackcurrant

Fruit Juices – large and small cartons – especially orange, mango, tropical

Sweet biscuits – eg chocolate, creams, rich tea, malted milk

Jam (especially strawberry) – honey, chocolate spread, peanut butter

Nappies – sizes 3, 4, 4+, 5, 5+

Toiletries - Baby wipes, bath wash, shampoo, talc etc

For further information please speak to Gwen, who will also be arranging collection for all the food parcels.

A Mother's Question



A mother asked this President... '
Why did my son have to die in Iraq ?'



A mother asked this President... '
Why did my son have to die in Saudi Arabia ?'



A mother asked this President... '
Why did my son have to die in Kuwait ?'



Another mother asked this President... '
Why did my son have to die in Vietnam ?'



Another mother asked this President... '
Why did my son have to die in Korea ?'



Another mother asked this President... '
Why did my son have to die on Iwo Jima ?'



Another mother asked this President... '
*Why did my son have to die on a battlefield in
France ?'*



Yet another mother asked this President...
'Why did my son have to die at Gettysburg ?'



And yet another mother asked this President... '
*Why did my son have to die on a frozen field
near Valley Forge ?'*

And long, long ago, a mother asked..



'Heavenly Father.. Why did my Son have to die on a cross outside of Jerusalem?'

The answer, always, is the same...

'So that others may live and dwell in peace, happiness, and freedom.'

Please remember all that have given their lives so that you may enjoy peace as you celebrate Easter this year .

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Come and Worship the Son



We are holding our Easter Sunrise Service and Communion on Cannon Hill Common at 6.30am on Sunday 24th April. It will be an open air communion service, near the old Pavilion, celebrating Easter and the fact that "Christ is risen"

Afterwards join us at for Breakfast at Martin Way Church at 7.30am

All welcome. Why not make a special effort and revel in this wondrous time at the start of Easter Sunday.



RUNNING A MARATHON FOR RAFIKI TRUST



Anthony Ellis is running his first (and quite possibly last!) marathon on Sunday 10th April in Brighton. As a trustee of MCW Rafiki Trust, Anthony is running to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

Visit the Trust's website at www.rafikitrust.org.uk to sponsor him online, or if you prefer speak to Anthony (020 8337 3489) or another Rafiki trustee.

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WEDDING BELLS



We wish Keith Heaton and Clare Sainsbury God's Richest Blessings for their forthcoming marriage on 9th April.

Wishing them a house full of sunshine, hearts full of cheer, and a love that grows deeper each day of the year.

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How well do you notice things?

The paragraph earlier in the Newsletter is missing the letter 'e', which is the most common letter used in the English Language, does not appear even once in the paragraph.

Did you notice this? If not go back and have another look.

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A Thought

Always remember you are unique. Just like everyone else.

CHURCH DIARY



Fri	1	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	3	10.30am	All Age Worship (Mothering Sunday) Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	5	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	10	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
		6.30pm	Holy Communion led by Rev Margaret Adams
Tue	12	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	13	7.45pm	Midways Group - <i>Police Air Support</i> - Inspector Steve Cheeseman
Fri	15	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	17	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
Mon	18	8.00pm	Easter Meditation
Tue	19	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Rosie Greaves</i> - A Story
		8.00 pm	Easter Meditation
Weds	20	8.00 pm	Easter Meditation
Thurs	21	8.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service at Wimbledon Methodist Church
Fri	22	10.30 am	Good Friday United Service at Morden Baptist Church
Sun	24	6.30 am	Sunrise Service on Cannon Hill Common followed by Breakfast at Martin Way at 7.30am
		10.30 am	Easter Day Service led by Rev Stuart Thomas

Tue 26 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat

Weds 27 7.45pm Midways Group - *Helen Stanley* -
Highlights and low laughter

*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
in April a very

Happy Birthday
and especially to:

Celia Johnson on 4th April

Rosie Randall on 10th April

Phoebe Pallister on 29th April

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Faith's Departure and Martine's Welcome

Arrangements have now been put in place to mark the departure of Rev Faith Nyota from the Wimbledon Circuit, and the arrival of Rev Dr Martine Stemerick.

Faith's Farewell Service will take place at 4.00pm on Sunday 10th July at Wimbledon Methodist Church.

Martine's Welcome Service will take place at 6.30 pm on Sunday 4th September at Ruxley Church.

Both services are open to all, so please make a note in your diaries and attend these important events in the life of our circuit.

Tony Leach
Senior Circuit Steward

The Value of Time

**To realize
The value of ten years:
Ask a newly divorced couple.**

**To realize
The value of four years:
Ask a graduate.**

**To realize
The value of one year:
Ask a student who has failed a final exam.**

**To realize
The value of nine months:
Ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn.**

**To realize
The value of one month:
Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.**

**To realize
The value of one minute:
Ask a person who has missed the train, bus or plane.**

**To realize
The value of one-second:
Ask a person who has survived an accident.**

**Time waits for no one.
Treasure every moment you have
and share it with someone special**

Items for the **May Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 17th April** at the latest