

## MINISTER'S LETTER



The title of this year's Greenbelt Festival was *Travelling Light* - a particularly apt title given that, now on a new site, festival goers could no longer enjoy the luxury of driving all their belongings onto the campsite as they had in previous years. This August Bank Holiday campers had to find other ways to transport their tents, sleeping mats and bags, clothes, cooking equipment and food to a plot of ground that would be home for a long weekend.

“Bring less, enjoy more” was the message conveyed by some of the festival t-shirts but, in truth, most people, it seemed, adopted more of a “Bring slightly less, carry somewhat differently” policy, judging by all the weird and wonderful contraptions people brought with them. Converted wheelbarrows and buggies, bicycle trailers and folding trolleys were all employed and piled high with heavily strapped baggage as people flooded through the gates with great enthusiasm and a huge sense of anticipation on Friday.

Experience is everything though and hindsight is a wonderful thing. As people battled through the rain and mud to make their way home on Tuesday, I suspect many will be considering travelling lighter still next year. That or they'll be buying or making more robust contraptions to make the journey more comfortable.

Which poses some questions for all of us in the church, I think. Do we look to travel as lightly as we can, knowing that doing so might enable us to better adapt and respond to an ever evolving world around us? Or would we prefer to travel comfortably, even if that means that we become weighed down by so many things that the opposite is true. History would perhaps suggest that we have signed up for the more comfortable option.

When Jesus sent his disciples to carry out his work he told them to take no money, bag or spare clothes (Matt 10: 9-10). Travelling light was something that Jesus intended for his followers it seems. As the retired American Episcopal bishop John Shelby Spong reminds us, ‘[We]

don't need to travel with a lot of baggage. Someone once said, "A little water for Baptism, a little bread and wine to sustain [us] on the way, reading the historic story we call our Scriptures so that we know that we're journeying in the same tradition as our ancestors in faith".

As we head into another Methodist year, and if we truly wish to be able to respond to God's promptings and nudgings, perhaps we would do well to consider travelling light or at least *lighter*. So some further questions, 'What are the essential things that we must hold onto at all costs?' and 'What could/should we be prepared to let go of if it will help us to more effectively journey on as Jesus' followers, as Jesus' body in this place?' Discuss.

With every blessing

*Paul*

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### **The Serenity Prayer**

God grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
As it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
If I surrender to His Will;  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
And supremely happy with Him  
Forever and ever in the next.

## Who is Who at the Methodist Conference

The Current President and Vice President of the Methodist Church were inducted at the Methodist Conference in Birmingham, on Saturday 28th June 2014.

### **The Revd Kenneth Howcroft**

#### **President of the Methodist Conference 2014/15**

Ken Howcroft was ordained in 1984, and has since served the Church as a circuit minister, a tutor in a theological college, a connexional secretary responsible for Formation in Ministry and Assistant Secretary of the Conference.



### **Mrs Gill Dascombe**

#### **Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2014/15**

Gill Dascombe has been a local preacher since 1987, and was a finalist in The Times' Preacher of the Year competition. She has been a member of and chaplain to the Methodist Council, and works as a hospital pharmacist. She is a member of her local NHS Trust Council of Governors.



The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Steve Wild to be President of the Conference in 2015/16, and Dr Jill Barber to be Vice-President. Both will start their year of office when the Conference meets in Southport on 25th June 2015.



**Steve Wild** has served fifteen years in circuit ministry. In 1998, he became Cornwall District Evangelism Enabler and the Connexional Evangelism Enabler Co-ordinator, as well as working part time with West Country TV presenting programmes about Christianity in the South West. From 2004 he worked at Cliff College

as Director of Evangelism and tutor. He returned to Cornwall in 2008 to become Chair of the Cornwall District.



**Jill Barber**, a local preacher in the Cheshire South Circuit, is currently Director of the Heritage for Mission Project at Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum of Primitive Methodism. She is a trained teacher and librarian, with a PhD in Archives. Until taking up her present role in 2011, she was Head of Heritage Services for Hertfordshire County Council. She is passionate about the potential of using our heritage to challenge and inspire as we explore what it means to be the church today.

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## **Healing Conference Summer school**

I attended the Healing Ministry Conference held on the 30th June - 2nd July for the 8th consecutive year, and as in previous years it was been a privilege and delight. A privilege because I was representing the London District Presbytery and a delight because in meeting like minded people who have become close friends, it has become the highlight of the year. Not only a gathering of Christian fellowship, the added beauty and stunning surroundings of the Montgomeryshire hills is for me, the nearest place to heaven that I can envisage. I am biased because this is where I spent my childhood and schooling. The venue at Cefn Lea Christian centre is popular with the energetic young involved in outdoor pursuits, and has proven to be for the second year suitable for the needs of those more mature as well.

In the opening service we were reminded, that only in eternity will sickness, sorrow, sin and suffering be finally overcome (Rev 7:7) when God will wipe away all tears from our eyes. In the meantime, the Christian healing ministry invites us to walk the road towards wholeness in the confidence that God the Creator, who is concerned for his creatures, has provided us with agencies of His healing grace

and has come among us in his Son, Jesus Christ. He abides with us in the power of his Holy Spirit, and calls us to entrust ourselves to His grace and one another with our various needs. **It is in opening ourselves up to Him that our broken lives and our divided world move towards wholeness and healing,** '...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ'. (Eph 4:13)

The Guest Speaker was Petra McMahon, a therapist specialising in victims of childhood sexual abuse, trauma, debriefing after trauma and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorders). She has recently taught and practised in Germany, France, Pakistan and globally via Skype. As well as being a trained Listener and Tutor with Acorn Christian Healing Foundation she has been for many years a member of Wrexham Listeners. Currently working with Le Rucher Ministries based outside Geneva and Release International in Kent, her ministry can be described as 'equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ'. (Ephesians 4:12) This theme was reiterated throughout the three days of the conference.

Petra emphasised that effective listening is three dimensional: listening to others, listening to ourselves and listening to God which provides an excellent foundation for healing, health care and spiritual formation. In groups of three, we practised listening in turn; one to relate their story; one to listen and the third person to keep check on the time. Some of the stories that we shared were personal and moving and most agreed that effective listening involves patience and understanding which we found so hard. Petra's own personal story which she shared in part, was tragic and awe-inspiring by the way that she was able to forgive her abusers, pray for healing for her mother and form relationships with her son's accomplices who were heavily into drugs.

She gave an example relating to listening to God that when she was planning to go Africa, she felt a strong leading to pack her wedding

dress and wondered why. It was some time later, when she was packing to go home, she came across a young girl who was about to be married who had been praying for a white western style wedding dress. It was a perfect fit!

Summarising the three days in these short paragraphs is not easy. As I look back on the contents of the Bible studies, discussions and prayer groups, it was all food for the soul, both exciting and challenging. The Blessing service led by Rev Adelaide Wheeler-Cocks afforded time of reflecting on the parable of the Good Samaritan - giving and receiving. The **giving** of ourselves in ministering to others and the opportunity of **receiving** the laying on of hands and/ or the anointing with oil and individual prayer. It was one of those memorable services where the hymn singing continued and no one wanted to go home; a blessing indeed.

On our last day, as we celebrated Holy Communion, we were again reminded and challenged for the need to be in tune to the voice of God, as we listen carefully and exhorted to be obedient to His call before we can be channels of His grace and healing. Our western Spiritless culture has given some of us an acute hearing defect to the voice of the Holy Spirit. We have little to offer a needy world unless we are spending time with Him in prayer and discern what the Spirit is saying to us each day in every situation.

To echo the St Francis prayer: *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.*

*O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.*

Gwen Wildman

## **My trip to Uganda June/July 2014 and how Care for Uganda all started**



Andy Pilcher (Brother of our Circuit Superintendent - Margaret Adams) was a Baptist minister in South Wales. During a sabbatical in 1999 he went to Uganda with a small charity working with AIDS orphans. He discovered that there were a number of charities/NGOs (non-government organisations) working with AIDS orphans but he couldn't see any charities/NGOs working with children who may have one or both parents alive but are still extremely poor. Andy made further visits to Uganda in January 2000 and January 2001 with small teams from his church.

After the 2001 trip Andy came home and spoke to the leaders of his church. He had worked out that £18 per month would pay for school fees, uniform, scholastic materials and lunch during term time. The church leaders felt that they could immediately support two children so the child sponsorship programme was started on the outskirts of Kampala, the capital of Uganda. As people heard about this work, new sponsors started to come forward. It was decided that the funds for Uganda should be separate from church funds, so Care for Uganda was formed and registered as a charity.

At this moment in time there are just over 260 children on this sponsorship programme but there are literally thousands of children in need of this assistance. The challenge is to find many more sponsors.

A Ugandan pastor organised things in Uganda and, as things developed, money was raised to build a primary school, a clinic and a small orphanage. Care for Uganda also bought 10 acres of land in a place called Kalule in Luwero district, some 30 miles from Kampala for future development of the work.

Sadly, after a couple of years, it started to become difficult to get

financial accountability from Uganda and, after trying very hard to get this sorted, Care for Uganda had to make the hard decision to break away from this pastor. The suggestion was made by Care for Uganda that the school and clinic be handed over to the pastor to be run purely by Ugandans and Care for Uganda would keep responsibility for the sponsored children, small orphanage and would move away from Kampala and base the work on the land which they had bought at Kalule. The pastor refused this offer and said that he owned everything.

The only thing Care for Uganda could do was to remove 135 children from the primary school into another school and rent a house for the children in a small orphanage. Andy also spoke to a man called Daudi Golooba in London who dealt with Care for Uganda's monthly financial transfers to Uganda. It turned out that he was actually Prince Daudi Golooba brother to the current king of the Buganda kingdom. (In Uganda, as well as the national government there are five kingdoms each having their own king and parliament. The Buganda kingdom is the largest of these five kingdoms.)

Andy told Daudi about the troubles in Uganda and, before they knew it, Daudi arranged for Andy to meet the Prime Minister of the Buganda kingdom.

During the meeting the Prime Minister apologised that one of his



Many people in Bbowa have to sleep on the floor as they cannot afford a mattress or a bed. Care for Uganda are helping to improve this situation by distributing mattresses.





fellow Ugandans should be treating Care for Uganda in such a way. He told Andy that he could help Care for Uganda to take the pastor to court in order to retrieve the land at Kalule. However, he pointed out that this could be a lengthy and costly business.

He suggested that the Buganda kingdom give Care for Uganda the use of a 3 acre site in Bbowa which is six kilometres away from Kalule. The trustees of Care for Uganda discussed this offer and decided to accept it.

Today the Head Quarters of Care for Uganda is now settled in Bbowa and they have a purpose built 15 bedded hostel for those who visit from the UK to say in with on-suite toilet and shower (UK style) and where the Ugandan side of the charity works.

I was privileged to go out to Bbowa during June and July this year along with Margaret Adams and Margaret Redway from Wimbledon together with Andy for two weeks.

While there we had our highs and lows, but overall I found the whole time there very worthwhile and would go there again tomorrow given



It's not all hard work - Sports days were held in four local schools. Following the sports days Luganda songs were sung with the children

the chance.

There is much more that we can do to help the people of Uganda – and I would love to tell you more of what happened while we were there and how we can all help.

I have been asked to tell my story at our Harvest Lunch after our Harvest Service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Please come along and enjoy the lunch and hear what I hope will be a refreshing and informative talk.

*Tony Loft*



Helping to constructing tippy taps which will improve basic hygiene





**MARTIN WAY  
HARVEST FESTIVAL  
SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

This year our Harvest Festival donations will be passed to SPIRES.

Spires is a South London based charity that helps hundreds of homeless and disadvantaged people all year round. They work to improve the quality of life of people who are homeless, insecurely housed, unemployed or suffering from the effects of poverty, mental ill health and loneliness.

**We list below the things they most need at this time.**

**Toiletries:**

Razors, shaving foam, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant..

**Food**

Breakfast cereal/porridge oats, coffee & tea, tinned fish (sardines, tuna, mackerel, salmon etc.), soup (tinned or packet cup-a-soups) tinned baked beans, tinned meats (ham, corned beef), tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned puddings (rice pudding, custard etc), jam, marmalade,,cordial, biscuits, sugar, rice.

***Definitely no fresh fruit or fresh vegetables please.***

**Other items:**

Men's underwear, men's socks.

Please recycle your used carrier bags, sleeping bags, books and magazines, men's trainers, men's clothes (jeans, jumpers, jackets, t-shirts, coats) and pass these things on to Spires as well any of the above items.

Spires are based at 8 Tooting Bec Gardens, London SW16 1RB  
to find out more about he work they do visit their website at  
[www.spires.org.uk](http://www.spires.org.uk)

## Extreme Deception

*Taken from: Extreme devotion, the voice of the martyrs from the co-authors of Jesus freaks. Serious followers of Jesus pay a price, and extreme followers often pay the ultimate price. Each story is true.*

### **NORTH KOREA: An Elderly Woman**

"One day the teacher told us that we would play a special game. She whispered to me about a special book that our parents may have hidden in our homes. We were to wait until our parents went to sleep, search for this book, and secretly bring it to school the following day for a special surprise. I went home and immediately began searching for the book."

"The next day I was one of fourteen children who brought the black book, a Bible, to class. We were awarded bright red scarves, and the other students clapped as the teacher paraded us around the room."

"I ran home that afternoon because I was so excited to tell my mother how I had won the red scarf. She wasn't in the house or the barn. I waited, but neither she nor my father came home, and I began to get scared. I was hungry and it was becoming dark. I began to feel sick inside, and I fell asleep in a chair."

"The next day police officers came and informed me that I was now in the care of the government. I never saw my parents again."

An elderly woman from a North Korea relayed this story. She never heard from her parents and is still struggling to find forgiveness. She is only one of many who have gone through such trials.

*Contrary to a popular caricature, the devil does not appear in a red suit, poised with a pitchfork. We would easily recognise such obvious an overture to evil. However, like the child in this story, we often come across him in a different light. The enemy's representatives are often impressive people in high places. Consider the influence of a smooth-talking business partner. Or imagine the power a university professor wields in the name of academia. As the child in this story discovered, the enemy plays dirty. We must put away naïveté and be on guard against the enemy wherever we come across him and his representatives. Are you easy prey for the enemy? Or will he find you alert and on guard?*

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerades as servants of righteousness. (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)



# Forever Living Products

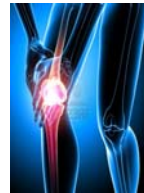
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**For further information contact:**

**Mike Fuwa**

**Tel: 07956 369579**

**Email: [mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk)**

# CHURCH DIARY



Tue	2	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	5	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	7	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	9	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	14	10.30 am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
Mon	15	8.00 pm	Finance and Property Meeting
Tue	16	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - "Safe Afloat" ~ Saga Rose - Jenny Deeprose
Fri	19	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	21	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	23	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	24	8.00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sat	27	10.30 am	Big Brunch
Sun	28	10.30 am	Morning Service
Tue	30	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	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  
this month a very

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Abigail Fuwa on 15th September**

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**Open House London 2014**  
Revealing great architecture *for free*

**Sunday 21st September 12noon to 5pm**



St Mary's Church, Merton Park, will be welcoming Open House visitors Sunday 21st September from midday to 5pm. This is an opportunity to explore this beautiful Grade II church that was built in 1115 at a leisurely pace and to hear about its history and present activities. Alan Hay will give two guided talks, at 2pm and 3pm. Tea and homemade cakes will be served throughout the afternoon.

Open House London guidebooks list over 800 interesting buildings around London, including some that are not often not accessible to the public but are opening their doors over the Open House weekend. The free guidebooks are available from any of Merton's libraries during September, alternatively you can visit the Open House website ([www.londonopenhouse.org](http://www.londonopenhouse.org)) which lists all the places of interest that will be open over the weekend of 20th-21st September.

## **Gaza, Israel and Iraq: Methodists called to pray**

The situations in Gaza, Israel and Iraq dominate the news and papers, capturing our attention and prompting our compassion.

In response the Revd Ken Howcroft and Gill Dascombe, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference call on all Methodists to urgent and informed prayer, commending all the peoples of the region to the care of Almighty God, and regular prayer for the needs of the Land of the Holy One.

Methodists are not alone in this task. Christian Aid have provided a prayer for the region; an appeal for funds to help in the situation; and a call to sign a letter to the Foreign Secretary asking for Britain to take some action. These can be found on Christian Aid's website ([www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)).

Holy God,  
holy and strong in love,  
holy and immortal. have mercy on us  
and on all in the land called holy.  
Where fear brings despair, let there be hope.  
Where the urge to defend others brings violence,  
let there be love.  
Where the causes of conflict and the means of reconciliation  
are beyond our comprehension,  
may the peace of the Lord, which passes all understanding,  
guide everyone's hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

*Valerie Ashcroft*

Items for the **October Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,  
(email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 20th September** at the latest