

MINISTER'S LETTER



We are now just over a third of the way through the year but already 2016 appears to have become the year of the celebrity death. Amongst others, we have had to say farewell to Ed ‘Stewpot’ Stewart, David Bowie, Alan Rickman, Sir Terry Wogan, Sir George Martin (“the fifth Beatle”), Cliff Michelmore, Paul Daniels, Ronnie Corbett and Victoria Wood. Most recently we have learned that Prince has died. At times it has seemed relentless. No sooner have we come to terms that someone has died and won’t be in our lives any more when news has broken of another such loss. This feeling was captured perfectly by Steph, my colleague at Worcester Park, when she commented in a sermon last week that, “in a darkly humorous post on Facebook one person remarked: ‘Can somebody find David Attenborough and keep him safe? We don’t trust 2016 anymore.’”

When we experience the death of a loved one - and as a church community we’ve experienced this too very recently - our grief is easier to make sense of. This was a person who lived and moved alongside us. This was someone with whom we shared not only life experiences but also a relationship, someone who loved us and whom we loved in return. Grief here is expected and understandable. But a celebrity whom we’ve never met? How come our sense of loss feels almost as acute? How come it affects us so very deeply?

To a greater or lesser extent perhaps, and depending on our own likes and dislikes, these are people who have provided us with the soundtrack to our lives whether musicians or not. They were in our lives so much that we felt as if we knew them. I mentioned in a sermon the other week that Rebecca once saw someone walking towards her along Regent Street and that, even though he was some way off, she knew instinctively that it was someone she knew well but hadn’t seen for some time. As he reached her and as she began to greet him as a long lost relative, she only then realised that she recognised him because it was, in fact, Terry Wogan. That’s the level of connection that we have with some of these people because they have featured so prominently in our lives. Their work has touched us and matters to us.

Of course, as news has broken of each new celebrity death this year, there has been a tendency to move on, to talk about the most recent loss. This is human nature. But it can be resisted and should be, I think.

When David Bowie died it affected me more than I thought it would. I had never

really taken much notice of his music, or so I believed. His death was announced on a Monday morning. Monday being my day off and the weather outside being miserable, I spent most of the day listening to tributes pouring in to Radio 2 and to the numerous tracks that were subsequently played. As I did so I realised not only that I knew more Bowie material than I thought but also that I rather liked it. Since then I have bought - and have had bought for me - several albums that I've greatly enjoyed listening to and mining for gems. As a result, there are some songs that I will now return to again and again. In the weeks and months ahead, there's every chance that I will carry out a similar exercise with the music of Prince and I may yet dig out some Alan Rickman films to watch beyond the *Die Hard* and *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves* movies that I already know and love.

In the days after Easter there's a temptation for us to move on - away from and beyond the story of Jesus' death and resurrection - and to pick up the story of Jesus' friends and followers in *The Acts of the Apostles*. There is a desire to see where God's Spirit is leading us next. This is understandable.

But just as the Lectionary leads us into *Acts*, so it also calls us to pause, to return to God's earlier work in Jesus, to explore it more deeply. And so, across the month of May, we'll encounter Jesus talking about the Holy Spirit; Jesus praying for the unity of his followers; Jesus explaining his connection with the Father and promising his followers, 'I will do whatever you ask in my name'; Jesus declaring that the Spirit of truth will guide his followers and Jesus calling on those same followers to be self-aware.

These are texts that need to be mined for the gems they contain even if they take us back to the days before Jesus' death and force us to confront the reality of that event once again. For these are gems that will help us to make sense of the exciting journey described in Acts, gems that we may find ourselves wanting and needing to return to again and again on our journeys of discipleship, gems to sustain us on our journeys through life.

With every blessing

Paul

Joyce Plant

5th December 1926 - 17th March 2016

When we speak of love we do so in so many ways and about so many ways. And often we use the word 'love' to express our deep affection for, interest in and commitment to certain things. When describing our passions in life we use the word 'love'.



When talking about Joyce, this is the love we really need to talk about - for it underpinned everything that she believed in and stood for. But lest we risk hearing this with a sentimentalized gloss, let's remember that Joyce could be opinionated and forthright, that she wasn't always diplomatic, that for Joyce, love was a gritty thing.

The love that Joyce was most interested in was one that could change things, one that could improve people's lives. And it ran out of her belief in the God revealed to us in Jesus of Nazareth, whom she served with dedication and commitment throughout her life. Joyce understood the church to be a vehicle not only for worship but also for change, for transformation - itself underpinned by love. The love of God. This was a love that inspired her. A love that equipped her. A love that sustained her even in the darkest of times, and for Joyce there would be some.

But if she was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, relative and friend; if she welcomed you into the heart of her family; if she became a friend on which you knew you could depend, if on occasion she was sometimes abrupt in what she said to you, if she was unfailingly generous to you - all of this was somehow grounded in God's love.

Joyce Powell was born on 5th December 1926 in Battersea. She was to be the first of two daughters born to Dorothy and Thomas Powell, Joyce's sister Dorothy being born four or five years later.

Joyce spent much of her childhood in Battersea, the exception being the period when she was evacuated to live with an aunt in Yorkshire. On leaving school aged 16, she obtained a position behind the counter at the Post Office. In the years that followed Joyce would serve the post office in a number of locations in South West London including Lavender Hill and Balham.

Church was a significant part of Joyce's life from a young age. She would attend worship at Queensway Methodist on a regular basis with her father and was a

member of the youth club. It was here, in 1953, that she first met one Fred Plant, who worked as an electrician at Lyon's Corner House.

Joyce and Fred were married in Queensway Methodist Church Hall on 30th July 1955. Theirs would be a long and loving marriage would span some sixty years and more in which Joyce would deal with all financial matters and do all the cooking (even when Fred became a Vegan and she had to cook separate meals), organising and, Fred would say, thinking for both of them. It was, Fred says, "a marvellous marriage and the best thing that ever happened to me."

Home for the newlyweds was Brassey Square, Battersea. This had been Joyce's family home. It was whilst here that Chris and Linda would be born in June 1957 and April 1960 respectively. This would be home until 1974 when the family moved to 67 Kenley Road, Merton Park and Joyce joined Martin Way Methodist Church.

Having left the Post Office when she got married, Joyce devoted herself to her family as a fulltime wife and mother. A family of dog lovers and owners, the dogs would accompany them wherever they went. There were a number of dogs over the years - always mongrels/rescue dogs.

As Linda was approaching High School age, Joyce returned to work part-time, first as a science technician at a college and then as a school secretary at Latchmere Infants. She would work here until her retirement in 1986.

As the years passed, Joyce became a grandmother when Simon and Joanne were born in 1990 and 1993 respectively. When Linda returned to work, Joyce was on hand to assist with child care. Christmases, which were always loved by Joyce, perhaps became even more special now that there were grandchildren to share it with.

In February 1996, the Plant family's world was rocked by the tragic news that Chris had died following a skiing accident in France. Never one for displaying emotion, Joyce responded very practically, of course, but life must still have been very painful for her. Sadly, her grief would only be compounded when her sister, Dorothy, died later that same year.

Undoubtedly Joyce would be sustained through these difficult days by the love of family and friends, including her friends at Martin Way Methodist Church. By now, of course, this church was a huge part of Joyce's life.

Over the years she served the church in so many ways that there's every chance that we've missed something here but members of her house group remember Joyce as steward, pastoral visitor, Churches Together representative, flower committee member, a member of the gardening team - in the tea making section,

a member of the communication team, Secretary of Women’s Network in the London District and, of course, church representative for Christian Solidarity Worldwide - which she served with distinction for the best part of a decade, working as a volunteer in the New Malden office. In time, Joyce became synonymous with CSW and would often be seen heading towards you with their magazine in hand, such was her desire to share news of its work.

As in other areas of life, Joyce’s love of learning saw her attend quiet days, conferences and study courses. She joined a trip first to the Holy Land and then, just over a decade ago, to Kenya. And, of course, unless assisting in Sunday Club, working with the children, Joyce would be ever present in worship, regularly leading the prayers for others.

Week after week, Joyce’s presence in church would be marked by her cough - something that she suffered with all her life - and, more latterly, the sight of her hunched over her walking frame. Beyond these things, Joyce enjoyed good health for much of her life. Following a CT scan in December and other tests in January, Joyce was told that she had terminal bowel cancer. It was a shock. Joyce though took it in her stride - philosophically and prayerfully - thanking God for her long life, for all the experiences she’d had, the relationships she’d shared, the love she’d received.

There were times in St Helier when it looked like Joyce might return home either directly or via the hospice but, in the end, her deterioration was marked and, having rallied enough to spend some time with loved ones, Joyce died at 5.45am on Thursday 17th March with Simon and Joanne by her side.

For Joyce, after 89 years of living and loving, this life – with all its pains and heartaches certainly but also with all its untold joys and delights and possibilities – is over. But love remains: a love held in God just as Joyce is held in God.

For Joyce we simply pray, may you continue to know the holding and the hand that holds.

Paul Timmis

I know I'm often a bit late, but I had a friend called Joyce. She'd not be bothered about it. She understood the African concept of GMT which means “go, it maybe time”. I feel I lack words to describe Joyce. Therefore I chose to do the simple thing and chose to use the letters in her name. Here we go:



J has to be for Joy. Joyce always glowed in exuberance joy.

O for Oasis. Yes she was Outspoken but I'll stick to Oasis. When you face a dry period when stuff happens there was no better place to be than with Joyce who'd a word for such moments. With her you felt it's well and if it's not it'll be well. And she knew it personally for she'd been through pretty bad stuff but her faith and inner strength made her get on with life gallantry.

Y was a difficult one but I've gone for Yielding herself for others sake. There was nothing too precious that she couldn't share with others. She was the perfect example of selflessness.

C could be many things but I've gone for courage. Only she could make the journey to my country Kenya in 2005 against all advice from the family and friends at 79years. And even there, whenever anyone had a reason to moan, Joyce would tell them to shut it and get on with it, reminding them of the many things we ought to be grateful for. And for her courage, the whole family came to the next Kenya trip.

E has to be embrace. Joyce embraced everyone and every culture without discrimination. She had a big hug. She fought for causes of others, for justice. Sometimes the embrace included admonition but she always meant well.

That's the sort of friend I've lost and Linda and family have lost. But we all know don't we'll see her again because her God whom she believed in will embrace her.

Till meet again!

John Nyota

A tribute to a wonderful friend.

Proverbs 31 describes the wife of noble character as being more precious than rubies and at the end of the chapter says "Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise."

This from our house group as well as some personal reflections...

For me personally Joyce was one of those people I have been especially privileged to know. From the time I first met her welcoming me for the first time

to Martin Way, she has been instrumental in my spiritual journey. She it was that introduced me and encouraged me to join her on a Discipleship course in 1997 a life changing experience for both of us. This was not long after the tragic death of Christopher and my daughter within a few months of each other. During the 34 weeks of the course, travelling to Tooting after work every week we consoled and got to know each other very well, time which afforded both of us the opportunity to share our grief, Joyce being the perfect listener. One of the quotes we shared frequently with each other particularly when we had a little mourn was 'In the light of eternity, what does it matter'. The Discipleship course was a life changing experience for Joyce and gave her the confidence to talk about and live out her faith.

"One of Martin Way's stalwart' was one of the many descriptions of Joyce shared by our house group recently as we gathered in her memory. For some of us she was 'Martin Way', the Flower Committee, the Pastoral visitor and for most of us she was the person who was part of the welcome team on a Sunday morning who greeted us warmly at the door even coming to sit with us if it was our first time in church. She did not just leave it at that, as she got to know us there would be invitations to Women's network events, Daffodil day services, Women's World day of prayer, Methodist World Mission Conferences at the Hayes Centre in Derbyshire and to the Alpha leaders Conference. Whenever she attended a Conference, a book launch or a workshop there would be a gift of a book for a specific person she had thought of. A great encourager especially to those new to the church or new to the faith. Outspoken in many ways but always practical and discerning (gifts that were highlighted in the Discipleship course). One person remembers when a child was distressed in the service one Sunday morning, it was Joyce who went to see if she could help, held the child and it settled. It was her thoughtfulness and wisdom that stood out for us as a House group. As we got to know Joyce through meeting regularly, so we got to know Fred and the family and feel that they belong.

Whenever she led some of our sessions she possessed a love of the Scriptures and authority to proclaim the Word whenever there was opportunity. She kept us up to date with some interesting tit-bits from the Methodist Recorder. Not dwelling on the past but forward thinking, focusing on things that really mattered to her. She loved books by Christian authors and shared these widely. She particularly liked hymns by Fred Kahn and her often quoted verse from Isaiah 49:16 was: 'I have graven you in the palm of my hands.' When her health was failing and she could not come to 'Prayertime' on Tuesday nights she assured us that she would be remembering us in her quiet time too. It was no surprise to us that when she received her diagnosis of her terminal condition, she appeared calm and at peace concerned only for her loving family she was leaving. Her

choice of hymns and scripture readings today were indicative that she knew where her final destiny lay.

In August 2005 during a trip to Kenya, Joyce was my travelling companion - an unforgettable experience. She wrote extensively about her experiences in the church newsletter and quoted when her family voiced concern about venturing on such a trip, she 'talked it over with God' and it will be ok. It was. The African women especially fell in love with her, and admired her courage and stamina. During one long and arduous 12 hour journey from the Tree tops restaurant to Nairobi when most of us were grumbling and tetchy, Joyce remained calm and uncomplaining. Simon, who was on that trip can testify to his grandmother being an inspiration to all of us on that exciting trip.

It was at a Methodist Women's Lunch when the speaker Baroness Caroline Cox was talking about the plight of the persecuted Christians that she became active and passionate in the work of Christian Solidarity Worldwide and later became the church's Rep in 2006. She volunteered in the CSW office and was active for 8-10 years, never missing an opportunity to share the Prayer diaries, connect and encourage magazines whenever there were gatherings and often arranged an Afternoon tea to fund raise. In keeping with what Joyce would have done as a CSW rep, we have some prayer diaries and C&E magazines to hand out today.

All these activities she accomplished in her latter years, presumably after retiring.



'Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts - and we are never, ever the same again.' Joyce is one of those people, sorely missed as a friend, confidante and soul mate. Her strength and dignity was a result of her reverence for God. Like the woman described in Proverbs 31, I would like to reiterate that there are many virtuous and capable women in the world but you, Joyce surpass them all. My thoughts and prayers are with Fred, Linda, Simon and Joanne. There are so many things left unsaid especially the thank yous but in the light of eternity none of this matters now knowing that you, Joyce are held in the palms of His hand.

Gwen Wildman



This April a group from Martin Way and Wimbledon Methodist Churches went to Butlins in Minehead to join with hundreds of Christians at Spring Harvest. Here are a few words from some of those that went this year....

Spring Harvest 2016

Things you can chose to take part in each day -

Bible Study; which was looking at the life and legacy of Moses - from the encounter at the burning bush in Exodus, through the wilderness years in Numbers and Deuteronomy, to Joshua and the arrival at the Promised Land.

Sessions; In the morning and afternoon of each day there are a choice of sessions that unpack the theme or explore a series of relevant and engaging topics. Choose from apologetics, inspiration, reflection, workshops, and practical courses to help you transform your community and build God's Kingdom.

Celebrations; Evening worship, preaching and response come in varying styles, to help you find the best way to connect with God. Gather with thousands in the main venue, worship in a smaller alternative meeting, join the informal all-age celebration, or find quiet space in the prayer room. The evening celebrations will explore how Jesus trained up the disciples for the mission to which he called them.

Children and young people; Whether your kids are 3 months or 18 years old, there's a programme specially designed with them in mind. These run at the same time as the adult morning sessions so you can relax knowing your children are learning and having fun.

After hours entertainment; Comedy, music, theatre, dance, debate and discussion – complete your day relaxing with friends.

Spring Harvest is a valuable resource but can be quite intense with lots of teaching, listening and learning. The great thing about the whole week is you take on and do as little or as much as you want to. It is just good to have the space to do or reflect or explore your own journey with God.

There are many different festivals and events as a Christian where you can explore your faith but the bonus to this one is there is already a group of people from Martin Way (& Wimbledon) Methodist that go. So if you would like to find out more about Spring Harvest and join the group next year please speak to Emily Bacon who is our group organiser.

I went to the Heart session this year exploring more about my own relationship with God. It was great to use this time reflecting on what God wants me to do in my life for him, I certainly felt his calming hand upon my heart. I am a worrier, a doubter and can question how useful I really can be to God in my life. I had not said this to anyone but God spoke to me through a lady I meet in this session - she prayed for me and felt God give her a picture for me of 'jewels' and that he wanted me to realise all the treasures I have hidden inside me and realise the jewels others see in me. It is amazing how God can get your attention!

I felt him telling me to trust in him, have faith in him as well as myself. There is a lot I need to continue to reflect upon & do but certainly feel the week at Spring Harvest as given me a lot to think and action in the year to come.

I feel Spring Harvest for me is a week each year for me personally take time away from everyday life and focus on my relationship with God and what I might not be able to see or hear from him at other times. It is also a great week of fellowship with those I know and those we meet over the week for the first time.

Abby Herring

After my 7th year at Spring Harvest, I can honestly say that after all this time, I'm always surprised with what God can do. It was lovely to go back to Minehead and enjoy the fair and the beach, as well as enjoying a few after hours events. However worshipping God in what I find to be the greatest way is what excites me about Spring Harvest. Being in a room



filled with young people who all feel the same as I do, all with the similar stresses of school and exams, coming together in one room to worship God is truly amazing. We even saw what God could do through the power of healing on one evening, which was incredible! As always I've loved my time at spring harvest, and although I'm unsure if I will definitely be returning next year, I am sure I'd like to go again at some point in the future.

Rebecca Smith

Near the end of the 9am Big Start celebration in the 3,500 seat auditorium within the Skyline, which has already witnessed Christian pirates reeking havoc, an Age 7-11 year group leader shouts 'Firestarters Extreme!' and all the 7-11s, and some embarrassing parents, reply in full voice with 'Whoop Whoop!' Then the children run out to their clubs, while their parents shuffle bleary eyed to tidy the mayhem of a morning already filled with pirate dresses, scarves, eyepatches and cutlasses before inspiring Bible Study and Parenting classes where they hear the latest meltdown tally of the parenting expert's son during yesterdays visit to the Butlins pool, dinner at The Diner and All Age Celebration.

Each day is a flurry of activities, with food snatched between swimming, singing, worship and parents striving to be the "not most embarrassing" at the street dancing. How did five days filled with so much enriching time spent with family, friends and God pass so fast? But this year, we hope that we shall never forget our Encounter with God, where we Enlisted to follow, started to a Equip ourselves with Everyone to Empower as God's Gamechangers!

Lizzie, Anthony, Amy and Heidi Chilcott

Spring Harvest 2016 - what does that conjure up for me?

Alarm at 6.30am. Tony to bathroom. I put the kettle on. Have a cuppa. Me to bathroom. Go for a walk on Minehead prom. Early morning joggers out in force. Back for breakfast then head off to 'Big Start' for 9am. Half hour

break till 'Bible Study' - time to grab a coffee. Another half hour break so grab another coffee before heading off to 'Grey Matters', a series running all week about the older, now my, generation. Interesting talks on Social Isolation and Dementia. Back for lunch. The afternoon lies ahead. What to do? Choices to make. More seminars? Look at resources - how many Bibles does one need? Go for a walk? Must be back for dinner at 5pm. Who's cooking? Me! Forget 5pm must be back at 4pm to do cooking - Pukka pies so not much to do. Evening alternative worship at 7pm - less noisy and more involving than main worship. Then on to the Consulting Rooms for debrief and refreshment. Take in a late nighter? Maybe tomorrow - too tired! Back to bungalow – more talk. Eventually bed.

Good time. Good friends. Good teaching. Good worship. Good fun. Good.

Mike Mortley

The days were action packed, if you chose them to be, with a mix of Bible studies, seminars, worship and after hours entertainment alongside the chance to explore Minehead and use the site facilities such as swimming and the funfair.

The highlights for me were starting the day with a lively time of worship and teaching at the 'Big Start', the Bible studies looking at how Moses was a game changer and how we can change our communities, and the evening alternative worship times.

It was great to be able to share and worship with so many other Christians in a relaxed way without constraint from our everyday lives and to come back feeling refreshed. However, the most beneficial times were those when we could get together with others from our group, chat about our day, our lives and experiences and share our faith journeys, and for me personally, the time listening and sharing with the younger members of our party was particularly encouraging and moving to hear them sharing their faith and passion for God's Kingdom.

Angela Linton-Smith

Spring Harvest is a break that I look forward to every year. No matter what age you are, there is a wide choice of activities and groups to go to.

From the lively 'big start' early each morning, to the bible study, seminars on a variety of topics, all the children's and young people's groups, everyone has a chance to learn more about God by following a chosen theme. This year it was 'Game Changers'. It was good to learn about Moses, how he was a game changer, and be empowered to be game changers wherever we came from. There is a lively worship in the evening, or an alternative, more reflective worship. I went to each of them. The late night sessions give you a chance to watch a play, see a band or some comedy.

It's also a time to have a break by the sea, and have fun with friends, making use of what the Butlins site has to offer. It's a time of learning, worship and renewal. It's good to be able to talk about things with people, meet new people, and spend time praying for each other. It's great to spend time in worship, focusing on what God has done for us through Jesus, praising with so many other people.

It would be good to spend time with more people from Martin Way. If anyone is interested in going next year, then speak to any of us who went this year, especially Emily and Tony, who organise our group. We can thoroughly recommend it!

Karen Smith

I had a great time at Spring Harvest this year, it was my first time trying out Big Top (for the adults) and I loved it, the bible study in the morning was amazing, we had a lady called Ness who was the one teaching us and she was really good, she was easy to understand and I loved the way she would use her experiences to help us understand the passages.

The theme this year was Game Changers and we talked mainly about Moses who was a Game Changer himself, and also how we can become Game Changers in our lives and community. The one thing I really love about being at Spring Harvest, which isn't the fun fair or the arcade, it's spending a week with people I don't see very often, it's really nice to be able to just chat and eat and have fun with everyone who comes along, it's also fun to be able to learn and pray and worship together, especially worship, I love the worship at Spring Harvest its always so incredible, it's always happy and moving, this year I spent time in worship trying to

listen to the harmonies and sing along with them as sometimes our lead singer wouldn't be in my range so it was harder to sing along with him.

Being group organiser this year for the first time on my own, although Tony was still there to help, was enjoyable and I'm looking forward to doing it again as it feels easy now, and would really love it if a big group came along! So if your reading this and thinking "yeah I'd like to come and experience Spring Harvest" which I totally think you should as I feel everyone in the church should experience it at least once, then drop me an email with any questions you may have or to just tell me you're coming



then please do, also you can talk to Tony or Mike or Abby or Valerie or Karen or any of the young people and there are also a few more who have been before too. It's a great week, I love it and look forward to it every year and I hope you can join us for 2017!

Emily Bacon

SATURDAY 28TH MAY 2016

10.30-----15.00

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The Healing Ministry

What? Ministry of Healing Summer School

When? June 20 – 22, 2016

Where? Cefn Lea Conference & Holiday Park,
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(www.cefnlea.co.uk)

We hope you are able to join us in our annual conference (63rd this year) at this special centre in Mid Wales. We will have an opportunity to learn more about this ministry and our Guest Speaker this year is Mr Wynford Ellis Owen. We pray for God's blessing on the meetings and we look forward to welcoming you.

More information: Nerys Rowlands,
Pandy, Cefnddwysarn, Bala, Gwynedd. LL237LN

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Extreme Prophecy

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.

ROME: Peter

For the third time, Christ asked Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas, do you loved me?"

Peter was grieved. Three times he had denied Christ; now three times Jesus questioned his love. He responded slowly this time, as if weighing the significance of each word in his heart, "Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you."

"Feed my sheep," Jesus repeated a third time. Only this time, he added, "When you were young, you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted; but when you are old, another will dress you, and take you where you don't want to go." Then Jesus said, "Follow me (John 21:15-19, paraphrased).

Nero persecuted Peter when Peter was seventy years old. According to legend, Peter's friends and fellow believers urged him to flee Rome. He refused at first, but eventually he was persuaded to escape. As he approached the city gate to leave, he saw a vision of Jesus walking into the city. He fell to his knees, worshipping him. "Lord, where are you going?"

"I have come again to be crucified. Follow me."

Peter turned, and followed where "he didn't want to go." He returned to face Nero. When the authorities arrested him, he requested that he be crucified upside down as he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner his Lord had been.

The point of this legend is not to say Jesus was crucified a second time. Jesus died and was resurrected once and for all. Rather, the legend reminds us that Jesus identifies with our pain and sufferings so much it's as if he is going through them himself. In Peter's case, the Bible says Jesus' earlier prophecy referred to Peter's crucifixion. Who else but Jesus could relate to Peter's tortuous experience? Jesus is the expert on suffering. He knows what it is all about and wants to come alongside us. If there is pain in your life, Jesus understands. If you are hurting, Jesus has been there too. Let him assume your burdens and sorrows in prayer today.

Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said, "Follow me!" (John 21:19)

CHURCH DIARY



Sun	1	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30 pm	Healing and Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	3	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	6	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	8	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		12 noon	General Church Meeting
Tue	13	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	15	10.30 am	Café Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
			<i>Start of Christian Aid Week</i>
Tue	17	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>I'm Still Standing</i> - Major Alan Walsh on work of the vehicle removal unit
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
			<i>Start of Christian Resources Exhibition</i>
Fri	20	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	22	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev Margaret Adams
		6.00pm	Christian Unity Service at St James' Church, Martin Way
			<i>Christian Aid Walk</i>
Tue	24	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sat	28	10.30am-3pm	Spring and Craft Fair at Martin Way Church
Sun	29	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev Chris Morley
Tue	31	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

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

We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday
in May 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

Elizabeth Turnbull on 22nd May

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**Christian Resources Exhibition
Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th May**

Equipping and empowering the Church for the next generation

Church leaders, youth and children's workers, in fact anyone involved in leadership continually need to discover new and fresh ways to communicate God's unchanging message. That's why there is no better place to equip yourself and your church than CRE International.

CRE International now held at ExCeL, London with around 8,000 visitors and over 300 exhibitors in 2015. But it is more than just an exhibition; it's an event with seminars and workshops led by gifted communicators in their field of expertise with presentations ranging from how to lead worship to young people and the Bible. There is also an opportunity for you to enjoy time in the arts theatre with performances from theatre companies, worship leaders, comedians and many more.

Visit the website for more information at: www.creonline.co.uk

Thank You

Bob, Karen and I would like to thank the church for their unbelievable support following the sad passing of Sue.

From Paul, who put together a truly memorable service of remembrance, to Sylvia and her team of helpers, for putting on such a fantastic spread, to Simon for sorting out the booking of the hall, to those who offered help with transport on the day, to those who offered a kind ear to our concerns, to all of you for your prayers, cards and notes of support, to everyone who attended the service at the crematorium and came back to the hall afterwards, we are truly grateful.

Martin Way is a wonderful, caring community and we feel very privileged to be a part of it. Thank you to all of you.

Andy Smith

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Congratulations

Well done to Richard Herring (Abby's husband) for not only running in the London Marathon on 24th April and finishing in 3 hours 22 minutes - knocking just under 20 minutes his personal best, but also for raising over £1400 for COSMIC (Children of St Mary's Intensive Care) St Mary's Paddington.

He is still welcoming donations to this great charity via his Virgin giving page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RichardHerring1> or you can pass donations to Abby, Tony or Maralyn.

Items for the **June Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 15th May** at the latest