

# MINISTER'S LETTER

I saw the following doing the rounds on social media the other day and it made me laugh out loud. It did so because the *Daily Express* gives over an inordinate amount of front page headlines to the weather and it felt good to see one of its journalists caught out regurgitating the same old story year after year.



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Home > News > UK > 100 DAYS OF HEAVY SNOW! Britain now facing worst winter in SIXTY YEARS warn forecasters

## 100 DAYS OF HEAVY SNOW: Britain now facing worst winter in SIXTY YEARS warn forecasters

LONG-RANGE weather forecasters have warned that Britain should prepare for heavy and persistent snow for up to THREE MONTHS with winter 2013 set to be the worst in more than 60 years.

By NATHAN RAO  
PUBLISHED: 00:10, Sun, Nov 17, 2013

**2013**

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Home > News > Nature > Winter 2014 set to be 'coldest for century' Britain faces ARCTIC FREEZE

## Winter 2014 set to be 'coldest for century' Britain faces ARCTIC FREEZE in just weeks

WINTER 2014 is on track to be the coldest for more than a CENTURY with Britain just weeks away from a crippling ARCTIC FREEZE.

By NATHAN RAO  
PUBLISHED: 15:08, Fri, Oct 10, 2014

**2014**

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Home > News > Nature > Coldest winter for 50 YEARS set to bring MONTHS of heavy snow to UK

## Coldest winter for 50 YEARS set to bring MONTHS of heavy snow to UK

BRITAIN is facing the most savage winter in more than 50 years with forecasts of heavy snowfall and bitter Arctic winds set to bring the country to a standstill.

By NATHAN RAO  
PUBLISHED: 03:10, Thu, Sep 17, 2015 | UPDATED: 11:47, Thu, Feb 11, 2016

SHARE f TWEET G+ 404

**2015**

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Home > News > Weather > UK set for HEAVIEST SNOWFALL in years: Long-range forecast warns of Winter 2016 BIG FREEZE

## UK set for HEAVIEST SNOWFALL in years: Long-range forecast warns of Winter 2016 BIG FREEZE

BRITAIN is facing the heaviest snowfalls in years this winter as the country's first icy blast arrives in SIX WEEKS unleashing FOUR MONTHS of heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures, forecasters have announced.

By NATHAN RAO  
PUBLISHED: 06:52, Mon, Sep 26, 2016 | UPDATED: 07:26, Mon, Sep 26, 2016

SHARE f TWEET G+ 248

**2016**

After a few seconds had passed and the laughter had subsided, I realised that this made me think of what we do in the church - endlessly trotting out the same story again and again and again. It made me think about how we try to tell that story in a fresh way time and time again but how, in reality, we probably just end up changing



the words around a bit. It made me question how the story is heard. Does it come across as an old story regurgitated or something that's genuinely fresh and newsworthy? The editorial team at the *Express* clearly believes that its weather predictions fall into the latter category. I wonder what you think about how we tackle the story we've been called to share.

On reflection, I decided that I was glad that this newspaper writes about the weather as frequently as it does - if only because it means that it is giving its readership a break from its incessant anti-immigration rhetoric. I also concluded that if we're convinced by the story that has been offered to us - and, in stark contrast to the newspaper articles, by the good news at the heart of it - we should be confident enough not only to tell it over and over again but to do so with an urgency that sometimes eludes us. So how about we try? We have a limitless number of opportunities to do so. We could start with Harvest, Advent, Christmas and then, next year, during Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost...

With every blessing

*Paul*

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## **Harvest Festival and Lunch**

Following the Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 2nd October there will be a Harvest Lunch which will consist of a hot main course and dessert.

There will be no fixed charge for this, but donations will be welcome to help cover costs.

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing what God has provided.



## Colouring Time - Harvesting Apples



## Colouring Time - Harvesting Apples







**CHRISTIAN  
SOLIDARITY  
WORLDWIDE**  
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

**September Press Releases  
from CSW**

*The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.*

Psalm 33:18

Thank you so much for your fervent and faithful prayers for our work at the United Nations over the years! As you know, it's a key part of what we do to fight for religious freedom – and your prayers are absolutely vital.

Other CSW staff will be at Europe's biggest annual human rights and democracy conference this week, to discuss human rights with diplomats from countries across Europe, Asia and North America. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) hosts an annual event in Warsaw to discuss the human rights situation in all 57 countries in the OSCE. Non-governmental organisations like CSW are invited to contribute.

In the coming days we'll be talking to diplomats to raise our concerns about particular people whose cases we're campaigning on. We'll also be co-hosting a side event to discuss these issues, with key human rights experts from the OSCE and the UN.

These are both such important opportunities for us to raise religious freedom with high ranking diplomats – the people who can actually make a difference to people on the ground. Please do keep our staff in your prayers this week!

Thank you for praying for the Christians on trial in Nepal! Their next hearing was scheduled for September, but it's been postponed until 26th October. Please do keep the seven men and one woman, their families and their legal team in your prayer

In summary, please pray:

- For godly wisdom and Holy Spirit inspiration for our staff as they talk to diplomats about sensitive human rights situations
- That the event we're co-hosting at the OSCE will be really well attended, so that many people hear our concerns about religious freedom
- That all this work would result in tangible improvements for the people on the ground – that lives would be saved, prisoners released and God's justice would reign!

**Nigeria** marks Independence Day on 1st October. As the nation celebrates 56 years of independence, it faces an immense humanitarian crisis. According to the UN, at least 17,000 people have died in terrorist-related violence since 2009, and 2.2 million people have been forced to flee their homes. Boko Haram was recently declared to be deadlier than Daesh, and was responsible for 6,644 deaths in Nigeria during 2014.

This month, please pray:

- Please pray for the many Chibok schoolgirls who are still missing after being abducted by Boko Haram three years ago.
- Abduction of non-Muslim underage girls remains prevalent in Shari'a states. Lucy was abducted five years ago and has yet to be reunited with her parents. Please remember Lucy and others like her in your prayers today.
- We're so thankful for our partners, CSW-Nigeria. Reverend Yunusa works tirelessly for religious freedom in Nigeria; please pray for him and CSW-Nigeria.
- Ekklesiar Yan'uwa (EYN), the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, is the largest Christian denomination in the area regularly attacked by Boko Haram. The church is caring for 10,000 widows, many with children. Let's pray for healing and restoration.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

*The CSW team*



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**CSW  
AMBASSADOR  
DAY**

It is always good to meet up and network with other CSW church representatives (now renamed Ambassadors) for an Ambassador Day held at St Luke's Community Centre, Central Road. This annual event was organised by Janet Wilkinson the Ambassador's Co-ordinator, this year on Saturday 24th September. The Ambassador's motto being: *Join us. Stand up. Speak out.*

Rev Joel Edwards, CSW's Strategic Advisor was our first speaker. He reminded us that millions of people are imprisoned and tortured for what they believe. Over 70% of the world's population experiences suffering because of their religious beliefs, not all of them Christians and in this shared humanity of sufferings, Christians are called to *do good to everyone* - especially those who 'belong to the family of believers' (Galatians 6:10). Since the Christian's mandate is the Bible, it is right to defend religious freedom. Other religions have rights too according to Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:

*"Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion of belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion and belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching."*

Wai Hnin Pwint Thon a Campaign Officer with Burma Campaign Uk and activist was the guest speaker. In 2010 she made an impassioned speech at the Labour Party conference and the Liberal Democratic annual conference about her father's detention and the plight of 2,200 other political prisoners held in Burma. Her presentation was equally emotional as she recalled meeting her father for the first time

imprisoned and in chains, their only means of communicating was through prison bars. Now that she lives in the UK, she has to get a visa whenever she visits her native country and is followed wherever she travels. Her father was released in 1996 but still continued campaigning for democracy in Burma. He was rearrested in 2007 and sentenced to 65.5 years. Wai Hnin continues to campaign avidly for her country and its people.

Following a break, Janet interviewed CSW's Middle East Advocacy Officer Dr Wael Alegi, a Doctor and Psychologist, also Spokesperson for Syrian Network for Human Rights. Dr Wael is a Christian brought up in Damascus and gave us a little of the history of the warring factions in that war torn country. He reiterated that it is the responsibility of the international community to step up efforts to bring an end to the conflict. Justice and Human rights should be core concepts for any political solution, otherwise the war will only accelerate - further destabilising the already unstable situation in the Middle East. Prayers for the situation in Syria were foremost in our hearts and uttered aloud during our times of interceding for the cries of the persecuted.

At the end of the sessions we heard about crimes against humanity in North Korea, especially to those who practice their faith in secret which included arbitrary imprisonment, torture, enforced disappearances, rape and sexual violence and other inhumane acts too awful to mention. Currently there are 130,000 Rohingya and 120,000 Kachin who live in camps in Burma and being denied aid. According to the UN, 17,000 people have died in terrorist-related violence in Nigeria, and forced to flee their homes. Persecution is more common than we care to think.

As the church's CSW rep, I am challenged to raise awareness of the organisation's work, mobilise the church to become involved, encourage others to pray, to act and to give. Hopefully my experience at this get-together and sharing the experiences of other reps has given me the incentive to stand up and speak out.

*Gwen Wildman*

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*Gwen Wildman*



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### Contact:

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sianeesian@hotmail.com

## Finance & Property Matters



### The Flush Fund

In this first article from the Finance & Property Committee we are looking at the **Flush Fund**. If you are asking what on earth the 'Flush Fund' is, read on!

The 'Flush Fund' was set up to fund the refurbishment of the church toilets which were getting rather, well let's say shabby and not in the nice shabby chic way! The ladies toilets have been completely refurbished and look fantastic, that is to say the decor is very smart, I don't think you'd ever say a toilet looks fantastic, or maybe you would. Great you say, but what about the Gents and the all access loos, don't they get the same treatment? Well yes, they should have done this year but unfortunately there isn't enough spare cash to splash. It is policy to keep our reserves sustained to a minimum level and if we were to go ahead now we would seriously dip into these reserves. Hence the 'flush fund'. It's a separate, ring fenced lump of money that has been raised through donations and events that are chiefly organised by Sylvia Baxter whose name deserves a mention at the very least! The trouble is the current fund falls short by quite a long way.

We really need to raise the game if we are to proceed with this vital work next year. It may well be that we have to downscale the project or postpone it yet again. I am sure we would all like our church to be well kept for our own comfort and enjoyment. In addition, bear in mind that a fair percentage of our income comes from outside users. In order to be able to offer our premises to other users in the community we need to be able to keep the place looking attractive and in good order. The funds raised by others certainly helps, so they do their bit but naturally we can't charge too much or they'd just look elsewhere. It's a fine balance.

Roy Ellis, our church Treasurer says *'Within the church family many*



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Roy Ellis, our church Treasurer says *‘Within the church family many*



*people have made donations during the Month of Giving (which is ongoing!) and this generosity has placed us on a much better financial footing going forward. We very much appreciate those gifts and recognise that everyone is financially challenged these days. However, projects of this nature are expensive and, despite our efforts to reduce church running costs, we are still not yet in a position to afford the outstanding work on the toilets.'*

So two things you can do to help is, think about what you can give in terms of a donation directly to the Flush Fund or review your weekly/monthly giving and ask for a proportion of this to be set aside for the fund. Either way please contact Roy Ellis, the Treasurer.

Also, don't forget to support any future fund raising events!

*Colin Smith*  
Chair of Finance & Property

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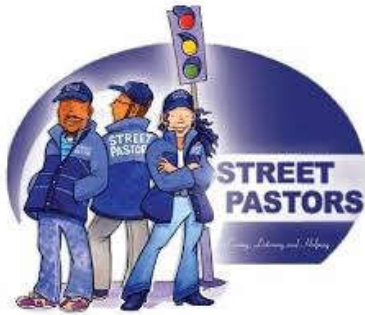
## **Martin Way Brownies**

Having recently been successful in finding a new leader for the Rainbows who meet on the church premises, we now find ourselves needing a new Brownie leader. Kate Avery who has

been leading them for 15 years is moving away from the area and will not be able to continue after October.

This means there is a serious risk of the unit having to close. If there is anyone who feels they could take on this rewarding task, or who knows someone who might, please contact Kate on 020 8542 2540 or [kavery121@btinternet.com](mailto:kavery121@btinternet.com).

It would be sad if the Rainbows had no Brownie unit to progress to and there was a reduced intake of girls to the Guides. Can you help?"



**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October is Merton Street Pastors Sunday** and all churches in Merton are asked to spare a little time to remember the work of the Street Pastors; but as our Harvest Sunday this year is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be thinking about the Merton Street Pastors on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

In the meantime we ask that you remember us and our fellow Street Pastor colleagues by use the following pray during your prayer time.

Loving God;

We thank You for Your Son Jesus Christ,  
His Church in Merton and the ministry  
of Merton Street Pastors.

We thank You for all the volunteers  
from churches in Merton who walk the streets  
of Mitcham, Morden and Wimbledon  
in unity seeking to care for,  
listen to and help the people that they meet.

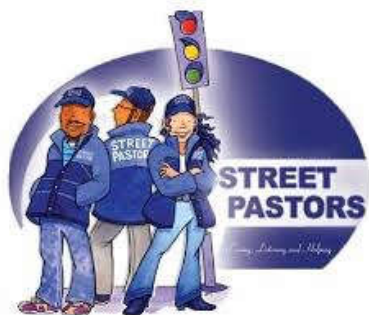
We ask that You would watch over them  
and walk with them on the streets  
and keep them safe.

We ask also that You would empower them  
through the Holy Spirit to be a blessing  
to those they meet and that You would be glorified  
by their faithful service.

We ask these things in the name  
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

*Gwen Wildman, Brenda Cannon and Tony Loft*



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# Forever Living Products

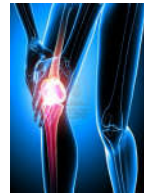
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**For further information contact:**

**Mike Fuwa**

**Tel: 07956 369579**

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

## **Extreme Youth Group**

*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.*

### **EGYPT : A CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADER**

"Here is the plan," said the young Christian leader to the youth group. "At 8:30 you must begin to distribute the meeting invitations at the university. You must give them all out quickly before the secret police come and ask what you are doing. If you cannot give them to someone, just leave them lying somewhere. God will get them into the right hands."

"You want us to pass out information *before* we have permission?" Images of being arrested by the Egyptian police flashed through the minds of the anxious men and women gathered around their leader.

"Exactly! Look, we have to exercise a little faith. We'll take the first step, and the rest is in God's hands."

In Egypt, Christian gatherings are closely monitored and cannot be held without government approval. Shortly after 8.30, the youth leader called the police to request permission to hold a Christian gathering.

"You must fill out the proper forms, and we will notify you in a month or so."

"I am sorry, sir, but we have already begun giving out invitations for the meeting," the Christian answered anxiously.

"Why did you give invitations before you had approval? You know we must approve such meetings. Well, I guess since invitations have already been given out I will approve the meeting this time."

*Putting our faith in action is all about taking the first step on an uncertain journey. As others who have made this journey will tell us, it's not the actual going that is difficult. It is "going without knowing" that is a bit unnerving. There are no maps on a journey of faith. We navigate by the starlight of God's provision. It's an off-road adventure that leads us to places we cannot see from the main highway of life. It took great faith for the believers to send out invitations to a meeting that they weren't sure would be permitted. God honoured their step of faith by blessing them with three hundred new converts that night. Are you ready to step out in faith?*

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)



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# CHURCH DIARY

# OCTOBER



Sun	2	10.30 am	Harvest Festival led by Rev Paul Timmis
		12.30 pm	Harvest Lunch
Tue	4	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	9	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	11	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	14	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	16	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	18	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Reflections</i> - Rev Paul Timmis
Sat	22	10.30 am	Big Brunch
Sun	23	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	25	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	28	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	30	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft

*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:

**Jennifer Smith on 13th October**

**Ella Smith on 14th October**

**Jason Hillhouse on 23rd October**

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### **Musicians Take Note**

Do you play a musical instrument or enjoy singing?

Believe it or not, the church band is not overrun with musicians (singers included) so perhaps now is the time to put yourself forward. It would be fantastic to have the problem of having to decide who plays for which service or even better, having to create two separate bands! At the very least the current band could grow a little.



The band tends to play for the Cafe Worship services only with most other morning services having to make do with the hymnal (a clever box full of hymns, organ sounds and a touch screen). It just might be nice to allow the hymnal a little bit more down time, as wonderful as it is.

So if you are a musician and you have been watching the band playing in church and have been thinking you could help or if you just want to know more before committing that's fine, just drop an email to me at [mwcomms@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mwcomms@hotmail.co.uk) or talk to me (or one of the other band members).

*Colin Smith*

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**Jennifer Smith on 13th October**

**Ella Smith on 14th October**

**Jason Hillhouse on 23rd October**

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### **Musicians Take Note**

Do you play a musical instrument or enjoy singing?

Believe it or not, the church band is not overrun with musicians (singers included) so perhaps now is the time to put yourself forward. It would be fantastic to have the problem of having to decide who plays for which service or even better, having to create two separate bands! At the very least the current band could grow a little.



The band tends to play for the Cafe Worship services only with most other morning services having to make do with the hymnal (a clever box full of hymns, organ sounds and a touch screen). It just might be nice to allow the hymnal a little bit more down time, as wonderful as it is.

So if you are a musician and you have been watching the band playing in church and have been thinking you could help or if you just want to know more before committing that's fine, just drop an email to me at [mwcomms@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mwcomms@hotmail.co.uk) or talk to me (or one of the other band members).

*Colin Smith*





The Coombie Dream Team (comprising of Anne Conquest, Daniela Santamaria, Sarah Haggard, Amy Mcconville, Hollie McCann O'Sullivan, Gooley Brumster and Charlie-Jade Bridger) ran the Cancer Research 5k Mud Run last month and raised over £1,300.

A big thank you to all who supported us.

*Anne Conquest*

Items for the **November Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 23rd October** at the latest

