

Martin Way Methodist Church

Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park, London SW20 9JZ

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Minister: The Rev Paul Timmis

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NEWSLETTER

JULY &

AUGUST 2017

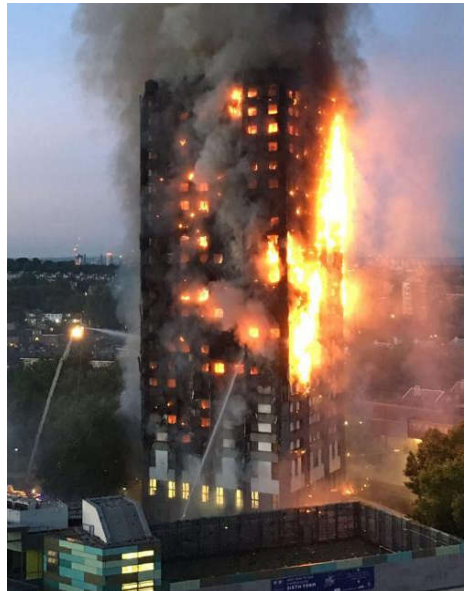


MINISTER'S LETTER



“There has been no summer like it”, said Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, in Parliament, as she reflected upon the recent terror attacks in Westminster, at the Manchester Arena, on London Bridge/Borough Market and, most recently, in Finsbury Park that claimed 36 lives and resulted in a further 150 people being hospitalized. People out enjoying themselves or emerging from prayers being targeted because of a perverted ideology of one kind or another is as worrying as it is deplorable. That such attacks appear to be becoming part and parcel of life for us, is disturbing and depressing. ‘Why can’t people just get on with living and loving?’ is a question that I find myself asking all too often.

Even taking these horrific events into account, nothing prepared us for the scenes that confronted us last week as events at Grenfell Tower, North Kensington unfolded. If we thought the terror attacks represented our worst nightmare, we suddenly encountered unwanted competition for that title as the fire raged through the night, mercilessly destroying homes and taking and devastating lives. It will be some time before we have answers to the many questions that have subsequently emerged, but it seems that a focus on cutting costs has contributed to people’s safety being put at risk. We can only hope that the public enquiry and criminal investigation that have been launched provide some clarity and work to ensure both that justice is done and that something like this cannot happen again.



But beyond that, what is there that can be said? Despite all the upset and anger that has been caused and that we have felt, there are surely few if any words that can truly offer an adequate response. I know that I

have struggled to articulate any kind of meaningful response despite having countless thoughts running through my head. And yet, as a church community, surely we have to have something to say, don't we?

I was therefore grateful to our Chair of District, Revd Michaela Youngson, for the sermon that she preached at Notting Hill Methodist Church on 18th June 2017 and which she has kindly given me permission to share with you. Incorporating this sermon - which Micky freely acknowledges was informed by the statement put out by Roger Walton and Rachel Lampard (President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, respectively) - means that this letter slot in the newsletter will be longer than usual. I make no apology for this. I have been helped enormously by these words and both hope and believe that you will be too.

With every blessing,

Paul

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**Sermon given by Revd Michaela Youngson
at Notting Hill Methodist Church on 18th June 2017**

Since Wednesday morning many words have been written in news columns and on social media. Words have been spoken on radio and television. Words have been shouted in protest and pain. Words have been whispered by those who have wandered dazed past this building, lost, frightened and bewildered. Perhaps too many words have been spoken and we cannot bear any more but it is the role of the preacher to use words to hold up a mirror to what is happening, to paint a picture of what might be if the kingdom of God were to come to reality and to point people to the glimpses of God's presence somewhere in all the mess.

I find myself lost for words today – how do we honour those who have lost their lives? How do we do justice to the grief of the bereaved? How can we express our righteous anger? How do we respond to the unholy horror of it all?

The prophets of the Old Testament lived among a people from whom

everything had been taken and they responded to horror and injustice by joining in the lament of the people. That is where we as a faith community find the beginnings of a response – to be alongside people and hold silence. To sit with people. To listen to them. To pray and lament for and with them. To offer care and to be silent as we feel the loss, the pain, the fear, the anger. Many people have been doing just that in these last few days. The space outside our church, the public boards and gathering points, covered in candles, flowers, messages, drawings from children – all this is how we join in the lament of the bruised, the broken, the lost and the dismayed.

Listening is no passive thing – listening honours the other person, it allows them to be, it gives space to hear their story, it says “You matter and what you have to say matters to me.” Listening can lead to change. It can motivate action, it can begin to shift the narrative and bring justice and compassion into the centre of the picture. Many people in our community have not felt listened to – have felt ignored – not necessarily by individuals but by the combined weight of a system that seems designed to work against them.

The rich and powerful of the prophets’ time did not listen to the calls of the poor for justice, because to listen would have been to put their own desires aside in order to respond to the call for a righteous society, where the widow, the orphan and the refugee would be offered shelter, would be given access to the law and would have a share in the resources of the land.

We as a community share in the role of the prophets – firstly to share in the lament of the people – to give space for grief, for dismay, for anger. We are also called to share in the prophetic task of speaking truth to those in power, to hold a mirror up to our society that reflects back just how things are. The prophet Amos railed against those who offered empty gestures and platitudes but continued to oppress the poor – he demanded justice, he painted a picture of what the world could look like if people paid attention to the needs of others. He, like the other prophets, was filled with righteous anger.

And today we are angry. Anger is not to be dismissed or condemned.

There is much to be angry about. People will feel angry at God. Angry at those who had the power to act, but didn't. At a society which values less those who are the poorest or most disadvantaged.

We are often afraid of anger. We too often cling to an image of Jesus as "meek and mild". But we also see Jesus in the temple, who was angry to the point of overturning tables. Yet this was not an act of violence but a symbolic expression of anger in the prophetic tradition, disrupting the actions of those who would discriminate against and exploit the poorest at the door of God's house.

We should be angry at the kind of injustices emerging from this catastrophe: the under investing in the well-being of the poorest and the ignoring of their concerns. And we should all repent where we have been complicit with injustice in the past.

We need to find a way to channel our anger that will give us the energy, passion and commitment we need for the long road towards healing that lies ahead. The anger of Jesus is focused not on retaliation but on the righting of injustice. Matthew tells how, after the overthrowing of the tables, the blind and the lame came to Jesus, the very people who had been excluded from the temple by those with power. They came to Jesus and they were healed. Jesus's anger led to justice. It showed that a different way was not only possible, but was required of the people who followed him.

In the midst of lament – God is with us, weeping, knowing what it is to watch helplessly as his child was brutally disposed of at the hands of the Roman war machine.

In the midst of anger – God is with us, roaring with pain and frustration that over millennia humanity is still getting this so wrong.

In the midst of our actions for justice and our longing for the world to be different – God is with us. I know you will want to shout at me – how can God be in the midst of this? I have asked the same question and I do not have a simple answer to that – as a person of faith I can only look for those glimpses of God's presence in the midst of this godless mess.

I see God in the actions of the fire-fighters and the police – in the

willingness of people to risk their own lives to save others.

I see God in the skills and devotion of the medical teams who were on the scene and in hospitals and of those who ran towards the Grenfell Tower to help in whatever way they can.

I see God in the mountains of clothes, toys, toiletries and rivers of bottled water that arrived in this building and other centres, and in the many thousands of pounds people are donating – these are the love gifts of those who like us all feel the need to do something in the midst of helplessness.

I see God in the faces of the volunteers working endless hours to move goods, to drive vehicles, to make gallons of tea, to do what needs doing. I also see God in the work of those quietly getting on behind the scenes in supporting families, in setting up the infrastructure that will be needed to care for them.

It is not for us as a faith community to offer platitudes about God's love in this time – those words will seem empty – it is our job to demonstrate God's love in action. We have done that already, side by side, with this community – our community. It is our job to stand in solidarity with those who call for justice. It is our job to be in this for the long haul; there are wounds that do not heal and we will need to keep tending those who carry the loss and the trauma of these days for many years to come. The cameras will leave, the gifts will dwindle and stop, the strange glamour that draws people to travel miles to stand and watch will fade. We will remain, listening, lamenting, naming injustice and working out how we play our part in making this world reflect God's desire for a righteous and inclusive community of love.

We know what is required of us – we need the courage to take up the task. What does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God? Now is a time to cling to those words, realise that they demand of us repentance for our past actions and present privileges, and to commit ourselves to love without measure, act for justice whatever the cost, and do so whilst walking humbly with a God of love and justice.

Amen.

Revd Michaela Youngson

Church hall to get a fresh lick of paint this Summer



Yes that's right, our tired looking, hard working church hall is next on the list for a make-over.

New modern colours will give our hall the lift it's being longing for but it's going to involve some hard work with the rollers and paint brushes.

While the professionals work on finishing the toilets, we shall be sanding, filling and emptying paint pots ourselves. And drinking Tea of course (or coffee if that's what you like).

And there's more – the chairs will be moved into the store room out of site to give a much clearer and tidier looking space. Actually the chairs will end up in the link room at first until the new storage solutions are established.

There is more! Our very kind neighbours, Brewers the paint shop, in return for a couple of parking spaces and a little advertising, have offered to supply all the paint we need, as a donation. That's over 50 litres of emulsion plus woodwork paint and primer. I know, we are truly grateful for this offer.

Colours are to be decided!! Uh oh, that could be tricky.

There is another concern. That is whether there'll be enough pairs of hands to help. Otherwise there may be a lot of paint still sitting in the paint pots. A plan of what needs to be done has been drawn up and a schedule will be displayed during this month.

Look out for announcements and notices in the next few weeks with regards to what we're doing and when. All hands on deck! Any questions or ideas? Colin Smith mwcomms@hotmail.co.uk

50th Anniversary

This year Christian Care celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

We started off the New Year with our annual children's party and had cake with 50 candles on it, this was made by Abby Herring. Then on the 19th May we had our 50th celebration service which was attended by



over 100 people. Once again we had a fabulous cake made by Abby.

To top all that we received the fantastic news that we had won The Queens Award for Voluntary Services for 2017, which means we can display the logo (shown on the right) on our literature and paperwork.



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

Thank you to all of you who help our very worthwhile charity, without your support we could not do the work we do.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer for our befriending service, shopping, or furniture project. Please speak to myself or Sue Boyd.

Sylvia Baxter



EYES WIDE OPEN

Sharing moments all around us in pictures.

Photos from the church garden. How many of you know that there are 3-4 raspberry bushes, 2 red currants (fruiting now), 2 blackcurrants bushes, 2 gooseberry and one goji berry. These bushes were purchased in memory of Lucy Hatch who had given money to the Flower committee.

We will need volunteers to tend it and also to pick the fruits later in the summer. Speak to Gwen Wildman if you can help.



Please submit your images, digital photographs or scanned artwork to Andrew (Newsletter Editor) at roife@hotmail.co.uk. Every picture tells a story (or so they say) but if you want to add just a few words to accompany your image, please do.



ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY CUPCAKE DAY

On 15th June I held a Cupcake day for Alzheimer's which was a great success! Total amount is an amazing £503.40 That's including what was in my just giving page.

Many thanks to everyone who came and supported on the day and those who put donations on the JustGiving page.

Anne Conquest

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A BIBLICAL PUZZLE

Last month we asked you to find 16 books of the Bible in the following passage. Here is the answer.

I once made a **remark** about finding, merely by **fluke**, hidden books of the Bible, which kept people **looking** so hard for the **facts** and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. The **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers, others found it a really hard **job**. We want it to be **a most** interesting exercise. **Yes there** will be difficult ones to spot, some may require **judges** to help them. I admit **it usually** takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be lamentations or gnashing of teeth when it is found. One lady said **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible hidden in the paragraph. One cleric found fifteen in twenty minutes - but it took him ages to find the sixteenth.

And the full list as you would normally read them.

**Mark, Luke, Kings, Acts, Revelation, James, Ruth, Numbers, Job, Amos,
Esther, Judges, Titus, Lamentations, Hebrews, Peter**

How well did you do?

SUMMER BOOK REVIEW

from **RE:FRESH BOOKS** (now part of **CLC Bookshops**)

Take it & Leave it!

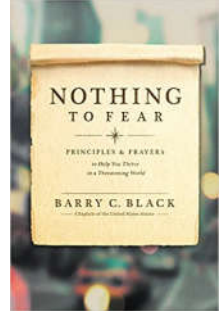
Take a good Christian book on holiday, read it, then leave it for other holidaymakers to read. Many holiday venues have a 'library' area where holidaymakers can exchange books

Nothing to Fear: Principles and Prayers to Help You Thrive in a Threatening World

by Barry C Black - £18.99 - 245 pages

ISBN: 9781496421081

Our times are turbulent ones, and questions and worries like these can haunt us and keep us awake at night. Yet is it possible that, ultimately, there is actually *nothing* to fear? Barry C. Black is the spiritual "leader of leaders" for the US Senate - shepherding those on the front lines of the decisions that shape our culture. Now, Chaplain Black shows all of us how to thrive in the midst of today's turbulence and confusion by following eight principles that Jesus gave his disciples prior to sending them into a dangerous world. These teachings are as relevant today as when Jesus first spoke them two thousand years ago.



A Bride in Store

by Melissa Jagears - £15.53 - 368 pages

ISBN: 9780764211690

When Eliza Cantrell arrives early to meet her absent groom, sparks fly between Eliza and her future husband's best friend. Could God have a different future in store for this mail-order bride?

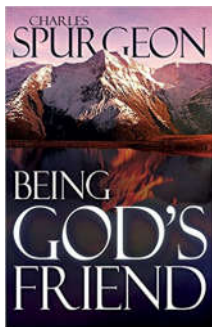
Peter/Paul Flip-Over Book

by Victoria Kovacs - £3.50 - 32 pages

ISBN: 9781433643279

What could be better than a great hero story? TWO great hero stories! And there's no better place to find them than the Bible. Peter/Paul Flip-Over Book offers two stories of bravery, faithfulness, and kindness—straight from the Bible and perfect for little hero-loving hearts! Ideal for kids 3-4 year old, but 5-7 year olds will also enjoy it.





Being God's Friend

by Charles H Spurgeon - £9.99 - 159 pages

ISBN: 9781629117812

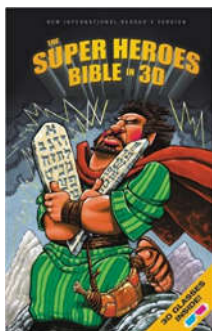
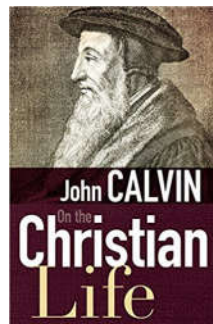
You know Him as Abba, Father, God, the Lord, the Almighty, or even as Daddy. But do you know Him as Friend? Do you love to spend time with Him? Do you look forward to your conversations, to your quiet times together? David sought God's company morning and night, Moses spoke with Him daily, and Abraham, believing and obeying the Father, "was called the Friend of God" (James 2:23). You, too, can have dynamic fellowship with the Father, with greater purpose and power than ever before. Experience the closeness of a friendship with God. Learn the joys of Being God's Friend today.

On the Christian Life

by John Calvin - £10.99 - 124 pages

ISBN: 9781629117461

Taken from John Calvin's magnum opus *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, this book has inspired readers around the world for more than four centuries. This concise and practical devotional was first printed for the purpose of teaching Christians how to live out their faith. Focusing on subjects such as righteousness, self-denial, the significance of the cross, suffering, and how we should live our lives today, Calvin stresses the importance that believers cling to the grace given through Christ's death and resurrection. He proposes practical ways to bring that grace into our fallen world without abusing our roles as representatives of God.



The Super Heroes Bible in 3D

by Jean E. Syswerda - £20.69 - 1504 pages

ISBN: 9780310745983

The Super Heroes Bible in 3D for kids 6-9 years old includes loads of in-text features that point to the many ordinary people zapped by God into super hero status. There are also 40 full-colour pages using 3D art and a holographic design on the page edges for added fun. 3D glasses included!

These books (and more) are available from

Re:fresh Books & Christian Resources,

23 The Broadway, Tolworth, Surbiton KT6 7DJ

You can also order these books online from www.eden.co.uk/clc



June 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

Today we're praying for God to comfort the grieving family of Irfan Masih, a Christian sanitation worker who died in hospital in Pakistan after doctors refused to treat him.

Mr Masih was rushed to hospital on 1st June after passing out due to inhaling toxic fumes while cleaning a manhole. He was in a critical condition when he arrived, but the doctors told his family that they couldn't touch him until the sludge covering his body was cleaned off. Why? Because they were fasting and Mr Masih was 'unclean': it wasn't the sludge that was the problem, but rather that by touching the sludge they would become unfit to worship Allah, so they wanted his family to do it instead.

Once he'd been cleaned to their satisfaction, doctors sent for an oxygen cylinder. It was empty. Tragically, by the time a replacement was found, Mr Masih had died.

Jobs such as sanitation work are seen as 'unclean' in Pakistan, and historically, because of the caste system, people from lower castes like the 'Untouchables' were assigned degrading jobs. Many Hindus from lower castes converted to Christianity to escape caste-based discrimination and poverty. Over 90% of jobs in the sanitation sector are filled by religious minorities such as Christians – to the extent that government adverts for sanitation workers specify that only Christians and Hindus should apply.

Though this situation is unjust and appalling, we know that God is powerful. As well as being a God who comforts people in their grief, he can also effect powerful change when we come to him in prayer.

Please pray:

- For God to comfort Mr Masih's family as they grieve
- That the unjust and discriminatory attitudes towards religious minorities and sanitation work in Pakistan would change
- For God's protection over Pakistan's Christian and Hindu sanitation workers who work in such dangerous conditions

- Pray that local government bodies review safety of sanitation workers and provide them with the necessary safety equipment to carry out their jobs

Cuba

A religious freedom defender has been blocked from leaving Cuba to attend a conference on human rights and democracy. Félix Llerena López was preparing to board his flight on Saturday 17th June, when state security agents approached him and took him into an office where they informed him that he was barred from leaving the country.

Pakistan

Taimoor Raza, a Shi'a Muslim, has become the first person to be sentenced to death by Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on 10th June, for allegedly committing blasphemy on Facebook.

Blasphemy in Pakistan is a highly sensitive issue with a disproportionate number of false accusations lodged against religious minorities, though the highest number of accusations are filed against Muslims. The laws are widely misused to settle personal scores or in matters related to money, property or business rivalry. Blasphemy accusations often result in mob violence. On 13th April, university student Mashal Khan was beaten to death by a mob at Abdul Wali Khan University in Mardan after being accused of posting blasphemous content online, a claim which was later found to be false.

Egypt

At least 28 people were killed and 23 injured on 26th May when masked gunmen opened fire on three vehicles transporting members of the Coptic community to St Samuel the Confessor Monastery in Minya governorate. The victims included women, children and the elderly.

Eritrea

CSW has been informed that 122 Eritrean Christians were detained in May 2017 in a series of round-ups of members of unregistered denominations in various locations around the country.

The detentions mark a new phase in a crackdown that has been ongoing since May 2002, when the Eritrean government effectively outlawed religious practices not affiliated with the Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran and Orthodox Christian denominations or Sunni Islam.

45 Christians, including entire families, elderly men and a disabled woman, were taken from their homes in Adi Quala town in the south of the country and transported to Adi Aglis detention camp. The arrests left 23 children without their parents.

Visit www.csw.org.uk for latest news and information



JULY

CHURCH DIARY

Sun	2	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	4	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	9	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Richard Greenham
Tue	11	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	14	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	15	10.30 am	Summer Brunch
Sun	16	10.30 am	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
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Summer Members' Evening</i>
Sun	23	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	25	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	30	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft

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

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Last chance for a Summer Brunch

On Saturday 12th July.
Running from 10.30 until 1pm,
come along and enjoy the food and
the company.





CHURCH DIARY

Tue	1	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	6	10.30am	Morning Service led by Viv Newitt
Tue	8	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	13	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	15	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	20	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	22	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	27	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	29	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

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We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday
during these months a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Francesca Heald on 5th July

Anne Jenkins on 12th July

Jessica Hazen on 26th July

Rebecca Smith on 11th August

Summer Puzzle Page

Wimbledon Tennis celebrates it's 140th anniversary this year. This puzzle is the same as the popular Suduko puzzles, but uses letters instead of numbers. See if you can complete the grid.



Tennis Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters W I M B L E D O N.
Don't guess - use logic.

	N	W				E	B	
	I		E		W		L	
M	B			O			D	I
B			O	M	I			W
	E						I	
I			W	D	E			B
E	W			N			M	L
	M		L		D		W	
	L	I				D	O	

Items for the **September Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 13th August** at the latest



Forever Living Products

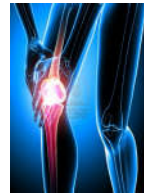
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**For further information contact:
Mike Fuwa
Tel: 07956 369579
Email: mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk**

Church Activities

SUNDAY	Morning Worship	10.30 am
	Morning Communion (once a month)	10.30 am
	Evening Communion (once a month)	6.30 pm
	Sunday Club	10.30 am
	SIGMA—the Circuit Choir (as advertised)	4.00 - 5.30 pm
	Platform 10¾ Young People's Fellowship (1st & 3rd Sundays)	8.00 - 9.00 pm
TUESDAY	Coffee & Chat	10.30 - 12 noon
	Men's Supper Club (3rd Tuesday of the Month)	7.00 pm
	Time for Prayer	8.00 pm
WEDNESDAY	Morning Frogs Club (Carer & Toddlers Group)	10.00 - 12 noon
	Afternoon Frogs Club (Carer & Toddlers Group)	1.00 - 3.00 pm
	Rainbows (1st Merton Park)	5.30 - 6.30 pm
	Guides (2nd Merton Park)	7.30 - 9.00 pm
THURSDAY	Brownies (2nd Merton Park)	6.00 - 7.30 pm
FRIDAY	Luncheon Club (Fortnightly)	12.30 pm

House Groups, Coffee Mornings, Concerts, etc (as advertised)

