

Martin Way Methodist Church

serving the communities of

Morden & Merton Park



Minister: Rev Paul Timmis

(020) 8337 2348



Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JZ

Newsletter

May 2018

www.martinway.org.uk

enquiries@martinway.org.uk

MINISTER'S LETTER

As Paul is away on a Sabbatical, a number of others have offered to write in Paul's place for the Newsletter.

Our second contributor is Brenda Cannon.



I love my garden and I've been watching the new buds bravely popping their heads out into the cold miserable weather we've been experiencing over what seems to have been an endless winter! Where's spring you might say. Even as we celebrated over the Easter weekend the coming of new life and thinking about the spring flowers, the baby chicks and lambs being born at this time of the year; the skies were invariably cloudy and dull with endless episodes of rainfall. However, only this weekend we saw the beginning of what is to come, sunshine and warmth brightening and lifting our spirits. New growth of tiny leaves, buds and blossom are suddenly bursting into life displaying colour and beauty so long awaited!

This reminds me that although we all experience at times, cloudy days and darkness in our lives, we have a loving and Risen Saviour right there beside us. He'll never let us down but will lift us above the depths of our despair through those cloud ridden days towards new life and a brightness that only He can provide.

We are reminded we are still in the season of Easter for a few more weeks until Pentecost when, of course, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. But of course, for us, unlike 2000 or so years ago, we've had the benefit of knowing and being blessed by the gift of the Holy Spirit that gives us the strength and the faith to enable us, like the new shoots of spring, to blossom and grow into the people God has planned us to be.

I've been listening to the spring bird song lately, not only in my garden, but also standing still in sheer wonder at the incredible diversity of their song as I walk the dog over the common each day. How sad, I wonder to myself are those joggers with ear phones covering their ears and rushing on by without being able to appreciate

the beautiful sound of the birds or notice the new growth that's surrounding them.

Our God has created an incredibly astounding and diverse world that so many seem only to just take for granted, until of course, something goes radically wrong. War, hatred, power and conflict are all too often apparent especially today with chemical weapons in the mix.

My message today would be for each one of us to take time out, listen to the birdsong, notice the new growth, and appreciate God's outstanding creation and above all, remember no matter how dismal or dark the day may seem, God's eternal light shines upon us embracing and empowering us with his never ending love.

May God's blessing be with you each and every day.

Brenda

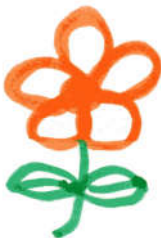
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As Paul is on Sabbatical and therefore not working please refrain from sending him any emails during this time. Mike Mortley will forward anything on to Paul that he needs to know about on his return.

If anyone should require a minister during Paul's absence please contact Reverend Margaret Adams in the first instance on 020 8946 3181.

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My Gift

My gift might seem quite small
But gives me lots of pleasure-
Writing stories and poetry
Of moments we can treasure.

Pauline Deakin

Extreme Voyage

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.

THE TITANIC: Dr Robert Bateman

Dr Robert Bateman gently helped his sister-in-law into the lifeboat. "Don't be nervous, Annie. This will test our faith. I must stay and help the others. If we never meet again on this earth, we will meet again in heaven." Bateman dropped his handkerchief to the woman as the boat dropped toward the dark, icy water below. "Put that around your throat, Annie. You'll catch cold."

Dr Bateman then gathered about fifty men at the stern of the ship and told them to prepare for death. Earlier that day, he had conducted the only religious service on the large ship, a service that ended with his favourite hymn, "Nearer My God to Thee."

Robert Bateman had founded the Central City Mission in Jacksonville, Florida, a spiritual lighthouse in a city regularly full of drunken sailors. He had been called "the man who distributes more human sunshine than any other in Jacksonville." Bateman went to England to study Christian social work and was returning to the United States to put into practice what he had learned.

However, late on the night of April 14, 1912, Bateman's ship struck an iceberg. Bateman led the men with him on the stern of the ship in the Lord's Prayer. As the band played "Nearer My God to Thee," the great ship Titanic slid under the waters.

It is said that one sure way to make God laugh is to tell him our plans! When we accept Christ, we are embarking on the greatest adventure of our lives. In order to make the journey worthwhile, we must surrender ourselves to his command - the captain of the ship. He orchestrates our life's journey as he sees fit, navigating through our whims and wants toward greater goals. At times, even the worse of times, his map seems antiquated and we wonder if he has lost his way. Jagged rocks jut out from the murky depths. The moonless night envelops us in its darkness. How tempted we become at that moment to resume control of our life's plans. The voyage is a venture in faith, however, if it is anything at all. God's plan for our lives steer us in directions we might never choose for ourselves. Yet, he knows best.

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. (Proverbs 19:21)



The Lantern Arts Centre is looking to recruit an Artistic Director and an Operations Manager to lead our diverse company and oversee the day to day running of the centre. We're looking for two exceptional candidates who will work collaboratively, bring excellence to all they do and keep us firmly rooted as a community arts centre which values its Christian heritage.

Both roles are based at the Lantern Arts Centre, Tolverne Road, Raynes Park, SW20 8RA.

Artistic Director

Hours per Week: **18 hours per week** (*exact days and times flexible*) Start Date: **Immediate**

Salary: **£30,000 pro rata** (*£15,429 per annum*) Contract Type: **Permanent**

Our Artistic Director will be responsible for developing our artistic vision through performance, visual and other forms of creative art. With a background in the arts, they will have principal responsibility for overseeing, and growing attendance at all of our productions, activities, classes and performances, working closely with our Artistic Reference Group to ensure that we meet the needs of our diverse company and the local community. As an experienced people manager with excellent communication skills, the Artistic Director will provide leadership and guidance to our activity leaders and oversee the pastoral care of our 100+ members.

To apply please send your CV & cover letter, outlining how you meet the person specification, to jobs@lanternarts.org by **9am on Monday 30 April**.

Operations Manager

Hours per Week: **18 hours per week** (*exact days and times flexible*) Start Date: **Immediate**

Salary: **£25,000 pro rata** (*£12,857 per annum*)

Contract Type: **12 months fixed term**, *with the possibility of extension*

With a good understanding of how to generate income and provide excellent customer service, our Operations Manager will be responsible for the day to day management of the Arts Centre including management of the Office Administrator, the Lantern Costume Store, the technical infrastructure of our performance spaces, ticket sales, box office management and income generation through external lettings and hires. They will manage and oversee our internal and external communications, including our website, social media and printed publicity. Experienced at working with volunteers, they will develop our volunteer infrastructure and base, drawing in new volunteers with relevant skills.

Applications for the post of Operations Manager will open once we have appointed an Artistic Director. To register your interest in this role, please send an expression of interest to jobs@lanternarts.org.

For more information and to download the Job Descriptions & Person Specifications visit <https://www.lanternarts.org/join-us>.

If you'd like to discuss either of the roles in confidence email jobs@lanternarts.org or contact our Chair of the Board, Alan Brown through the Lantern Office on 020 3761 7070.

May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. (Psalm 20:1)

We often reflect on how amazing it is that we have a God to cry out to when we know that others are in deep distress: but today, let's also reflect on the promise that God will answer us. Whenever we pray, we pray in the knowledge that God can and will answer, and protect us.

Burma

With that in mind, please pray for the predominantly Christian Kachin ethnic group in Burma, who are being targeted in brutal attacks by the Burma Army. A series of military offensives involving heavy artillery were launched against the Kachin earlier this month, destroying homes and killing civilians. This is the culmination of a seven-year campaign that has left around 140,000 people displaced, 200 villages attacked and 66 churches destroyed. As if that wasn't bad enough, Burma's government has denied access to UN representatives and humanitarian relief agencies.

In summary, please pray:

- For an end to attacks against the Kachin population and decades of conflict
- Asking God to comfort and provide for all those who have been forced to flee because of the violence
- That the government of Burma will allow aid agencies and UN representatives into Kachin state to help the survivors of attacks
- For the Burmese government to take decisive action to stop the violence in Kachin state and elsewhere.

North Korea

Earlier this year we released our North Korea report, an in-depth analysis of the current situation in the country drawn from interviews with escapees. Please pray with us through the findings of the report and for the future of the people of North Korea. Please pray that our report,

Media, Markets and Surveillance, raises awareness of today's human rights situation in North Korea, that it would be used to shape international policy towards North Korea and to hold the regime accountable for the severe human rights abuses they have committed against the North Korean people.

Our research found that there had been absolutely no change in freedom of religion or belief in North Korea. Any sign of a belief other than total devotion to the Kim family continues to be severely punished. Pray for all those who are being imprisoned or punished for their religious beliefs and ask God to strengthen them in every way.

It is estimated that over 200,000 people are detained in prison camps, where they endure dire living conditions and brutal torture. Many of these are Christians. Please pray for persecution of North Korea's Christians to come to an end, and for all those Christians in prison to be unconditionally released.

Pray for the many human rights activists who are committing to bringing the world's attention to the situation in North Korea and struggle for change on the peninsula: please pray that God would grant them energy, perseverance and resources.

Four years after the publication of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry report, few of its recommendations have been implemented, and North Korea has shown a lack of cooperation in refusing the UN representatives access to the country. Pray for renewed, concrete action by the UN to hold the regime to account for crimes against humanity.

We're praying for all those who have escaped North Korea and are using their freedom to work for the future of their country. Pray for CSW and other human rights activists who are working together with North Koreans outside the country to bring about a brighter future.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the nation of North Korea. We thank you for the release of our new report and the information we were able to gather about the people and how their lives have changed. We pray that one day we would see true freedom for the North Korean people. Amen

CSW is a Christian organisation working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights, in the pursuit of justice.



AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT
With
Rock Choir & Friends

Led by the wonderfully charismatic **Elliot Sutcliffe**

The evening will also include performances by:
Andrew Garrido (pianist), Amy Deakin (poet)
and Hannah Pearson (vocalist)

Saturday 12th May 2018, 19:00-20:30

at

MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH
Buckleigh Avenue, SW20 9JZ



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**For further information contact:
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EYES WIDE OPEN

Sharing moments all around us in pictures.

Easter at Martin Way Church

- the red cross on Good Friday
- the Good Friday table
- the floral cross
- the yellow cross with rose on Easter Day



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.

Lee Abbey Renew, Refresh and Resource retreat

Friday 26th Jan until Sunday 28th Jan 2018



A group from Martin Way and Lantern Methodist Church went to North Devon to a Christian retreat centre 'Lee Abbey'.

We heard a little about it last month. This month we hear from a few others.

I was really impressed with the whole experience, amazed by the community. It was lovely to get away from the hustle bustle from London.

Elizabeth comments were, and I quote, 'It was great & people live there'.

Yvonne & Elizabeth



Having never been to Lee Abbey before, I had no idea of what to expect for our weekend retreat. I was hoping it would be a time to rest, reflect and socialise with the Martin Way Small Group. I was not disappointed in my expectations - it was all that and more. Lee Abbey itself is a wonderful site, situated in the green and picturesque location of the Devon coast. The accommodation was great, and all the team hosting the weekend very friendly and welcoming. The catering was fantastic, with regular coffee breaks and plenty of food at each mealtime - the best meal being the roast lamb on the Sunday (yum!).



It was fantastic to be able to worship, learn and fellowship with the Martin Way group as well as have time for personal reflection and rest. One of the highlights was our afternoon at the local beach. Despite the drizzle and breeze, we had a lovely walk down to the beach. Psalm 46 v 10 states 'be still and know that I am God' - standing on the beach, dwarfed by the hills and rocks surrounding us and watching the sea swirl & surge with the tide - it certainly was a reminder to me of who God is and a time to admire His awesome creativity in nature.

I am thankful to Abby and the group for the invitation to join the weekend away and for being so welcoming! I came home feeling refreshed and well-fed, spiritually and physically!

Naomi



We thought it was a brilliant weekend, and it was great to be able to leave the children happily in their group and both of us being able to attend the sessions in the Octagonal room. We'd love to go back again.

Nathan thought the best bit was going to the beach!

Ruth. Martin, Nathan & Grace

A weekend away at a remote and beautiful venue was something I felt could only benefit my tired mind and body; and my goodness, it certainly was! A real opportunity to take time out to relax, enjoy others company and have a true sense and feeling of God's presence and peace surrounding us.

There were times for relaxation and solitude and personal prayer if that was something you had a need for. Or, possibly take a walk with others and enjoy the vast grounds at Leigh Abbey. A walk with friends to the beach was bracing watching



the sheep in the fields and wild life surrounding us. There were almost tame pheasants wandering in the grounds and plenty of different breeds of bird to spot if you sat quietly and just watched! A golden opportunity to commune with nature!



Leigh Abbey have their own organic farmland rearing sheep and cattle. Some of us had the opportunity to buy some the organic meat before we left to go home. It was delicious, according to my son who ate the rib-eye steaks!

The guys that work at Leigh Abbey were all keen to please. Grace was said each mealtime by one of the staff from different countries and was said in their own language.

For me, this was just what was needed and sharing a comfortable en suite room with Angela, was a time for us both to reflect on things we had been sharing over time as Circuit Stewards. Thanks Angela!

And a big thank you to Abby for booking The Abbey! Let's do it again!

Brenda

The last Friday in January saw us all setting off for Lee Abbey for what I hoped was going to be a refreshing and renewing weekend. After an enjoyable journey in the company of Abby, Mary and Moira we arrived at Lee Abbey.



The abbey is in a beautiful setting, surrounded by amazing views of the countryside and the coast. The hospitality of all those working at the abbey was so caring and all our needs were anticipated and provided for. We were able to participate in wonderful times of fellowship and worship and I found time to 'just be' and to receive prayer ministry and encouragement. On Saturday afternoon some of us took the opportunity to walk to the beach,



sharing in the beauty of the waves crashing on the beach and being closer to God.

An added bonus in the abbey was the lack of television and phone signal – we were truly able to get away from the outside world! The abbey itself is a beautiful building with its own chapel, library, and

so many spaces to just be. I shared a comfortable en-suite room with Brenda and it was lovely to share our experiences and fellowship.

The time at Lee Abbey was a real pleasure and truly refreshing. Thank you to Brenda for being such a wonderful ‘roomie’, to Abby, Mary and Moira for being wonderful travelling companions and a special thank you to Abby for arranging the weekend and also for driving us safely to and from the abbey – especially the last few winding roads! All in all a wonderful weekend and definitely an experience worth repeating.

Angela

A weekend away - just what I needed time to relax, be on my own and just enjoy.

Wow; our church weekend away was all of that and much, much more. After a bit of a journey travelling there in the rain with much of the time in the dark we arrived at Lee Abbey. Where from the start we got treated like royalty by the staff, and it didn't stop there that sense of being waited upon continued throughout the weekend.

For me the whole weekend was full of good food, great company, good Christian teaching with time for ourselves interspersed throughout with lots of coffee / tea breaks and in the evening the hot chocolate was just out of this world (When I make it - it's always lumpy). And all this set in a most beautiful old country house/abbey on the north coast of Devon.

I am so pleased that I said yes to the invitation to join others from our church on the weekend in January. I would defiantly recommend that should another weekend away be offered that more people say yes - you will not be disappointed.

Tony



**1 EVENT
2 LOCATIONS
40,000 PEOPLE**

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26 - 27 MAY

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Charity Number - 1127987

Martin Way Methodist Church
Minutes Church Council
4th March 2018

Present: Rev Paul Timmis (Chair), Moira Bailey, Tim Johnson, Derek Heaton, Roy Ellis, Yvonne Turnbull, Sylvia Baxter, Sue Boyd, Anne Conquest, Tony Loft, Karen Smith, Mike Mortley (Minutes)

1. Welcome Paul welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer
2. Apologies Mike Fuwa
3. Minutes of previous meeting (27th Sept 2017) - Agreed and signed by Paul
4. Matter arising not elsewhere covered
 - a) Standard of cleaning - There have been no recent complaints but will remain vigilant
 - b) Broken Fence - Ongoing, letters written to neighbour but no progress
 - c) Japanese Knot Weed – Ongoing, but no trace of company who carried out original treatment.
5. Notification of AOB None
6. Finance
 - a) Annual accounts 2017/18 had been signed off by the Independent Examiner and were approved by the meeting
 - b) Appointed Tim Johnson as Treasurer – Proposed by Sue, Seconded by Tony, approved by all
 - c) Appointed Roy Ellis as Deputy Treasurer – Proposed by Anne, Seconded by Yvonne, approved by all.
 - d) The finance report given by Tim at the meeting is filed with these minutes
 - e) The Church's Reserve Policy was approved
 - f) No questions arose from the reports.
7. Property
 - a) Coffee Lounge Floor – two lines of attack are being pursued by Colin.

- i) Replace entire floor with a full damp-proof membrane and a new wooden floor.
- ii) Raise the floor and flood the entire area with concrete as has been done elsewhere in the building.

The meeting gave delegated authority to the Leadership Team to incur expenditure up to £15,000 on remedial work

- b) Link Room - has been tidied by Pete Boyd so that it can be used whilst the Coffee Lounge is out of action.
- c) Blocked Toilets – Roy will contact DynoRod to carry out a power flush.

8. Circuit Matters

- a) Deacon Dawn Canham - will be taking pastoral charge of the Lantern Church from 1st September 2018.
- b) Rev Margaret Adams – a leaving service will be held on Sunday, 1st July 2018. More details to follow.

9. Leadership Team matters

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

There is new legislation effective from 18th May 2018 whereby all data held about a person by an organisation has to be held with the consent of that person. This basically means that everyone for whom we hold data, e.g. the Community Roll, has to give their consent for us to hold it.

It doesn't have to be completed by the above deadline but we have to demonstrate that plans are in place to do so.

This is being pursued by Richard Charlton for the Circuit and Worcester Park. Yvonne and Mike are looking into it for Martin Way.

10 AOB

- a) Good Friday service – This is being hosted this year at Martin Way. Sue arranging for the Hot-Cross buns.
- b) Maundy Thursday - There will be an evening service at Worcester Park.
- c) Holy Week Compline - There will be no services this year.
- d) Merton Citizens – This is a social action group which we have supported financially. In addition, Sue, Pete, Sylvia and Mike have attended meetings. The next meeting is on 19th April and we have

pledged that six people will attend from Martin Way. However-we have also stated that unless others from our church get involved, the above cannot practically commit their time as they are also involved in other causes.

e) Churches Together in Merton Park – This group of inter-church co-operation has decided to adopt Christian Care as its main focus. Your reps at this group are Paul, Tony and Mike.

f) Rock Choir & Friends – will be giving a concert at Martin Way on Saturday, 12th May at 7pm in aid of church funds

11. Date of next meeting

a) General Church Meeting - Sunday, 24th June 2018. Sue to arrange Coffee and doughnuts.

b) Church Council – no meeting until September unless an extraordinary one is needed. Date to be arranged.

12 Closing Devotions

The meeting closed with the Grace and best wishes to Paul and family as he starts his Sabbatical

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Christian Aid Activities

Tony Loft and Mike Mortley are both doing the Circle the City walk again, so will be looking for sponsors. Please speak to them for further information and to add your name to their sponsor forms.

Platform 11¾ are doing a fund raiser for Christian Aid on Sunday 20th May after the morning Service. For more information speak to Abby Herring or one of the Platform 11¾ members.

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The man who gives little with a smile gives more
than the man who gives much with a frown.

Jewish Proverb

CHURCH DIARY



Tue	1	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	4	2.30 pm	Coffee and Chat Xtra
Sun	6	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Arigon Sinani
Tue	8	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	11	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	12	7.00 pm	Rock Choir Concert
Sun	13	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Chris Morley
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Margaret Adams
			<i>Start of Christian Aid Week</i>
Tue	15	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club -
			<i>Uncovering the real Jack the Ripper - Alan Walsh</i>
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	18	2.30 pm	Coffee and Chat Xtra
Sun	20	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft
			<i>Christian Aid Fund Raiser and Walk</i>
Tue	22	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	25	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	27	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Tony Loft
Tue	29	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

Elizabeth Turnbull on 22nd May

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christian
aid
week
13-19 MAY

**GOD'S
KINGDOM IS
STRONGER**

**THAN
STORMS**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ROCK CHOIR COMES AGAIN ...



Last November, the Wimbledon Rock Choir came to Martin Way for their successful "Gift Bags for the Homeless" concert. They are returning on Saturday, 12th May for another concert, this time to raise funds for the replacement of our Coffee Lounge floor which is a bad state having been damaged due to water flowing underneath.

The evening will also include performances by: Andrew Garrido (pianist), Amy Deakin (poet) and Hannah Pearson (vocalist). The concert starts at 7pm. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection for our Floor Fund. Refreshments will also be available. See you there!

COFFEE AND CHAT EXTRA

Coffee and Chat is going from strength to strength on a Tuesday morning at 10:30. Following suggestions we are now trialling an occasional - probably fortnightly - afternoon session for anyone who fancies a cup of tea/coffee, a slice of cake and a chat.



If you or someone you know is lonely, at a loose end, just passing the church or simply wanting a chat, you are welcome to pop in and join us - the more the merrier!

At the moment we are planning to meet from 2.30 to 4pm on

- Friday, 4th May
- Friday, 18th May.

FUND RAISING DAY

Please put date of **Saturday, 21st July 2018** in your diaries as we will be holding a mammoth Fund Raising Day for our Coffee Lounge Floor. We have problems with water under the floor causing it to rot. We have patched it up so far but we are hoping to raise sufficient money to have a permanent solution.

Items for the **June Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 20th May** at the latest

Are you looking for a part-time or full-time income?



We are Recruiting

We are looking for:

- The employed looking for additional PART-TIME income
- The unemployed looking for FULL-TIME employment.
- Retired/looking into retirement with no hope of enough retirement income.
- Mothers at home who want to look after their children and want a steady income.
- Graduates/undergraduates with no employment and no work experience.

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who fear
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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 (occasional)	4.00 - 5.30 pm
	Platform 10¾ YPF (1st & 3rd Sundays)	8.00 - 9.30 pm
TUESDAY	Coffee & Chat	10.30 - noon
	Men's Supper Club (3rd Tuesday in month)	7.00 pm
	Time for Prayer	8.00 pm
WEDNESDAY	Frogs Club (for Carers & Toddlers)	10.00 – 12.00
	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)