

MINISTER'S LETTER

As we slowly leave those painful periods of lockdown and restriction behind us, we are emerging into a world that increasingly feels much like the one we inhabited before anyone had ever heard of Covid-19. It is though strangely different. We cannot undo all that has been witnessed and experienced since March 2020. The pandemic has changed us – who we are, how we are with one another and how we view the world.



As society continues to “open up”, this does feel like a new beginning. It’s certainly felt like that in church. As a church community we have necessarily proceeded with caution these past 18 months, not wanting to put anyone’s life or health at risk. In recent weeks, however, we too have tentatively begun to relax some of the measures that we have lived with since we returned to our premises. As a result, our worship has had a more familiar flavour of late – and I’m not talking about the bacon served at Café Worship!

Our task now is to seize the opportunity to make the most of this new beginning, to not slip too quickly into oft-trod patterns and old routines. In the words of a prayer of the St Hilda Community that I frequently turn to, we need to be open to the possibility of God’s Spirit daring us to ‘try new steps, explore new patterns and new partnerships’.

At the General Church Meeting in June, I spoke of the opportunity before us to do just this - recognising that, with limited resources (human and financial), we need to identify some priorities and focus on them. Building on our past, we are continuing to explore an approach to mission that has food at its heart. We hope to be able to have more news to share with you about this – and what this could look like – in the coming weeks and months. As we continue to seek to witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus, the hope is very much that we will be able to make the most of this new beginning that we have been offered.

A final word from me on this newsletter, which is now “under new management”. We are extremely grateful to Andrew Fox for editing and producing this magazine over more years than I can remember. It has been a real labour of love for Andrew for a long, long time, and we owe him our thanks for his ongoing dedication, commitment, and care. Thank you, Andrew. We are, of course, delighted that Yvonne and Simon Turnbull have offered to pick up the baton thus ensuring that the newsletter continues to be held in safe hands. Thank you both. I look forward to receiving regular reminders that it is time for me to write something. Andrew, I can safely assume, will be relieved that this task no longer falls to him!

With every blessing, **Paul**.

HOPE after COVID

A poem by Irene Goldsmith, April 2021

HOPE after COVID

Crue! Covid creeps around the world

Overtaking all humanity,

Violating every precept

Introducing a pandemic

Deadliest mankind has known

Hope, reborn in isolation

Offers us a new commitment, to

People strewn across the world,

Eternal care, for all to share.

Memoirs of a Martin Way Newsletter Editor

At the June 2021 Church General Meeting I tendered my resignation as Editor of the Martin Way Newsletter. The Covid pandemic had given me a natural break in producing the Newsletter as everything, including the church went into shutdown in late March 2020, which was the last Newsletter that I was editor for. When, in late May 2021 it was announced that the lockdown restrictions were being lifted I felt it was time to hand the baton over to a younger person to take over the task of Editing the Newsletter. I am delighted that Simon & Yvonne Turnbull has stepped up to the task.



Looking back over the years I was acting as Editor I have many fine memories – a number of which are recorded in print and now electronically in the Church webpage archives. I took over from Rosemary Keen way back in September 2005, my first Newsletter was only a dozen pages long and had no colour pages at all as we only had a basic photocopier at the church, but at least it included pictures, photos and graphics. Rather than ‘printing’ the document it was a case of double sided photocopying – and this was the old way of having to turn the paper manually! Amazing how many times it used to take me to get the orientation right!

As the years progressed we introduced a colour photocopier, which allowed the use of coloured articles in the Newsletter for the first time and it had an automatic double sided printing option!! So the first newsletter to benefit from this new technology was back in October 2006. The addition of a laptop linked to the copier also made the printing of the Newsletter much faster with higher quality pictures.

No matter how many technical changes we have seen over time it always goes back to getting articles to fill such Newsletters. Sometimes they arrived in their droves, other times it took a lot of cajoling to people to submit as well as sending many emails to remind Ministers to remember to submit their 'Minister's Letter' in time.

I must say a few words of special thanks to a few people, as without their help it would have made the job of Editor that much harder. Unfortunately some of them are no longer with us. To Maralyn Loft, for her help with the diary, as without it I would have missed many things. To Gwen Wildman for her articles, especially the 'Extreme' series and CSW reports that appeared each month. To Bill Cox, for his many 'Thoughts of the month'. To Tony Loft, who gave me the choice of so many different colours of paper for the Newsletter covers and ensuring there was always paper available. To Mike Mortley, for ensuring the technology was there and keeping an eye on the photocopier and laptop. Finally to all our ministers, both past and present for their monthly letters that was the first thing people saw as they opened the new Newsletter.

Over these years we have seen many changes within our church. One of the biggest changes was the decision to remove the church pews and replace them with chairs. This now means we have a much more versatile space to worship in. We have seen a change of Ministers and during my time as Editor we said a sad farewell to John Nyota but a great welcome to Paul Timmis. We also had many wonderful guests who took our Sunday Services including our own Brenda Cannon and Tony Loft, each making their own use of our new space. Over the Covid closure we saw the introduction of online worship, which allowed many of us to still partake in the church services and 'see' friends over the screens.

We have also seen and reported on the deaths of too many dear friends and said goodbye to others as they moved out of the area. On a happier note we have welcomed many new friends to the church and reported on new births. We have heard and read about our intrepid adventurers that have travelled the globe raising monies for amazing causes or helping out in Africa. In my first year we had no weddings to report on, but over the years we have seen many, including my own back in August 2012 and here I must make a special thank you to Derek and Mary Heaton, who not only represented the church at my wedding, but also submitted such a wonderful article of the 'Wedding in Warsaw' for the September 2012 issue of the Newsletter.

MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH NEWS LETTER

Minister: Rev. George Baugh, 14 Tybenham Rd, S.W.19 Tel. 01-542-3827

From the Minister's Desk May 1967

Here we are with our first edition of a new series of Newsletters! We hope our modest publication will - as the title indicates - give news and items of interest to all members and friends of Martin Way and possibly the community around us.

Looking back over the months since our last issue of the 'Messenger' there has been much activity in the Church and it would be impossible to try and list it all. The witness of the Church has been maintained and many interesting experiments have been made. We were particularly thrilled with the Reception Service for Rev. Bennett in March and the crowded service in April when the Mayor and Town Clerk were present.

The numbers in our congregations fluctuate tremendously; this past quarter our evening congregation has varied between sixty and two hundred. This is accounted for of course by 'special' services, but may we plead for more sustained and regular attendance? Nothing strengthens the witness of the Church more than regular attendance - we know all the arguments about 'staying away', but believe there, at the appointed hour not only encourages the preacher but helps us in our Christian life and witness.

Comments please from anyone concerned with our work! Suggestions for our Newsletter, services, work in the Church - and outside its walls - The CREW days of Martin Way lie in the future and we must be ready when the tide turns. What about it? YOUR loyalty, love and concern matter so much.

Affectionately, George Baugh

Merton Civic Society has planned an interesting series of Coach Tours of the Borough for its members and friends, in the evenings of May 16th, May 24th and June 1st, ending with a Walk on Wisbeacon Common on Saturday afternoon, June 3rd. Details of the Society and these tours may be obtained from Miss King.

I visited the Merton Heritage Centre in Morden Library after I was told that Simon & Yvonne would be taking over from me, just to see how many of the Martin Way Newsletters appeared in their archives. I can happily report all the copies I had the joy of editing were there, along with copies of the older Newsletters going back to May 1967. It was fascinating to see how things have changed over the 54 years of history recorded by the church family.

I must end on a big thank you to all of you who have contributed to the hundreds of articles that appeared in the Martin Way Newsletter and also to those that took time to read the Newsletter and give me such positive feedback. I wish Simon & Yvonne all the very best, as they takes over the task of being the new editor of this prestigious Newsletter.

Andrew Fox



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
March 2020

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enquiries@martinway.org.uk

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Hello all, we thought we'd share the background to our Community Garden Project and what we are trying to achieve.

The vision

During Lockdown 2020, we (Abby Herring and I) met for our allotted socially distanced exercise. I was furloughed, and my full-time job as HR Manager was on hold, and Abby's job as Merton Mencap Community Café Manager had moved online. We started discussing how we could put our love of gardening to good use and came up with the idea of how we could transform

the church land. We both found the regular meet ups and creative conversations about the potential for a Community Garden at Martin Way Methodist Church inspiring, hopeful and really contributed to our own mental wellbeing during what was a difficult time for everyone.

For some time, the land at the back of the church lay under-utilised, unloved and weeds were extremely difficult to keep on top of.

The proposal we made was to develop this area to create a Community Garden with raised, accessible beds growing vegetables and herbs, a pollinator area to attract insects with a bug hotel, a mud kitchen to encourage outdoor play and exploration for young children, a potting area, to sow and cultivate our planting and a memory / reflection garden, planted up, with a wildlife pond, plants and a seated area, designed for reflection and pause.

We wanted to create a multi-use area for church and community groups to access, one that is good for the environment, promotes bio-diversity and adds green space. Our objectives continue to be to:

- 1) Create, plant and maintain a productive bio-diverse garden. This would generate industry, exercise, interest, social-connection and education for all those involved.
- 2) Create green space for the local community to visit for education, reflection, relaxation, therapy and good mental wellbeing.



- 3) Create opportunities to serve other community groups. This would support the church development plan, with the potential to open up a café (with produce grown in the space, and seated areas in the garden) and opportunities for local education groups and partners to use the garden space for their own services (for example disability charities, mental health charities, and charities for elderly), because we know first-hand the healing and wellbeing benefits of gardening.

The work so far

So, we set about clearing and creating the growing spaces. It was hard work during winter months of 2020, removing lots of large shrubs and roots with help from volunteers from Wimbledon Tree Surgeons and S&J Landscaping. Using reclaimed materials, we built the two main beds and planted them up with herbs, beans, courgettes and sunflowers. We continued to clear the weeds, and rubbish and cut back overgrown areas.

We now have two productive beds, space of the bug hotel and the mural on the wall which will take shape over the winter. Before the winter sets in we'd like to get work completed on the small wildlife pond, and the reflection garden.

Everyone welcome Please see our Facebook group for further details. We have exciting work to do for next year as we bring our plans to fruition. So, keep watching, following our updates. The winter months will be quiet but before we get to those months, we will be doing the last bits of maintenance during the autumn and so please keep an eye out for dates and consider helping for an hour or two if you can.

Best wishes **Shelley and Abby** and of course all our many volunteers (who we thank you for your support!



LOCKDOWN WALKS

Over the period of lockdown I tried to walk each day. Some days were really sunny other were really cold and I even walked in the rain! But whatever the weather I always took pictures and posted them on Facebook. I have to say that I was amazed at the number of thank you's I received from family and friends for posting the pictures. One friend suggested that I should do a quiz with the pictures and get people to guess where they were taken. I discovered all sorts of alleyways and area's that I did not know existed despite having lived in the area for over 43 years. So here are some of the pictures I have taken please try to guess where they were taken. I hope you enjoy the little quiz watch this space for more at a later date

Sylvia Baxter





Picture 1 St Marys Church, Picture 2 A house in Parkway, Picture 3 Martin Way Church, Picture 4 Pyl Brook, Picture 5 Motspur Park, Picture 6 Cannon Hill Common, Picture 7 Morden Hall Park, Picture 8 The Hamptons,

Epsom and Ewell Friends of Shooting Star Children's Hospices

Christmas and Craft Fayre

Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell



Saturday 27th November 2021

10.30am - 3pm

Admission: Adults £1 Children FREE

An ideal opportunity to buy your Christmas presents and stocking fillers

Sponsored by Paul Killoughery

In aid of
 **Shooting Star**
Children's Hospices



WE INVITE YOU TO A

Fund Raising Christmas Lunch

In Aid of Alzheimer's Research UK
Let's catch up and feast together

SUNDAY 12TH DEC 2021
12.30PM ONWARDS
AT MARTIN WAY METHODIST
CHURCH

*Please save the date more information to come
Abby & Richard Herring*



CHURCH DIARY

Tue	2	-	All Souls Day
		10.30am-Noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer (via WhatsApp)
Fri	5	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	7	10.30am	Café Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	9	10.30am-Noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer (via WhatsApp)
Thur	11	-	Remembrance Day
Sun	14	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Chris Morley
Tue	16	10.30am-Noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer (via WhatsApp)
Fri	19	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	21	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	23	10.30am-Noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer (via WhatsApp)
Wed	24	8.00pm	Church Council (via Zoom)
Sun	28	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis – Advent Sunday
Wed	30	-	St. Andrew's Day
		10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	3 Nov	12.30pm	Luncheon Club

Please email items for next month's Newsletter to
newsletter@martinway.org.uk by **Sunday 21st November**.