

MINISTER'S LETTER

In recent days we've moved into Epiphanytide. As you are probably already aware, the word 'Epiphany' comes from an ancient Greek word meaning 'manifestation'. The season commences with the Feast of the Epiphany on 6th January each year and ends the day before Lent (which this year means 1st March). Over the coming Sundays, and throughout this season, we will be exploring the many and different ways in which God has revealed – and continues to reveal – Godself to us.



Whilst we have left Christmas behind us for another year, in this season of Epiphany we will constantly be reminded that its light – the light of Christ – never leaves us; that we carry it with us into the year ahead; that this light is intended to be a blessing for everyone.

Given the many darkneses that exist in our world and in our lives today, this is indeed a message of good news. It should also be the source of much hope. And who doesn't need either of these things right now?

In the fabulous 'Blessing of the Magi', Jan Richardson reflects upon the journey that the wise men took – first, following the star, bearing gifts to the infant Jesus; and then, having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, home again by another road.

She suggests that the light the Magi thought they'd left behind – and which they may have feared would soon be engulfed by darkness – was subsequently discovered to be spilling from their empty hands, shimmering beneath their homeward feet, and illuminating the road with every step that they subsequently took.

Holding these thoughts, I've written a short and simple prayer for the District Prayer Handbook and offer it to you in the hope that you might find it helpful.

Loving God

We give you thanks for moments of wonder, insight, and illumination.

As we move further into this New Year, journey with us we pray,
guide us with light that shimmers at our feet and shows us your way.
Help us to be such bearers of your light
that it spills freely from our hands
and is enabled to be what it was always intended to be:
a blessing for others.

Amen.

with every blessing,

Paul

'Blessing of the Magi' by Jan Richardson can be read here: <https://paintedprayerbook.com/2012/12/30/epiphany-blessing-of-the-magi/>

and found in *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons* by Jan Richardson (Wanton Gospeller Press, 2015) pp70-72 Copyright © 2015 by Jan Richardson.
See www.janrichardson.com

The World Day of Prayer local service will be held at St John the Divine Church, High Path, SW19 2JY on the 4th March 2022 at 10.30am



From the National Committee....

It is a real privilege for me to be representing the Welsh-speaking churches on the National Committee of the World Day of Prayer.

This year has been especially challenging. The pandemic continues to inflict pain and suffering on families throughout our world. As Christian women we unite with women throughout the world and share their anguish and pain at the loss of their loved ones. During this time

WDP has continued to organise the 2022 service which is from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Back in 2018 when the writing group got together and choose as their theme from Jeremiah 29;11 "I know the plans I have for you", Brexit was making the news headlines and there was no talk of a pandemic. All denominations were represented on our writing group and the theme could not be so apt in this present climate. It is a great privilege for our service on March 4, 2022 to be used throughout the world and we ask for your prayers and support. Although Link Day in London in 2021 had to be cancelled, a Connect Day event was organised and we were grateful to our guest speaker, Bishop Sarah Mullaly, for joining this Preparation Day organisers meeting.

The service has been put together prayerfully. For the first time that I remember, it has a prayer of confession for our colonial past. The stories from the three women may resonate with many who have suffered poverty, domestic abuse and loneliness. We will need to be sensitive in planning our service and offer prayer support and have help line numbers available.

To quote from a member of the WDP International Committee when summarising the 2022 service. 'We are given a seed of hope to ponder where it needs to be planted in our lives and in our communities.

Take this opportunity to raise awareness on the needs of your community and offer the gifts of prayer and commitment. A seed, nourished by prayer and intercession and actions of love, bind us together around the world'.

Please put the dates in your diaries.



Thank you so much to all who supported our Christmas fund raising lunch on Sunday 12th December in aid of Alzheimer's Research UK, plus the 'build your own gingerbread house' fund raiser.

We raised **£560** for the charity and really appreciate each and every person who supported these events.

Best wishes

Abby & Richard Herring

MARTIN WAY COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT



Winter work inside gate

- Secure beds in the inside garden and enrich the soil
- General tidy up
- Build the bug hotel
- Create a mini wildlife pond
- Paint the mural



Beyond the gates 2022

- Build 4 new raised beds
- Create an accessible path and gate
- Open up to wider community



How can you help?

- Fundraising committee
- Grant applications
- Join us for some winter gardening
- Help with the pond and bug hotel
- Mural



Follow us on the [Martin Way Community Garden Project Facebook Page](#)

For further details please contact Abby Herring or Shelley Whittington

Back to Church — services at Martin Way

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to

- Prepare refreshments before the service and serve them afterwards in church
- Open up the church and prepare it for the service, including welcoming people into the church
- Act as Vestry Steward to welcome and accompany the preacher
- Serve at communion

A rota for January and February will be posted on the notice boards and you are encouraged to think about how you might help serve your church and friends by signing up for one of the roles above. Help is always at hand if you want more information please just ask.

On-line services

We will continue to broadcast the service live on Facebook, and hopefully distribute the service afterwards to those of our congregation not on the Internet.

The "Rules"

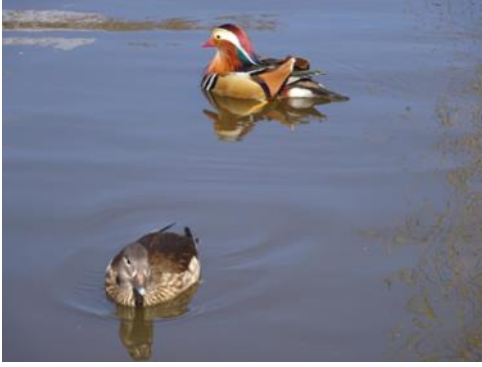
The "Plan B" rules are summarised below:

- Face coverings are mandatory indoors/in worship (for anyone 11+)
- Can use buildings without restrictions
- Can sing (behind face coverings for congregation)
- Need to ventilate or worship outdoors
- Practice good hygiene - provide hand sanitiser
- Encourage people to get tested regularly and self-isolate if positive/necessary
- Look to reduce length of services
- Ensure good, safe practices employed for serving of refreshments

LOCKDOWN WALKS—Part 3

As lockdown eases a little more I became more adventurous with my walks. Phil also joined me on some of them. I really enjoyed my walks, apart from keeping me fit and helping me to meet my step target, it was so nice to see the flowers and trees come to life and later on see them in full bloom. Let's see if you can guess where I walked!!





1. Banstead Woods 2. Cannon Hill Common 3. Hurst Park Molesey 4. Hurst Park Molesey 5. Pond in Isabella Plantation Richmond Park 6. Isabella Plantation Richmond Park 7. Wisley 8. Pyl Brook (A different view)

CHURCH DIARY



Sun	2	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tues	4	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Church Council
Wed	5	8.00pm	House Group
Sun	9	10.30am	Holy Communion/Covenant Service – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	11	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	14	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	16	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Viv Newitt
		6.00pm	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	18	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Wed	19	8.00pm	House Group
Sun	23	10.30am	Café Worship – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	25	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Thur	27	8.00pm	Church Council – via Zoom
Fri	28	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	30	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Richard Graham



Tue	1	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	6	10.30am	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	8	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	11	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	13	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Brenda Cannon
		6.00pm	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	15	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	20	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Tony Loft
Tue	22	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	25	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	27	10.30am	Café Worship – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	1 March	10.30am	Coffee and Chat

Please email items for next month's Newsletter to
newsletter@martinway.org.uk by **Sunday 13th February.**

