

MINISTER'S LETTER

I don't know about you but there are some words that are frequently used in church circles that I tend to shy away from.



One of those words is 'mission'. I say this because people tend to use it as if its meaning is obvious, believing that everyone will understand it in the same way – but it isn't, and they don't. This word means different things to different people and, if we use it without explaining what we mean by it, without defining our terms, we risk talking past one another. So, some questions, 'When you hear or see the word 'mission' in the context of church, what does it make you think of? How would you best define it? When you next hear someone use this word, would you be willing to ask them to say what they mean by it?

Another word that I tend to avoid using is 'evangelism'. Unlike 'mission', 'evangelism' is a word that I struggle to articulate my disquiet about. I suspect it has something to do with the perception that those who would seek to evangelise others simply know more than those to whom they speak, that they possess "the truth" that others need to listen to and receive. There's a power dynamic at play here that leaves me feeling uncomfortable. So, another question, 'What feelings does the word 'evangelism' evoke in you?'

Whether we can readily embrace such words or not, it is, I'd suggest, impossible to read the gospels and not conclude that there's a job to do, a story to tell, a life to be embodied by all those who would seek to follow Jesus. How can we receive good news and not want to share it?

Knowing that we have good news to be shared doesn't necessarily mean, however, that we will feel able to share it. Maybe it has always been thus. The story of Easter reminds us that even Jesus' closest friends continued to live with doubts and fears, even after having encountered him risen and alive. These friends had experienced the good news at first hand and yet still struggled to know what to do next. One of the gospel accounts seems to suggest that some of those friends had given up on Jesus' work and had gone back to fishing.

But just as the Easter story can reassure us that we are not alone if we find it difficult to speak with others of the good news that we have found in Jesus, so too might it offer us a blueprint for the next steps that we might take. When the risen Jesus appeared to his friends – in the garden, on the road, in the house and by the sea – he spoke gently; walked alongside; offered messages of peace and reassurance; broke bread; said, 'Come and have breakfast', each time seemingly inviting a response.

So, a final question, 'If mission and evangelism looked something like that, would we feel so uncomfortable?'

With every blessing

Paul

Everyone an Evangelist is a course from the Methodist Church designed to help groups from local churches and circuits explore the ways we and our church communities are called to share our faith and to grow in confidence as evangelists. The process will help demystify that ‘e-word’ and build sustainable, intentional rhythms of both personal and shared evangelism.

In the Wimbledon Circuit, we will be running this course across 2022. During this time there will be three Circuit-wide Gatherings (Gathering 1 on **12th June**; Gathering 2 on **4th September** and Gathering 3 on **20th November** – so please put these dates in your diary now).

In between Gathering 1 and 2, each local church will be invited to choose, roll out and complete a 6-week course from a menu of possible course options. Between Gatherings 2 and 3, each church will similarly be invited to engage in a practical project of its own design that will create opportunities for things talked about in the courses to be put into practice.

It might be that each church in the Circuit will choose a different course. It could be that everyone opts for the same one. The bulk of the work will be carried in local settings. The hope is very much that this will be a tool to help local churches to re-engage with its membership and equip them to reach out with a renewed sense of confidence to the wider communities of which they are apart. The purpose of the gatherings will be to share experiences, insights, and stories from the churches and, hopefully, serve to bring us all even closer together.

If you would be interested in representing Martin Way at the Circuit-wide gatherings, please let Paul know.

In memory of Jeanine Moore

Jeanine Moore, widow of the late Rev. Philip Moore, Superintendent Minister of Martin Way going back some 30+ years ago, its sad to say that Jeanine passed away in the early hours of Saturday April 9th 2022 aged 89.

On retirement Philip & Jeanine moved to Fishbourne, Hampshire to a lovely cottage style terrace house with a little garden, as they said just enough to look after. They were very near the coast and enjoyed long walks especially in the nature harbour of Bosham.

Her daughter Christine & Husband Michael lived not too far away. Sadly after a long illness Philip passed away, but fortunately she had many church friends and neighbours.

Beside regular phone calls and visits 2 or 3 times a year we kept in contact. Our visits in Jeanine's time nearly always ended in having a lunch out at Bosham (lovely restaurants and one pub).

For Jeanine life became a little difficult when she gave up driving and her neighbours moved or passed away.

Christine, Mike & family moved north to County Durham with plans for Jeanine to follow when suitable property could be found in the same area. Everything then became held up, the dreaded Covid arrived, lockdown. Eventually she moved to a ground floor 2 bed-roomed flat in a community group, which was some 15 minutes drive away from Christine's home.

Sadly another long Covid lockdown and she was unable to meet her new neighbours or the community she was now living amongst. We and others kept in telephone contact at this trying time.

At last some normality, meeting her new neighbours of this community and local church. She was also so happy when her grandsons Samuel and Timothy (from the USA) visited beside her family.

Sadly she collapsed unconscious in her flat, taken to hospital obviously very poorly also with a broken hip. After some days the hip was repaired, but as Christine said basically she stayed in bed very weary, this is where she passed away on the 9th April.

Her big joy lastly was knowing her Grandson Sam & his wife are expecting a daughter this August.

Overall the past years we had lots of good visits, then when she moved it would be every Monday a telephone call. She always asked after all the news of folk at church and was very generous with monetary donations to the church.

We all lost a good friend

Derek & Mary Heaton

P.s Christine, Michael & family wish to convey their thanks to all that kept in touch over these very many years

Community Garden



Hello all, We are a little behind getting started on the gardening this year but it is time for us to plant, grow and see what we can share from our harvest. We will be having a gar-

dening session once a month after the Church service. It will be a bring and share lunch and whilst eating we can chat about the future of the community garden. Then head into the garden to get weeding, digging over and planting. Please come and join us on **Sunday 15th May & Sunday 12th June.**

You don't need to be green fingered or even want to do some gardening. We invite all to attend these sessions to get together. There will be a sign up list so we roughly know who is coming with what food, but that should not stop you coming along if you didn't sign up.

We would love to see you all best wishes

Abby & Shelley

2021 year of the staycation

Both Phil and I stayed in some lovely places and visited parts of England that we had not been to before. Our first staycation of the year was a lovely week in Nailsworth in Gloucester, we hired a cottage and stayed there with Yvonne, Elizabeth and Simon. Here are some photos of places we explored whilst we were there. It is so true what they say England is a green and pleasant land. I hope you like the pictures.

The picture left is Bath Cathedral, the picture below is taken in Birdland which is at Bourton-on-the-Water.



The picture below left is Portishead, the weather was glorious that day, if you closed your eyes you could imagine



you were somewhere in the South of France.



Minchinhampton Common is above,

Left was taken in Westonbirt Arboretum, once again the weather was beautiful.

Sylvia



Spring Harvest 10-15 April 2022

The long awaited return to Butlin's finally arrived (It's been 2 years without my Spring Harvest fix). Oh how I have been looking forward to the teaching, celebration and joy of spending quality time with members of our church and Rosemary from our sister church the Lantern at Raynes Park.

As always there is a main theme each year, and what an apt one this year. ***'Restore, Renew, Rebuild.'***

That is so true for the church today after a complete shutdown to the slow return to worshipping together in our church buildings.

For my part; the day always started with a visit to the *'Big Start'* in Studio 36 [Brand new venue on site which replaced the big top] a ½hr of fun, laughter, drama, singing and of course the theme for the day – which introduces the Bible passage for the day. Next on my agenda was the *'Bible Teaching,'* on the book of Nehemiah and the story of him rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, and the 1¼hrs of teaching passed by in no time and leaving me wanting more.

The afternoon had different seminars that we could attend I opted out of all but one, which was interesting as the speaker had his own opinion and we were expected to agree – which I have to say I could not.

I used most of the afternoons as a time of reflection ether by taking a walk or relaxing in the *'Consulting room'* (It is better known as one of the hostilities on site - the place we would all gather normally after an evening's celebration and talk over what we had heard / learned that day as well as having a refreshing drink and a good old chin wag).

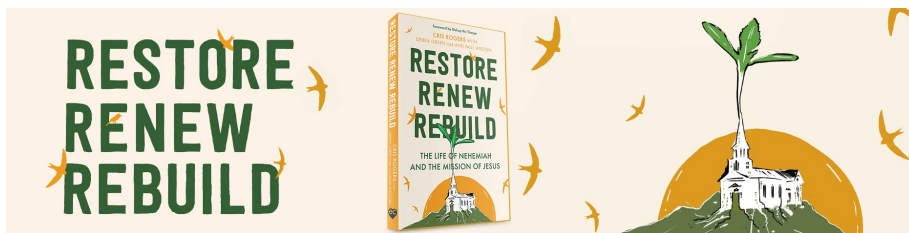
The *'Evening Celebration'* was a great time of worship praise and prayer with a guest speaker each night. Apart from the loud noise from the worship band on stage and the 2000 + people in the venue singing their hearts out in praise of our God – which I did find a bit much at times. The time again was well spent and without exception the speakers each night were engaging and inspiring.

The main theme **Restore, Renew, Rebuild** was evident the whole time and well done to all at Spring Harvest for the hard work in putting this event together. *I have been restored, renewed and I hope rebuilt.*

The only down side for me was it was over no sooner than it had started. On the plus side I'm going back next year.

WILL YOU JOIN ME AND EXPERIENCE FOR YOURSELF THE AMAZING GOD THAT WE LOVE AND WORSHIP?

Tony Loft



First and foremost I want to thank my Martin Way SH buddies, for their warmth, their kindness, their friendship and their support for a Lantern golden oldie. I sincerely hope that next year there will be a group from the Lantern experiencing what I did - a truly awesome occasion. This was only my second visit to SH and my first time at Skegness, I absolutely loved every minute of it. Nothing beats gathering together with a huge crowd of like minded people, worshipping God and being able to spend time in a wide variety of smaller meetings learning and sharing about God's world and our part in it. I was particularly taken by the wide age range of those attending, from a 2 week old baby to people even older than me, if that's possible. The mode of transport around the camp was by scooter, 2wheeled ones for the youngsters, mobility for the older!! I would like to suggest that everyone needs to experience Spring Harvest at least once in their lives.

Rosemary Evans

Spring Harvest for the Turnbull family had been a long time in the waiting. The last time we went to Spring Harvest was 2018. I went with some excitement and nervousness, I'll admit during Covid I had lost touch a little with my faith but was really excited for what Spring Harvest could bring. Elizabeth was excited about exploring Butlins in particular the swimming, but also the opportunity to meet new friends and having that little bit more freedom being in the 11-14 group. SH22 did not let me down, I came away feeling Restored, Renewed and ready to Rebuild.

The highlight of the week for us was the Big Start which took us on the journey of Nehemiah. The Big Start is always full of fun.

The theme of the Big Start, along side the main theme was

G.I.F.T Gods International Fix it Team, where we are all Superheroes at heart.

During the Big Start and Evening Celebrations a wonderful artist was hard at work creating some



beautiful artwork, here a couple of the stunning pieces.

There is just too much to cram into a newsletter article and can only highly recommend Spring Harvest to all.

Yvonne





SPRING
HARVEST
2023

Join us in 2023



Minehead
10 – 14 April

Skegness
10 – 14 April

springharvest.org





UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

A thank you to all who helped, attended and supported the Spring Clean Table Top sale on 3rd April. We raised £650.00 of which £450 went to the 'Disaster Emergency committee' - Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. We were also able to give £200.00 towards the family connected to a member at Martin Way who were collecting items to take

over to Ukraine.

'Mriydiy charity was very thankful for all the things sent. Very big "Thank you" for your support to make this possible!' Sergey Dvornikov, Organiser



Donations can still be made to

https://www.gofundme.com/f/saving-lives-in-southern-regions-of-ukraine?viewupdates=1&rcid=r01-165131586256-7f62bf70c87311ec&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_email%2B1137-update-supporters-v5b

Abby

A Message from



Christ has no body on earth now but yours; yours are the hands...



- ...that can share in leading and guiding the charity
as Deputy CARE Coordinator**
- ...that can organise exciting events for deprived and vulnerable children
as Children's Activities Coordinator**
- ...that can gently comfort and support stressed and anxious parents
as a Befriender**
- ...that can carry welcome bags of food to struggling families
as a 'Shopper'**
- ...that can transform a bleak and empty property into a home
as a Furniture Project team member**
- ...that can create systems and smooth arrangements for the Projects
as an Office Assistant**
- ...that can drop off an emergency delivery with a kindly word
as an Occasional Driver**

*To discover more about volunteering opportunities
with **Christian CARE** at this time of growing needs
search our website: <https://christiancaremerton.org.uk> / volunteering*

PILATES FOR LADIES AND MEN

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE AN HOUR FOR YOURSELF TO FOCUS ON YOUR FITNESS & WELLBEING IN A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT? IF THE ANSWER IS YES, MY PILATES SESSIONS COULD BE FOR YOU.

YOU WILL BUILD STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY, WHILST DEVELOPING A STRONG CORE. YOU WILL CONNECT TO YOUR BODY & HOW IT MOVES, SUPPORTING YOU OUTSIDE THE CLASS IN OTHER ACTIVITIES. WE FINISH EACH CLASS WITH A SHORT RELAXATION.

I TEACH CLASSES FOR ALL LEVELS OF FITNESS. MULTILAYERED CLASSES ARE SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS, THROUGH TO THOSE WITH MORE PILATES EXPERIENCE; EXERCISES ARE LAYERED TO OFFER VARIOUS OPTIONS. THE FRIDAY CLASS IS FASTER PACED, WITH A FOCUS ON THE PROGRESSIONS WITHIN EACH EXERCISE. CLASSES RUN IN BLOCKS, FREE TRIAL CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE (SUBJECT TO SPACE).



*Contact me for more information/to book:
anitabenoitpilates@googlemail.com
07854003648*

*<https://www.instagram.com/anitabenoitpilates/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ABenoitpilates/>*

CHURCH DIARY



Sun	1	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Tony Loft
Tue	3	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Wed	4	8.00pm	House Group
Thur	5	8.00pm	Church Council
Sun	8	10.30am	Café Worship & Annual General Church Meeting – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	10	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	13	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	15	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Revd Chris Morley
		6.00pm	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	17	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	22	10.30am	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	24	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Wed	25	8.00pm	House Group
Fri	27	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	29	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	31	10.30am	Coffee and Chat

Please email items for next month's Newsletter to
newsletter@martinway.org.uk by **Sunday 22nd May**.

