

MINISTER'S LETTER

The summer is drawing to a close and autumn is rapidly approaching. The long days that I had so looked forward to for months are now behind us. The same thing happens every year, of course – seasons coming and going is part and parcel of life on this planet (however blurred the boundaries between them might now be) – but this year, with our eldest daughter about to head off to university for the first time, I am perhaps even more aware that time is passing. It honestly doesn't seem that long ago that we brought our firstborn home from the hospital and Rebecca and I embarked upon the great adventure that is parenthood. It feels like time is passing at an ever-quickenning pace.



One of the things that I was looking forward to this summer were three Bruce Springsteen concerts that I was fortunate to have tickets for. Those concerts are also now behind me and, as much as I thoroughly enjoyed them all, I am, in some ways, back to square one. Bruce will be 74 this month and I'm again wondering how many more opportunities I will get to see him with the E Street Band. And perhaps I'm not alone in this. In his choice of songs on this tour (which has now seen him return to play shows in the US), Bruce himself seems to be addressing the subject of his own mortality.

In the middle of his set is "Last Man Standing", which acknowledges that he's now the last surviving member of his first band. Introducing this song to his audience, he says: "[Mortality] brings a clarity of thought and a purpose that you might have not previously experienced. At 15, it's all tomorrows. At 73, it's a lot of goodbyes. That's why you have to make the most of right now."

None of us ever knows how long our lives will be or how many days we have left. We do know from personal experience that some lives are cut painfully short. Age isn't everything. That said, the older we get, the more we do tend to reflect upon our own mortality.

I fully appreciate that there are people within our church community who are significantly older than Mr Springsteen is, who might look at me and think that I'm a mere whippersnapper. I understand that but, even being 20 years younger than Bruce, I'm still realistic enough to know that it's highly likely that there are now many more days behind me than there are ahead. And that's a sobering thought. Life is rushing by far too quickly for my liking.

But what this says to me is that we need to acknowledge our mortality more. We need to talk about aging and death more, not less, in no small part that we might make the most of the precious gift of life and the time that we do have left. To use the language of Moses (and George Michael!), we need to "choose life". In choosing life, we change the conversation from the length of our days to the quality of them – and that, as much as anything, is about a state of mind.

As seasons change, and as leaves start to turn a different colour and begin to fall to the ground, let us make the most of the imagery that autumn offers us to engage in conversations about the cycle of our own lives. Let us reflect upon the God-given opportunities that this incredible gift of life still holds before us, that we might better understand how to seize them. And, speaking of opportunities, may we hold before God in prayer all those children and young people embarking upon a new stage in their journey, that they might feel supported and loved, whatever those next steps might look like or involve.

With every blessing

Paul

Community Garden

We would like to say **A VERY BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported the Community Garden Project with their time, effort, and support at the bring and share lunches, working parties, providing us with grants and joining us at fund-raising events over the last year.

So much has been happening in the Garden this year and of course this cannot happen without the amazing Fund Raising and Grants we have had so far!



Going forward we will be continuing to fund raise and we wanted to let everyone why we need to and what our vision is for the year ahead and beyond.

Our main aim at present is to level off and make safe the flooring in the patio area of the garden – to enable all groups that use the church and our local community, safe and easy access to enjoy the garden whenever they want.

The vision of the Community Garden and Martin Way Methodist Church is to replace the hard patio surface with a recycled rubber surface that is safe for all to access, is hard wearing and level by next Spring 2024.

This will enable us to open the Garden to all and extend the use of the area to more groups within our community, including our ongoing groups such as Coffee & Chat, Luncheon Club, OpenTable, as well as our Church Congregation on Sunday's.

This all of course comes at a price and so we are looking at different ways to fund this vision through our fundraising events and Grant Funding. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please do get in touch with us via our email - community-garden@martinway.org.uk

Our next Bring & Share Lunches and working parties are on

Sunday 17th September

Sunday 15th October

Sunday 5th November (this one will be mainly looking at storage in the Garage)

Thank you again and we do hope to see you in the Garden very soon

Next Fund-Raising events are:

Quiz on Saturday 14th October

& Save the Date for Christmas meal

Abby & Shelley



QUIZ NIGHT

VICTORY BELONGS TO THE WISE!

SATURDAY 14th OCTOBER 2023

6.30PM FOR 7 PM START

MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH,
SW20 9JZ

Join us for a Fund Raising evening for the
Community Garden Project

Come along and join a team
or come as a team of max 6 people

Email Sylvia Baxter to book your place
sylvia.baxter1@tiscali.co.uk

Tickets Adults £10. 11 & under £5

**Includes - Meat or Veggie Chilli (or other fillings) with a
Jacket Potato & Dessert.**

Raffle tickets and Refreshments will be on sale on the night

CHURCH DIARY

Sep 2023			
Sun	3	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	5	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	6	11.30am	Open Table
Fri	8	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	10	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.00pm	Holy Communion – led by Revd Emma Cusack
Tue	12	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	13	11.30am	Open Table
		7.00pm	Circuit Meeting
Sun	17	10.30am	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
		12.30pm	Community Garden Lunch & Share
Tue	19	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	20	11.30am	Open Table
		7.00pm	Community Garden Fundraiser – Meal at Bella Donna
Fri	22	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	24	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Viv Newitt
Tue	26	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	27	11.30am	Open Table
		8.00pm	Church Council
Sat	30	10.00am	Our Churches' Future Story

Please email items for next month's Newsletter to
newsletter@martinway.org.uk by **Sunday 12 November 2023.**

Oct 2023			
Sun	1	10.30am	Café Worship/Harvest – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	3	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	4	11.30am	Open Table
Fri	6	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	8	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	10	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	11	11.30am	Open Table
Sat	14	6.30pm	Community Garden Quiz Night
Sun	15	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Tony Loft
		12.30pm	Community Garden Lunch & Share
		6.00pm	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	17	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	18	11.30am	Open Table
Fri	20	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	22	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Tony Loft
Tue	24	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	25	11.30am	Open Table
Sun	29	10.30am	Holy Communion – led by Revd Chris Morley
Tue	31	All Day	All Hallows Eve
		10.30am	Coffee & Chat
		7.00pm	CCA AGM

Nov 2023			
Wed	1	All Day	All Saints Day
		11.30am	Open Table
Fri	3	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	5	10.30am	Morning Worship – Revd David Hookins
Tue	7	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	8	11.30am	Open Table
Sat	11	All Day	Remembrance Day
		6.30pm	Lantern Quiz Night
Sun	12	10.30am	Café Worship – Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	14	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	15	11.30am	Open Table
Fri	17	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	15	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Richard Graham
		6.00pm	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	21	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	22	11.30am	Open Table
Sun	26	10.30am	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	28	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	29	11.30am	Open Table
Thur	30	All Day	St Andrew’s Day
Fri	1	12.30pm	Lunch Club