

MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2001

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

By the time you read this letter I hope we will have returned from a relaxing break in the vale of Evesham. We enjoy taking cottage holidays and exploring different parts of the English countryside, having time to read, and for me time to do some embroidery. We return in time for Women's World day of Prayer, and celebrate that occasion with the hanging of a new banner, which I hope will enrich all our worship. It will provide a focal point to reflect on prayer.

March also sees the beginning of Lent. It is not known exactly where the work 'Lent' comes from, whether it is from the old English word 'lente' meaning Spring, or an even older English word 'lencten' meaning 'to lengthen'. It is good to have lengthening days, but the brighter light often prompts spring cleaning. Some people choose to give up certain foods in Lent to remember Jesus' hunger in the wilderness. I prefer to think of Lent as a time of spiritual spring cleaning, to take time to reflect on faith and discipleship and to put in order those areas of life that need some cleaning and tidying.

When I was away on the Probationers Retreat we spent some time in Ignatian style prayer and meditation, taking a passage of scripture, and with the help of some visual displays, to allow the words to speak to our present situation. It is good to take time to reflect prayerfully on scripture and for this Lent you might like to take the words of Luke 4, 1-13, read them prayerfully several times and listen to what God has to say to you. On Tuesday 13th March this will be part of the theme for the Bible Study and Prayer Group - you might like to come along and share your thoughts.

The end of the month we celebrate Mothering Sunday with a Family and Parade Service. The church will be decorated with the 'lent lilies', the daffodil, and we shall thank God for those who cared for us in our early years.

Every blessing to you all, Anne

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST: TADWORTH COURT

You will have seen in last month's Newsletter that part of the proceeds from the Pantomime in February and the money raised at the Men's Supper Club Anniversary Service this month will go to the Children's Trust. Bill Cox tells us about the Trust and reveals his dream which needs your help.

What is the Children's Trust? Put simply, it is a charity which "exists to offer appropriate care, treatment and education to children with exceptional needs and profound disabilities and to give support to their families".

In 1998 over thirteen thousand children who had suffered a head injury were admitted to hospitals in England. As many as *one in five* required rehabilitation. There were only forty-four dedicated beds in the UK for the rehabilitation of children with head injuries, of which nineteen were at Tadworth Court.

The Children's Trust provides respite care, supporting families by providing short-term relief from the intense effort which goes into caring for their profoundly disabled child at home. Imagine what it must be like to be a mother with a bed-ridden child who has to be turned over *every four hours, day and night*. What a burden - but it is carried in love by that mother.

There are children, many of whom may be on ventilators, who need transitional care. They need skilled nursing, education and therapy. Transitional care also includes the Care and Therapy Service (the CaTS programme). This provides for babies with residual brain damage and complex health needs, children with disabilities who have undergone orthopaedic surgery and require convalescence and rehabilitation, and children with brain injuries unable to cope with intensive rehabilitation. There is also provision for children who have a short life expectancy.

St.Margaret's School is also run by the Children's Trust, providing education, therapy and care for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties and often complex medical needs as well. Staff also have expertise in the education of girls with Rett syndrome, a profoundly disabling neurological disorder.

As you will realise Tadworth Court is a very special place, and the people who work there are very dedicated. I need your help to meet a challenge, namely to raise £1000 for the Children's Trust by 18th June this year. Please help me to fulfil this dream!

THIS IS HOW IT CAN BE DONE

- a) Part of the proceeds from the pantomime have been given.*
- b) The collection and any money raised at the Men's Supper Club Anniversary Service will be given.*
- c) I am arranging a Summer Market on Saturday 16th June from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. I hope that this will raise a good amount. Stalls to include Good as New, plants, cakes, bric-a-brac, books, toiletries, 50p stall etc.*
- d) Abigail Loft has promised a donation from the Youth Club's "Big Brunch".*
- e) TENNERS FOR TADWORTH.*

Will you help by writing the numbers 1 to 10 on an envelope and putting £1 a week in it for ten weeks? If twenty people do this we shall have £200 towards the target, but hopefully nearer fifty people will do it!

Of course, if you can afford it straight away, please just put £10 in an envelope and let me have it, Either way, it will be greatly appreciated!

- f) If any other organisations are willing to make a donation, I shall be only too pleased to hear from them.*

PLEASE DO WHATEVER YOU CAN TO HELP

Bill Cox (8540-6630)

FORTHCOMING LIBRARY.....

Do you ever want to share with someone or get a different perspective on books or magazine articles you have read, even a quiet place apart in which to read, peruse, exchange ideas, read a story to your children?

We will soon be providing such a place here in Martin Way Church. Please feel free to avail yourselves of this service either by passing on books that have been influential in your faith journey, or donating new or used books. Maybe this will expand to offering cassette tapes; ministry, music & praise tapes (copies of the Sunday worship for the housebound); resource material; a Book Club? In addition it is hoped that on a monthly basis after the Family Service there will be an opportunity to purchase a selection of new books in a Book Sale. Watch this space...

Gwen Wildman

JMA - JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL

Why and when did JMA start?

There were groups of children and young people collecting for mission work as soon as the Methodist Missionary Society started in 1818. In 1841 JMA organised the first of the Christmas Offerings and soon afterwards the Blake system of JMA collectors' books began and children were collecting a halfpenny a week from adults on their list.

How JMA money works

Each JMA member uses boxes or books or events to raise money. Last year the money raised by JMA members from groups all over Britain and Ireland came to £699,627. One fifth of the total was spent on exciting new mission projects in Britain. Four fifths was spent on work all around the world, from bicycles in Bolivia to new schools in Mozambique, from helping children go to school in China, to sending books to Russia.

Several young people at Martin Way are JMA collectors. They have JMA boxes and may well ask you for a contribution on the first Sunday of every month. *Please encourage them in their work.* Throughout the year we hope to organise some fundraising events so please watch this space for more details!

Janet Fernando (JMA co-ordinator)

EXPLORING PRAYER (Session 2: Sunday 4th March at 7.30 - 9pm)

In St. Luke's gospel we read that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray because they could see how important it was to him. In this series we are thinking about how important prayer is to us. This month we are looking at 'Confession'.

This group is open to everyone - come to the whole series or to individual sessions - come to share or come to listen and pray silently.

Future sessions:

Sunday 1 April 7.30pm Intercession and Petition

Sunday 3 June 7.30pm - Meditation

Sunday 1 July 7.30pm - Contemplation

URGENT PLEA FOR HELP FROM THE CHURCH IN THE HOLY LAND

The following are extracts from recent messages from the Church and other agencies working in the Holy Land

A message before Christmas from an organisation in Jerusalem called Musalaha - Ministry of Reconciliation

It was a question of time before violence would erupt...but when it did we were not fully prepared for the strong feelings that would rise in each of us: depression, anger, rage, hatred and fear...The media playing the most tragic pictures again and again, served only to feed hatred and disintegrate the fragile trust that had grown between the two sides [Israelis and Palestinians] ... [Christian] believers in the region have not been immune to the effects of the crisis... Even those who are not involved in the violence have become victims of it. Many believers live in both communities, and they are not taking part in this exchange of fire. How then, do they begin to relate to each other? When two Palestinian believers' homes were severely damaged, Jewish believers have called them and sent money to help the families!...One Messianic Jewish pastor wrote "the national tension affects everyone...But on a positive side, the present situation of tension and uncertainty has caused an awakening of intercession and personal dependency upon God" ... Our joy, in spite of the difficulties of recent events, is that people have responded by extending a hand across the widening gap between the peoples of this land.

A recent plea to the World Church from Bishop Riah Abu El-Assal, Anglican bishop of Jerusalem, addressing a group of church leaders in London:

"There are two billion Christians in the world - we receive messages of encouragement and support as well as gifts from Malaysia, even Sudan! but the church in the UK...". "We are desperate for support these days, we are desperate". ..Our institutions (hospitals, clinics, schools, homes for those with disabilities) are badly needed in times of war, the services of the church are greatly appreciated, but without support and finance we cannot help."

Rev Hanna Mansour from St. Luke's hospital in Nablus commented "We live in harmony with the Muslim community here. The current Intifada has reflected Palestinian unity to the world... Things are awful. I have never experienced such a situation even during the first Intifada. The amount of violence practised by the Israeli military is simply intolerable... Movement around Nablus is difficult to impossible. The present situation is economically crushing, and there is no way for families to provide their daily bread. They come to the hospital and the Church for help."

Want to help? Find out more from Mary and Derek Heaton or Rosemary Keen - meanwhile keep praying.

ROSE SMITH 1915-2001

Rose died on 6th February fairly suddenly after a short stay in hospital. We remember someone who in everything was well organized and never late!, loving, good humoured, wise and tactful. She spoke some home truths but with no malice; accepting changes of life, she never lived in the past. She undertook the caring and loving role of the family and concern for others. She enjoyed the company of friends and children by whom she was much loved.

Valerie, Alan, Andy, Jane, William, Colin and Jane would like to thank you for your prayers, kind messages and donations for NCH. These have helped at this time of sadness.

Rose Florence Smith (nee Sims) was born in 1915 in the east end of London almost within the sound of Bow bells. She had two brothers Fred and George. When she was seven her mother died and the younger children went to live with her father's family close by. At 14 she cared for her grandmother who was ill. Rose and a close girl friend joined the Girls Life Brigade and on Sundays attended Spurgeon's Tabernacle or a Baptist church. She went to live in Eric Street, Bow to look after the parents of George Smith (her future husband) and in 1936 the whole family moved to Morden. George and Rose were married at Martin Way in May 1937 (the second wedding to take place in what is now the church hall). In that November George's mother died and a year later their son Alan was born. Soon after the War started George's sister died and George joined the armed forces. He was stationed for much of the War in North Wales and Rose and young Alan were able to join him for a short time before returning to Morden, where many hours were spent in the Anderson shelter at the bottom of the garden.

When the war ended Rose became involved in the Morden Women's Institute's many activities including choir and drama and of course making cakes. Her interests and hobbies included gardening, reading, flower arranging, embroidery, painting and knitting. In latter years she had been knitting colourful baby tops for Mid-Africa Ministry (formerly Ruanda Mission).

Alan and Valerie married in September 1966 and George and Rose as delighted grandparents spent hours with Andy and Colin taking them on outings and playing games with them.

After George died Rose started to come to Martin Way and was soon involved in the Monday Fellowship and Coffee and Chat. She very much enjoyed the friendships that came from the church.

In February 1999 Jane and Andy's son William was born bringing much delight and pleasure to Rose. It was a joy that although she had been unwell of late she was able to go to his birthday party on 3 February.

JOCK BURROWS 1920-2001

Ernest Arthur Burrows, known affectionately as 'Jock' was born 6th February 1920 in Battersea, South West London. As a little boy he joined Queensway Methodist Sunday School. On returning to Queensway church after the war, he met and married Connie Bundock. They had two children Graham and Susan. Later the family moved to New Malden from Battersea and came regularly to Martin Way. Jock had a lovely singing voice. He frequently sang solos, and was a member of many choirs. Connie died from cancer some years ago. A little while afterwards Jock moved to a flat in sheltered accomodation in Chessington, to be near his daughter; but he continued to come to Lunch Club, which he always enjoyed, until May of last year. Jock died on 2 February 2001 after a short illness.

DON'T FORGET!!
FRIDAY 2 MARCH: WOMEN'S
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The women of Samoa have prepared this year's worship based on the theme "Informed Prayer. Prayerful Action."

Martin Way is hosting the event which is for everyone, men, women and children. Anne is leading the morning service at 10.30 am, when the speaker will be Rev Joy Males. A creche will be available and coffee will be served after the service. The evening service is at St.John's Church, High Path, South Wimbledon at 8 pm when the speaker will be Rev Hannah Neale.

If anyone needs transport, please see Joyce Plant 8540-4221 or Mary Heaton 8395-6130

AND - TUESDAY 6 MARCH:
MEN'S SUPPER CLUB
ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Everyone is invited to join the members of the Men's Supper Club for their Anniversary Service on Tuesday 6th March at 7.30 pm. The collection and any money raised that evening will go to the Children's Trust at Tadworth Court. Your support will be much appreciated.

Items for the next issue of the Newsletter (April) should be with the editor, Rosemary Keen, by Sunday 18 March at the latest.

CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH

Fri	2		Women's World Day of Prayer:-
		10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Anne Rusbridge: speaker Rev Joy Males
		03.00 pm	Afternoon Service at Alexander House, Clifton Road, Wimbledon
		08.00 pm	Evening Service at St. John's Church High Path South Wimbledon: speaker Rev Hannah Neale
Sun	4	10.30 am	Sunday Club Anniversary Service
		07.30 pm	Prayer series (2)
Mon	5	02.45 pm	Fellowship (The Rotary Club - Mr P Rush)
Tue	6	07.30 pm	Men's Supper Club Anniversary Service
Wed	7	10.30 am	Toddlers Service
		07.45 pm	Midways (Canada - Members and Friends talk of their experiences)
Fri	9	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	11	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Rodney Hill
		06.30 pm	Holy Communion led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
Mon	12	02.45 pm	Fellowship (A Pair of Jeans and Lesley)
Tue	13	08.00 pm	Bible Study and Prayer Group
Wed	14	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Thu	15	08.00 pm	Church Family Committee
Sat	17	10-12 noon	Fellowship Coffee Morning
Sun	18	10.30 am	Holy Communion led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
		06.30 pm	Celebration Praise led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
Mon	19	02.45 pm	Fellowship (Red Cross Society - Tony Dee)
Tue	20	07.30 pm	Men's Supper Club (The Development of London - Rosemary Snell from Wimbledon Guild)
Wed	21	07.45 pm	Midways (Decorated Eggs - Sheila Morrissey)
Fri	23	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	25	10.30 am	Family and Parade Service Mothering Sunday
		06.30 pm	Celebration Praise led by Mr Martin Brown
Mon	26	02.45 pm	Fellowship (Rev Anne Rusbridge)

Please refer to the Weekly Notice-sheet for additional information

[web site:- //http://website.lineone.net/~martinway]