

# MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter - November 2001

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your response to the harvest project this year "Seeds for Africa". The beautifully decorated seed packets revealed a total of over ,£560. This is important work, and one of many organisations seeking to help people who have difficulty in growing crops.

*"As long as the earth lasts, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, they will never cease."* These words of promise were given to Noah after the flood, but we have a responsibility to help one another to care for our earth and use the natural resources wisely. In October I spent a few days away on retreat in Leamington Spa. The weather was beautiful and I had the opportunity of a couple of short walks. It is many years since I have seen such a rich harvest in the countryside; yew trees covered in their soft red fruits, haws, blackberries, large purple heads of clover, and tiny wild cyclamen growing at the roadside. It made me very aware of the need to care for our environment and not allow these wild flowers and fruits to be destroyed.

Harvest in the life of the church is an on-going process, as we see the results of much prayer and preparation resulting in fruitful work. At the October Church Council we spent some time discussing the most important issues to explore in the coming year. There is a need for more help with transport, the flower ministry, and pastoral care and these issues will be addressed this year. It was also decided to explore ways of developing house groups in the church as a way of sharing in bible study, getting to know one another better, and growing in our Christian faith. Any existing groups are asked to report to the February Church Council views on re-structuring so that there can be some common sharing on specific themes.

November is going to be a very busy month in the life of the church this year as we have the first session in our series on pastoral care on 10th November, a healing service on 11th November, the youth weekend on 17/18th November and the Advent Quiet Day on 24th November. If this all seems too much to cope with, remember that the Quiet Day is at the end, and will be an opportunity to relax with God before embarking on the Christmas preparations. Please come to any or all of these events which represent something of the wide diversity of interests in our church.

With best wishes, Anne

## **Seeability - Our Women's Anniversary Weekend Charity**

In 1799 just over 200 years ago the first school in London for blind children was opened. Now known as the Royal School for the Blind it trades under the name Seeability and is the charity for which money was raised over the Women's Anniversary Weekend last month. It works with people of all ages who are blind or partially sighted and have additional handicaps such as physical and learning disabilities, degenerative illnesses, brain injuries and mental health problems. It provides holistic care which enables people to take control of their lives and to achieve despite their disabilities.

The Society aims to help individuals discover their potential by encouraging independence and developing new skills. It offers services that empower people to help them to live the life that they want. Caring is important, but promoting a person's independence and enhancing their chances in life is equally important. So it not only provides activity and resource centre services, but also residential accommodation and support for people in their homes. Its head office is at Epsom, but it also has outlets in Fleet, Horley, Guildford, Leatherhead, Seaford, Tadley, Wellington and London.

## **Worship Leaders Training Course**

The Circuit is offering this course of seven sessions for anyone interested or involved in leading or preparing for worship (e.g. prayer leaders, readers, musicians, worship co-ordinators, children's worship leaders etc.). The purpose of the course is to encourage wider participation in leading worship and to enable gifts to be developed. It will be held at Stoneleigh Methodist Church on Tuesdays at 8pm and will be led by Rev. Stan Brown and David Eagle. The first session An Introduction to Corporate Worship is on 15 January. See poster on notice-board in church corridor or contact Rev. Stan Brown 020-8393-23322

Jennifer Smith

## **The Wimbledon Circuit Is Changing**

The Wimbledon Circuit at present comprises seven churches and five local ministers. Rev Rodney Hill and his family have decided to move on in September 2002 and will leave us next July. At the same time Upper Tooting Church with Rev Jennifer Impey will join Tooting Mission Circuit. This will affect us all. We will have to say good-bye to Jenny and our friends at Upper Tooting, who will be greatly missed. We will also lose four of our Local Preachers including Priscilla Vivian. Our circuit will change from having 7 churches and 5 ministers to 6 churches with 3 ministers and 1 vacancy. The Circuit Meeting decided not to seek to fill this vacancy in 2002, simply because there are not enough ministers in the Connexion available for the posts that will become vacant in that year. Instead the Leadership Team have proposed to work with a vacancy for one year with a view to initiating exciting new ventures in 2003.

These changes will affect us in the following ways:

- During 2002-3 Barrie, Stan and Anne will realign their work and temporary lay appointments may be made.
- 6 churches and 3 ministers effectively means that each minister will have pastoral charge of 2 churches.
- Barrie and Anne will both accept pastoral charge for another church in the circuit. Stan will increase his responsibilities in the circuit.

The Circuit Meeting unanimously decided to explore the exciting prospect of inviting a minister to come to our circuit in 2003 through the World Church in Britain Programme. If agreed and such an appointment were made this would mean that an experienced overseas minister would work in our circuit for 5 years from 2003. Both s/he and we would benefit enormously from each other through sharing different experiences - this would be an exciting challenge for us all.

This has nothing to do with a shortage of ministers; it is an opportunity to experience something quite different. If a World Church minister were to come to us, s/he would join the Circuit Team of ministers, and would influence and share their experience around all the churches in the circuit.

There will be a special Circuit Meeting on Thursday 29 November at 7.30 pm (venue to be advised), to which anyone can come. Representatives from the World Church Office will give a presentation and there will be time to discuss and explore the issues involved. The (elected) members of the Circuit Meeting will then be asked to formally approve the next step of the process.

Virtually all these changes are subject to wider discussions in the Methodist Church as a whole. The Connexional Stationing Committee could alter our proposals.

*\*\*Ask Anne or one of the stewards if you want a copy of the full text of this announcement.*

## **Holiday Snapshots - 1. Stratford-on-Avon**

The Methodist church at Stratford is in a tree-lined road in Old Town which winds round and down to the mill and a foot-bridge across the Avon. It is opposite the parish church where Shakespeare is buried and is built on a small portion of the land where the mediaeval College stood (built for the priests who served the church).

This church was opened in 1964 and is built of rustic brickwork in fawn-grey-buff with an attached hall on the south side which can be opened for an overflow congregation. Like Martin Way there's a corridor dividing the hall from the kitchen and meeting-rooms, but it also has at the front a covered way or cloister from the church front door to a lounge and servery which provides a place of welcome and rest for visitors from all over the world.

Inside, the church reminds me very much of Martin Way. It is very light, no galleries, the pews are of honey-coloured wood and the windows are large. Everyone is very welcoming. They have a lively Junior Church and many groups, such as Women's Fellowship, as we do. The Stratford Christian Care organises a meal for the homeless every evening and the Methodist team Ado@ Wednesday evenings. In March this year they were feeding about ten people. It can be a tough assignment on a cold evening, but is tremendously worthwhile.

My most recent visit coincided with their fourth Church Family Weekend with activities from Friday evening through to Sunday lunch, combining workshops, worship and fun. The workshops varied from papercraft through luscious puddings and photography to line dancing! There were even fireworks on the Friday evening!

And yes, John Wesley did visit Stratford - once! He came over from Evesham and preached 13 January 1743. Afterwards in his diary he wrote "Most of the hearers stood like posts; but some mocked, others blasphemed, and a few believed".

It was not until 1819 that Sarah and Matthew Pearce led a small group meeting in their house in Wood Street. By 1825 they had a minister and in 1834 the chapel in Birmingham Road was built, seating about 240 people and used until 1964.

### **Do you use the mascot alarm service?**

If you have a MASCOT pendant or unit and are thinking of having the BT Answer 1571 installed on your telephone as a free answering service be warned. Mascot have advised their customers NOT to use this BT service. This is because if you have a message waiting on the line it blocks contact by the MASCOT helper. To put it simply - if you fall on the floor and cannot get up so you press your MASCOT pendant, your MASCOT helper cannot talk to you over the phone and arrange help, because the Answer 1571 will start recording what s/he is saying and you won't be able to get through to reply.

### **Methodist Homes For The Aged**

In last month's newsletter Lesley Mortley explained how we can support Methodist Homes for the Aged on Sunday 4 November - Methodist Homes Sunday. However, as with many good causes, unless we have a particular interest in the charity, or personal experience of its work, it is easy to push it to the back of our minds. Through my mother's situation I do have that personal experience and can testify to the tremendous work done by that organisation.

My mother is 94 years old. She used to be very self-sufficient, fit, energetic and an active member of her local church. About three years ago it became clear that she needed help and my brother and I were able to get her a place at Hall Grange, the Methodist Home near Croydon. The premises are modern, comfortable and the garden superb. The care was loving, appropriate and sympathetic to her needs. She

was encouraged to maintain her independence as long as she could, but help was always at hand when it was needed. After a time her mental faculties began to fail and it was necessary to seek more specialist care. Again the MHA came to the rescue and we were extremely fortunate in getting her a place in the newly opened Heather Bank dementia care unit attached to the Richmond Methodist Home in Bexhill. Once again she has a lovely room of her own with en suite facilities and overlooking a lovely garden. There is a bright and cheerful lounge/dining room for the exclusive use of the unit's residents and the opportunity to join with the residents in the main home for worship. I cannot praise the facilities too highly, but best of all are the staff. They are absolutely marvellous. The care and attention they give to the residents is unstinting and they are equally caring to the relatives of those in care. You are always greeted with a cup of tea and a smile and reassuring words about your loved one. Nothing is too much trouble and my mother, whilst increasingly confused, is very happy living in such a loving Christian environment.

Please support the MHA. If by our giving we can enable them to open new homes like Hall Grange, Heather Bank and Richmond we will, I know, be bringing comfort to many people - not only the residents but those who love them and are unable to provide the standard of care which they need in their advancing years.

Roy Ellis

## **Christmas Fairs**

- 10 November : St. Mary's, Church Path : Christmas Fayre : 11am-2pm
- 24 November : Alexander House Christmas Bazaar, 12 Clifton Road Wimbledon : 2-4pm: tickets:- Valerie Currie & John & Jean Butland. Please give your support.
- 24 November: St. James' Martin Way: Christmas Fair: 2 pm
- 8 December: Ruxley, Ruxley Lane, Ewell : Christmas Fair: 1-3.30 pm

## **Junior Mission For All (JMA)**

Throughout August the Sunday Club worked hard baking cakes, bread and pizzas. After the Family Service in September we had a wonderful cake sale and raised £80 for the continuing work of JMA. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

The Sunday Club is now setting up another project.. We are collecting good second hand toys and books. After Family Service members of the Sunday Club will run a "Rainbow Stall" and sell the books and toys. All proceeds will go to JMA. Please give any contributions for the stall to me. Thank you.

Janet Fernando Tel: 020-8544-0956

## The Cake Sale - the Apple Tart Recipe!

I thought the cake sale went well and the apple tarts went very quickly. I'm pleased that people bought lots of things and I hope they enjoyed it.

This is the recipe for the French Apple Tarts:-

### **Ingredients:**

- 6oz plain flour
- 3 green eating apples
- 3oz butter or margarine cut into cubes
- 3 red eating apples
- 2oz caster sugar
- 2 tablespoons apricot jam
- 1 egg

Set the oven to 200 degrees Centigrade (400 degrees Fahrenheit)/ Gas 6.

1. Peel the green apples and cut them into quarters. Cut out the cores and slice the quarters up quite thinly.
2. Put the apples in a pan with 2 tablespoons water. Cook them over a low heat until soft (about 5 minutes). Stir with a wooden spoon.
3. Sieve the flour into a bowl. Add the butter cubes and rub them between your fingertips in the bowl of flour, until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs.
4. Separate the egg. Add the sugar and the egg yolk to the flour mixture and squeeze it gently into a ball.
5. Sprinkle some flour onto a board and a rolling pin. Roll the pastry until it is about 26cm (10 in) wide and 2 cm (1 in) thick.
6. Line a 20 cm (9 in) flan dish with pastry. Trim the edges and put in the fridge for 30 mins. Then bake for 5 minutes.
7. Take the pastry out of the oven. Spoon in the cooked apples. Slice the red apples, dip in lemon juice and lay them in circles on top.
8. Mix the jam with 2 tablespoons hot water and spread it over the apples. Bake your tart for about 30 minutes, until golden on top.

## November!

What a sad month for gardeners. Most of the shrubs have finished flowering, bedding plants have died off, and the gardens begin to look bare and very sorry for themselves. But look on the bright side, in a few short months, with God's creation, the flowers will all be back with us to brighten up our days.

I would like to thank all those people who donated money for the upkeep of our gardens, and for all the lovely comments about the new water feature, and the gardens in general, for which this money was used.

Contrary to popular belief, I am not a gardener. I labour in ignorance about the plants that grow in our gardens. If they look imposing at the nursery I buy them, plant them out and leave it to God's grace that they will survive. If anyone has knowledge of plants, and would like to suggest to me what should be planted where and when, or what and how to prune the shrubs that we have, I would be most appreciative.

I set out on a five year plan for the gardens. Next year will be the fourth. What would you like to see included next year? Your comments PLEASE.

Ted Ashwood

Due to circumstances beyond our control the Happy Wanderers Christmas Concert will not take place this year. We very much regret this and hope we will be able to make up for this in the Spring.

## Dates For Your Diary

**Saturday 10 November:** "Prepared to Care". The first of three workshops to look at the issues involved in caring for one another and to help and support pastoral workers in their role. 9am-1pm at Martin Way.

**Tuesday 4 December:** Men's Supper Club Annual Social: everyone is welcome. Tickets ,2.50 each from Bill Cox.

## Marathon Man

Once again the Pallister family made their annual trip to Newcastle for the Great North Run. This year Steve completed the course in 1 hour 37 minutes and 48 seconds, beating his previous time of 1 hour 55 minutes. He even beat Seb Coe and Sally Gunnell!!! We were all there to cheer him on as he finished his 13.1 mile run! Steve is yet again hoping to do the Marathon - so fingers crossed.

Annemarie Pallister

## Church Diary For November

Sun	4	10.30 am	Family Service led by Mrs Fiona Hibberts and Mrs Carole Hill
		6.30 pm	Celebration Service at Raynes Park with Rob Frost
Mon	5	2.45 pm	Fellowship ( Barbara Saville - Blindness)
Tue	6	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	7	10.30 am	Toddler Time in Church
Sat	10	9 am-1 pm	"Prepared to Care" workshop
Sun	11	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mr Bob Hamblin
		6.30 pm	Healing Service and Holy Communion led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
Mon	12	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Ted Ashwood)
Tue	13	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	14	10.30 am	Holy Communion
		7.45 pm	Midways (An Evening with Van Gogh - Brian Goldsmith)
Fri	16	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sat/Sun 17/18			Youth Weekend
Sun	18	10.30 am	Holy Communion led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
		6.30 pm	Youth Service led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
Mon	19	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Rev Geoffrey Owen)
Tue	20	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club: Stephen Ashcroft - St. John's Ambulance Brigade
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thu	22	8.00 pm	Mission and Service Committee
Sat	24	10.30- 4pm	Quiet Day at St. Michael's Convent, Ham Common
Sun	25	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Mon	26	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Dorothy Turner - Kuala Lumpur)
Tue	27	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	28	10.30 am	Bible Study
		7.45 pm	Midways (Decorating China - Audrey Ward)
Thu	29	7.30 pm	Special Circuit Meeting
Fri	30	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club