

MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER – November 2002

Minister : Revd Anne Rusbridge

Dear friends,

The autumn this year has been quite busy, but a great deal of fun, as I have adapted to my new responsibilities, and I share with you some of the things I have been doing during October.

A highlight was the Induction Service for James Collins at Morden Park Baptist Church. The worship was inspirational and the preaching profound. The principal of the London Bible College challenged us to think about the responsibility of the whole church to mission and evangelism. He suggested that we will only see a return to a Christian focus in our nation when lay people witness and share their love of God with those around them.

With two very different harvest festivals this year I spent some time visiting the youth groups in both churches to talk about harvest, and here at Martin Way we had a wonderful display of 'Smartie tube' trees (plus a couple of 'Pringles' as well), all containing money for seeds for Mozambique. I hope the church stewards have now forgiven me for suggesting this! We collected £712.98* for Mozambique and as much of the money was in small change, it took the stewards (with Mike's help) until 4pm to count the money. I am thrilled that we have been able to make such a significant gift to help these people. It was a truly generous harvest offering. Thank you.

Early in the month we had a Circuit Staff Away Day. We went to a retreat house in Woking and spent the day reflecting on ministry, and how we can use our own individual gifts in ministry. There is often a tension between what a church expects of a minister and the specific gifts of individual ministers and it was good to spend a day sharing experiences and learning from each other.

The LIFE Bible Course has recommenced and I have also been trying to visit many of the people who are not members of the church. If you would like to consider becoming a member of the Methodist Church you are invited to come to the manse on Thursday 7th November at 8pm for an informal get-together and to explore the purpose of Church Membership.

At the Circuit Meeting I offered to help our Circuit Network group to encourage new members. The Women's Network of the Methodist Church aims to encourage, enable and equip women to participate fully in the life of the church and in society. Every year they have a project which individual churches can participate in and a lot of interesting events take place nationally and at District level. By participating in some of these larger events, groups in the church can bring back ideas for creative worship and sharing in their own meetings. In the Methodist Recorder of 3rd October there was a report on the Women's Network Annual Conference which was entitled "God's Delight: a Journey to Wholeness". Through poetry and artwork conference-goers were encouraged to see how in moving forward in their own individual journeys of faith they participate in bringing about a wholeness in all of creation. Look out for details of Circuit events. I would encourage you to support this work - you will be the beneficiaries!

Mike and I completed the month with a short break visiting my mother in Southampton and then spending a few days in Dublin. The first few days of November I shall be away on retreat in Leamington Spa and hope to return energised for the preparations for Christmas.

*With best wishes,
Anne*

*Mozambique collection now £736.11 [20 October]

Christmas Post Box

For many years now, we have been able to post Christmas cards to friends within the church, in the Christmas post box in the vestibule. We have, at the same time been able to make donations to M.H.A. (Methodist Homes for the Aged), in lieu of postage. This tradition is set to continue, but we are aware that many of our congregation are finding it increasingly difficult to shop for cards and to write them out, so a suggestion has been put forward that those who wish to, may like to send just one card

to the whole congregation, which could then be displayed on the screens in the corridor (currently displaying photographs). These cards may still be posted in the post box, clearly addressed to "the church family", and donations may still be made to M.H.A. (you may like to increase your giving, having saved money on not buying cards!) As well as, or instead of, you may also like to send your personal Christmas greetings via the newsletter., which reaches a slightly bigger audience. Obviously, this will need to be done in time to be included in the December newsletter (to Rosemary, by Sunday 17th November.)

Lesley Mortley

A Very Interesting Church Council

On Thursday 10 October 2002 we had a very helpful meeting and I'm sure those who attended will agree that from the great meal we started with (thanks to all who helped in any way) to the business part of the evening - it will be a council to remember for very different reasons.

The evening started at 6.30pm with a hot meal at which some of us were able to chat with Alison Driscoll and Abby Springer from the World Church in Britain Partnership (WCBP). Then over coffee Alison gave us an insight into the work of the WCBP and told us about Rev John and Rev Faith Nyota and their young children Sheri and Kim who are coming from the Methodist Church in Kenya to our Circuit in September 2003. They are no strangers to England as John had a placement here for a year before Faith was ordained, (so they are used to the weather and know something of our way of doing things). We then had a chance to ask questions of Alison, Abby and Barry Tabraham about the possibility of John or Faith coming to Martin Way as the Minister responsible for the pastoral work here. After some discussion it was agreed by all present that it would be good to ask John and/or Faith to be our Minister.

I personally feel that it would be good for us at Martin Way. We can (and will if we open our hearts) benefit greatly from the presence of a WCBP member. Although it may not be easy for John, Faith or us with the difference in cultures etc. it is a challenge that we should all take and move forward with faith in the Spirit. I also feel that we can start now in preparing for September next year by putting our own feelings to God in our daily prayers.

To help all the Circuit in welcoming John and Faith, further meetings to which we are all invited will be held over the coming months.

After this very interesting and informative part of the evening we continued with other council business. We talked about Safeguarding Children - a Circuit training session has been fixed for **Monday 9 December** here at Martin Way at 7.30pm. All who have contact with children/young people on our premises are requested to attend. We fixed the date of our Church Anniversary next year as the weekend of 10-11 May 2003. Further details will be announced later. We heard about the new Circuit Lay Worker John Vanek. He is here to help us in many ways - all we have to do is to ask. Sylvia Baxter has had to give up running the Traidcraft Stall and on behalf of us all I would like to thank her for all the work she has done with Traidcraft. Anne Conquest has offered to take over and asks us to help continue support by buying the products.

It was a very good evening. I hope there are more meetings like it.
Tony Loft

Message From Mysore

Derek Heaton has had a letter from Dr Karat of the CSI Holdsworth Memorial Hospital. He writes:

Dear Mr Heaton

Greetings from Holdsworth Memorial Hospital, Mysore. I have received your letter and the cheque for £182. Yes, Mr Cranmer is a good friend of the hospital and we're glad that he is still actively raising funds for Holdsworth Memorial Hospital, even in his retired life! I fully agree with you that when it comes to charity works, it's the "little drops" which add up as most often one does not receive a large sum. So please do not feel bad that it's only a small sum. It's the thought, the effort and the graciousness to give which counts.

On behalf of the staff and students of Holdsworth Memorial Hospital, Mysore, let me thank Mr. Cranmer and Rev. Anne Rusbridge and all the family and friends of Martin Way Methodist Church for the donation and best wishes which we reciprocate whole heartedly.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely,

Dr. S C Karat

Rylands Appeal

The very first Methodist Home was Rylands, in Wallington, opened in 1945 as a result of the determination and industry of the charity's founder, Reverend Walter Hall. Costing £2,700, Rylands was home to 12 residents. Over the years, the Home has been extended and refurbished to accommodate up to 36 residents but a point was reached where the building no longer met the needs of older people. So Rylands is now undergoing extensive redevelopment. The new Rylands will offer a range of accommodation and care services including enhanced residential care for physically frail and older people - spacious studio flats with kitchenette, improved communal areas, therapeutic facilities, and specialised dementia care - a dedicated ground-floor unit, including cutting-edge facilities and technology for residents' comfort and safety.

Work started in December 2001 and it is hoped to be completed by September 2004. Much of the money for the new home has been met from the charity's reserves, but a special Rylands Appeal has been launched with an overall target of ,100,000 of which it is hoped that ,25,000 will be raised by the London South-West Methodist district. The appeal is to raise money for various items to enhance the lives of the residents. These include:

- a sensory garden for visually impaired and very frail elders
- furnishing and equipment for a new arts and crafts centre for the dementia unit
- new furniture for communal areas
- a minibus to take residents on outings
- artefacts, videos and books for a new reminiscence library

There will also be a development of retirement flats adjacent to the Home, although these are being funded separately and are not the object of the appeal.

If anyone would like further information about the Rylands Appeal, or MHA in general, please contact me.

Lesley Mortley

MHA Sunday 3rd November

Methodist Homes for the Aged is extremely grateful for the support from our church, which helps towards making a difference to the lives of some 6000 older people throughout the country. The focus this year is on the needs of people with dementia, and MHA has taken as their theme "Forget-me-not". You will find envelopes for this appeal in the vestibules and any donation will be gratefully received. (Don't forget to "gift aid".)

Lesley Mortley

Church Weekend?

The Church Council are exploring the possibility of a church weekend. In the vestry are details of five Conference Centres. Please go and look at the list and indicate on the form which would be your preferred choice of venue.

Anne Conquest

The Weight Of Nothing

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake" a coal-mouse bird asked a wild dove. "Nothing more than nothing", was the answer.

"In that case, I must tell you a marvellous story." the coal-mouse said. "I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow - not heavily, not in a raging blizzard - no, just like a dream, without a sound and without any violence. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the 3,741,953rd dropped onto the branch - nothing more than nothing, as you say - the branch broke off."

Having said that, the coal-mouse flew away.

The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while and finally said to herself, "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come to the world."

[from "Peace Offerings" compiled by Peter Smith]

Camel Rides To Hope

Nothing but desert for miles around. Figures on camelback navigating by the stars. Only each other for company and a faint unrealised hope keeping them on the road.

Sounds like an old story? Well, Yes and no. It's the story of today in Israel-Palestine, where despite everything some Christians, partners of CMS, haven't given up on the search for reconciliation. They decided to take Jesus seriously when he said "Love each other".

So members of Musalaha (Arabic for 'reconciliation') saddle up camels and head out into the desert with a mixed group of Jews and Palestinians.

"It's a genuinely tough experience," says Tanas al-Qassis, one of the Desert Encounter leaders. "When you're trekking with someone on a camel in the desert for four hours at a time, it gets boring. You have to talk."

Out in the desert, with 'normal' society and possessions left behind - where there are no settlements, no security fences, no checkpoints - Jews and Palestinians discover that their 'enemies' are human beings too, having to cope with the harsh desert sun or the tricky business of steering a camel.

And so, people from Jewish and Arab families find they now have friends among 'the enemy', something they can't ignore when the talk among family and friends turns to politics. These are small but concrete steps on the path to peace.

And Musalaha turn the same challenge out to us all: "Jesus stepped out of his comfort zone to embrace them all. Take your cue from that".

Pray

for the Musalaha workers: "We try to be bridges", they say, "but when you do, sometimes people walk on you".

At the end of September Musalaha held a conference for 35 youth leaders. Please pray for these leaders, that they will be able "to help young people break the cycle of conflict and become part of a resolution and reconciliation".

*Find out more visit www.musalaha.org
[copyright Church Mission Society]*

Quote - Unquote

People will say that you don't need friends on this journey, that God is enough. But I say to you that to be with God's friends is a good way to keep close to God in this life

St. Teresa of Avila

When praying don't give God instructions, just report for duty

Corrie Ten Boom

There are two things to do about the gospel - believe it and behave it.

Susannah Wesley

Come And Learn More Of The Role Of World Faiths

Indarjit Singh is a nationally recognised journalist and broadcaster, a regular contributor to 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4's 'Today' programme and a frequent contributor to radio and television news and current affairs programmes. He is widely regarded as both the secular and religious voice of the British Sikh community. He is also a leading figure in the national and international inter-faith movement. As a member of the Lambeth Group responsible for the planning of the Faith Zone at Greenwich, it was his suggestion that led to the All Faiths Act of Reflection and Commitment in the House of Lords in early January 2000.

On 28 November at Poplar Road Primary School you can hear him talk of the role of world faiths in today's society and have an opportunity to ask questions.

The meeting has been organised by Churches Together in Merton Park

Family News

Jean Fincham sends her greetings to everyone. She and her family are well and enjoying life in Scotland. She has made some nice friends at the church and has been overwhelmed by the friendship and kindness she has received. In September the church held a flower festival with the theme of different anniversaries in the church. Jean was asked to join the groups of flower arrangers and was allocated Easter which she really enjoyed doing.

Christmas Fairs

Saturday 9th November : from 11am to 2pm at St. Mary Merton

Saturday 23rd November : from 11am to 1pm at St. James Merton

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 9th November : at Christ Church with St. Philip Worcester Park: last session on **Pastoral Care** from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Led by Rev Anne Rusbridge and John Vanek

Monday 18th November : Taize Prayer and Praise meeting : 8 pm at St. John Fisher in the Chapel

Saturday 23rd November : Challenges for Today - Vision for Tomorrow : at Central Hall Westminster from 10am to 5 pm

Items for the next issue of the Newsletter (December/January) should be with the editor, Rosemary Keen, by Sunday 17 November at the latest.

Church Diary For November

Fri	1	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sun	3	10.30 am	Family Service led by Bob and Janet Hamblin
Mon	4	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Mr R Polly - A Twisted Teenage Child)
Tue	5	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	6	10.30 am	Toddler Time in Church
		7.45 pm	Midways (Mary Hurley - Words and Music)
Sun	10	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mr Bill Cox
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
Mon	11	2.45 pm	Fellowship - Graham Cannon and Lesley Mortley - Talking Heads
Tue	12	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	13	11.15 am	Communion Service
Fri	15	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sat	16		Youth Weekend
Sun	17	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Anne Rusbridge
		8.00 pm	Worship at 8 - Youth Service led by Bob & Janet Hamblin
Mon	18	2.45 pm	Fellowship (Wendy Tehrilingera - Nurse)
Tue	19	10-12 am	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club (Margaret Sephton - her work at Rosemary Lodge)
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	20	7.45 pm	Midways (Jean Gear - My School Days)
Sun	24	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Mr John Sephton
Mon	25	2.45 pm	Fellowship (The Mayor of Merton - Cllr. Edith Macauley [to be confirmed])
Wed	27	10.30 am	Bible Study
Fri	29	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Sat	30	4.00 pm	Young Families Group: Christmas video followed by tea