

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

As we (the Nyota family) prepare to return home for a three months furlough this is a reflection of our time with you for the last three years



African Stars' trek to Wimbledon

“Give them a racquet of a gospel.” So commented one tennis-loving friend when he learnt where we were headed. Of course we were not just coming to Wimbledon. We were coming to Britain, to the West, to a completely different culture. It was a mighty Abrahamic call, to leave all that was familiar and move to new frontiers. To boldly go where no Kenyan minister, at least in the recorded history, has gone before. Of course the name Nyota means ‘stars’. Add Faith to that and you know why we dare go and shine!

Life is great as is living! It takes you to places you had not imagined. London, Wimbledon, had never crossed our imagination as a place we would ever work let alone call home. We had full bag of mixed feelings, joy and apprehension in equal measures. Delight that we were going to the land of the Wesleys who are revered greatly in Kenyan Methodism. What a chance to give something back to men and women whose ancestors had given all. Yet apprehensive on how we would deal with a couple of ‘giants’. We were aware that we were coming as representatives of our country and that to us was not a simple burden. Would we measure up, will the people be welcoming, how about our accent, how about the bitter winters?

Cultural shock number one: All British people do not speak the same language, at least not the same dialect. We came to England expecting to hear what many of us in Kenya believe to be perfect Queen’s English, which, so the story goes, is spoken in Oxford and Cambridge. That was not to be. In fact one person pointedly told us, “We don’t care to speak English here, we speak London English, cockney to be precise!” Of course he was right. Nobody for example has time for long, winding sentences, like “Do-you-want-a-cup-of-tea?” That sounds too mouthful.

Why not just say; “Wan’ a cuppa?”. Add to these the bags of wit, jokes and wisdom and you are in for a great time in Wimbledon.

Faith and I had studied years back in the North of UK and were told all manner of things about the South. Well, I think they were talking about the immigration officials at Heathrow who had the looks of ‘wha d’yu won’ hiya mate? Yu was not needed.’ This is followed by a thorough body check with your bag turned upside down. But this treatment is in stark contrast to the ordinary British people. People are warm and welcoming, contrary to the popular notion that the British, especially the Londoners are cold and reserved. Of course the British will not be and need not be as exuberant as the Africans. This is a different social-cultural setting. And people must be allowed to be who they are.

There is one thing that will stick with us for the rest of our lives: The amount of preparation that went into waiting and preparing for us. That the whole circuit would meet to discuss issues of being culturally sensitive and the like does not tell the whole story. Our manse does. As we got talking with our neighbours who were also looking forward to receiving us we learnt of the amount of cleaning and clearing that was mounted by most churches on our behalf, in and outside the house. This article gives us the opportunity to thank you.

Of course no one from my context would come here and pretend not to be unnerved by numerically low church attendance and its seniority in age of the membership. Like Europe some years ago, we live in Africa at a time when it is fashionable to go to church. On the contrast, it is no longer socially correct to be ‘too’ religious in Britain to the point of going to church. Of course Faith and I have had time to think about this phenomenon and we are glad that it is not as gloomy as it may appear. This state of affairs, sociologically referred to as social anomie, where old traditions are questioned and undermined often leads to renewal. The church that will be born out of a reconfigured and/or reconstituted society will in many respects be different from the old one. That this circuit has not declined in membership during the last three years, despite the deaths is a witness that there have been some trickling of people in the churches. We are glad to be learning all the time.

We have come to fall for the ecumenical spirit even witnessing the signing

of the covenantal relationship between the Anglicans and Methodists. Either because of the dwindling numbers or due to the forces of secularism that are impacting on the church on this part of the world, there is a high degree of fellowship and a willingness to work together among the different denominations. What a joy to go to our LEPs, Christ Church with St Phillip or Ruxley and see the oneness in the entire congregations. Both Wimbledon and Raynes Park have strong ecumenical partners. At Martin Way we work very closely with the Baptists. Despite the challenges, ecumenism on the whole is working well in quite a number of churches and ought to be upheld and emulated as good practice by churches in other parts of the world.

Time does not allow us to recount all the joys we have from our being here. Obviously Faith has been a beneficiary of this ecumenism. When they had to relocate for the rebuilding project at Wimbledon, the Catholic Church opposite invited them to worship in their hall until the work is done. Her joy at Raynes Park is the positive change where Café church has now grown into the second service. Despite the expected teething problems, this more contemporary type of service has been going well and we hope that it will grow in width and depth.

Martin Way, Wimbledon Circuit and Toto Simba Project

As for Martin Way, we celebrate the thriving Sunday school and the connection Kim, Sherie and I have with the people there. It is through this connection that the folk there agreed to enter our world. Something was born out of the knowledge that the gospel is for “comforting the disturbed and disturbing the comfortable”. Martin Way wanted to hear our story. And yes we told them. We told them of where we come from, where John was born, a village called Baraimu. It is situated next to the fertile slopes of Mt. Kenya. The larger area is known as Meru District and the county is Mbeu, a semi-arid area inhabited by landless ethnic groups from all over Kenya. For all their food and cash, families rely on small land parcels. These produce approx 450kg of maize and 50kg of beans per annum. This is an equivalent of Shillings 5,000 (£50). As a result, most children have little to eat and most barely make it through the primary school level. Even with free education they cannot last an entire day at school due to hunger. Others go off and on as they have to work as casuals for the rich to earn money for the family.

Martin Way were moved. They sent me back with £400 to see what I could do. I went and asked the church to gather all the children who had dropped out of school. They were hundreds but we could only start with 30. We brought them together, clothed them, fed them, taught them for about a year, bought them some uniform and then took them to the primary school. They are now happily there.

The next year Martin Way set aside £5,000 from a legacy. This time we decided to begin a charity so that we could do more. By now word spread around the circuit and, with Barrie's support, all joined hands. MCW Rafiki Trust was registered. And in the same year 29 people decided to come to Kenya and visit the village for themselves. They were blessed immensely by the experience as much as they were challenged. The story spread even wider. We are now in the process of putting up a community centre where the adolescents can learn some trades and be useful to transform the life of this village. Apart from the £10,000 building and setting up costs, it is estimated that it will cost approx £5,000 to run the project each year.

This story is no longer our story. It is a circuit story. Actually the SW District Network has adopted it as their story. They are telling everyone whether an individual or a church or a group to consider adopting this as their overseas project. They are persuading any family to consider being paired with a family in that village for mutual partnership or a school could adopt the school department and identify with it. It is a story worthy telling, that we went, we saw, and are willing to help the Baraimu village conquer the shackles that keep them from enjoying their full human potential. That together we can make a difference. We hope it can be a London District story too.

Is not this what the singer meant by:

Brother, sister let me serve you let me be like Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too

We came to serve God and his people at Wimbledon, people we had not seen or met. Instead they are now serving us. Mutually,

We are pilgrims on a journey, We are brothers on the road
We are here to help each other, Walk the mile and bear the load

We have visited with them at their homes; they came to our village and

ministered to us. This is in keeping with the promise at our induction that

I will hold the Christ light for you, In the night-time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long to hear

Of course there have been tough times since life itself comes with as a mixed package. At times we have had to console as folk we know here died or be consoled as were informed of the loss of a loved one back home.

I will weep when you are weeping, When you laugh I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow, Till we've seen this journey through

What do we say therefore? We love every bit here and it is a journey worthy taking. We have gained, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers whom we cherish. This is Christianity at its best!



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MIDWAYS JUMBLE SALE



The Midway Group is holding their Jumble Sale [all proceeds to Church Funds] on Saturday 6th May between 10 and 12 noon.

If you have any jumble please save it until the week before and then either contact me or bring it down to the Hall on Friday 5th after 9pm.

Thank you

Maralyn Loft [8543 0696]



CSW and GOOD FRIDAY

A good number of Martin Way folk attended the Good Friday Service at Merton Park Baptist church in Kingston Road. We had a very moving monologue from the person who was responsible for setting up the crucifixions on **the** Good Friday morning and an inspirational address from our own minister John plus a wonderful atmosphere and singing. We thank God that a collection was taken for Christian Solidarity Worldwide, which campaigns for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Christian persecution in Eritrea is among the worst in the world, and as the situation deteriorates, CSW is stepping up its advocacy activities. CSW recently heard from Compass Direct of events at the Sawa Military Training Camp, near the Ethiopian border. In February, 75 Protestant Christians who were completing mandatory military service, were jailed for 'reading Bibles and praying during their free time'. One Eritrean told Compass: "In Sawa, to possess your own Bible and keep your personal devotion and loyalty to Christ is not allowed. This is considered an act of Christian extremism."

Many Eritrean Christians have fled severe religious persecution. CSW was recently able to offer financial help to a few. Thousands are seeking asylum, with little access to legal aid. Ask God to protect them from being sent back into extreme danger.

On 21st February, the government is reported to have raided schools in Karen Hagaz, Ela Ber'ed and Adi-Tekelezan and rounded up all children aged 17 and over for military training in Wi'a, one of the hottest places on earth. Their families are greatly distressed. Pray to God to comfort these families and for the safety of these children.

An edict in 2002 banned all but three Christian denominations: Orthodox, Evangelical Lutheran and Catholic. However, state security forces are now also targeting these churches.

Pray for President Afewerki and his government, that they administer the

country with much greater concern for human rights and religious freedom. Pray that they would realise that Christians are not disloyal and pray too for the repeal of the 2002 edict.

There will be a prayer concert for Eritrea on Saturday 20th May and a protest outside the Eritrean Embassy in London on Wednesday 31st May.

CSW is encouraging supporters to sign and distribute a multi-agency petition that has been launched to protest against widespread religious repression in Eritrea. The petition will be handed to the Eritrean Ambassador to the UK, Negasse Sengal, and is supported by Open Doors, Release International, and Release-Eritrea.

We should like everyone to sign this petition.

I can supply CSW's Response Magazines and Prayer diaries to anyone interested.

Thanks.

Joyce Plant

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WITH THANKS

I would like to say THANK YOU so very much to all the kind folk who have enquired after my health following my recent hip operation. The visits, flowers and especially prayers have been a great source of encouragement and have all been greatly appreciated - bless every one of you.

Mary Heaton

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SPARE BIBLES



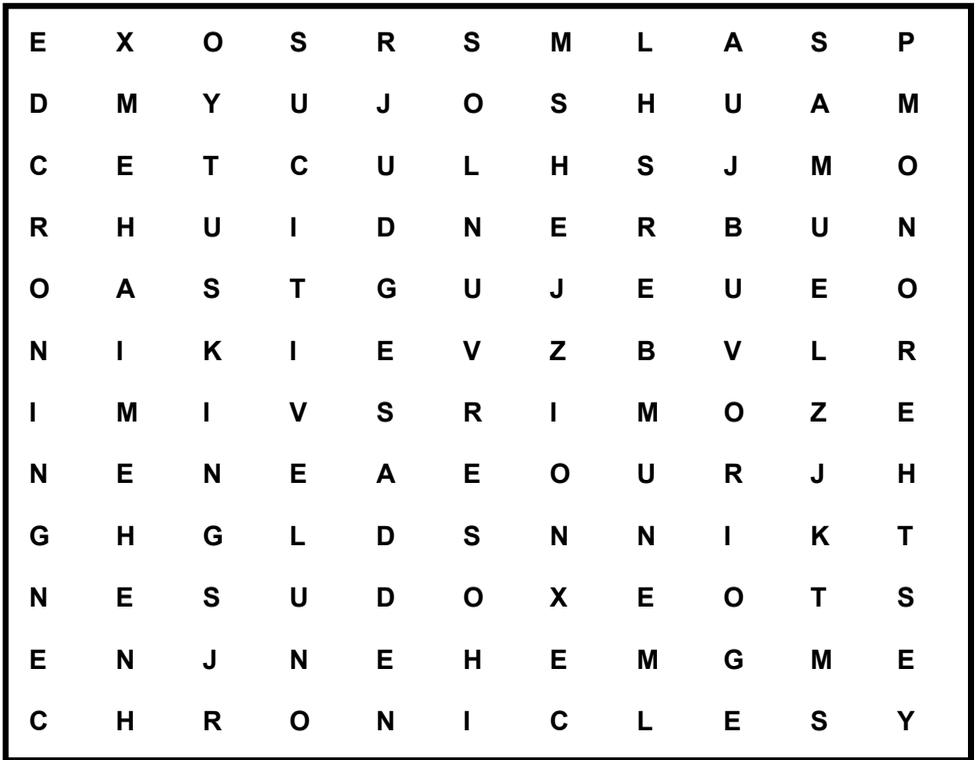
If anyone has one or more spare bibles in good condition can you please give them to Joan Harding by **9th May** and they will be taken to the Christian Resources Exhibition for Book Aid to help meet the needs of areas in Africa.

PUZZLE CORNER



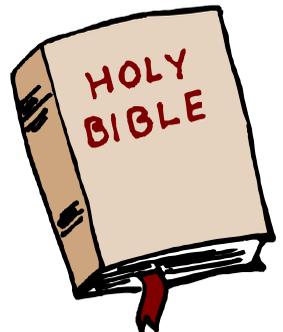
BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Here are the first books of the Bible. Can you find them in the word grid? They may be written vertically, horizontally, backwards or forwards, and even diagonally!



GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY
JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH

SAMUEL
KINGS
CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER
JOB
PSALMS



THOUGHT OF THE MONTH MAY 2006



Recently I arrived full circle back to the hip replacement specialist I first saw over a year ago. I had “done the rounds” of various hospitals seeing a number of people on the way. My last appointment was merely to confirm what I had already realised - that I could not have the hip operation because of my heart condition.

But that set me thinking. All of us have a heart condition, don't we? Think of all the adjectives we use - hard hearted, soft hearted, open hearted, mean hearted, faint hearted, down hearted, heavy hearted and I expect you could add more to that list!

There is a Charles Wesley hymn (number 536 in Hymns and Psalms) which begins

*O for a heart to praise God,
A heart from sin set free*

Each verse talks of the heart -

*A heart resigned, submissive, meek
A humble, lowly, contrite heart
A heart in every thought renewed.*

Yes, we all have a heart condition and we can all be heart surgeons, if only very junior ones. We can help strengthen the faint hearted by offering to share their burdens. We can help cheer up the down hearted because most of us have experienced that condition probably more than once. We can comfort the heavy hearted with a few sympathetic words or by a warm, friendly hug.

It may also be that we can look at our own hearts to see if anything needs changing there. We shall probably find that there is room for improvement.

There are other hymns which mention our hearts. They are worth thinking about. “*Give me joy in my heart, give me peace in my heart, give me love in my heart ...*”

We all need those. And then, of course, there's

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for thee.*

So, some homework for you this month. Look for mention of the heart in hymns and in passages of scripture, then ponder over what you find.

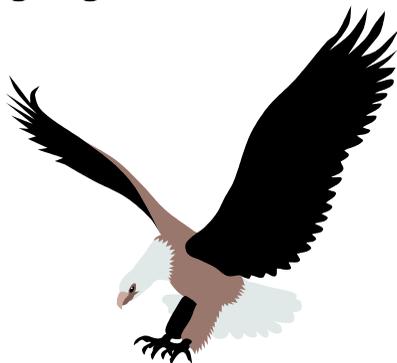
God Moves in Mysterious Ways

“In that beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was formless and empty. Darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” (Gen. 1:1-2)

The other Sunday was the third in our new item on the worship menu that we now call praise service. In January we looked at ‘who God is’ concentrating on The Father. February one was on ‘what God speaks’ i.e. The Word or Jesus the Son and the last one was on ‘the God who moves’ looking at the Holy Spirit. There are four distinct images in the Bible to describe the Holy Spirit i.e. Hovering eagle - Gen 1:1-2, Deut 32:10-12, Flying Dove – Matthew 3:16-17, Blowing Wind – Acts 2:1-2 and Burning Fire – Acts 2:3. On popular demand from the editor I will do a series of these images for the next few editions of the Newsletter.

Holy Spirit as the Hovering, Brooding Eagle

One poet of the twelfth century wrote,
The Holy Spirit is life that gives life,
Moving all things,
It is the root in every creature,
And purifies all things,
Wiping away sins, anointing wounds,
It is radiant life, worthy of praise,
Awakening and enlivening all things.



As the life that gives life, the Spirit is the central actor in the very first verse of the Bible: “In the beginning” we read, “the Spirit was hovering over the waters.” Older translations use the word brood; the Spirit is brooding over the waters of chaos. What is the Spirit doing when it hovers or broods? And what relevance does this have to our own individual lives? When one broods, one ponders and thinks. One also broods offspring. To brood is to sit on and hatch as a mother hen does. To brood is to protect and to produce and to ponder and to think; all wonderful images of the power of Creation when all is darkness and scary and empty and unformed.

In its attempt to explain this concept my reference Bible referred me to Deuteronomy 32:10-11 which reads, “He found them in a desert land, in an empty, howling wasteland. He surrounded them and watched over them; he guarded them as his most precious possession. Like an eagle that rouses her chicks and hovers over her young, so he spread his wings to take them in and carried them aloft on his pinions.”

Ah! And now it made some sense: to make it personal, we have to think about the formlessness and emptiness that can happen in our own lives. To make it personal we have to remember those times in which everything seemed pretty chaotic. Though we were never aware of any Spirit hovering over us; protecting and pondering how to help us to bring order out of chaos, that Spirit of God was there, and is there, every time the darkness of our lives threatens to take over the creation of our lives. The Holy Spirit, the third person in the Godhead finds us in our deserts, our difficult times, nurses us back to life and teaches us how to fly again.

The Holy Spirit is the life that gives life. It is that invisible, often unknowable, force in our lives that helps us to become more alive to ourselves and to others. As the poet said The Holy Spirit “is the root in every creature.” What a wonderful image: The Holy Spirit as the root of you and me and our friends and families and neighbours. What a universal image this is; the root in every creature. Not the root of just a few. Not the root of those in power. Not the root of Christians or Muslims or Jews only, but the root of every creature.

When Christians celebrate the full manifestation of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost they are celebrating a powerful point of beginning. It’s a day of new beginnings in our lives and in the life of Christ Church and in the life of the universal church and of the world. We are invited by the Spirit today to understand our rootedness in a way that will bring us new life. Once a human being understands that he or she is rooted in something eternal like the Holy Spirit, all the other paradigms of one’s life are subordinate.

And there is something more in this image. One of the jobs of the mother hen or mother eagle is to clean up the chicks. Whenever they

are together, the mother will constantly put her beak on the feathers of the young ones to comb them and remove the unwanted feathers. Then the cleansed chick flips its wings to pour the dirty parts and announce to the world, “I am pure!” Another area is the art of flying. In its struggles the baby chick makes numerous mistakes. Sometimes it wounds itself and is extremely discouraged. This image tells us that gently the mother helps it out and encourages it to continue on this journey.

The Holy Spirit is our Mother Eagle. Making things pure is a big part of the Holy Spirit’s hovering and brooding. It is the function of the Holy Spirit, that root that is within us, that brooder who broods with us as we try to right the wrongs in our life, which actually enables us to move toward forgiveness in our lives. He teaches us to fly the Christian wings. He cleanses us and nudges us on. The Church doesn’t purify all things; the Holy Spirit of God purifies all things. Psychoanalysis doesn’t purify all things, the power of God purifies all things and this power, the power to purify, is our root.

How often do we let the Spirit do its work within us? This is where we have to do the grown-up working of deciding what place faith is going to have in our lives. One of the things that continually surprises me in life as I try to grow up, is how much the spiritual life cannot be taken for granted. The Spirit insists on conscious faith choices; of conscious free will decisions to sit in prayer, or to really believe something Jesus said. The Spirit is polite; it hovers; it broods. It protects and waits while we decided whether or not we can lead our lives as fully as we want to without the Spirit in them. It’s really up to us. But once that decision is made, no matter how quietly, or how tentatively, once we but open the inner door a crack, our wounds will be anointed and healed in ways that we can never imagine.

It is the power of the Holy Spirit rooted in our hearts that enables us to be freed of our own experiences of oppression, criticism, hatred, prejudice, envy, grief, jealousy, abuse, and addiction.

Just as “In the Beginning”, the Spirit hovered over the waters of darkness, so in the beginning of our own spiritual re-births, the Spirit hovers over the deepest and darkest parts of ourselves waiting, waiting,

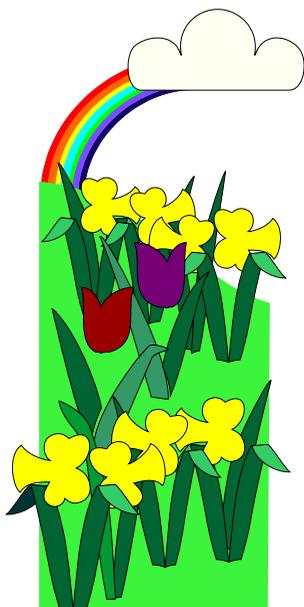
hovering and brooding, waiting, waiting....waiting; waiting for us simply to decide.

Remember that song, “We all need somebody to lean on?” If you haven’t yet made up your mind about asking the power of the Holy Spirit into your life, today’s the day you can do it. He is not a threat but a help, a friend in our desert times.

John Nyota

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FLOWER FESTIVAL



Christ Church with St Philip, Worcester Park is holding a Flower Festival at the church over the weekend of 20th/21st May. Radio Jackie will be there to open the event at 10am on the Saturday and will be broadcasting from the church for a time on the day. The festival will continue on Sunday at 11am after the morning service.

The Festival will be a celebration of the church’s role in the community with all the associations linked to the church taking part along with the local schools. There will be refreshments available throughout the two days and there will be other events and attractions including a ‘Sponsored Toddle’ for the children’s charity: Barnardo’s and the Future Links project.

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Christian  Aid

CHRISTIAN AID week commences on 14th May 2006

If you could/would like to help with the door-to-door collection please see Tony Loft. **The more helpers the easier the task!**

At the end of Christian Aid week on Sunday 21st May is the sponsored walk around London. Tony and several others will be walking – if you would like either to join them or sponsor them please let Tony know.

A LETTER FROM JOHN SWARBRICK

THE CHAIR LONDON SOUTH-WEST DISTRICT



Dear Friends

The final Synod of the London South-West District was held at Central Hall on Saturday, 8th April. Several people referred to it as my ‘swan song’—which, given the recent news of swans infected with the H5N1 strain of avian flu being washed ashore on the east coast of Scotland, suddenly sounded rather grisly. But that says more about the way my mind works than it does about those who said it with genuine affection, but also a certain sadness. For it was not only ‘my’ swan song, but the swan song of all those who were present, members of Synod and visitors alike. It was a farewell celebrated in the dying months of the District’s life and a recognition that many networks of friendship, collegueship and mutual interest, built up over many years, were now to be broken. There is bound to be sadness in all that.

It is therefore appropriate for me, as I prepare to embark on my sabbatical on 1st May and then to move to my new appointment in the Harrow and Hillingdon circuit from next September, to express my gratitude to many people. First, to all the people in the circuits and churches of the District who have entrusted me with the role of the District Chair since 2002. May I thank you for your support and your prayers and the many ways in which we have collaborated in mission, ministry, worship and pastoral care over the last four years. Secondly, there are some particular people to thank: the Synod Secretary, The Revd David Chapman, and my Deputy Chairs, The Revd Jenny Impey and The Revd Sheila Foreman, who have been such splendid colleagues. These three will be holding the fort during the period of my sabbatical from 1st May to 31st July, but I hope you will remember that they are busy circuit ministers and only call upon them when absolutely necessary. Then there are all the District officers, lay and ordained, who voluntarily give of their time and service to enable the District to facilitate the life and mission of our twenty-eight circuits.

Last, but by no means least, there is my PA, Margaret Watts. As many of you will know, Margaret worked for my predecessor, The Revd

Martin Broadbent, and will continue to serve for some time ahead as PA to the Chair-designate of the South-East District, The Revd John Hellyer, and as District Administrator. Over the years, she has drawn on her knowledge of Methodism and her experience of the District and been a superb PA; and I pay tribute here to Margaret's skill, professionalism and support, without which I simply would not have been able to be the Chair of this District. (To take only one tiny example, this letter only appears in your church or circuit magazine, not because I write it, but because Margaret arranges its distribution electronically or by 'snail mail'.)

What of the future? We and the three other London Districts have supported and prepared for the changes that will come into effect across the region next September. May I ask for your prayers and support for:

- the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District and its Chair-designate, The Revd Anne Brown;
- the London District, its Lead Chair-designate, The Revd Erial Kirby, and Co-Chairs-designate, The Revd Jenny Impey and The Revd Dr Stuart Jordan; and
- the South-East District, its Chair-designate, The Revd John Hellyer, and Assistant Chairs-designate, The Revd Sheila Foreman, The Revd Dr Emmanuel Jacob and The Revd Peter Neatham.

. . . and don't forget a little-noticed change, as Gerrards Cross and Denham churches, formerly in the Hillingdon circuit, become part of the Amersham circuit in the Northampton District.

Reorganized structures do not by themselves bring the kingdom of God nearer. Only a fool would believe that. But with imagination and creativity, I hope that these changes will release new energy for mission and ministry across the circuits and churches of the region and enable the Gospel to be proclaimed and embodied in new and attractive ways.

I have a 'bedrock' text which is, for me, a test for all that we seek to do in our worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism. Does it

fulfil the promise of the words of Jesus in John 10: 10?

*I have come that they may have life,
and may have it in all its fullness.*

If the answer is 'yes', then the changes for which so many have worked in recent years will have been worthwhile.

May God continue to bless you in all that you are and all that you do.

Best wishes,

Yours ever,



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**WHAT IS FAIRTRADE?
In each Newsletter we have been giving
Fairtrade Recipes, but what is Fairtrade?**

FAIRTRADE is an independent consumer label which appears on products as an independent guarantee that disadvantaged producers in the developing world are getting a better deal.

For a product to display the FAIRTRADE Mark it must meet international Fairtrade standards. These standards are set by the international certification body Fairtrade Labelling Organisation International (FLO).

Producer organisations that supply Fairtrade products are inspected and certified by FLO. They receive a minimum price that covers the cost of sustainable production and an extra premium that is invested in social or economic development projects.

Development agencies recognised the important role that consumers could play to improve the situation for producers. By buying direct from farmers at better prices, helping to strengthen their organisations and marketing their produce directly through their own one world shops and catalogues, the charities offered consumers the opportunity to buy products which were bought on the basis of a fair trade.



FAIRTRADE RECIPES

Fairtrade Banana Fritters with Bitter Chocolate Sauce

By Gary Rhodes

Serves 4

Banana Fritters

300ml (10fl oz) sweet cider
120g (4oz) plain flour plus a little extra for
coating
35g (1oz) caster sugar
4 Fairtrade bananas, peeled
vegetable oil for deep frying



To make the fritter batter, mix the cider, flour and sugar together. Cut each of the bananas horizontally into 4 lengths and lightly flour each piece. Dip them in the batter and deep fry in hot oil for about 5 minutes until golden and crispy. Drain well.

To serve, place the fritters on a plate and pour the chocolate sauce next to them. Alternatively serve the chocolate sauce separately and decorate the fritters with a sprig of mint.

Bitter Chocolate sauce

300g (10oz) Fairtrade bitter dark chocolate, chopped
150g (5oz) unsalted butter
75ml (3fl oz) double cream

Place all of the ingredients together in a bowl over simmering water until the chocolate has completely melted. This sauce must be served warm.

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To find out more about Fairtrade or other recipes you can
always visit the Fairtrade Website at
www.fairtrade.org.uk

CHURCH DIARY FOR MAY

Mon	1	2.45 pm	No Fellowship - Bank Holiday
Tue	2	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	3	7.45 pm	Midways Group – <i>Mouth & Foot Painting Artists</i> R Cooper
Fri	5	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	6	10-12noon	Midway's Jumble Sale - Proceeds to church funds
		7.30pm	'Spring Voices' Concert at St Mary's, Merton Park
Sun	7	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Brenda Cannon
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
Mon	8	2.45 pm	Fellowship
Tue	9	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thur	11	8.00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sun	14		Start of Christian Aid Week
		10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev John Nyota
Mon	15	2.45 pm	Fellowship
Tue	16	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club – <i>Taxi!</i> - Roy Ellis
Weds	17	7.45 pm	Midways Group – <i>Members Evening</i>
Thur	18	8.00 pm	Pastoral Committee Meeting
Fri	19	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	20	10.00am	'Flower Festival' at Christ Church with St Philip, Worcester Park
Sun	21	10.30 am	Praise Service led by Rev John Nyota
			Christian Aid Sponsored Walk
		11.00am	'Flower Festival' at Christ Church with St Philip, Worcester Park

Mon 22	3.45 pm	Fellowship
Tue 23	10-12 pm	Coffee and Chat
	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun 28	10.30 am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
Mon 29	2.45 pm	No Fellowship - Bank Holiday
Tue 30	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds31	10.30 am	Morning Communion led by Rev John Nyota
	7.45 pm	Midways Group – <i>Annual General Meeting</i>

Please refer to the Website (www.martinway.org.uk) or Weekly Notice Sheet for any additional information

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We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday this month
a very

Happy Birthday

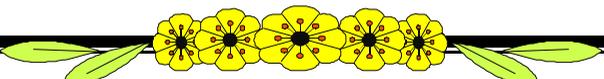
and especially to:

James Smith on 18th May

Alex Pallister on 19th May

Sherie Nyota on 24th May




“SPRING VOICES”

Christian Care invite you to a “Spring Voices” Concert
at St. Mary the Virgin, Church Path, Merton Park
on Saturday 6th May

Tickets are available in advance from Gwen Wildman
at a cost of £6 or they can be purchased on the door.

Your Help Is Needed!!

Please if anyone is able to help with any of the following jobs, speak to a Church Steward. They will also be able to tell you more about the job or direct you to someone who does.

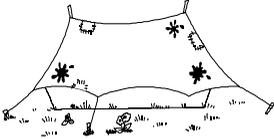
- Church Steward
- Communion Steward
- Welcome Team
(Helping on the door Sunday mornings)
 - Car Rota
- Counting Collection Money
 - Coffee Rota

These jobs are very important and with your extra help it will make such a difference

SWANAGE!

Once again our **CHURCH CAMP** at Swanage will be happening later on this year. Dates that have booked are from 22th to 29th July.

Anyone wishing to go please see Janet or Bob Hamblin for more details.



ROTA HELP NEEDED

I wanted to write and thank everyone for all your help when I devise the quarterly rota. Due to the fact I am getting married in September I will be unable to do my job for the October-December rota.

I am asking if anyone would **PLEASE OFFER** to do this job for just the Oct-Dec rota [I'm NOT giving up my job!]. Please come and see me if you feel you can help me - thank you

Abby Loft [8543 9093]

Items for the **June Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@aol.com) by **Sunday 21st May** at the latest