

MINISTER'S LETTER

‘Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice!’ says the Psalmist (130.1-2). I have not heard or seen this quoted during the time the Chilean miners were in the headlines, but it could easily have been used.



The incredible story of the plight and rescue of the thirty-three Chilean miners trapped underground for sixty nine days has captured the imaginations of people all around the world. On one level we have been amazed by the incredible feat of engineering that remarkably brought these people back from the depths of the earth and from near certain death. But on another and more profound level, I think, we've been deeply touched by the ability of the miners, their families and rescue workers to hold on in hope when all hope seemed lost, and to hold on in love of and for those closest to them.

Let us not fool ourselves into thinking that survival was always a certainty for these men. Such stories do not usually end this way. As I write there have been miners killed and others trapped following an explosion at a coal mine in China's central Henan province. Given that two thousand six hundred miners died in China last year, the chances of survival for those trapped look very slim indeed. Granted this is a different country with a different set of problems, but it does illustrate that mining is a dangerous occupation and that stories of mining disasters rarely have happy endings. The story from Chile is indeed remarkable.

And seeing those wonderful moments of reunion and embrace, as one-by-one the miners emerged from the capsule, we have wept because deep down this is a powerful human story that we can connect with. Not because the majority of us know what it is like to be trapped six hundred and twenty two metres underground, but because this story reminds us what is most important in life: the love we share. No-one who witnessed these scenes of joy - including the millions of us who

watched events unfold on our television screens - will ever forget them. This has become a shared, global story and one that will be passed down from generation to generation with good reason. We simply cannot keep stories this good to ourselves: we are duty bound to share them, indeed, we feel compelled to share them.

Stories are important to us. They play an important part in all of our lives: they help to shape us by teaching us things and they remind us what the most important things in life are. On our journeys through life stories teach us things when we are starting out, call us back when we have lost our way and beckon us forward to new and better and often gentler and more loving ways of living.

This story of 'the thirty three' has had this effect, I think. It has issued a reminder of what really matters. Call it faith and family if you like or love of God and of other human beings, but the stories of these men, their families and their rescuers have done much to restore faith in human nature. Some have even begun to speak of this event as being a counterpoint to 9/11 and the attack on the World Trade Centre. However we interpret the event, and whatever happens to these miners in future, we have been drawn to this human story and drawn together by it. Not only that but God has, once again, been reintroduced to public discourse.

Whilst we need to exercise some caution before embracing fully some of the things that have been said about God by a number of the miners and many of their family members*, it has certainly been highly refreshing to hear God being spoken about in such natural and positive terms by these people and for the media to be duty bound to report what has been said.

What we cannot do is deny the fact that when these people cried out to God, they experienced God as being real and present with them. There are so many good things about this story and so much to celebrate. In a world that too frequently focuses on bad news, too readily dismisses the deeply held beliefs of others with ridicule and too often puts money before people, this story has spoken of other ways and possibilities and

has been deeply refreshing as a result.

When President Sebastian Pinera spoke of a 'magical night' in which 'life defeated death' and 'hope defeated anguish', he chose his words carefully. His words echoed with the language of the scriptures and it was good to hear such a message on the world stage. More importantly, it is good to know that, when all seemed lost, a group of Chilean miners - whom many would have written off or given up on - experienced this message as reality.

That, I would suggest, should offer hope and reassurance to us all.

With every blessing

Paul

** NB/ I sound the note of caution simply because I think we need to be very careful about claiming that God intervened directly in this situation when so many miners have died and are still dying in China. What would such claims say about God? That God would intervene in one place but not another? That God prefers Chileans to the Chinese? We always need to think through the implications of our claims before making them.*

Paul

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Harvest Fare 2010

The Harvest Fare saw many new faces from the neighbourhood come in to join us in purchasing our freshly grown produce, books and craft items as well as enjoying a Big-Brunch style lunch. We raised approximately £800 over the weekend, split between the Spires charity for the homeless, the Spring Harvest Fund for taking youngsters to the event in 2011 and church funds. A hamper of dry goods and toiletries was also donated to Spires.

Calling all online shoppers...



Do you ever buy anything internet shops? Are you hoping to avoid the crowds this Christmas by doing lots of your shopping online? If so, read on, as just 30 seconds of your time while shopping could help to raise money for the Wimbledon Circuit's official charity, MCW Rafiki Trust.

All you need to do is shop online through our charity's webshop www.buy.at/rafiki and the retailer will make a contribution to Rafiki Trust, usually a percentage of what you spend. It won't cost you a penny, you don't need to enter any personal details, and best of all there

Amazon	JJB Sports
Asda	Littlewoods
Additions Direct	Marks & Spencer
Carphone Warehouse	Play.com
Ernest Jones	Sendit
Ethical Superstore	Thorntons
Expedia	Waterstones
Game	Woolworths
H Samuel	Zavvi

are over a hundred well-known shops that are part of the scheme including:

It's simple to do:

Open the webpage www.buy.at/rafiki (you can always add it to your favourites list)

Search for an online shop using the "A-Z list" or "By category" to see if your favourite shop is part of the scheme. Once you've

found the shop you want from the list, just click on the “Visit Store” button

(Or if your favourite shop’s logo is featured on the Rafiki webstore’s home page, save time by just clicking on that).

The shop’s website will then open in a new window ready for you to browse and make purchases as usual.

Repeat the process for each different website that you visit.

When you complete your transaction, the money will be donated automatically to MCW Rafiki Trust and as such go directly to help children and young people in Kenya. You don’t need to do anything else and there won’t be any special notification. All that matters is that you complete your purchase in the same window that opened when you clicked on the link from the www.buy.at/rafiki website.

MCW Rafiki Trust is the Wimbledon Methodist Circuit’s official charity which offers financial assistance in the education of poor and orphaned children and the further education of adolescents and adults in Kenya. Find out more about us by visiting our website www.rafikitrust.org.uk or by speaking to a Rafiki trustee.

Merry Christmas and Thank You From The Rafiki Trustees

Valerie Ashcroft, Anthony & Rachel Ellis,

Dawn Downes, Rev John Nyota





Lantern
Theatre Company



Big News in Bethlehem

Bethlehem TV interview Frank, who's just won Best Inn in Bethlehem but it's a boring story. Meanwhile, the angels are disappointed their big plans for the Son of God arriving on Earth have been ignored by God, who intends to send him as a boring baby.

What none of them realise is that the Big News is happening under their noses, in a dirty stable, watched over by Ted the Tramp.

**Thursday 16th December
6.30pm**

**Lantern Arts Centre
Tickets £5 (Children £3)**

A Christmas treat for all ages!

Tolverne Road, Raynes Park SW20 8RA
020 8944 5794 iac@lanternarts.org



HARVEST FARE PHOTO COMPETITION

A great many thanks to all those who entered this closely judged Harvest Fare Photo Competition. It was hard work but someone had to do it and spend time looking at wonderful collection of photographs taken while on holiday. Congratulations to the winners of both classes and well done to the Runners-up and all those who entered.

Mike Mortley and Colin Smith

Junior Class Winner



Seal it with a Kiss

by

Celia Johnson

Junior Class Runner-up



Busy Bee

by

Phoebe Pallister

Senior Class Winner



Sandscape
by
AnneMarie Pallister

Senior Class Runner-Up



Through the Arched Door

by

AnneMarie Pallister

ONE BIG FAMILY

Sunday 3rd October ~ 3.00-8.00pm



A clan of glue-sticks, a fleet of plastic boats, reams of paper, reams of card, a tribe of gingerbread people, a drift of glitter, a mass of clay, an abundance of stickers, a bank of sand, a vat of paint, a regiment of felt pens, a myriad of stars, an army of sausages, a mountain of potatoes and an iceberg of ice cream. Months in the planning, pounds in the ordering, hours in the executing but would the people come?

The people came. On Sunday October 3rd, we celebrated in style that at Martin Way Church, whatever we do there, whenever in the week, we are part of **One Big Family**.



With a smorgasbord of activities available to experience and attempt, everyone who came found something to engross them and after two hours, still had more left to do. The rooms were filled with

happy chatter, enthusiastic creativity and cheerful friendliness. We met in church to share our endeavours, hear a story and say thank-you to God. As we exited we could smell sausages sizzling and we were not disappointed!





And for those of us able to stay into the evening, we relaxed into the capable hands of Tongues of Fire, lit by starlight, soothed by smooth melodies, amused by the fire fairies dancing with their glow sticks.

Well done everyone. We did good! And if you missed it, well, next time you know where to be....

Rebecca Timmis



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Platform 10³/₄ are organising the shoebox appeal for the Samaritans Purse this year. This is an organisation that sends shoe boxes full of toys to children all over the world who will not receive a present for Christmas. This year we are asking for presents such as:

- Small Toys; bears, soft toys, tennis ball, finger puppets, small jigsaws, yo-yo's, building blocks, small musical instrument, trucks or cars, dolls, etc.
- Educational Supplies; felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, colouring book, notepad, picture or puzzle books, chalk, pencil case, stickers, etc
- Hygiene Items; toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel, etc
- Other Items; sweets (sell by date to be at least March 2010), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklace, clip-on earrings, etc.
- Knitted Items; hats, scarves, hand puppets (patterns can be found at www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk)

Please do not put in;

Food - especially chocolate

Liquids

Medicine or Vitamins of any kind

Dangerous Items

Any books with writing in

War related items

Clothing (other than listed above)
ture

Anything of a political na-

Fragile items - such as glass containers, mirrors

Hand knitted stuffed toys without the CE mark

There will be two large boxes situated in the Church vestibule or the store, please could you contribute anything that's new or nearly new. All donations must be given in by the 14th November.

CHURCH DIARY



Tue	2	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	3	7.00 pm	Midways Group - <i>Impressionism and Poetry</i> - Brian and Irene Goldsmith
Sun	7	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	9	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	12	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	13	10am-1pm	Big Brunch
Sun	14	10.30 am	Remembrance Sunday Service led by Rev Margaret Adams
Tue	16	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Jazz UK</i> - Mike Mortley
Weds	17	7.00 pm	Midways Group - <i>Christian Care</i> – Sylvia Baxter
Sun	21	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	23	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	26	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	28	10.30am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30 pm	Healing Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	30	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

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

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

Happy Birthday

and especially to:



Jennifer & Rosemary Fernando
on **6th November**
Megan Sweby on **7th November**
Jack Pallister on **9th November**
Jacob Passfield on **27th November**

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PUZZLE CORNER

Answer for
last month's
Crossword



COFFEE AND CHAT



Coffee and chat are pleased that two people have volunteered to share the pleasant task of staffing the Tuesday Morning gatherings. Ideally we need a rota of at least three or four people so any additional volunteers would be very welcome.

We will now be able to stay open until at least the Spring. Any further offers of help or for additional information please speak either to myself or John Butland.

Rosemary Keen

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FAITH IS MOVING

Following the decision of Rev Faith Nyota to move in August 2011, it has been decided the Rev Margaret Adams will transfer to assume pastoral responsibility for Wimbledon and Raynes Park churches with effect from 1st September 2011.

The new minister who we hope to recruit via this year's stationing process will assume pastoral responsibility for Ruxley and Stoneleigh churches.

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The vocation of every man and woman
is to serve other people.

Count Leo Tolstoy

Items for the **December Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 22nd November** at the latest