

## MINISTER'S LETTER



Some new glasses arrived for me recently – glasses to see through that is, not glasses to drink from – and, not surprisingly, I was anxious to put them on and try them out straight away. What I hadn't anticipated when I paid for them, however, was that they'd cause such a stir in our household.

For one thing, both daughters immediately expressed great displeasure that Daddy now looked different and insisted that I take the new glasses off and put the old ones back on.

More shocking, perhaps, was the fact that suddenly I could see things that I hadn't been able to see previously – and had been unaware that I hadn't been able to see previously. It was unnerving. I could see, for example, that the carpet in my study was in urgent need of vacuuming, that my bookshelves needed a dust and that a cobweb was hanging from the ceiling not far from where I regularly sit at the computer. As I say, it was all most unnerving – I could see that there were things here that I needed to address. Maybe the girls had a point after all: perhaps life was better when viewed through the old lenses.

But I jest. Being able to see things clearly – and as if for the first time – is a life-transforming experience. The world looks a far more vibrant, vivid and vital place now that I'm able to look at it through refreshed eyes.

For those of us who've grown up with the Jesus story and/or have become more than familiar with it over many years, it is difficult to look at it afresh. Instead the temptation, whenever we read the Bible (or hear it read to us) is to switch off and assume that we know both where the story is going and the point that it is trying to make.

In the most recent edition of the Bible Society's *The Bible in Transmission* magazine, Dr Paula Gooder speaks of the need for us to 'savour the text' and explains how she translates a passage from scratch in order that she might do this more effectively.

‘No matter how hard one tries’, she writes, ‘it is very difficult to read the Bible slowly and carefully, especially if we already know the passage. It is all too easy to skip ahead, knowing what the text says and supplying the details we know to exist, without actually reading the text itself.’ She goes on to say how reading in another language slows her down and demands that she pay more attention to detail.

Not everyone can read Hebrew or New Testament Greek, of course, and I’m certainly not going to suggest that we should all start to do so now - at theological college I frequently used to wake up in the night in a cold sweat worrying about Greek. We can though, I think, all commit ourselves to *trying* to ‘savour the text’ rather more than perhaps we currently do.

On the top of the circuit preaching plan, and indeed on the church website, the lectionary readings for the forthcoming Sunday are given. If, at the start of each week, we could read the readings set for the following Sunday (or at least the gospel reading) - once aloud and once silently - and then seek to do so again on each subsequent day of the week, I am convinced that not only would we all discover new things in the text but also that we’d approach Sundays with a greater sense of anticipation as we look forward to discovering how the same text has spoken to others. Do this and the sermon might become more interesting. Do this and conversation over coffee might never be the same again.

To truly engage with scripture will always be unnerving for such engagement will reveal things about our lives, our communities and our world that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. It’ll demand a change in us both individually and collectively. Ultimately, however, such engagement will enable us to see the world in all its God-given vibrancy, vividness and vitality and, in turn, it’ll call us to become part of God’s transforming work ourselves. One word of warning should perhaps be issued here though. Seeing things in a new way may not change us and transform us overnight. At the time of writing, only the cobweb has been addressed...

With every blessing

*Paul*

## **JOHN BUTLAND**

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of John Butland, a long time member, treasurer and friend of Martin Way. He died in the early hours of Tuesday, 13th September at St Raphael's Hospice surrounded by his family. He suffered from pancreatic cancer and had been under the care of the Hospice for some time.



His funeral was held in the afternoon of Friday, 23rd September at the NE Surrey Crematorium, Morden, where the following prayer was read. Afterwards everyone joined the family for a thanksgiving service of John's life at Martin Way Methodist church.

### ***To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me***

*When I am gone, release me, let go.  
I have so many things to see and do.  
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,  
be happy that we had so many years.*

*I gave you my love, you can only guess  
how much you gave to me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love you each have shown,  
but now it's time I travelled on alone.*

*So grieve a while for me if you must,  
then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It's only for a while that we must part,  
so keep the memories within your heart.*

*I won't be far away, for life goes on.  
So if you need me, call, and I will come.  
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near.  
And if you listen with your heart,  
you'll hear all of my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then, when you must come this way,  
I'll greet you with a smile, and say "WELCOME HOME."*

*Unfortunately Janet and Bob were unable to attend John's funeral and thanks giving service but here they reminisce about him.*

I don't remember a time when I did not know Jean and John, and by the time I was a teenager, largely because of Ann, they were friends. John always appeared to be the quieter of the two, in fact the first real conversation I had with him was when we met each other, hiding in the corridor, both trying to avoid a particularly jolly church social! However, under his reserved manner there was a gentle and kind man, with an excellent sense of humour and a strong personality. John believed in saying what he thought - anyone who has ever sat in a church meeting with him will be able to confirm that! – but that was part of his integrity, and we all grew to appreciate his honesty!

When Bob and I were married, our first and only armchairs were re-cycled from Jean and John, and they were among our first visitors in our new home – Jean and John, not the armchairs!

I don't think anyone would describe John as an athlete, but he must have done a marathon many times over as he walked up and down our hallway with one or the other of our sons on his shoulder, trying to get them to sleep. (I have to say in Peter's defence, that this was mostly Andy, who spent the first eighteen months of his life being sick and screaming alternately, but John took it all in his stride.)

John was a wonderful godfather to both the boys and as they grew up, he was definitely their number one uncle! He had endless patience and we all enjoyed Summer outings, shared meals and Christmas visits – which usually ended up with Stuart, Peter, Louise and Andy all squeezed into Jean's bath. Funnily enough, they are not keen on the photos these days!

They supported us in being parents and supported the boys in whatever they did. I can see John now, going to pay for his newspapers after church on Sunday morning and regularly returning with a bar of chocolate for two delighted little boys!

John was always neat and tidy and liked things to match. I remember

a conversation over lunch one day, when I was teasing him about how well co-ordinated his shirt, tie and pocket handkerchief were. Jean leant across the table and said very audibly, “Yes and his underpants match too!!”

Although John liked to have things in order, he was very willing to put those feelings aside. During the last few years, we have witnessed this first hand when he has returned home from staying with us with very strange cargo in his usually immaculate car in order to please Tyler. The first time it was particular specimens of rare fish in polythene bags, but the second was even better – two squawking hens all the way from South Devon to Cheam!

There are so many times I could recall, and I know everyone has their own memories. We will all treasure them! We have known and loved a very special person in John, and our lives are richer for that experience.

There is, however, one question to which Bob and I would like to know the answer. Do you think there is a back pew in heaven, and will God let John be comfortable in it?

*Janet Hamblin*

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## LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER

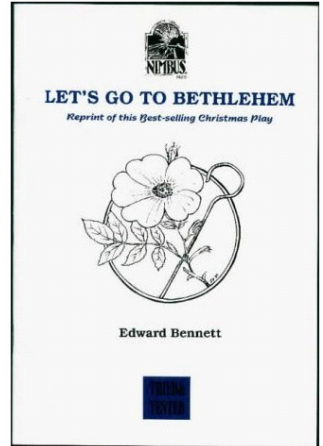
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- \* Memory was something that you lost with age
- \* An application was for employment
- \* A program was a TV show
- \* A cursor used profanity
- \* A keyboard was a piano
- \* A web was a spider's home
- \* A virus was the flu
- \* A CD was a bank account
- \* A hard drive was a long trip on the road
- \* A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
- \* And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy  
...you just hoped nobody found out



# **SIGMA CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION**

This years SIGMA Christmas production is called 'Lets Go To Bethlehem' by Edward Bennett. It is a production of three short plays. It will be on for one night only, which will be on Sunday 18th December at 8pm. This hopefully will give people in the circuit time to get across to Martin Way if they have their carol service that day.



We will be adding our own favourite Christmas songs and new ones to the production, so please book that date in your diaries now and join us on the 18th.

If you would like to take part in any way, either in the singing, acting, music or backstage we are rehearsing now every Sunday afternoon at Martin Way from 4pm until 5.30pm, you would be more than welcome to join us.

For more information please contact Anne Conquest.  
Tel no: (020) 8942 7147 or Email [aconquest@btinternet.com](mailto:aconquest@btinternet.com)

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## **BIG BRUNCH becomes BIG LUNCH**

Due to Saturdays being busy at the Church and with everyone who organise Big Brunch there will not be a one on October instead we are having a BIG LUNCH on Sunday 16th October lead by Scott Passfield and his team.

We will need to know rough numbers by Sunday 9th October to enable us to get the food, so Tickets will be on sale as of 25th September and the cost is only £6.50 for adults and £3.50 for under 10 year olds - this

is for a 2 course carvery - either Beef, Lamb or Vegetarian Option with all the trimmings and a pudding.

Then we will be having a Big Brunch on Saturday 5th November 10am till 1pm - full English breakfast for £4. All the money raised will go towards us taking some of the Platform 10¾ to Spring Harvest in April 2012.

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**THE ASSOCIATION OF  
DENOMINATIONAL  
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES  
& COGNATE LIBRARIES**

**Annual General Meeting and Lecture 2011**

Rwy'n amgau gwahoddiad i ddarlith gan yr Athro John Gwynfor Jones, MA ('The first Calvinistic Methodist ordination in Wales 1811') ar ddydd Iau 20 Hydref am 2 o'r gloch yn Lumen URC Church (Tavistock Place WC1).

We would like to invite you and your members to our Annual General Meeting and Lecture which will take place on Thursday October 20th 2011 at 2.00pm. in Lumen URC church (previously known as Regent Square URC church) at the junction of Tavistock Place and Regent Square, London. The nearest underground stations are Kings Cross or Russell Square. The address is 88 Tavistock Place WC1H 9RS.

We are looking forward to the lecture given by Rev'd. Professor John Gwynfor Jones entitled 'The first Calvinistic Methodist ordination in Wales 1811: The two hundredth anniversary of the secession of Welsh Calvinistic Methodists from the Anglican church'.

Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

*Pauline Johns*

# PANTOMIME

## 2013

Jack Pallister has been watching Panto's from past years at Martin Way Methodist Church and he has an idea! He wondered if we could put together a panto for **February 2013**. It is a long way off but we have to find a script (or get one written) and need lots of support - so we are just asking around to see who would be interested.

We need people to help;-

- Back stage
- Sound
- Advertising
- Be in the chorus
- Prompter
- Make-up
- Props
- Help on lighting
- Ticket sales
- Acting
- Band
- Refreshments
- Wardrobe
- Scenery

Bernard Doswell has offered to write a panto and co-produce/direct so we have started the ball rolling - now need to see who else would be interested. We already have 15 people who have said they would be happy to be in the panto or help backstage. If you think you can help in anyway please email Abby ([abbyloft@googlemail.com](mailto:abbyloft@googlemail.com)) or Jack ([just\\_jack\\_dance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:just_jack_dance@hotmail.co.uk)) and tell us how you think you can help or speak to us in person about it. Also if you know of anyone we haven't contacted or spoken to who might be interested please let us know or ask them for us.

Once we have found out who would be interested we will have a meeting to discuss which panto etc... in the New Year. So will be in touch nearer the time.

Please think about it - it is going to be lots of fun!

*Abby & Jack*





**B**

# Carvery Lunch at Martin Way

(choice of Beef, Lamb  
or vegetarian option)

**i**

**Sunday**

**16<sup>th</sup> October**

**From 12.30pm  
till 3pm**

**g**

**Two courses  
(Main & Pudding)**

**Adult £6.50**

**Under 10 £3.50**

**L**



**u**

**Served to you by  
Scott and helpers**

**All monies raised  
goes towards  
helping take  
Platform 10<sup>3/4</sup> to  
Spring Harvest**

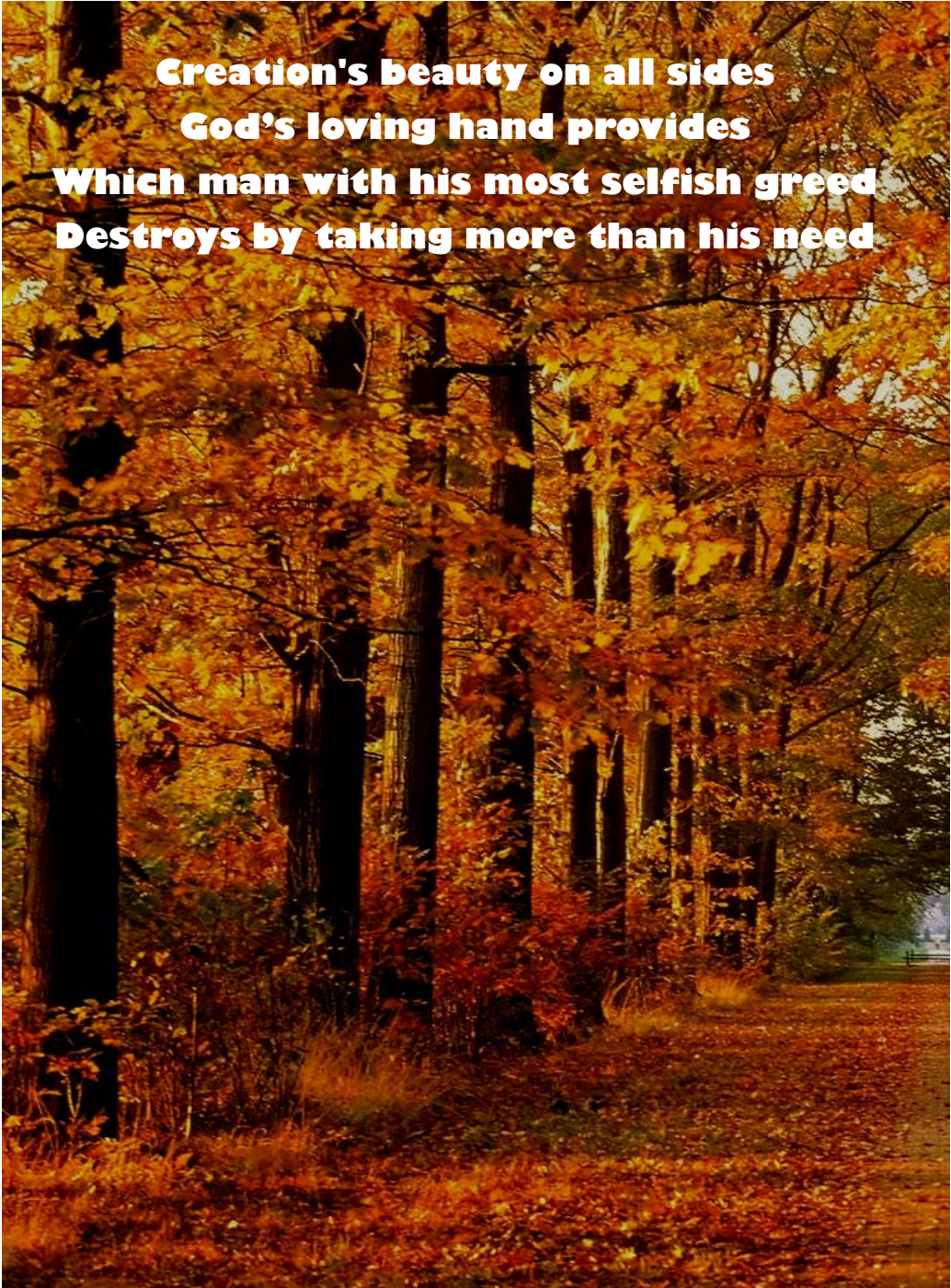
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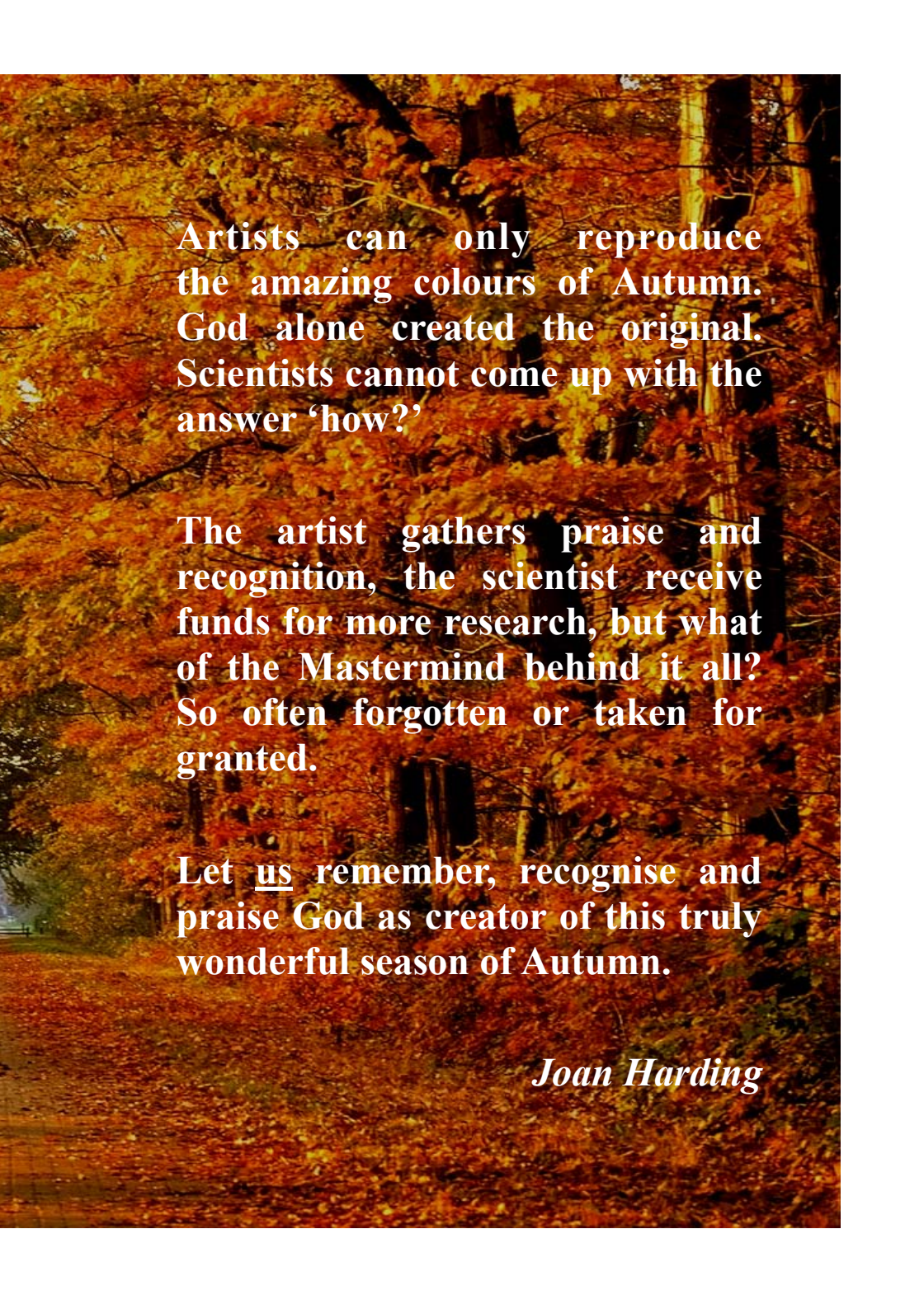
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**Tickets can be brought from  
Abby, Tony, Scott or any of the  
Platform 10<sup>3/4</sup> members.**

**h**

**Creation's beauty on all sides  
God's loving hand provides  
Which man with his most selfish greed  
Destroys by taking more than his need**





Artists can only reproduce  
the amazing colours of Autumn.  
God alone created the original.  
Scientists cannot come up with the  
answer 'how?'

The artist gathers praise and  
recognition, the scientist receive  
funds for more research, but what  
of the Mastermind behind it all?  
So often forgotten or taken for  
granted.

Let us remember, recognise and  
praise God as creator of this truly  
wonderful season of Autumn.

*Joan Harding*

# *Ready Steady Cook..*

## **NEW KITCHEN AT MARTIN WAY**



Top chefs will be trying to get in first through the door to use our brand new and shiny kitchen. The smart and modern looking cream glossy units with solid stainless steel door handles and soft closing doors and drawers should give years of functional service in what is now a busy kitchen. All the work surfaces are stainless steel. The new 6 burner cooker is called 'Vulcan', need I say more? The dishwasher is new, the microwave/grill is new and fridge and freezer are new, the



taps (with spray arm) and sinks are new and the floor is new – it's all new except for the wall tiles which are white! We shall be adding a new water heater to the list of new things to cope with the modern taps.

The kitchen project started earlier in the year when it was decided that the old kitchen was getting tired. Doors were starting to hang off, draws were falling off, worktops had bits missing along the edges and the cooker was at the end of its working life. We enlisted the services of Pat Bartlett with the brief that we wanted a wooden kitchen with stainless steel surfaces and commercial grade fittings and appliances. The end result is a pleasing balance of good clean looks with practical light commercial functionality. So our thanks must go to Pat for all his work both in research and advice to the installation itself during August 2011. Naturally it goes without saying that should anyone be interested in his services we can give a full recommendation (Pat Bartlett can be contacted on 07956 284166).

It should also be mentioned that this kitchen has not come without a significant cost of nearly £35K and this has been funded completely by the church building fund so far. If anyone is in a position to contribute in any way to towards this outlay then that would be greatly appreciated. Roy Ellis (newly appointed Treasurer) would be the one to approach on this matter.

I would also like to thank the 'Kitchen Refurb Team' for all their time and effort in making this project happen. The team are Sylvia Baxter, Anne Conquest, Tony Loft and Mike and Lesley Mortley. Also thanks to anyone else who helped move things around and who are still moving things around and getting used to a new kitchen!

*Colin Smith.*

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Strange how a good diner and feasting  
reconciles everybody.

*Samuel Pepys*



# **COFFEE AND CHAT**

Are you free on a Tuesday morning?

Looking for something to do?

**COME** and join us.

We meet in the Coffee Lounge on a Tuesday  
morning between

10.30 and 12.00.

**YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME**

If you feel you could help out occasionally by buying the milk and making the coffee we would love to hear from **you**.

*More hands make light work!*

Just have a word to Dennis, Fern, Rosemary or Sue



## **BEING ‘GREEN’ IS NOTHING NEW ..... IT SEEMS.....**

“In the checkout at the supermarket, the young girl cashier told the older woman that plastic bags weren’t good for the environment. The old woman apologised to her and explained, “We didn’t have the green thing back in my day.”

That’s right they didn’t have the green thing in her day. Back then they returned their milk bottles, pop bottles and beer bottles to the shop. The shop then sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, using the same bottles over and over again, So they really were recycled. But they didn’t have the green thing back in her day.

In her day they walked up stairs because they didn’t have an escalator in every shop and office building. They walked to the grocer’s shop and didn’t climb into a 150 horsepower machine every time they had to go 50 yards. But she’s right. They didn’t have the green thing in her day.

Back then they washed the baby’s nappies because they didn’t have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 1000 watts - wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand new clothing. But that old lady is right. They didn’t have the green thing back in her day.

Back then they had one TV or radio in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a dinner plate, not a screen the size of a barn door. In the kitchen they blended and stirred by hand because they didn’t have electric machines to do everything for you. When they packaged a fragile item to send it in the post, they used wadded up newspaper to cushion it, not polystyrene or plastic bubble wrap. Back then they didn’t fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn’t need to go to a health club to run on

treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right. They didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a water fountain when they were thirsty, instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled pens with ink, instead of buying a new pen and they replaced the blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then people took the bus or train and kids rode their bikes to school instead of turning their mums into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza parlour.

But that old lady is right. They didn't have the green thing back in her day."

*With thanks from the Evesham Methodist Church Magazine*

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The Christian CARE Association has urgent need of the following items of second hand furniture/household furnishings:

- ***Cot and Buggy for newborn baby girl***
- ***Gas Cooker with FSD***
- ***2 Washing Machines***
- ***Light [in weight and colour] Wardrobes and chest of drawers***
- ***Small sofa***
- ***Small 3 piece suite***
- ***2 girlie duvet covers and pillow cases***
- ***1 single duvet and pillow cases***

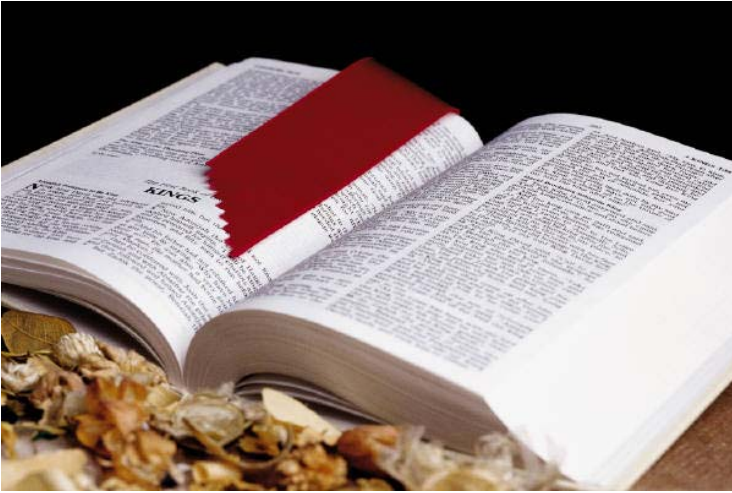


If you can help please phone 020 3044 0093  
or email [christiancaremeton@gmail.com](mailto:christiancaremeton@gmail.com)



**Churches Together in Merton Park**

# **The Good Book**



**A celebration of the Holy Bible  
through reading, music and prayer  
in the words of the King James Bible**

**At**

**St James Church Martin Way**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

**at 6pm**

**Retiring collection for the Bible Society**

# CHURCH DIARY



Sun	2	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Tony Loft & Brenda Cannon
Tue	4	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	9	10.30 am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	11	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	12	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>RSPB</i> - Janet Gilbert
Fri	14	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	16	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		12.30pm - 3pm	Big Lunch
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	18	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>My Sabbatical</i> - Rev Paul Timmis
Sun	23	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	25	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	28	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	30	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Margaret Adams

*Please refer to the Website ([www.martinway.org.uk](http://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 Smith on 13th October**

**Tyler Butland-Brooks on 26th October**

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**Silver Screen  
in Raynes Park**

The **Silver Screen** is a film club for the over 55's showing classic movies from the golden age of cinema.

So if you are interested in the golden years of film why not pop along to the **Lantern Arts Centre** in Tolverne Road, Raynes Park where entry to the club is free and includes tea and biscuits.

The Autumn programme is as follows:

**October:**

- Tues 11th How to marry a millionaire
- Tues 25th Singing in the rain

**November:**

- Tues 8th Brigadoon
- Tues 22nd On the town

Doors open at 2pm / all showings start at 2.30pm

*Established in 1994 and based at Raynes Park Methodist Church in South West London, the Lantern Arts Centre provides an Arts venue for the local community.*

# *2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Quiz*

*In aid of MCW  
Rafiki Trust*



*Saturday 22nd October 2011*

*At Wimbledon Methodist Church*

*6.30pm for 7pm start*

*Park free on local streets from 6.30pm*

*Tickets £5 including supper  
(vegetarian option available) and a raffle*

*Bring a team of up to 6 people  
or come and join a team on the night*

*Please let us know numbers by 17<sup>th</sup> Oct at the latest*

*Dawn Downes 020 85434774*

*Angela Linton-Smith [amls62@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:amls62@yahoo.co.uk)*

*Or by post to Angela or Dawn at  
Wimbledon Methodist Church  
Griffiths Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1SP*

Items for the **November Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,  
(email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 16th October** at the latest