

MINISTER'S LETTER



As some people at Martin Way are aware, I'm a huge fan of Bruce Springsteen. As far as I am concerned he is undoubtedly the greatest songwriter of his generation, so the promise of a new album or tour never fails to excite me. With tickets to next summer's Hyde Park concert already secured I'm now counting down the days until his new album, *Wrecking Ball*, drops through my letterbox in early March. Yesterday I received an e-mail informing me that it was possible to watch a video of one of the tracks from the forthcoming album. Needless to say, I immediately stopped what I was doing - printing voting papers for our Church Council's consideration of a proposed amendment to the wording of Clause 4 of the Deed of Union - and double-clicked on the link to watch the video of *We Take Care Of Our Own*.

Interestingly, the video came overlaid with the song's lyrics, lest anyone be left in any doubt as to the message that Bruce is seeking to convey. And I can see why this has been done. The song is heavily laced with irony that could be missed. It wouldn't be the first time. Springsteen's *Born in the USA* was widely misunderstood (and most famously so by Ronald Reagan during his 1984 Presidential campaign) to be a nationalistic anthem when in fact it offered a damning critique of US policies both at home and overseas. *We Take Care Of Our Own* seems to plough a similar furrow.

Anyway, as I was watching/listening, a couple of lines grabbed my attention:

*We yelled "help" but the Calvary stayed home
There ain't no-one hearing the bugle blown*

My first thought was that Bruce had made a mistake - that he should have written (and sung) *Cavalry* instead of *Calvary*. So I went back and listened to it again. And again. And again. And though I am more than aware that even Bruce can make mistakes (his theme song to the

film *The Wrestler* made reference to a ‘one-legged dog making his way down the street’!) the more I thought about it, the more I became convinced that his choice of words was deliberate, that he is playing with the words and the imagery to make a point about supposed core values and ways of living (self-sacrifice, non-violence, love etc.) not being lived out - even being betrayed - resulting in a failure to help or "save" others (not that I mean "save" in an overtly religious sense).

Later last night, after the Church Council meeting, I visited a Springsteen fans’ online message-board to see what others had made of these words. Opinion was divided - some called it an honest mistake and were adamant that he had in fact meant ‘Cavalry’, others believed ‘Calvary’ to be entirely deliberate. Until Bruce is challenged on it and/or speaks about it, we won’t know who has called it correctly but, in many ways, it doesn’t matter - both interpretations can make sense. And, in any case, whatever any writer has in mind frequently becomes almost meaningless once the words are opened up to and interpreted by someone else. Whenever we read something we do so through our own eyes and therefore make sense of it in the light of our own life experiences. My suspicion is that those Springsteen fans on the message board who have a faith of some description are more likely to make sense of the use of the word Calvary than those who do not - not necessarily because they understand more but because the word resonates in a different way with them.

I mention all of this for two reasons. Firstly, to illustrate that there is rarely one way of reading a text - so when someone says, for example, the meaning of a Biblical passage is self-evident, please don’t feel inferior and/or assume that you must be wrong if you understand it differently.

Secondly, to illustrate that words matter - and how we use words matters. You will then be delighted to learn that your Church Council overwhelmingly voted to approve the proposed changes to Clause 4 of the Deed of Union. If you were not aware, Conference has, ahead of next year’s conference, asked all District Synods, Circuit Meetings and Church Councils to consider and vote on the proposed changes which clarify that (in our official documents) by ‘minister’ we mean both

presbyters and deacons, so that, whilst acknowledging that there are differences between them, we show that we think both are equally valued ministries (for more information visit the website at <http://www.methodistconference.org.uk/southport-2011/2011-07-05/1400-pm/34-law-and-polity-committee-amendments-to-the-deed-of-union,-the-model-trusts-and-standing-orders>). Not as exciting as the prospect of a new Springsteen album and tour perhaps, but important nonetheless.

With every blessing,

Paul

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BIG BRUNCH

Once again we are running Big Brunch events this year to help us take the young people to Spring Harvest (a Christian festival held over Easter at Butlins Minehead). We have been fund raising by providing people with cooked breakfast at Big Brunch events over a number of years and they are very popular.



It is a friendly and relaxed atmosphere where people can come along for breakfast, brunch or lunch, so if you haven't been before why not give it a try and join us. Come along for a full cooked breakfast, a sandwich or if you just fancy some tea and toast. We will be happy to serve you.

Thanks to all those who have been along and continue to support us. Also Thank you to all those who help provide the cooked breakfast - from the cooks Mike and Tony, Scott who keeps us all organised and all the young people who help serve and clean up.

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED

Over the Christmas period collections were taken at the Gift Service, Morning Communion, Sigma performance, carol singing at Morden Station, Christingle, Midnight Communion and Christmas morning service. These were for Action for Children and Christian Care.

Additionally, donations were invited for Methodist Homes for the Aged from those using the church Christmas post box. Thanks are due to all those who took part in all the various activities and to those that gave their hard earned money.

The following donations will be going to the various charities:

<u>Total of £1259.77 Donation to Action for Children</u>	
Carol Singing at Morden Station	£ 561.00
Sigma Presentation of “Lets Go To Bethlehem”	£ 286.54
Christingle Service	£ 166.50
Collection at Christmas Day Service	£ 186.00
Midnight Communion Collection	£ 59.73

<u>Total of £250.00 Donation to Christian Care Children’s Party</u>	
Retirement Collections	£ 250.00

<u>Total of £114.00 Donation to Methodist Homes for the Aged</u>	
Christmas Post Box	£ 114.00

Roy Ellis

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ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

Valerie and I would like to thank everyone at Church for all their support and prayers over the Christmas period, following my operation. We have felt and greatly appreciated all the practical support, transport, visits and good wishes from everyone at Martin Way. I am making a good recovery.

Valerie and Graham Currie



FOOD COLLECTION

CHRISTIAN CARE ASSOCIATION

Christian CARE takes food and other items to families with little or no money, especially where we are concerned that children are at risk. This is a service that no other charity in the Borough seems to provide.

We try to respond to all appeals for help. Your gifts will help us support more needy families regularly. During April, Gwen Wildman will be arranging boxes as she did last year, to take any of the following that you may wish to donate.

*We prefer **vegetarian food with long sell-by dates.***

The following items are ***particularly needed:***

Rice – long grain
[not risotto or dessert] required
in large quantities

Pasta – favourites fusilli and shells

Pasta sauces – tomato, cheese

Spaghetti

Cooking oil

Biscuits – sweet, semi-sweet
[**not** savoury]

Cereals – cornflakes, krispies,
sugar puffs, cocopops, Readibrek

Fruit squashes

Fruit juices – eg tropical, mango,
papaya

Coffee - instant

Tea – ordinary in **small packs,**
[**not** speciality/herbal]

Sugar

Tinned vegetables – tomatoes, sweetcorn, peas, green beans

Tinned fruit – peaches, pineapple,

Tinned fish – tuna in brine/water

Tinned desserts – eg custard, rice

Treats – strawberry jam, chocolate spread, honey, crisps,
sweets, tomato ketchup

Lunch box items – small drinks cartons, raisins, dips, biscuit bars

Nappies –all sizes

Baby wipes, baby bath, baby lotion, baby talc, baby shampoo

We can ***rarely use:***

Soups, tins of spaghetti, marmalade, mushy peas, curry sauces,
tinned beans /pulses

Thank you for all your support in the past.

Gillian Thick

Latest news from the Methodist Church in Fiji

On 7 January 2012 the government in Fiji lifted the public emergency regulations which seriously restricted the activities of the Methodist Church there. However they were immediately replaced by a revised public order act.

This act means that the Methodist Church in Fiji is now allowed to apply for permission to hold meetings, rather than not even being allowed to apply. They are now trying to organise themselves as it has been three years since many Church meetings have been held.

The Revd Tevita Nawadra, the assistant general secretary of the Methodist Church in Fiji, has written to thank “our friends and partners who have shared our stories and given time to think and pray for the Church in Fiji; their prayers have been answered. May God bless them all. We still have a long way to go still, but it is starting anyway”.

Please continue to pray for the nation

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CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thank you to every one who used the ‘Christmas Post box ‘ this year. Also a great thanks to the ‘post people’ who between them sorted over 580 cards. In all £114 was raised through this to help the Methodist Homes for the Aged.



Epsom & Ewell and Sutton Friends Group

Local Co-ordinators
NICK AND KATHY HOLMES
121 Wickham Avenue
Cheam
Surrey
SM3 8EB
t 020 8644 2078
e nick.kathy@btinternet.com

Office contacts :
Mike Hay (Community
Fundraising Manager)
Sylvia La Porte

Shooting Star CHASE
Fundraising Office
Loseley Park
Guildford
Surrey GU3 1HG
t 01483 454212
f 01483 454214
w shootingstarhospice.org.uk
e info@shootingstarhospice.org.uk
t twitter.com/ss/hospices
f facebook.com/sshospices

Shooting Star Chase Hospice Care for Children and Teenagers
Registered Charity No 1042495

Tip Top TABLE TOP SALE

with CRAFT STALLS

at
MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH

MORDEN SW20 9JZ
(Corner of Buckleigh Avenue)

on
SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2012

10am - 2pm

Tea and Coffee served Lunches 11.30am - 1.30pm

Tables £12

To book your table please phone 020 8540 3429

All proceeds to Shooting Star CHASE

Please reply to

Mrs Sylvia Baxter 17 The Green Morden Surrey SM4 4HJ

020 8540 3429

sylvia.baxter1@tiscali.co.uk

Fundraising Volunteer, Epsom & Ewell and Sutton Friends Group
(Fundraising in south west London and Surrey)

A green Easter egg is the central focus, hanging from a red string. It is decorated with a green star, a red star, and a gold heart. Above the egg is a string of colorful bunting flags in red, purple, yellow, and pink. The background is a soft-focus green field.

New Life for One Big Family

Come and join us
3.00pm craft and messy play
4.30pm story and sharing time
4.45pm hot cross buns

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:**

Abby: 8543 9093
Rebecca: 8337 2348

Sunday 1st April - and we're not joking!



'Let Justice Prevail'



Friday
2nd March
Women's
World Day
of Prayer

www.wwdp-natcomm.org

Registered Charity Number 233242



Praying for Malaysia

11am

St Mark's Church

St. Mark's Place, Wimbledon SW19

(Behind the Wimbledon Library)

and

8pm

Raynes Park Methodist Church

Worple Road, Raynes Park SW20

(57 and 131 bus stop near to the church)

Coffee and Tea served after each service

All are welcome - men, women and young people

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday 2nd March 2012

'Let Justice Prevail' - Malaysia



On Friday 2nd March over 3 million people world wide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a form of service prepared by Christian women in Malaysia.

Jean Hackett, president of the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer movement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, said: *'This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first service is held in the Queen Salote Girls School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and more than 6,000 services will have been held in the British Isles alone.'*

Malaysia is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. Throughout its history it has attracted migrants from other parts of Asia and beyond and it is one of the wealthiest and most developed countries in South East Asia. Women have made important contributions to its social and economic development but, nevertheless, they still face discrimination and violence at all levels of society. Even today a girl child is seen as less valuable than a boy.

Malaysia is now the most popular destination country in Asia for migrant workers and human trafficking has become a sophisticated and organised operation.

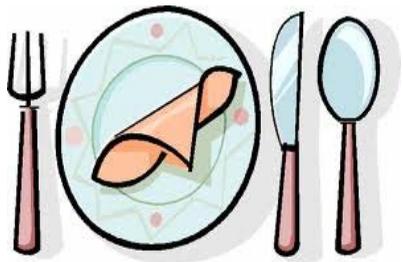
Although Malaysia's multi-ethnicity has added to the rich heritage of its land and people, it has also given rise to many problems. In the service those issues of concern are named and the women voice their hope for the future. Justice for all is their hope, and their prayer is "Let Justice Prevail".

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend. Further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, can be found on the WWDP website at www.wwdp-natcomm.org

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MARTIN WAY MEN'S SUPPER CLUB

What are we all about? Basically, a group of gents aged 50 plus, most of us are attached to the local church, but some are not. We have a background of different far off lands - South Korea, Jerusalem and the old name Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) besides very many areas of the UK.



We are coming up to our 19th birthday this year and have a good list of

speakers and entertainers for our 11 monthly meetings. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month, except December when it's the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

I can't remember correctly or accurately how it all started. Most probably over one of the many Church meetings as was the case in those far off distant days. I do know that it was our Sri Lankan friend Sam, who came up with the idea, but after a few tries, it never really got going, but neither did it go away. Our dear departed friend Bill Cox got hold of the idea and being a local preacher, school teacher and involved in many outside interests, he came up with a program of speakers.

Now, that we had the speakers, the question was who was going to cook. It was amazing the names came forward. Bill himself with his sausages, cooked meats, salads, with hot spuds and desserts. John Butland always spoilt us with a very good roast with all the veg and luxury desserts. Douglas Gear with his chilli and myself also served up some good grab. And that was just the beginning with about 12 - 15 men.

Lots of us moved around other churches and soon gents from St Martin's, Lower Morden joined us and tried to take over in numbers. They brought with them extra cooks with one special person - our Palestinian friend Suki - who is a catering instructor. We still have Richard from St Mary's, but sadly Jeff Mills is no longer with us.

All of a sudden we numbered 28 to 31, but by sharing around the catering it meant that we cooks catered just a few times a year. We had a massive range of speakers from all walks of life and the food came from all over the world: Suki, with his amazing menus and George & Emily Kim in national costume holding a South Korean night. We had lots of the modern food, some of which our elderly gents had never heard of or tasted, but no matter what the menu nearly all plates being pretty well cleaned on most occasions.

Our ministers have always been involved and our first minister in those far off days was the late Rev. Philip Moore. They were always

speakers or frequent visitors when not too busy with their numerous Church meetings and that's how it still is.

In addition to having wonderful meals, speakers and fellowship over these many years we have also collected thousands of pounds for well known and little known charities, wheelchairs for Africa, as well as many local places, especially St Raphael's, and obviously our own Church.

Twice a year, in July and December, we have our wives and the ladies of Midways join us. In July we have had good BBQs outside on our inner courtyard. The Christmas meal used to be a full roast with all the trimmings and Christmas pudding. Sadly, due to lack of cooks and aging bodies, we now do the buffet type Christmas meal followed by an entertainer. I think the most we catered for was around 80. Now, with decreasing numbers, it is 45 to 50, if all attended.

How do we look as of January 2012? Out of our 11 months we'll be doing hot meals most of the time with maybe 4 months meals being 'brought in'. Our widower friends and single gents do enjoy the luxury of not having to do something themselves. We have a very good range of speakers, some with charitable backgrounds and others just charging a speaker's fee. We look forward to a good year.

Whilst I am writing, it's a good chance to say 'thank you' to all who attend, especially the cooks. It is a lot of hard work for a few hours, but many thanks to those who put up tables and lay the cutlery etc and then clear up afterwards. There are too many names to mention but I couldn't manage without my Cookmate, great supporter and friend Mike Mortley. We have many, many happy memories of those who have been attached to our gathering, some have moved away and others have joined that other club far away.

If after reading this article you'd like to join us or find out more about us, that is gents only (but of any age), please speak to myself or Mike Mortley and we can supply a programme.

Derek Heaton

CHURCH DIARY



Fri	3	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	5	10.30am	Café Worship in the Hall led by Rev Paul Timmis
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	7	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
		8.00pm	F&P Committee Meeting
Weds	8	7.45pm	Midways Group - <i>Mike Mortley</i> - Desert Island Discs
Sun	12	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	14	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	17	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	18	10.00am	Big Brunch
Sun	19	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	21	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Valerie Feltham</i> - My life at the BBC
Weds	23	7.00 pm	Circuit Meeting at Stoneleigh
Sat	25	10am- 2pm	Tabletop Sale in aid of Shooting Star Hospice
Sun	26	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
		6.30pm	Healing Service led by Rev Paul Timmis

*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
in February a very



Happy Birthday

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MARTIN WAY PANTO

We will be holding a Panto meeting on Thursday the 9th of February 2012 in the Coffee lounge. This will give us a chance to sort out all the details and let everyone have their say. If you can't make this meeting don't worry as I shall send an email around after the meeting with everything that has been discussed. The meeting will start at 8pm.

Please could you let me know if you will be coming so we have an idea of numbers.

Jack Pallister

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Church Ladies With typewriters . . .

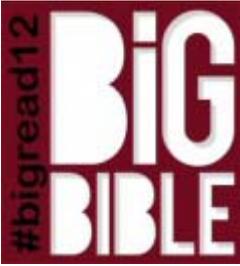
They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Many thanks to those unknown church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services (more will follow in future issues!):

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,'
giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'
The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to
get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house.
Bring your husbands.

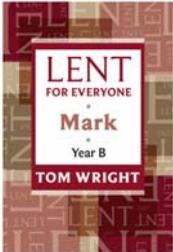
Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.



The Big Read 2012

People and churches across the country are getting ready to take a fresh look at the Mark's Gospel during Lent with the Big Read 2012.

The Big Read is part of the Big Bible project, an online digital community that promotes regular Bible reading and engagement with contemporary culture. It organised the successful Big Read 2011 which looked at Matthew's Gospel.



Everyone will be using Tom Wright's book, *Lent for Everyone: Mark. Year B*. House groups will be able to take advantage of free online study materials, including week-by-week group resources, videos and audio reflections. And the Big Bible website allows people to discuss the text with others all over the world.

The Big Read 2012 launches on Tuesday 21 February at 1.00pm with a 60 minute webinar (web seminar) with Professor Tom Wright.

For more details go to www.bigbible.org.uk

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CAROL SINGING - THANKS

Once again Thank you to all those who braved the elements and joined together to serenade the commuters of Morden with carols during two nights in December.

Over £560.00 was raised for Action for Children this year.



Items for the **March Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 18th February** at the latest