

## MINISTER'S LETTER

I think I have always loved bread - its smell, its texture and, of course, its taste.



Perhaps this love was born when, as a very little boy, my mum used to sit me on the kitchen worktop so that I could “help” her knead the bread that she was making. Then again, perhaps it was born a little bit later on in childhood when my maternal grandparents moved to South Wales to a small town near Caerphilly called Ystrad Mynach. I used to love visiting and going for walks with my grandpa - past the allotments to the woods and the rugby pitch or past the little church at the end of the road and to the High Street. Always hopeful of being bought a comic, trips to the newsagent were always looked forward to with great anticipation. My favourite destination by far though was the bakery where, if I was lucky and if we had timed it right, the baker would allow me to help him draw the loaves from the oven on his old long-handled wooden peel. Even now, I think I can still picture the loaves coming out of the flames and smell that bakery with all of its wonderful aromas.

There's something deeply satisfying about a really good loaf of bread. Inspired perhaps by the BBC television programme, *Paul Hollywood's Bread*, I have even, for the first time in ages, made a few loaves of my own recently and have enjoyed getting my hands in the dough and kneading it with my knuckles. In doing so I have been reminded that bread-making isn't a speedy process. Once mixed and kneaded, the dough has to sit and ‘prove’ - sometimes for hours - before going in the oven or even, depending on the loaf in question, being kneaded again before yet more proving. It takes time and patience to make a good loaf bread.

There is, of course, much that could be said about bread and its place in the Scriptures. We could consider the manna from heaven that the people of Israel ate in the wilderness and the request for it daily in the Lord's Prayer. We could recall Jesus' feeding of five thousand people from just five small loaves of it (and a couple of fish), Jesus breaking

bread, blessing it and instructing his friends to eat to remember him (during his last meal with them before his death) and indeed the resurrected Jesus being recognised in the breaking of the bread on the road to Emmaus. We could explore what Jesus might have meant when he said, “I am the bread of life”. But even this would still be scratching the surface for bread is mentioned 330 times in 300 verses in the Bible - and those numbers don’t take into account references to ‘loaf’ or ‘loaves’, just ‘bread’.

So instead, I would like to set you a challenge for these days after Easter. Think about the process of bread-making. Think about the need to have certain ingredients in place. Think about how those ingredients are prepared and put to work. Think about the work surface and the mixing then about the kneading and proving, kneading and proving, required before shaping and baking can take place. Think about the periods of intense activity and patient waiting involved that something good and wholesome may be produced. Think about how much a good loaf is made by human hands and how much by things beyond us. Then think about the life of the church and see where the parallels lie. Feel free to share the results of your thinking with me and others in the church - it would be an interesting conversation to have, I think. And if this inspires you to bake some bread (see the last page of the Newsletter for a recipe!), feel free to share that as well!

With every blessing

*Paul*

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## **Spring Harvest**

After all the Big Lunches Spring Harvest has finally arrived. From the 2nd to 7th April, twelve people are going this year, ten from Martin Way and two from Wimbledon. Thanks to all who helped raise funds for them.

Our prayers for a wonderful time go with them.



## **Methodist Conference 2013**

As I hope many of you already know, the Methodist Conference – the governing body of the Methodist Church – is being held in London this year, from 4th to 11th July. The Conference moves around the country each year, but it is a long time since it has been in London, so this is a great opportunity for us to get involved with national events which are taking place here in London.

The Conference is being held at Westminster Central Hall, and everyone is very welcome to visit throughout the week. There are exhibitions and stalls around the building, and you are also welcome to watch the Conference business sessions as well (if that's your kind of thing!). At lunchtimes and evenings there are 'fringe' events organised by groups like Action for Children, MHA and Methodist Women in Britain. (The programme for these will come out closer to the time.)

The biggest and most important public events of the week take place over the weekend (6th–7th July). On the Saturday there is a ceremony to officially open the Conference, along with the induction of the new President and Vice-President of the Conference, who give key addresses. This year the new President will be Revd Ruth Gee, who is the Chair of the Darlington District, and the Vice-President will be Dr Daleep Mukarji who is a member of the Enfield Circuit in our District, and is the former Director of Christian Aid.

On the Sunday morning there is a service at Central Hall where all the ordinands (48 this year) are presented and are 'received into full connexion' with the Church. This is always a very joyful service with good music and strong singing from the large congregation. Then that afternoon the ordinands are ordained in services at 9 churches across London. Ordination services are unique and very special services in the lives of all ministers. I have found it a privilege to have attended them, even when I haven't known the ministers getting ordained. Two of the ordination services are very close to us – at Sutton and Surbiton Hill – with most of the rest in central London, including at Wesley's Chapel and Southwark Cathedral.

The reason for telling you this is of course to encourage all of you to

get involved and take the opportunity of attending one or more of these events. The Saturday and Sunday events are all free but are ticketed – tickets were released a week ago and are already going very fast, so you will need to order them very soon – online ([www.methodistconference.org.uk/ordinations](http://www.methodistconference.org.uk/ordinations)) or by phone (020 7486 5502). Tickets for the Sutton ordination service have unfortunately already run out. During the rest of the week anyone is free to visit Central Hall, so do consider popping in for a while if you work in town or taking a trip up to Westminster if you don't, and please come and say hello to me while you're there – I'm a member of Conference and I'll be there all week!

*Martin Harker*

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### **A boy and some nails**

There was once a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence.

Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said:

“You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. But it won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound still be there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.

Remember that friends are rare jewels indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share words of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us.”

## **Extreme politeness**

*Taken from: Extreme devotion, the voice of the martyrs from the co-authors of Jesus freaks. Serious followers of Jesus pay a price, and extreme followers often pay the ultimate price. Each story is true.*

On the road to Emmaus, the resurrected Saviour walked with two disciples, talking with them about the recent events in Jerusalem. Though they did not recognise him, he talked with them about God's plan for the Messiah. When they arrived at their town, Jesus acted as if he had to go further. Why? Didn't he want to stay and continue the conversation?

Ti Piott, a Russian believer, Jesus' actions showed politeness. He didn't want to stay unless he was truly wanted. Piott had seen the Communists overrun his country. The police burst into people's homes anytime they chose. Finally, a Christian shared with Piott the story of a Saviour who knocked gently at his heart, waiting to be allowed in. Piott was impressed with this gentle Jesus and willingly opened the door. Jesus became Piott's Saviour and Lord.

Piott knew the meaning of conversion. He was changed. God sent him as a worker in the underground church. Here, he learned from the example of others. Growing Christians showed him how to develop his witness and exercise his faith. Soon, Piott made countless trips smuggling Christian literature into Russia. He grew more and more bold. He was driven to be not just a disciple, but to be a disciple maker, bringing others to Christ.

Finally, he was arrested and imprisoned. No one knows what happened to him.

*Romanian pastor Richard Wurmbbrand once said: "We should never stop at having won a soul to Christ. By this we have done only half the work. Every soul won for Christ must be made to be a soul winner. The Russians were not only converted, but they became 'missionaries' in the underground church. They were reckless and daring for Christ..." How does a person like Piott grow from being saved to saving others? Just as someone showed Piott how to become a Christian, someone showed him how to grow in his faith. People must be shown how to be more for Christ. Is your growing faith an example to others? God calls you to be a disciple as well as a disciple maker.*

But grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3 : 18)

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service**

I can now confirm that the delayed/rescheduled Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service - including the Dedication of the Christian Care Association Office - will now take place at 6.30pm on Sunday 28th April at Martin Way Methodist Church.

Hopefully we will avoid the snow this time!

*Paul Timmis*

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### **PUSS IN BOOTS**

Last month saw the performance of the Martin Way Pantomime, Puss in Boots. The script was written by Bernard Doswell who also directed with Anne Conquest's assistance. Jack Pallister was the producer and choreographer as well as playing part of the comedy duo Storm and Stress.

The full cast included.

Kneecap- Jacob Passfield

Windy- Andy Smith

Corn- Emily Bacon

Lord Chancellor- Pete Boyd

Storm- Stephen Pallister

Queen Frederica - Abby Herring

Governess Strictly- Jo Passfield

Prince Louis- Phoebe Pallister

Fairy Goodness- Lesedie Sepanya

Pearl- Karen Smith

Cobb- Lizzie Chilcott

Puss - Rosie Randall

Stress- Jack Pallister

King - Keith Lines

Princess Selina- Rebecca Smith

Voice of the Ogre- Tim Johnson

Chorus-

Anne Conquest

Caroline Budd

Karen Smith

Kutloano Sepanya

And we must not forget all those who worked behind the scenes and created the wonderful scenery and those who helped front of house making sure all the audience was well looked after. So a great thank you to all involved.

A DVD of the whole show is now available at a cost of only £3.00.

For more information or to purchase a copy speak to Jack Pallister, Anne & Douglas Neale or Annemarie Pallister. Alternatively contact Jack by email ([jpallister@artsedpupils.com](mailto:jpallister@artsedpupils.com)) or phone Douglas on 02085422747 to order your copy.



Kneecap waylays Prince Louis at the crossroads

Ghosts and skeletons of the Ogre's castle



Fairy Goodness meets the Prince and Princess in the village

Kneecap advises the Queen



Prince Louis m



Corn and Cob in song



Martin Way T  
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**PUS  
BO**

21st - 23rd February  
7.30pm Thursday  
7.30pm Friday  
5.30pm Saturday  
Box Office :

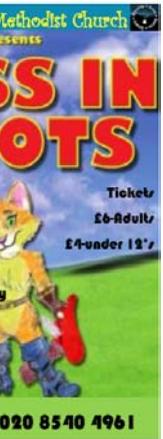
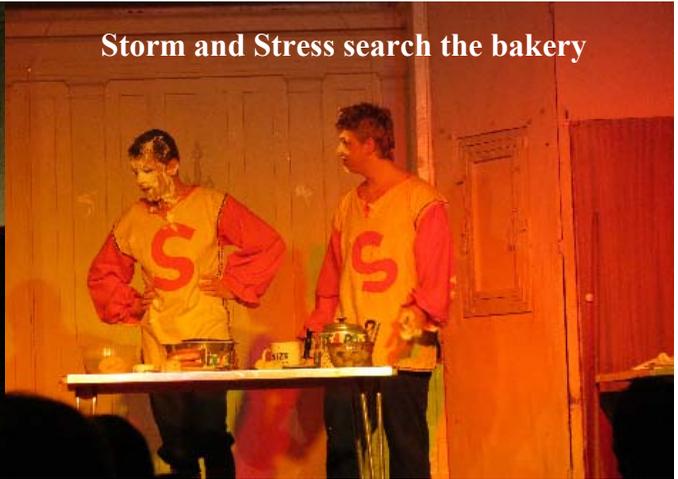
The Royal Court



meets Princess Selina



Storm and Stress search the bakery



Prince Louis questions the Lord Chancellor



MISS

Finale



**Churches Together in Merton Park**

# **Forum**

## **On the Streets: Off the Streets**

**A presentation of the work  
of three faith-inspired charities  
who work with people on our streets  
who need help and support**

**St. John Fisher Church Hall  
Thursday 18 April : 7.30 for 8pm**

**Speakers:**

**John Goddard from [Street Pastors](#)**

**Councillor Linda Kirby from [Faith in Action](#)**

**John Bush from [the Winter Night Shelter](#)**



## **Machu Picchu Charity Fund Raising Dates**

At the end of July this year, we:- Anne & Rachael Conquest, Abby & Richard Herring, are trekking Machu Picchu to raise money for our chosen charities. We are working together to raise a minimum £3000 for each charity which are; 'SENSE' (for deaf/blind people) 'SOUTH WEST THAMES KIDNEY FUND', 'IGA' (people with Glaucoma) and 'ALZHEIMER'S'.

We have organised some FUND RAISING events which you may wish to save a date for your diary if you are interested in joining us.

Sunday 7th April: starting at 9am 5Km walk or run at 'The River Club'  
(£5 minimum donation to enter)

Friday 26th April: starting at 7.30pm 'Rock & Roll Bingo'  
(Kingston Hill Scout Hall)

Saturday 18th May : A 'SPINATHON' at 'The River Club'  
From 9am onwards.

Saturday 8th June: 2pm - 5pm Afternoon tea/garden party at Martin Way  
Methodist Church

Saturday 13th July: (Time TBA)  
Car Rally ending with a BBQ.

Love to see you at one or more of these events.

*Anne, Rachael, Abby & Richard.*

Please speak to any one of us for more details:  
Anne – 07772279523, Rachael - 07834178444,  
Richard – 07899013912, Abby – 07739185814.

**Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast & totally secure.**

**[www.justgiving.com/Anne-Conquest0](http://www.justgiving.com/Anne-Conquest0)  
[www.justgiving.com/Rachael-Conquest](http://www.justgiving.com/Rachael-Conquest)  
[www.justgiving.com/Abby-Herring](http://www.justgiving.com/Abby-Herring)  
[www.justgiving.com/Richard-Herring0](http://www.justgiving.com/Richard-Herring0)**



**CHRISTIAN  
SOLIDARITY  
WORLDWIDE**  
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

*March Press Releases from CSW*

*Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013* - The United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) today adopted an historic resolution establishing a Commission of Inquiry “to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights” in North Korea.

*Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013* - Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) and the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) today called on the international community to push ethnic and religious minority rights higher up the reforms agenda for Burma, while wrapping up a week of advocacy in both Brussels and Washington DC.

*Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013* - Chinese Buddhist leader Wu Zeheng has been ordered to pay a fine of 2.5 million yuan (approximately £265,000) in relation to his conviction for “economic crimes” in 2000, three years after he completed his ten-year prison sentence. His supporters claim that the fine is a further attempt to restrict his freedom of movement by delaying his passport application in order to prevent him meeting and teaching his religious followers overseas.

*Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013* - Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) is deeply concerned about a dramatic increase in religious intolerance in Burma, illustrated most dramatically in the recent crisis in the central Burmese town of Meiktilar. CSW calls on the Burmese government to take decisive action to secure the safety of citizens in Meiktilar, where a state of emergency has been declared following three days of sectarian violence that has resulted in at least 20 deaths.

*Visit [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk) for latest news and information*

## **A Kindness story**

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods door to door to pay his way through school found he had only one penny left and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house.



However he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so she brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, 'How much do I owe you?'

'You don't owe me anything,' she replied. 'Mother taught us never to accept pay for a kindness.'

He said 'Then I thank you from my heart'

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and people was stronger also. He had been ready to give up and quit school altogether.

Years later that same woman became critically ill. The local doctors were called. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. After a long struggle, the battle was over and she was on the road to recovery.

Dr Kelly asked the hospital to pass the patient's bill to him for approval. He looked at it then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words:

'Paid in full with one glass of milk.' (Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

# CHURCH DIARY



Tues	2		<i>Spring Harvest (2nd to 7th April)</i>
		10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	5	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	7	10.30am	All Age Worship led by Mark Williamson
Tues	9	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	10	7.30pm	Worship Leaders Course
Sun	14	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	16	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Angela Linton-Smith -</i> A Visit to Malta
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	19	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	21	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Joanna Williamson
		6.30pm	Circuit Service at Worcester Park
Tues	23	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	28	10.30am	Holy Communion led by Rev Paul Timmis
		6.30pm	CTiMP United Service at Martin Way
Tue	30	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

*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  
in April a very

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Celia Johnson on 4th April**

**Rosie Randall on 10th April**

**Phoebe Pallister on 29th April**

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### **BETTY COLLINS**

Sadly we have been informed that Betty Collins, a long time former member of Martin Way Methodist Church, died aged 87 on Thursday 21st March, after a battle with cancer.

She had a long connection here and lived in Morden with her husband George and sons. George was a local preacher in the Circuit. After his passing, Betty moved to be with her family. She always had a kindly smile and concern for these around her and did a lot for the Church.

Her service of Thanksgiving will be at Christchurch C of E, South Nutfield, on 10th April at 2.30pm.

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### **On the Streets; Off the Streets**

The Forum for Faith in Action, the Winter night shelter and street pastors will take place on Thursday 18 April at 7.30pm in St John Fisher Church Hall.

The three speakers have confirmed their attendance. The speaker from the winter night shelter will be John Bush. The speaker from Faith in Action is Councillor Linda Kirby and the one from street pastors is John Goddard.



## FAIRTRADE RECIPES

### Fairtrade Banana bread

By television chef Michael Barry.

Makes one loaf.

#### Ingredients

- 225 g (8 oz) self-raising flour
- 100 g (4 oz) butter
- 150 g (5 oz) caster sugar
- 450 g (1 lb) Fairtrade bananas  
(the gooier the better)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 175 g (6 oz) mixed dried fruit



#### Method

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas Mark 4.

Peel and mash the bananas, and then mix all the ingredients except the dried fruit together. You can do this in a food processor, or by hand in a basin. When they're all thoroughly mixed, add the dried fruit.

Spoon the mixture into a 1 kg (2 lb) non-stick loaf tin, spread it out evenly and bake it for 1½ hours. The loaf is done when a skewer pushed into its middle comes out clean.

Cool on a wire rack before slicing.

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God gives us the ingredients for our daily bread, but he expects us to do the baking!

*Chip Ingram*

Items for the **May Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,  
(email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 21st April** at the latest