

## **MINISTER'S LETTER**

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'*



**John 21: 15-17**

Throughout the Old and New Testaments we are called over and over to care for each other. In the times of Moses, God gave the law to the people. Whilst one of its objectives was certainly to establish and uphold a good relationship between the people and God it also sought to protect those least able to care for themselves. The God of the Old Testament has often been interpreted as being a vengeful God but, over and over again, we are brought images of grace and salvation in the writings of the Psalms and by prophets such as Isaiah and Jeremiah. The role of God's servants is not to be underestimated in this; 'A faithful friend is a secure shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure.' (Ecclesiastes 6:14)

In the New Testament we find that the care of all God's children is central to the Gospel message. In each of the accounts of Jesus' life and ministry we find him continually breaking new ground in enabling others to understand how it is that God cares for people and how subsequently we are called to care for each other. In stories such as 'The Woman at the Well' (John 4:4-30) and 'The Good Samaritan' (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus breaks new ground and we are forced to reconsider who our neighbours are and where our prejudices lie.

Against a backdrop of deficit reduction and welfare cuts, the Coalition Government is coming under increasing pressure to cut its overseas aid budget. Whatever our initial response to such calls, it is worth remembering that scripture says nothing about the need to care for others being restricted only to good times or times of plenty.

This year presents us with another opportunity to ask ourselves the question, ‘What can we do for our neighbour?’ and answer it - not with the answer ‘Cease to help them’ but by working to ensure that the earth’s resources are shared more fairly. It does so because of the ‘If’ campaign. This campaign asserts that there is *Enough Food For Everyone If...*

...we give enough aid to stop children dying from hunger and help the poorest families feed themselves.

...governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries.

...we stop poor farmers being forced off their land and grow crops to feed people, not fuel cars.

...governments and big companies are honest and open about their actions that stop people getting enough food.

Over 150 organisations have come together to demand that the world’s most powerful leaders address the scandalous reality that nearly one billion people go to bed hungry every night and two million children die from malnutrition every year, that all around the world, even in the UK, people are struggling to feed their families.

The UK will host the G8 summit in June. In the coming weeks we will provide more information about the *Enough Food For Everyone If...* campaign. In the meantime, please (if you have access) visit <http://enoughfoodif.org> or <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/if-enough-food/if.aspx> and read more about it.

With every blessing

*Paul*

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This April a group of people from the Wimbledon Circuit went to Spring Harvest. Here we have a chance to glimpse what went on there with articles from some of the young people who went this year.

On the first week of the Easter holidays 2013, some of the members of our church went to Spring Harvest. For me, this was my fourth year and once again I absolutely loved it.

Arriving back at Butlins Skegness after a long journey in the sunshine all day long, it was a wonderful sight to be back at where I had my first Spring Harvest. I recognised everything there! Where the laser quest was, the restaurant, and where my group Distinctive was!

On that very first evening, after finding our chalets and unpacking our luggage, we set off on our first evening session. Some of us went to the Big Top which was the adult sessions, others went to iScape, which was the sessions for 14-18 year olds, and some of us went to Distinctive (the one I went to!) for 11-14 year olds.

The first session at Distinctive was fantastic! We started off with some good old crazy games, which even included one of our leaders being dressing up as a ketchup bottle and myself going on stage to play real life angry birds! As well as Rosie Randall competing in a space hopper race in front of the rest of Distinctive in a game known as pod racing! Then as the evening progressed, we subtly started to shift our minds towards God by singing songs and having talks by many of the leaders which captured me and inspired me so much. By the end of most of the evenings I was in tears! Simply because I had been moved so much. I also made lots of new friends while I was there and I still keep in contact with them now.

We also did some really fun things during the days between all of our sessions. Luckily for us, the weather was beautiful every day and we didn't have one day where the sky was completely filled with clouds and that was a very pleasant surprise! So having the beach at our front door was a great advantage. We went to the fairground on many occasions, the late night swims at the water park,



laser quest, adventure mini golf as just a few of the things we did. Not to mention the after hours sessions that were available. These consisted of shows of the genres comedy, music and many others which were great to go and see!

Everyday was jam packed with things to do and I've learnt a lot from Spring Harvest as I have every year. For me it's been a great experience and I'd highly recommend it to anyone who wants to have a closer relationship with God, or to even see God in a different light as this is what I've found at Spring Harvest 2013!

*Rebecca Smith*

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My time at Spring Harvest was absolutely amazing I had such a good time. It was fun week and we had lots of fun we went to the fair and played mini golf where I didn't lose but I didn't win. I did lots of shopping which was great fun. I was in a chalet with Phoebe, Valerie, Angela, Tony and Granddad (Mike) and it was good to learn more about them and to chat to them (well not Granddad as I know him very well). Phoebe and I had a few late night chats with Angela which was good fun.

It is sad to be home as we have so much fun worshipping, learning and generally having fun in everything we do but also being a Christian is really easy at Spring Harvest and then when you come home it is much harder and everything we did just stops. However, this year I feel I need to do something more with my life being a Christian and I hope I can find groups and stuff to keep going.

At Spring Harvest we had an excellent bible reader at iScape who related to us very well. He always had a good laugh with us and related his life to the words and life of Jesus. In our second session we got to choose from a variety of seminars and workshops to go to. On the first day me, Jack and Phoebe went to a singing workshop and we learnt a song which I didn't know, called 'God I look to you'. It was great fun and reminded us of Sigma. For the next three days I went to the art workshop where I made a prayer flag, a picture of who God thinks I am and on the last one we all drew a massive picture of what we were

coming home too which can be found in the church somewhere.

I wouldn't say there was anything I didn't like about it as I've always had an awesome time and each time becomes better than the last one.

I would encourage anyone to come to Spring Harvest as there is something for everyone. You can do what you want to do and if I haven't said it enough, it is just amazing with the worship being incredible wherever you go. I could bore you which much more but feel I have said enough.

*Emily Bacon*

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I can't sum up my time at Spring Harvest in a few paragraphs, but I'll share a few of my best bits and what I got up to in a day with you!

We arrived after a relaxing; peaceful journey to find no-one there - and what does that mean, choice of chalet! For 10 minutes me and Rebecca acted if we owned it; that was when the others arrived. In the arriving moments I knew about it the religious event however I never thought it was going to grab me.

The first evening was the first taster of Distinctive - now it might just be me but I found it strange how a man, who's in his 30's trying to act like 16? That really didn't make a good impression.

Now for my daily timetable:

8:15, alarm goes off but don't wake until 8:40.

8:40, get up singing, 'It's now Daybreak,' unless I was too tired, which was most days. Have breakfast also.

9:45, leave to Distinctive, on a long journey there.

10:00, for the morning sessions who listened; sang; and had a bible reading from the amazing Jamie.

11:55, watched a little play, performed by the crew - Puss In Boots was much better! Then played some games!

13:00-18:45, having lunch ; Went to the fair - beach or at home preparing dinner.

18:45, sit for two hours having more enjoyable time in the Evening Sessions!

21:00, SWIMMING!

22:30, After Hours - Chill

23:30,0:00, Bed to prepare us for the next fun eventful day!

I never knew it would grab me as much as it did - when we were worshipping I felt his presence. I am connected to him much more now and I would recommend it to anyone so they could feel like I did and do!

*Jacob Passfield*

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## **PARISH PLAYERS**

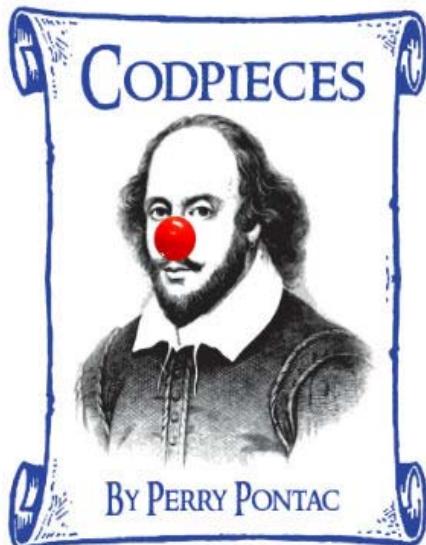
The St. Mary's Church, Merton, Parish Players have been rehearsing since January for this their latest offering. Codpieces: 3 One Act Shakespeare Parodies. Taking place from Thursday 16th - Saturday 18th May.

Come along and find out what might have happened after Hamlet - and plenty of other people - died and a new king was needed.

In Prince Lear, we find out just why the aged king will need to divide his kingdom between his daughters.

And in Fatal Loins, we discover what might have happened if Romeo and Juliet had lived (and had 15 children) when they discover the course of true love never does run smooth.

Tickets are now available for £10 (£5 for students on Thursday) either via the website at [www.parishplayers.net](http://www.parishplayers.net) or by phoning the box office on 07546 065 267 between 8-10pm Monday to Thursday.



# BIG CHURCH DAY OUT

ONE FAITH  
ONE CHURCH  
ONE MASSIVE WEEKEND  
25TH & 26TH MAY 2013  
WISTON HOUSE // WEST SUSSEX



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against  
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AMY GRANT / MATT REDMAN / HILLSONG LIVE  
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BRENTON BROWN / STUART TOWNEND  
JARS OF CLAY / SALVADOR / GUNGOR / LZ7  
THE CITY HARMONIC / JASON UPTON  
GUVNA B / JAMIE GRACE / NEWWORLDSON  
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+ MANY MORE



TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT // [WWW.BIGCHURCHDAYOUT.COM](http://WWW.BIGCHURCHDAYOUT.COM)

**SEE YOU THERE!!**



# myraynespark festival

2013

Your SW20 arts festival: 14-23 June 2013

Now in its 4th year, the festival has an amazing line up of guests who are visiting SW20 for some incredible summer evenings. Why not join them?

## **Lance Pierson: Friday 14 June @ Lantern Arts Festival**

Internationally renowned poet, performing Elizabeth to Elizabeth, a look at British history in verse and song from Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II.

## **Jigsaw Players: Saturday 15 June @ Christ Church**

Professional chamber music group drawing members from the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonic Orchestra.

## **Harry Baker: Monday 17 June @ Prince Georges Club**

Current World Poetry Slam Champion, Harry will be performing a headline set at an open mic night of poetry and story-telling.

## **Paul Kerensa: Tuesday 18 June @ Sai Punjabi Cuisine**

The funny man from Cornwall returns to the Festival for more curry and comedy. When not doing stand-up, Paul writes for hit BBC shows *Miranda* and *Not Going Out*.

## **Auburn Jam: Thursday 20 June @ The Cavern**

Raynes Park based music producers/recording studio Auburn Jam Music host an evening of original music from local singers/song writers performing pop, gospel, rock, folk and everything in between!

## **London Community Gospel Choir: Saturday 22 June @ Dundonald Church**

The UK's premier, award winning gospel choir will be bringing their sensational sound to Raynes Park.

All this and more. See [www.myraynespark.co.uk](http://www.myraynespark.co.uk) for more details.

**FREE ENTRY**

myraynespark  
**festival**  
2013

# PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Calling all photographers! Here's a chance to showcase your talents and celebrate what you love about Raynes Park.

We are inviting all local residents to get creative with their cameras and send us their photographs that best illustrate the theme, ***there's no place like home***. Be it pictures of a local event, local faces, a street scene or local flora and fauna – let your lens proclaim what's great about living in Raynes Park.

To enter, simply take a picture in Raynes Park that celebrates ***there's no place like home***, and email it to us at **[photo@myraynespark.co.uk](mailto:photo@myraynespark.co.uk)** before 17 May 2013.

We'll display the entrants online. The best 40 will be printed and displayed in public venues around Raynes Park from 1st June 2013. And the top winners will win a £100 cash prize.

For full information, terms & conditions, visit the photography competition website at

**<http://myraynespark.wix.com/photocompetition>**



On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April we held another fund raising event for our Charity trek on 26<sup>th</sup> July. Thank you to everyone who came along to Rock 'n' Roll Bingo.

Those who don't know what Rock 'n' Roll Bingo is – well is it Bingo with a twist! Instead of the numbers called out, a piece of

music is played and you have to see if you have the song on your card! This was difficult for everyone as there were old and new songs on their sheet. So this was a great event to get young and old working together (or those who looked up songs they didn't know on their phones – this wasn't cheating just a clever idea!).....

Everyone appeared to have a good evening and we all enjoyed dinner which was cooked by Anne and Cakes made by Abby. Hosting the whole evening, Rachael did a fantastic job and getting everyone involved with the Bingo. Not forgetting Richard who did a great job sorting the money out and washing up with Simon (very important job – thank you guys!). We raised around £800.00 which is fabulous

Here are more events coming up - dates for your diaries:-

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May** : A 'SPINATHON' @ 'The River Club' From 9am onwards.

We are thinking of holding a 'Half Term TICK TOCK SESSION' on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013 @ 10am** at Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JZ, Cost £5 per child. Please can you let us know by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May so we can let everyone know on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May if it is happening?

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June:** 2pm – 5pm Afternoon tea/garden party @ Martin Way Methodist Church

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July:** (Time TBA) Car Rally ending with a BBQ.

Thank you again for supporting us!

*Anne, Rachael, Abby & Richard*



**April marked the sixth anniversary of the murders of three Christians at a publishing house in Malatya, eastern Turkey.**

On 18 April 2007, Turkish citizens Necati Aydin and Ugur Yuksel and Tillman Geske, a German citizen, were tortured and killed at the offices of Zirve Publishing House, a Christian publishing house, by five young Muslims. The trial of the five alleged murderers began on 22 November 2007 in Malatya; however, it has been prolonged due to the prosecutors' desire to prove the killings were part of a high-level clandestine scheme to undermine the government through acts of terror. In September 2012, and just two days before the next phase of the trial, two judges and two prosecutors were removed by the Turkish Justice Ministry, leaving just one judge familiar with the case.

**CSW urged the EU to ensure that continuing violations of human rights, including religious freedom, in Burma, remain a priority, despite the decision to lift all EU sanctions on Burma apart from the arms embargo.**

In the past year, the conflict in Kachin State has escalated, with the Burma Army launching air strikes against civilians in December. Over 100,000 Kachin civilians are internally displaced, and cases of rape, torture, forced labour and killing of civilians have been documented. The plight of the Rohingyas has deteriorated dramatically, with mass violence erupting in Rakhine State in June and again in October last year, displacing over 130,000. Within the past few days, fresh evidence has come to light of mass atrocities in Rakhine State and of the security forces' inaction in the face of shocking anti-Muslim violence. Furthermore, several hundred political prisoners remain in jail, and many of those who have been released are subject to conditions.

**Two kidnapped Bishops in Syria.**

CSW is delighted to inform you that Archbishop Ibrahim and Archbishop Yazigi, kidnapped on 22/04/2013 by armed men who murdered their driver, are reported to have been freed. It remains unclear who their captors were. However, their release is a testament the power of prayer.

*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16*  
Thank you so much for praying!

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

Recently Roy received the following letter from Debbie Gow. It enclosed programmes for the consecration of the organ, stone laying ceremony 1957, official opening of the church 1958, opening and consecration of the church 1958, Sunday School anniversaries 1958 and 1962 and some newspaper cuttings of these events. Some we had but others we didn't and Rosemary was pleased to have them for the archive.

Both Debbie's and her brother's are recorded on the Church's Cradle Roll and Jean Gear remembers the family and she reminisced to Roy about the time when Debbie's parents worshipped at Martin Way.

For those who remember the family and wish to contact Debbie please speak with Roy for her contact details.

Martin Way Methodist Church  
Buckleigh Avenue  
Merton Park  
London  
SW20 9JZ

I found the enclosed while clearing out my mother's house, secreted away by my dad for decades and surviving four house moves. Your church was an important part of my parents (Ken and Marion Stephens) life until we moved to Kent in December, 1965. My younger brother, Trevor, and I were both christened together on March 24th 1963, an occasion that I have a vague memory of. I have to admit that this is probably due more to the excitement that surrounded the purchase of a new, frilly frock than to the religious significance of the proceedings - but then I was only four!

It would be a shame just to throw this small collection of memories away without first checking that someone in your congregation would be interested in them. Mum has told me that Dad sometimes used to play the organ for Sunday services. I don't know how true this is as Mum's memories are hazy now and tend to skip timeframes, but I do know that the memories that exist from her time spent at your church are happy ones.

With kind regards

Debbie Gow

## **Extreme Singing**

*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.*

NORTH KOREA : SOON OK LEE

**“I never knew what these prisoners were singing until I became a Christian.”**

Sook Ok Lee was a prisoner in North Korea from 1987 to 1992. She did not become a Christian, however, until she escaped to South Korea. When she first received Christ, she was overwhelmed by her memories of what she had seen and heard in prison.

It was the simple things, like the Christians who sang as they were being put to death. At that time, she did not understand and had thought they were crazy. She was not allowed to talk, so she never had the chance to speak with a Christian. She does remember hearing the word, “Amen.”

“When I was there, I never saw Christians deny their faith. Not one. When these Christians were silent, the officers would become furious and kick them. At the time, I could not understand why they risked their lives when they could have said, “I do not believe,” and done what the officers wanted. I even saw many who sang hymns as the kicking and hitting intensified. The officers would call them crazy and take them to the electric-treatment room. I didn’t see one come out alive.”

It was the singing that struck with her. Perhaps it was the singing of these precious saints that planted a seed in her spirit and eventually led her to Christ.

*Like spies, those who are curious about Christianity zero in on believers so that they can evaluate the truth for themselves. They observe. They watch. They take mental notes. Whenever Christians go through trials, these silent observers often hope to see the believers fall, so that they can assure themselves that Christians are like everyone else after all. However, when Christians smile through trouble, they are stumped. When believers clap instead of cry, they are amazed. When Christ followers sing amidst sorrow, they are drawn in by what they cannot explain. If you are going through a trial right now, you have an unprecedented opportunity to witness for Christ. Pray that your joyful example will inspire others.*

I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.  
(2 Corinthians 7:4)

## CHURCH DIARY



Fri	3	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	5	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	7	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	8	7.30 pm	Worship Leaders Course
			<i>Start of Christian Aid Week</i>
Sun	12	10.30 am	Morning Service led by
			Tony Loft and Mike Mortley
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	14	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		8.00 pm	F&P Committee Meeting
Thur	16	8.00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Fri	17	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	19	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
			<i>Christian Aid Walk - Circle the City -</i>
			<i>4 church members walking</i>
Tue	21	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Jenny Deeprose -</i>
			<i>Safe Afloat "Saga Ruby"</i>
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	26	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Tony Loft
		6.30 pm	Healing Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	28	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

Fri 31 12.30 pm Luncheon Club

*Please refer to the Website ([www.martinway.org.uk](http://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  
in May a very

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:



**Seleso Sepanya on 3rd May**

**Lesedi Sepanya on 17th May**

**James Smith on 18th May**

**Alex Pallister on 19th May**

**Elizabeth Turnbill on 22nd May**

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**Christian Resources Exhibition**  
**Tuesday 14th - Friday 17th May**

Church leaders, youth and children's workers, in fact anyone involved in leadership continually need to discover new and fresh ways to communicate God's unchanging message. That's why there is no better place to equip yourself and your church than CRE International at Sandown Park.

With an anticipated 350+ exhibitors from puppet suppliers to clerical vestments, church furniture to mission organisations we guarantee you won't be disappointed.

Whatever you need to equip and resource your church can be found at the exhibition.



## **CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALK - SUNDAY 19TH MAY**

We as well as few others will be doing the Sponsored Walk again this year and hope that more people will join us and get sponsorship from friend, work colleagues, etc. This will then enable us to make a substantial contribution to a worthy charity. Circle the City is a 8km walk around London, visiting many interesting churches on the way. For more details please speak with Tony.

*Tony & Maralyn Loft*

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## **MESSY CHURCH**

You are invited to a Circuit Messy Church event The Kings Party on Saturday 11th May at Wimbledon Methodist Church, starting at 11am. All are welcome, but children must be accompanied. Lunch will be provided. Please speak to Brenda Cannon for more information or if you intend to come along.

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## **BE NICE TO BEES**



Bees are having a tough time at the moment, so spare a thought for them when you start pulling your weeds. Dandelions are one the most important sources of nectar and pollen for bees, which help the hives thrive. From that point of view, perhaps it is good that dandelions are so notoriously tough and fast growing.

Items for the **June Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 19th May** at the latest