

MINISTER'S LETTER



As human beings, words are hugely important to us. We use words to describe the world around us. We use words to express ourselves. We use words to communicate with one another. So if we want to make ourselves understood - or rather, if we wish our words to be understood in the way that we intend them to be - we need to ensure that we use words well.

Within the church we use some words that many outside the church do not. This in itself isn't surprising - lots of groups, bodies and organisations use their own language in order to communicate particular concepts or ideas.

Sometimes that language can be more of a hindrance than it is a help. And just as businesses have, of late, been encouraged to use Plain English that customers might fully understand such things as policy documents and terms and conditions of purchase etc., I have often heard it said that we should change the language that we use in order to make church more accessible to those beyond its "walls".

There may well be something in this argument. It is, however, one of those words that originated within the church but which *has* been widely adopted by the world at large that I struggle most with. That word is 'mission'.

One problem I have with the word 'mission' is that people too frequently use it (narrowly in my view) without defining what they mean by it, lazily believing that everyone interprets and makes sense of the term in the same way. They don't. Another problem I have with it is that it speaks of an agenda that, for me, too easily looks like an ulterior motive.

It was then with trepidation and a heavy heart that I headed off to a session of Synod* last month which carried the title, 'Engaging in Mission'. I needn't have worried: it proved to be a most enlightening

and uplifting day.

A passionate keynote address by Dr Daleep Mukarji, Vice President of Conference, lay at the heart of proceedings. [Details of this (and the definition of ‘mission’ that he adopted) can easily be found on the Methodist London District website (www.methodistlondon.org.uk) - just enter Mukarji in the ‘search’ box on the home page.] However it wasn’t this address but rather one of a number of responses to it that fired my imagination.

Julian Bond, a Methodist and the Director of the Christian Muslim Forum, posed the question as to how many times the word ‘mission’ occurs in the New Testament before answering the question for us: it features just once (Acts 12: 25). With this in mind, he suggested that we ask ourselves whether it is the word we should be using. Pointing out that a more important word, and one which appears many times in our Scriptures, is ‘witness’, he commended the use of this word to us.

So how about it? How about we refrain from talking about ‘mission’ for a while and instead speak of ‘witness’ and see how that changes our self-understanding, outlook, conversations and life together?

With every blessing

Paul

*A churchy word if ever there was one! ‘Synod’ comes from the Greek word "σύνοδος" (synodos) meaning "assembly" or "meeting" and is synonymous with the Latin word "concilium" meaning "council".

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Witnessing is removing the various barriers of our self-love to allow Christ, living within us, to show himself to our neighbours.

Paul Frost

Ward Panel Members



Cannon Hill Local Policing Team are sourcing new Ward Panel Members.

Would you interested in becoming a Ward Panel Member?

What is a Ward Panel?

A ward is a neighbourhood within your Borough, there are 20 wards within Merton

Ward Panels are meetings where the Police, Local Authority and representatives from a neighbourhood come together to discuss issues of community safety and concerns in that area.

Each ward has a Sergeant, a dedicated Police Officer and a Police Community Support Officer who are supported by the local policing team.

Each ward has a panel made up of members of the community who live or work within that ward. Cannon Hill Officers are keen for all members of the community to be represented at the meetings especially businesses and young adults.

The panel meets usually every 3 months to discuss the concerns facing the local community around crime and anti-social behaviour.

The panels alongside the dedicated Officers discuss issues to set the priorities the local police team will problem solve. Panel members are invited to get involved in working with the police team and local partner agencies such as the council to find lasting solutions to these priorities.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the ward panel or would like further information please forward your contact details to CannonHill.SNT@met.police.uk or to speak with a member of the team telephone 020 8721 2455

Sandra Wood PCSO 7281VW

Extreme Symbol

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.

It was Sunday, and the congregation of Grace Sonmin Church in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, had gathered for their weekly service. Even though their country was now free from oppressive Communist rule, radical Muslims still blatantly opposed the church. The oppression had simply changed hands from one terrorist authority to another.

Just as the visiting pastor wrapped up his sermon, a loud explosion in the back of the church rumbled the building. A bomb. In one moment, the believers went from worshipping God to frantically running for their lives. They tried to flee into the hallway, but another bomb exploded along their escape route. Bodies and blood were strewn everywhere in the church that was once called "sanctuary."

An elderly woman lay on the floor, unable to move. The Bible she had been studying moments ago in a worship service fell next to her, stained with her blood. It was opened to a page where she had circled 3 verses sometime before the attack on her church. "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:7-9).

The radical Muslims considered the innocent people expendable for the sake of their cause. But the believers' deaths gleamed like jewels as a testimony to God's faithfulness. The enemy may have broken the elderly woman's body -- her "jar of clay" -- but her inner treasure was revealed as her spirit ascended to heaven a few days after the attack. We are more aware than ever before that death may come unexpectedly at the hands of our enemy. Yet you do not have to fear death. After all, the worst our enemy can do to us is to kill our mortal bodies. Your physical body is not the real "you." Be comforted today, knowing the treasure of your soul cannot be touched.

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. (2 Corinthians 4:10-11)

**RUXLEY CHURCH
HARVEST "SHARED" SUPPER
and
BARN DANCE**



**featuring Ruxley's
own live Ceilidh Band
'Ouch'
with caller
Brian Cockram**



**Saturday 5th October 2013
7.00pm - 10.30pm**

**Please bring some food to share and your own
plate, knife and fork, drink and glass
(soft drinks will be available)
during the evening there will be a raffle**

**Tickets available in advance – get yours NOW!
Adults £4, Children 5 - 16 £3, Family £10**

**for further information & tickets
please phone 020 8394 1081**

Proceeds to Ntunungwe School in Zimbabwe



Platform 10¾ are intending to take part in Operation Christmas Child again this year. Choosing gifts to put in the shoeboxes are fun part of getting involved in Operation Christmas Child. There is something very rewarding about giving to a child you will probably never meet in this world – especially when you know your simple act of kindness will be felt and appreciated in more ways than you can ever imagine.

Once you have decided whether to give the shoebox to a boy or girl, you need to think carefully about gifts that would be most appropriate for the age group. **Please see the list opposite of what we can and can't accept.**

Any knitting would also be appreciated - there have been patterns published in last years Newsletters.

There will be a box in the store cupboard to place your items into. Platform 10¾ will put the shoeboxes together on Sunday 17th November. If you are unsure of what to get, but would like to make a monetary donation towards the shoebox appeal please do as we are required to send £2.50 per box made. There will be a collection plate in which to put your donation after the morning service on 4th November.

Abby Herring

Note from Editor

Old Newsletters are available through in the Newsletter Archive page on the Martin Way Church Website (www.martinway.org.uk)

Alternatively contact me or a Platform 10¾ member for the knitting patterns.

Andrew Fox

No Thanks!

No Food

especially chocolate -
non-chocolate sweets are
allowed

No medicine

or vitamins of any kind

No war related items

toy guns, soldiers or
knives of any kind

No clothing

other than listed

No fragile items

glass containers, mirrors

No liquids

including blow bubbles,
shampoo, bubble bath,
toiletry sets or aerosols

No dangerous items

sharp objects, scissors
or razors

No novels

Nothing of a political nature

**No hand-knitted stuffed toys
without a CE mark**

YES PLEASE

Toys

Bear soft toy, tennis ball,
finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo,
building blocks, and small
musical instrument

For boys; trucks and cars

For girls; dolls, clip on
earrings, etc

Educational Supplies

Felt pens, pens, pencils,
pencil sharpener, eraser,
colouring book, notepad,
picture or puzzle book, chalk,
pencil case, stickers, etc.

Hygiene Items

Toothbrush, toothpaste,
hairbrush, comb, hair clips,
bar of soap, flannel, etc.

Other Items

Sweets (sell-by date to be at
least March of the following
year), gloves, scarf, cap, hat,
sunglasses, bangles, etc.

Knitted items

see Platform 10¾ members
or last years Newsletters or
Andrew Fox for details of
different patterns

Our New Church (and carpet)



The Sunday before we moved back into our newly refurbished Church, Valerie Ashcroft was our preacher and in her address she told us of the Wimbledon Church and how it felt when moving into the new building. How it was with a different feel, the

new chairs and carpeting in the church. The one thing that I took on board was the need for them to have their carpet cleaned professionally twice a year.

The following Sunday, Anne Conquest was our Duty Steward and just before welcoming Paul to preach she laughingly said ‘New carpets in my house means we all have to wear slippers!’. This again brought back memories of an adventure Mary and I did in November 2001.

We were in Churchill, Northern Canada, Polar Bear watching. We were staying at the Manse B&B for Church friends. Obviously we attended the Church on Sunday we were there. After putting on our thick winter wear on and having heavy snow boots we walked through the snow and icy roads to church. The minister and his wife had shovelled away the snow from the entrance so allowing easy access. Walking into the hallway was like walking into an old fashioned cloakroom. There were rows of hooks for our heavy winter coats, but more importantly there were special trays to take our snowy boots, so they could drip there. They also had slipper type shoes for all to enter the carpeted, very warm, church buildings and rooms.

It made me think of our lovely new church carpet and how best to look after it. At our church and hall entrance we have a good sturdy carpet to

rub our damp shoe soles and heals on. Please remember to do it hard when the weather is horrible, even if it is not as bad as Canadian winter weather. Also it would be great for everyone to leave their dripping umbrellas in this area rather than bring them dripping into the new carpet area.

These are just some thoughts on how to preserve the wonderful new carpets and keep our church running costs down, one never knows, we might even see some fancy slippers appear! Please note, these are my own personal thoughts, not a directive. Remember the church is another part of our home and lives, lets all look after it.

Every blessing
Derek Heaton

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Chair Fund



We may have the chairs and carpet in place, but we are still inviting people to “give a chair” (at a cost of £100 each) to help cover the remaining costs; alternatively a smaller donation would purchase a set of arms or a book shelf for a chair. If you would like to support the refreshing of the worship space in this way, please speak to Roy Ellis.

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A church is not a finished, solidly built and furnished house, in which all that changes is the successive generations who live in it.

Karl Rahner

The Christian Church is the one organisation in the world that exists purely for the benefit of non-members.

William Temple

CHURCH DIARY



Tue	1	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	4	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	5	7.30pm	<i>'A Different Drum'</i> by Riding Lights Theatre Company
Sun	6	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		4.00-5.00pm	SIGMA Meeting
Tue	11	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sat	12	10.30am-1.00pm	Big Brunch
Sun	13	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	15	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.00pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Rev Paul Timmis</i>
Wed	16	8.00pm	Leadership Meeting
Fri	18	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	20	10.30am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	22	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	27	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Martine Stemerick
Tue	29	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer

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



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

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Jennifer Smith on 13th October

Ella Smith on 14th October

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Big Brunch is back!

Yes, Big Brunch is back offering a full English breakfast for only £4.00, the profits from which go to help some of our youngsters go to Spring Harvest in 2014. The dates for this year are as follows:

🍴 12th October

🍴 9th November

🍴 30th November

Please note the new start time of 10.30am ending at 1pm.

"In the blood of a flea, wrapped in a bundle of French silk, the plague arrives in the Derbyshire village of Eyam. With it comes a devastating decision. As the entire community chooses the bold path of sacrifice... they begin to march to the sound of a different drum.

On the evening of Saturday 5th October at 7.30pm Martin Way Methodist Church are proud to host a performance of *A Different Drum: small stories to change a troubled world* by **Riding Lights Theatre Company**.



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SIGMA CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

SIGMA is a Greek letter meaning ‘All things coming together’. The group is made up of mixed ages from the whole circuit.



Once again SIGMA are going to put on a Christmas musical production. Our first meeting will be on Sunday 6th October at 4pm to discuss what we will be doing for Christmas. Anyone who enjoys singing, acting, playing an instrument are more than welcome to come along and join us.

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

Items for the **November Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 20th October** at the latest