

MINISTER'S LETTER



Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

Matthew 17: 1-9

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition)

Given a moment or two to think about them, each of us could probably point to experiences that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Whether that be the birth of a child, the death of a loved one, passing an exam, getting a job, moving house or seeing our team win in a cup final, such experiences engage many emotions and involve every facet of our lives.

At the transfiguration - something we remember this year on 2nd March - the disciples had such an experience. They may not have fully understood what had happened to them but they were certain that they had encountered God.

We all experience God in different ways; we encounter God in unique ways.

At the transfiguration, the disciples are caught up in a terrifying encounter with God. They can't make sense of it, yet they grasp its

importance. Some of us may have experienced terrifying encounters with God. Others, perhaps the majority, will not have encountered God in such a visual and frightening way. Like the disciples though, many of us grapple with encounters with God - 'mountain top' experiences which we don't fully understand at the time - yet recognise that these experiences will somehow sustain us and that, at some point, we will see the full picture.

As we prepare ourselves once again for Lent and that journey of Jesus to the cross and beyond, I invite you to reflect on the story of the transfiguration and, in the light of it, look back and see if you can recall or identify moments when you have felt that you have encountered God. Or look back and see where God has been present in your life, when you have felt sustained by God's presence. As in the well-known poem 'Footprints', it is often only when we look back that we can see that God has been with us, that we have encountered God. Such knowledge may provide the sustenance you need for the journey ahead.

With every blessing

Paul

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End of an Era

February 16th was a sad day in the life of Sunday Club as it marked the retirement of Sue Boyd after 29 years of helping, teaching and caring. That amounts to a lot of patience, a lot of stories and a lot of glue sticks. She was presented with a bouquet and a window box card created from contributions by the children. The window box flowers were made as a response to hearing the Parable of the Sower - a fitting tribute as over those 29 years Sue's contribution will have planted seeds of faith in the lives of so many children and young people which have gone on to grow and blossom. We are hugely grateful to Sue and wish her every happiness.



Rebecca Timmis

Extreme tenderness

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.

The Khumer Rouge soldiers burst into the room, brandishing their weapons and shouting insults and threats. When the Khumer Rouge took over Cambodia in 1975, thousands of Christians were killed. Children were even thrown before alligators so the soldiers could "save their bullets."

None of the members of the small congregation moved. An officer walked up to the pastor, grabbed the Bible he had been reading, and threw it on the floor. "We will let you go," he said, "but first you must spit on this book of lies. Anyone who refuses will be shot."

Another soldier grabbed a man by the arm and forced him forward. "Father, please forgive me," he prayed as he knelt where the Bible had fallen and spat lightly on it.

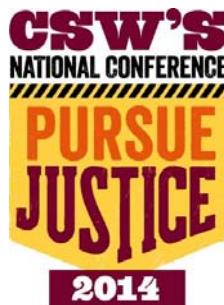
"Okay, you can go," Then the officer pointed to a woman. She too knelt by the Bible. She moistened the Bible just enough to please the officers.

A teenage girl suddenly stood up and walked towards the Bible. Tearfully she knelt and picked up the Bible, taking the hem of her dress and wiping it clean. "What have they done to your Word?" she said. "Please forgive them." The soldier lowered his revolver to the back of her head and squeezed the trigger.

The Christians who were initially allowed to leave were also shot. Their actions did little to save them.

One act of tender resolve can inspire a congregation more than any number of betrayals. The teenager in this story prompts a vision of what it means to be united in Christ. Instead of rebuking her weaker brothers and sisters, she merely led by example in her tender treatment of the Bible. Imagine if everyone in that church had acted in the same like-minded manner. What a strong witness for Christ! Whenever we act together, we are stronger. Tenderness and compassion, combined with a strong example, will lead those who are weak to join together in greater commitment. If you are frustrated with others who struggle in their commitment, remember God calls you to unite with those who are weaker and help them along.

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ....if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded. (Philippians 2:1-2)



Pursue Justice, CSW's National Conference
Saturday 29th March 2014, 11am-4.30pm.

(Doors open at 10am)

**Emmanuel Centre, 9-23 Marsham Street, Westminster,
London, SW1P 3DW**

Join hundreds of CSW supporters for what is sure to be an inspiring day:

- Real life testimonies
- The latest news from the frontlines of religious freedom
- Worship led by Dave Bilbrough
- Exclusive performance by singer Helen Yousaf

Speakers include Michelle Chaudhry and Dr Thomas Farr.

Michelle is a good friend of the late Shahbaz Bhatti and daughter of Group Captain Cecil Chaudhry who now continues his work for Christians and other religious minorities. Dr Farr of Georgetown University in Washington is a world expert on religious freedom and will tell us about global trends in persecution.

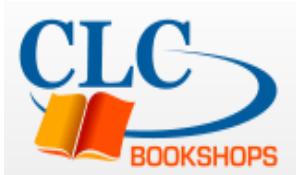
Our brand new campaign will also be launching at the conference! There will be opportunities to respond in prayer to what you've heard, and to take action to pursue justice for everyone who suffers for their beliefs.

The conference is completely free to attend, but please register so we know how many people to expect. Register online for the conference. You can also register by calling us on 0845 456 5464.

More details are on our website: www.csw.org.uk

Please RSVP by 17th March.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)
PO Box 99, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3YF



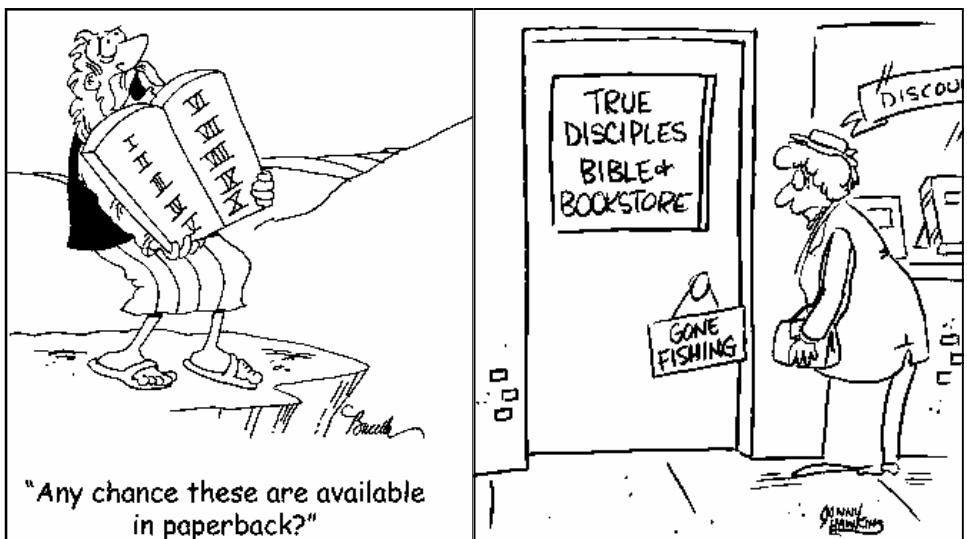
CLOSURE OF A CLC BOOKSHOP

It is with sadness that we report on the closure of the CLC Christian bookshop in Fife Road, Kingston. It maintained a Christian presence in the centre of Kingston since 1995. It is the latest of a long line of Christian bookshops to close due to declining sales and increased trading costs.

You can continue supporting CLC through your purchases whether online from www.clcbookshops.com or by visiting their central London shop at 3-4 Ave Maria Lane (off Ludgate Hill), EC4M 7AQ.

However should you still wish to have a look at Christian books somewhere local before buying, Re:refresh books is in Tolworth Broadway. You can enjoy Fairtrade tea and coffee as you browse and they have seats for those wanting to rest or read. In fine weather they open their walled garden to customers.

Similar to CLC they offer wide range of Bibles, Christian books, CDs, cards, gifts and Bible study materials for both adults and children. We often review of some of their latest books appear in the Martin Way Newsletter. The shop is open during normal business hours of 9am-5pm Mondays-Saturdays and they have their website at www.refreshbooks.co.uk.





FOOD REQUIREMENTS 2014

Christian CARE takes food and other items regularly and long-term to families with little or no money, especially where children are at risk. We try to respond to all appeals for help. Your gifts will help us support more needy families regularly. 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 and spaghetti

Pasta sauces – tomato, cheese

Cereals – e.g. Cornflakes, Weetabix, Cocopops, Cheerios

Fruit squashes

Fruit juices – e.g. tropical, mango

Drinking/hot chocolate [made with water]

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

Coffee - instant

Biscuits – sweet, [*not* savoury]

Sugar

Tinned vegetables – tomatoes, sweetcorn, peas, green beans

Tinned fruit – peaches, pineapple,

Tinned fish – tuna in brine/spring water, mackerel

Tinned desserts – eg custard, rice

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

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

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

Gwen Wildman will be leaving a large box clearly marked as food items for Christian CARE in the vestibule of the church hall during April for donations.



'Streams in the Desert'



Friday
7th March
Women's
World Day
of Prayer
All are welcome



Praying for Egypt

10:30am

St John the Divine, High Path SW19

Speaker: Mariam Tadros

(Underground, South Wimbledon; buses 57, 131, 93, 152, 493)

and

8:00pm

Wimbledon Methodist, Griffiths Road SW19

(Corner of Merton Road; buses 93, 57, 131 Polka Theatre stop)

Refreshments are served after each service

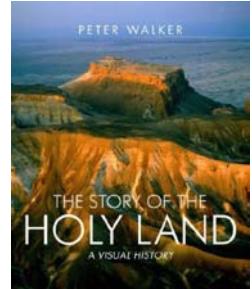
www.wwdp-natcomm.org Registered Charity Number 233242

Embrace the Middle East (formerly Biblelands)

25 Years of Fundraising and memories of the Holy Land (part two)

In October 2013 Derek and Mary Heaton were recognised for their 25 years fund-raising by Embrace. Last month Mary reflected on some of the times they spend in the Middle East. This month Derek reminisces.

As recognition of our past 25 years fund-raising for Embrace, Mary and I were presented with a visual history book called 'The Story of the Holy Land' written by Peter Walker. The book brings back many happy memories of our time in 1992, 1994 and 1995 when we worked independently at the Helen Keller School for Blind Children, but not all times we spent there were quite and peaceful. We had about six frightening occurrences from which we nearly didn't come home!



The first was the day Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, visited Jerusalem for Peace Talks with the Israeli Government. It was then when we were invited to a different school's presentation Day when the students received their diplomas at the age of 15/18 years. One of the Muslim girls at the Helen Keller School was due to receive the award.

We were all in the school hall with all the parents, teachers, dignitaries and all the young ladies dressed in their traditional Palestinian vibrant coloured clothing. The



presentations were greeted with rapturous applause and our young lady got the most as she was completely blind and read her thanks from her Braille notepad. Whilst this was happening the sound of a riot started from the street below. Looking

out of the upper window, we could see hundreds of Zionists and New Settlers carrying banners saying 'DEATH TO THE HOUSE OF THE ORIENT' and 'TERRORISTS GO TO HELL', many were carrying AK47 guns and others carrying sticks. Israeli and Palestinian police were trying to control them. Apparently the building opposite was where Arafat was staying. As I was driving the School's Minibus, the Police Chief insisted we leave the area with our party immediately. We were escorted by the Police through the angry gun touting mob. Soon we were safely back at the Helen Keller school; that night riots against the Peace Talks took place. many were in the Damascus Gate area and much damage was caused to Palestine properties and Christian sites by the Zionists and Hassidic Jews - the latter even harming their more moderate believers.

Another frightening event occurred after we had been invited (with Helen) to a Muslim Wedding in a tiny village outside Ramallah. Guests had travelled from all around the world, many were in traditional Palestine dress, other in smart Western styles. After the reception, when the music started ladies



began to dance together, also the men dancing together, as is their custom. It was then we heard rumours that cars with white Israeli



number plates could be targeted by stone throwing youngsters. due to this Helen's driver was nervous and wanted us to leave quickly. En route back to the Helen Keller School, the inevitable happened - a youth hurled a stone at the car which hit the laminated windscreen. Although the

windscreen did not break, shards of glass were sent all over Mary's face, neck, arms and legs. She could not open her eyes and we could not afford to stop. Eventually we arrived at an Israeli roadblock and a soldier's medic was called and Mary was able to open her eyes, which thankfully were not damaged. Once we got back to the school she had a good powerful shower (on the medic's advice) and smothered the floor with what looked like shiny diamonds (but all glass). She survived the incident with no major injury but shock as well as many scratches. Unfortunately the incident did not finish there, as we had to report the attack at Ramallah Police Station the following day. It was a dangerous time as a youth had just seriously injured a soldier, and other soldiers had shot the youth dead. This then led to the whole area turning into a riot. Again we were thankful to get away safely after reporting what had previously happened to us.

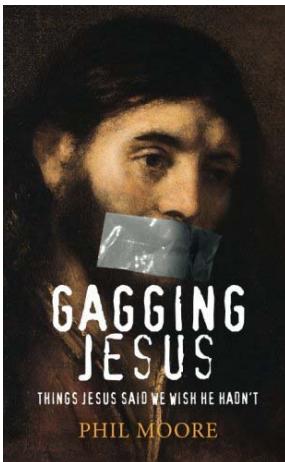
These are just a few of our experiences working with the Helen Keller School and our time in the Holy Land, all of which were are truly grateful to have experienced, both the good and the bad.

Derek Heaton

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GAGGING JESUS

This Christmas I was given the book 'Gagging Jesus' by my old friend David Featherstone. It is based on a series of sermons that he and Phil Moore preached at the Everyday Church, Queen's Road, Wimbledon. We are all aware of most of the things that Jesus said, but in this book Phil focuses on fifteen most outrageous things Jesus said. It makes for some interesting reading and will give you a better understanding that Jesus was not crucified for acting like some of the polite ministers and vicars we might know.



The book has a RRP of £4.99 and can be found at most good bookshops and via Amazon. It

may not be an easy read for some but it is thought provoking and I highly recommend it.

Greg Haslam Senior Pastor, Westminster Chapel, London writes of the book: *It's a serious crime to write a dull, distorted, or dishonest book about Jesus. This is not that kind of book. Phil Moore unpacks and applies a stunning collection of 'Hard Sayings' from Jesus who was never tedious, boring, dull, de-fanged, domesticated, or full of downright drivel. Dangerous explosives may come disguised as small harmless packages. This short book is downright dangerous! It demands attention. Prepare to hear the radical Jesus, the one they crucified for his plain speaking. Then meet Jesus again, perhaps for the very first time. Prepare to be shocked, undone, and put back together again.*

David Featherstone writes: *This book is one of the top selling Christian books in the UK - it has also stirred up a lot of controversy because it is hard hitting and goes against some of the softening down of Jesus words that the church has been guilty of in recent years. People tend to either love or hate the book - which I guess is in line with the responses Jesus got at the time. People either wanted to worship him or crucify him.*

For those who may be interested in hearing any of the original sermons of the book, visit the website www.everyday.org.uk, type 'Gagging Jesus' in the search box and download the audio files.

About the Author

In January 2013 Queen's Road Church changed it's name to Everyday Church and Phil Moore leads this thriving multivenue church in Wimbledon, Kingston and Southfields. He also serves as a translocal Bible Teacher within the Newfrontiers family of churches. After graduating from Cambridge University in History in 1995, Phil spent time on the mission field and then time in the business world. After four years of working twice through the Bible in the original languages, Phil has also written a series of commentaries on many books of the Bible called "Straight to the Heart" - short straightforward chapters with lots of practical application. His long term aim is to cover the whole Bible.

Andrew Fox



The Daily Mail has joined the call for the UK 11 billion overseas aid budget to be used to aid people affected by floods in the UK. Of course we are concerned for those in the UK whose homes have been flooded or who find themselves cut off. Every day we hear people's distress and despair at the loss of their livelihoods, belongings and properties.

But this is not a competition.

Wherever you live in the world, having your home or land flooded can be utterly devastating. Our experiences in the UK should be cause for empathy and solidarity with all who suffer, regardless of nationality.

We are pleased that in many flood-affected UK communities, churches have responded with offers of food, shelter and support. But there is also strong desire to see the UK play its part in the international effort to lift people out of poverty and to contribute to disaster relief.

The Daily Mail has launched a campaign and clearly sees an opportunity to feed on criticism of the UK's tiny commitment of 0.7% of GDP to Overseas Aid. The paper asks people to write to the Prime Minister to get overseas aid diverted to help those suffering flood damage in the UK.

I have written the Daily Mail on behalf of our Churches:

Sir,

In developing countries severe floods often result in hundreds of deaths and tens of thousands of ruined homes.

Our experience of flooding in Britain causes us to empathise with those who face much greater risks. In this light, the suggestion that we divert money from the aid budget to tackle flood damage in the UK seems somewhat perverse.

Steve Hucklesby

Policy Adviser

Joint Public Issues Team – Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches working together.

Why not write to David Cameron, asking him not to shirk our global responsibilities but to respond with the generosity we are known for as one of the world's leading economies?

Steve Hucklesby

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What is the Joint Public Issues Team?

The Joint Public Issues Team combines the expertise of the Baptist Union, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church in the area of public issues. The Team aims to enable our three Churches to work together in living out the gospel of Christ in the Church and in wider society. We aim to promote equality and justice by influencing those in power and by energising and supporting local congregations.

To find out more about the Joint Public Issues Team visit their website at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk, here you will find what our denominations have said about public issues, current campaigns, and resources for churches.

Steve Hucklesby



My background is in international relief and development having worked for 10 years on programmes in conflict and post-conflict settings in Africa and Asia. I am committed to exploring Christian responses to conflict and injustice. I cover areas such as non-proliferation, ethical investment and climate change.

CHURCH DIARY



| | | | |
|-----|----|--------------|--|
| Sun | 2 | 10.30am | All Age Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis |
| Tue | 6 | 10.30am-noon | Coffee and Chat |
| | | 8.00 pm | Time for Prayer |
| Fri | 7 | 10.30am | Women's Day of Prayer service at St John the Divine, South Wimbledon |
| | | 12.30pm | Luncheon Club |
| | | 8.00pm | Women's Day of Prayer service at Wimbledon Methodist Church |
| Sat | 8 | 10.30am | Big Brunch |
| Sun | 9 | 10.30am | Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft |
| Tue | 13 | 10.30am-noon | Coffee and Chat |
| | | 8.00 pm | Time for Prayer |
| Sun | 16 | 10.30am | Cafe Worship with Platform 10 ³ / ₄ |
| | | 6.30pm | Communion Service by Rev Paul Timmis |
| Tue | 18 | 10.30am-noon | Coffee and Chat |
| | | 7.00pm | Men's Supper Club - <i>David Kass</i> - What we should know about Wills |
| | | 8.00pm | Time for Prayer |
| Fri | 21 | 12.30pm | Luncheon Club |
| Sun | 23 | 10.30am | Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis |
| Tue | 25 | 10.30am-noon | Coffee and Chat |
| | | 8.00 pm | Time for Prayer |
| Sun | 30 | 10.30am | Mothering Sunday led by Rev Margaret Adams |

*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 March a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Ruby Day on 3rd March

Matthew Loft on 9th March

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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). 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.



**This will be the final Big Brunch before we go to Spring Harvest
Saturday 8th March, 10.30am until 1pm**

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VACANCIES IN THE CHURCH

We are looking for additional people who would be able to undertake the Reading of Intercessory Prayers. We also have vacancies for Communion Stewards.

Please give some thought if you would be able for either (or both) of these roles. If you would like to consider applying or to find out more about the roles and duties please speak to Paul Timmis.

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Change of Email Address for Margaret Adams

Please note the change of email address for Rev Margaret Adams. The 'Care for Uganda' article in last month's Newsletter had her old address. Her new email address is **Revmargaretjadams@gmail.com**

TWO FEASTS OF LENT

DAVID, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c. 601

(1st March)

The church is a very human organisation but also the garden of God's grace. It is a place where great sanctity keeps blooming. Saints are people who make the living Christ visible to us in a special way. Some saints have given their lives in the service of Christ and his Church; others have spoken and written words that keep nurturing us; some have lived heroically in difficult situations; others have remained hidden in quiet lives of prayer and meditation; some were prophetic voices calling for renewal; others were spiritual strategists setting up large organisations or networks of people; some were healthy and strong; others were quite sick, and often anxious and insecure.

But all of them in their own ways live in the Church as in a garden where they heard the voice calling them the Beloved and where they found courage to make Jesus the centre of their lives.

PATRICK, Bishop of Armagh, Missionary, Patron Of Ireland, c. 460

(17th March)

There are more people on this planet outside the Church than inside of it. Millions have been baptised, millions have not. Millions participate in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, but millions do not.

The Church as the body of Christ, as Christ living in the world, has a larger mission than to support, nurture and guide its own members. It is also called to be a witness to the love of God made visible in Jesus. Before his death Jesus prayed for his followers, 'As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world' (John 17:18). Part of the essence of being the Church is being a living witness for Christ in the world.

taken from 'Bread for the Journey' by Henri Nouwen

Items for the **April Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 16th March** at the latest