

MINISTER'S LETTER

Before long we will be in November which is in so many ways a month of remembering. Next month's newsletter will surely reflect on this. I thought therefore that I would use this month's letter to focus on an illness that takes away the ability of people to remember - dementia.



'Constant media coverage of the escalating numbers of people affected by dementia and the impact of the condition on individual lives fuels fear and anxiety. Many of those affected or involved feel that there is little that can be done to help: even if medication can temporarily delay the worst of the symptoms, the only course appears to be to 'hope for the best', but with little idea of how that can be achieved.'

This quotation, which I think, accurately sums up the situation, comes to us from a Contented Dementia Trust brochure which is available through their website <http://www.contenteddementiastrust.org>

For family reasons, I recently turned to the Contented Dementia Trust for guidance. In the conversations and e-mail exchanges that have taken place over the past couple of weeks I have been quite simply overwhelmed by the interest that people at the trust have shown in my family's situation, the time afforded to us and the support that we have been offered.

The Contented Dementia Trust understands dementia to be a disability and seeks to work positively with it rather than attempt to ignore or defeat it. It also helps people to understand this disability by way of a simple but exceptionally helpful analogy - a photograph album in which the facts and feelings associated with our experiences are stored. As dementia takes hold, a person finds it increasingly difficult to either store or access facts - as a result feelings become much more important. To explore this analogy further or to read about the Three Golden Rules - "Don't ask questions", "listen to the expert (the person with dementia) and learn from them" and "Don't contradict" - please visit their website or ask me to talk with you.

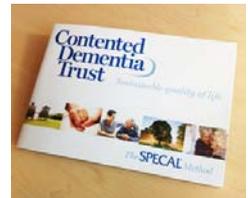
As some people will know all too well, the effects of dementia can be devastating - both for those with the condition and for those family and friends who love and care for them. It has been a source of personal blessing to have encountered the Contented Dementia Trust. Through its work, fear gives way to hope. The Contented Dementia Trust might not describe itself in these terms but I am utterly convinced that theirs is the work of God.

Too many people suffer in silence. I offer this information in the hope that someone who really needs to find a lifeline, does so here.

With every blessing

Paul

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The **Contented Dementia Trust**, formerly known as **SPECAL**, is an independent charitable organisation with an innovative approach to the care of people with dementia.

Our mission

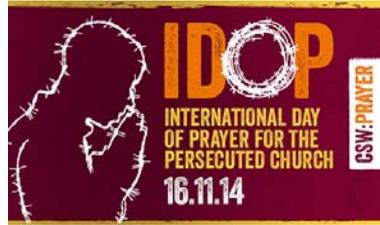
To ensure that the person with dementia, and their carer, can lead as close an approximation to the life they would have wished to live without dementia. To ensure that the impact of the specific memory change experienced by people with dementia is clearly understood and taken into account in the design and planning of dementia services.

If you would like to get in touch with us please email us at:
info@contenteddementiatrust.org

You can also write to us at the following address:
**Contented Dementia Trust, The Old Hospital
Sheep Street, Burford, Oxon, OX18 4LS**



**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS



On **Sunday 16 November 2014**, churches all over the world will join together in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

Bloomsbury Baptist Church, London

7.30pm-9pm, Wednesday 12 November 2014

As part of the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP), Christian Solidarity Worldwide will be holding a number of special events up and down the country so that Christians can gather together and pray.

For Pakistan: – for justice and compensation for victims ahead of All Saints Church bombing anniversary. Christian Solidarity Worldwide is calling on the Pakistani government to fulfill its pledge to compensate the victims of the attack on All Saints Church in Peshawar, ahead of the anniversary of the bombing that took place on 22 September 2013. 19/09/2014

- Pray that God will provide opportunities for academic and vocational education that would lead to a source of income to the Christians who are facing pervasive poverty;
- Pray that the promised compensation from the government would finally be delivered, and that the survivors would get the medical care they need;
- Ask God to bless the Pakistani Church with a spirit of unity, so that they can overcome infighting and stand together in their faith;
- Thank God that the majority of Muslims in the region are tolerant of the Christian community;
- Thank God that the people of All Saints Church have been strengthened in their faith as they face persecution and danger.

For Sudan: - In the lead up to South Sudan's independence, President Omar al Bashir began calling repeatedly for a 100% Islamic Sudan. On 19 December 2010, he warned, "If South Sudan secedes, we will change the constitution and at that time there will be no time to speak of diversity of culture and ethnicity."

For Eritrea: - Christian Solidarity Worldwide is calling for international pressure on the government of Eritrea, to ensure that it complies with rulings

passed by the African Commission calling for prominent politicians and journalists who have been detained incommunicado for the last thirteen years to be released and compensated.

For Colombia: – the Constitutional Court upheld the right to conscientious objection, freedom of worship and religious freedom on 16 September in the case of Jhonatan David Vargas Becerra, who was forcibly inducted into the military in March 2014 and later arrested and imprisoned on charges of going absent without leave.

For China: -Two more detainees from Nanle County Christian Church, Henan Province, detained in November 2013 after a group of church members attempted to petition a higher authority about a land dispute involving the church, have been found guilty of “gathering a crowd to disrupt public order”.

“I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling.” 1Timothy 2:8 (ESV)

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Churches Together in Merton Park update Nov 2013 - Sept 2014

Members of the Churches Together in Merton Park committee met five times throughout the past year.

At the September 2013 meeting, Dr David Ashby, chairman of the Morden and District Royal British Legion was invited to speak about the formation and work of the RBL. 2014 being the year of remembering the victims of the First World War, he solicited help from the churches represented for the annual Poppy Appeal, both by having boxes of poppies in the churches and possibly finding volunteers for the Poppy Collection 28th Oct - 11th Nov. It was made clear that RBL was concerned with Remembrance of lives lost in conflict, promoting peace and supporting Service Personnel and their families in any kind of need. The committee gave their general support.

The main events of the past year have been:

Autumn Event -

The Autumn event focused on the Christian CARE Annual General meeting which took place on the 6th November at Morden Baptist church. The theme was; "Food for Families in Need - Three responses to Hunger in the London Borough of Merton." Rev. Paul Timmis was the chairman and the panel members were;

Pastor Marcus Bennett - Wimbledon Foodbank,

Pastor Ioannis Dekas - Doxa Deo 'Christmas Lunch on Jesus',

Miss Gillian Thick - Christian CARE Family support.

This event proved to be very enlightening, was very well attended with all local churches represented. It is hoped to repeat a similar event in the future.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25th January)

Since last year's Unity service took place in April and was better attended than in previous years, it was decided to hold this year's service in the Spring. This service took place on the 18th May at Merton Park Baptist church marking the end of Christian Aid week. With Ascension tide in mind, the theme was "King of Kings" focusing on 'Majesty', 'Humility' and 'Exaltation'. During the service there was an offering for the work of Christian Aid. All who attended were blessed.

Easter Sunrise Service

It has been a tradition since 2005 to celebrate Easter with a Sunrise service on Cannon Hill common. Despite the cold weather the small group met at 6 30am, together with dogs to celebrate and give thanks. Rev Keith Mitchell shared communion and an Easter message followed by breakfast and Easter eggs at Martin Way Methodist church.

Christmas Leaflets

As in previous years the CTiMP have produced leaflets with a Christmas message and including a list of Christmas services held in each church. This year will include, as well as information about Christian CARE, details of our linked charities; Merton Street Pastors, Faith in Action, Wimbledon Foodbank and the Winter Night Shelter. The leaflets will be distributed to about 8,000 homes in Merton Park. The committee are extremely grateful to the many volunteers from each church who have given of their time to distribute these in the past.

Christian CARE

Christian CARE have had a very busy year with more referrals made than in previous years. Gillian gives an updated report to the committee at each meeting. More volunteers are needed to meet the demand especially families in crisis. A family support organiser is still required and someone to co-ordinate and organise the camps. The furniture project and the distribution of baby and children's clothing have been exceptionally busy. One family had a wonderful holiday in Butlins and over 20 children went to Falcon camps this summer. The churches represented all made significant donations of foods during the year which has been greatly appreciated.

Future plans and dates for your diaries:

- Christian CARE A.G.M. At Morden Baptist church on **Wednesday 12th November 2014** at 8pm - refreshments at 7.30pm. The Speaker, Vicky Fewkes is Housing Solicitor at Ealing Law Centre will talk on "Legal Aid - Justice for the Disadvantaged?"
- Taize Autumn meetings **13th October, 17th November, 15th December** at St John Fisher RC church 8pm
- Christian CARE New Year Party will be held on the **31st January 2015** at Martin Way Methodist church
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service will be held at St James' church. **Date to be confirmed.**
- The Women's World Day of Prayer services on **Friday 6th March 2015** will be held at Christ Church, Copse Hill at 10.30am and at Martin Way Methodist church at 8pm
- Easter Sunrise service **5th April 2015** at Cannon Hill Common

The next meeting of CTiMP is on **Thursday 20th November** at 104 Grand Drive, SW20 at 8pm. It would be great to have another committee member. Please prayerfully consider if this worthwhile role is for you.

Gwen Wildman

On the 15th June 2014 I took part in the Race for Life. It was a wonderful day with women of all shapes, sizes and ages, dressed in pink, taking part. Ashleigh and Jason particularly enjoyed the dogs dressed in pink! People ran, walked, pushed buggies and I even cart wheeled her way around the 5k course. I felt I gave my all and was delighted that I managed to run the 5 kms in 28 minutes! I was also delighted and very grateful for the generous sponsorship I received. My little team of 4 set a target of raising £1000, of the team Julia and Luda ran with me. Sula, the 4th member of our team was running at a different site. I am pleased to say we raised just under £1900!



I ran in memory of my wonderful mother-in-law Joan West, who sometimes joined us at church when she was visiting from South Africa. We sadly and unexpectedly lost her to cancer on the 25th August 2013.

I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone at the church who sponsored me for the run which raised money to support research into the treatment of cancer.

Viccie Nelson-Hillhouse

Bourne Hall Christmas and Craft Fayre

Saturday 15th November

Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell, KT17 1UF
10.30am - 3pm

An ideal opportunity to buy your Christmas
presents and Stocking fillers

- Crafts
- Gifts
- Cakes
- Tombola
- Raffle
- A visit from
Father Christmas
- Many more
exciting items

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Admission - Adults £1 Children FREE

All proceeds to


**Shooting
Star Chase**
Children's Hospice Care





The 2014 Embrace the Middle East Calendar not only features beautiful pictures of the Middle East, but also Bible verses and recipes on the reverse.

Here is one of the recipes that makes a great dessert or even just a nice treat.

Baklava

This famous dessert is very sweet.

Ingredients

- 240g (8oz) melted butter
- 110g (4oz) finely chopped pistachio nuts
- 110g (4oz) finely chopped walnuts
- 110g (4oz) finely chopped blanched almonds
- 60g (2oz) sugar
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 450g (1lb) filo pastry, rolled into 15-20 thin sheets

For the syrup

- 200g (7oz) sugar
- 300g (12oz) honey
- 450ml (16 fl oz) water
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Zest of ¼ lemon



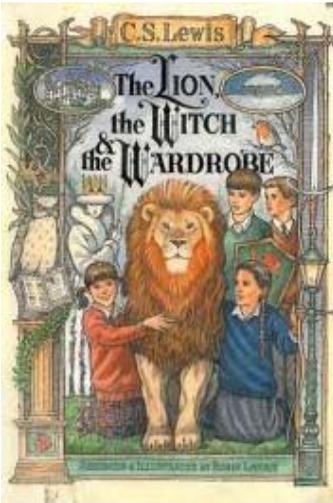
Method

1. Grease a baking tray and cover the base with 10 sheets of pastry, brushing each with melted butter before adding the next sheet.
2. Mix together the nuts, cinnamon and sugar, then sprinkle over the pastry.
3. Add the remaining sheets of pastry, brushing each with melted butter before adding the next. Brush the top with any left over butter and, using a sharp knife, cut a criss-cross pattern into the top layers of pastry.

4. Bake at 160°C (Gas mark 3) for an hour. If the baklava begins to brown too quickly cover with foil.
5. Whilst the baklava is cooking, make the syrup. Combine all the syrup ingredients in a saucepan and heat gently until the sugar is dissolved.
6. Bring to the boil for 10 minutes, then remove from the heat.
7. When the baklava is cooked, pour half the syrup over the hot baklava. Leave to stand for 30 minutes, then pour over the remaining syrup.
8. Cut into small diamond-shaped pieces and refrigerate overnight before serving.

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SIGMA CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION



SIGMA are now meeting every Sunday between 4.00pm to 5.30pm at Martin Way Methodist Church for rehearsals of their Christmas presentation, which this year will be the C.S.Lewis story of ‘The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe’, to be performed at the church on Sunday 14th.

SIGMA is a Greek letter meaning ‘All things coming together’ The group is made up of mixed ages and is a mixed medial creative art group (singing, dance, drama, musical, instruments, back stage), So if you enjoy singing/acting/dancing or have skills that can be used back stage, please come and join us.

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



**MARTIN WAY
HARVEST FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER**

This year our Harvest Festival donations will be passed to SPIRES.

Spires is a South London based charity that helps hundreds of homeless and disadvantaged people all year round. They work to improve the quality of life of people who are homeless, insecurely housed, unemployed or suffering from the effects of poverty, mental ill health and loneliness.

We list below the things they most need at this time.

Toiletries:

Razors, shaving foam, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant.

Food

Breakfast cereal/porridge oats, coffee & tea, tinned fish (sardines, tuna, mackerel, salmon etc.), soup (tinned or packet cup-a-soups) tinned baked beans, tinned meats (ham, corned beef), tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned puddings (rice pudding, custard etc), jam, marmalade, cordial, biscuits, sugar, rice.

Definitely no fresh fruit or fresh vegetables please.

Other items:

Men's underwear, men's socks.

Please recycle your used carrier bags, sleeping bags, books and magazines, men's trainers, men's clothes (jeans, jumpers, jackets, t-shirts, coats) and pass these things on to Spires as well any of the above items.

Spires are based at 8 Tooting Bec Gardens, London SW16 1RB
to find out more about the work they do visit their website at
www.spires.org.uk



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Extreme Youth Group

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.

RUSSIA: Pastor Serebrennikov

Local newspapers described the scene as "savage." It wasn't a murder scene or car wreck; it was a Bible study.

The story appeared in a Communist Russian newspaper around 1960. It read in part, "Young boys and girls sing spiritual hymns. They receive the ritual baptism and keep the evil, treacherous teaching of love toward the enemy." The story went on to disclose the shocking reality that many people in the Communist Youth Organisation were secretly Christians.

"We must believe our Saviour as the first Christians did," Pastor Serebrennikov told his youth group. "For us, the principle law is the Bible. We recognise nothing else. We must hurry to save men from sin, especially the youth."

The Pastor was thrown in prison when the Communists discovered a letter written by one of his converts. The teenage girl had written, "I send you blessings from our beloved Lord. How much he loves me!"

Newspaper editorials wondered how Communist students could choose to follow Christ and accused the Communists school of being "powerless" and "deprived of light." They said that Christianity could "snatch away its disciples from under the nose of their indifferent teachers."

It wasn't the teacher's indifference. It was the call of Christ's love as presented by Pastor Serebrennikov and the members of his youth group -- Christians who let their light shine in a darkened land.

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine..." This familiar childhood song has a simple melody with not too many words to remember -- it can stick in one's mind for days after it's sung. Young children find the song easy to learn, but it's much more difficult to live, especially as we get older. How many chances do we have in a day to let our lights shine and honour God? One or two? Ten? Twenty? The exact count doesn't matter. What does matter is our response to the events we face everyday. Who knows? Your light may be just what others need to find their way home.

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. (Matthew 5: 14-15)

CHURCH DIARY

OCTOBER



Fri	3	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	5	10.30 am	Harvest Festival led by Rev Paul Timmis
		12.30 pm	Harvest Lunch
		4.30 pm	SIGMA Rehearsal
Tue	7	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	12	10.30 am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
		4.30 pm	SIGMA Rehearsal
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	14	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	17	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	19	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
		4.30 pm	SIGMA Rehearsal
Tue	21	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Social Care</i> - Brenda Cannon
Sat	25	10.30 am	Big Brunch
Sun	26	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
		4.30 pm	SIGMA Rehearsal
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)
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

Jason Hillhouse on 23rd October



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An Extra Special Happy Birthday to Jason



One of our younger members of our church family has his 2nd birthday this month, so we include extra special Birthday Greetings to Jason from us all, as he celebrates his birthday on Thursday 23rd October.

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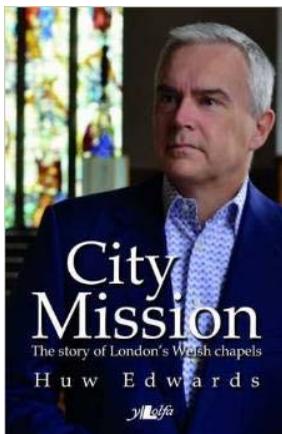
Have we Missed Your Birthday?

As we have many new additions to the church family, we may have inadvertently missed names of those celebrating their birthdays each month.

If you wish to have your child's birthday (or anyone's special birthday) mentioned in the Newsletter please pass the details for inclusion to our Editor, Andrew Fox.

He can be contacted via email at roife@hotmail.co.uk or by phone on (020) 8330 7917.

Methodists and Welsh Chapels



BAFTA award-winning Welsh journalist Huw Edwards is a recognisable face to most of the British public in his role as a BBC news anchor and television presenter of notable events, such as the royal wedding of 2011 and the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games.

In his book, '**City Mission: the story of London's Welsh chapels**', he traces the history of London's Welsh churches. He examines the origins of the London Welsh, the pattern of Welsh migration to London past and present, the influence of Howel Harris and the early Methodists, the tradition of Welsh preaching, and describes in detail the Welsh religious causes in London.

In the book he covers chapels across London including those in Sutton, Battersea Rise, Clapham Junction and one of London's grandest Welsh chapels that is in City Road which was built by Wesleyan Methodists.

The book will be published on Friday, 17 October 2014. To mark the occasion there will be a special book launch at the London Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, at 7.30pm. All are welcome, and there will be books on sale at the event.

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Don't make God your 'spare wheel'
He should be your 'steering wheel'

Bishop Sinker

Items for the **November Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 19th October** at the latest