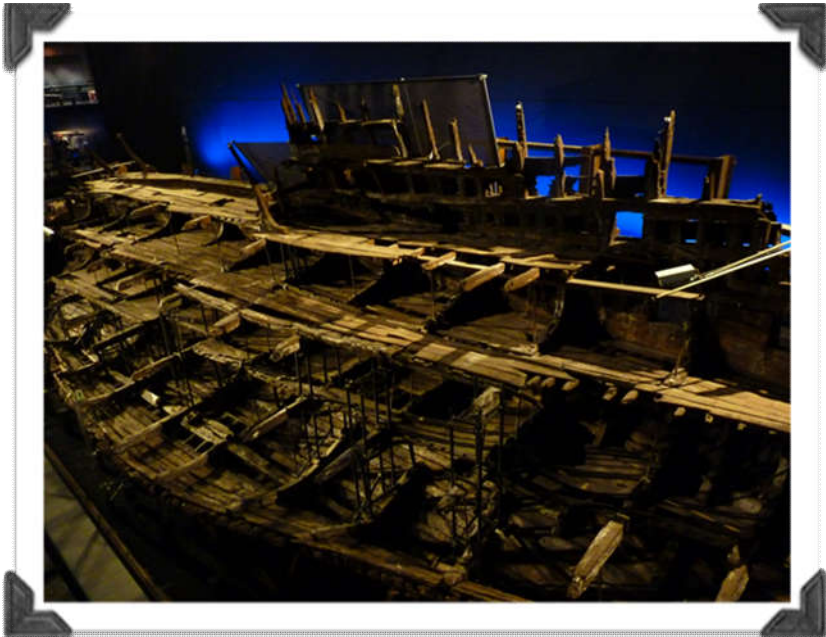


## **MINISTER'S LETTER**

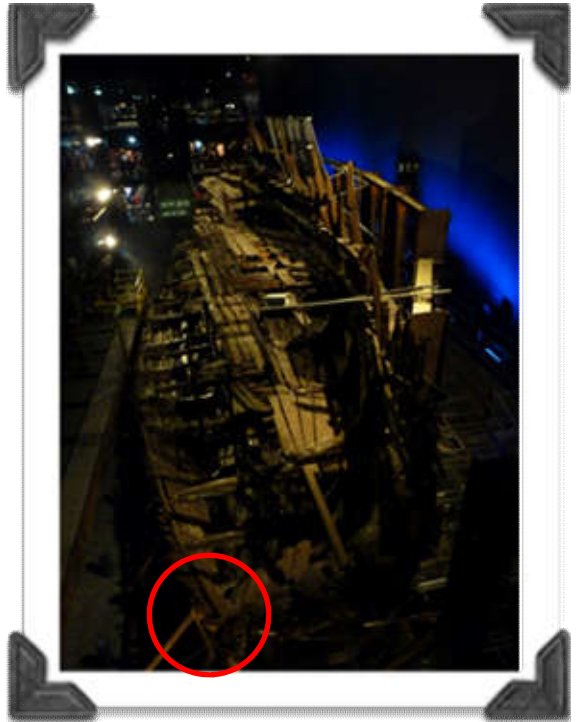


One of the things that we were fortunate to do as a family this summer was visit the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth. The story of the Mary Rose is one that has fascinated me since 1982 when I sat glued to the television screen, watching it being raised. Quite why it has taken me so long to visit it is beyond me but the cue to doing so at this point in time was its fresh unveiling in July. News that visitors would enjoy a panoramic view of the ship for the first time without the obstruction of glass or conservation jets was enough of an incentive to book tickets. I am so glad that we did.

This stunning museum tells the story of the sinking, discovery (or rather discoveries), raising and conservation of Henry VIII's flagship wonderfully well. For a taster, and if you have access to the internet, have a look at the museum's website <http://www.maryrose.org>. but to give you an idea of what it looks like, here are a couple of our photographs, though even these fail to give a good idea of the ship's scale.



Along with the 19,000+ artefacts that have been so lovingly presented, one of the things that struck me most powerfully were three red squares of paper attached to the end of three timbers (which I hope you can just about make out in the red circle). Incredibly, these three port frames were the only things visible by diver Percy Ackland in May 1971. Every other part of this hulking great ship was buried in the silt at the bottom of the Solent.



As church life picks up again after the summer, I offer you this image and some questions to ponder in the days, weeks and months ahead as we prepare ourselves for another Methodist year that will see us revisit Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost all over again.

How much of God has been made visible to us (as individuals and as a church community) thus far, do you think, and how much more might lie waiting to be discovered? As you step into another church year, do you do so with a sense of anticipation, believing that exciting new discoveries are a distinct possibility, or have such hopes been buried, to lie dormant, needing to be stirred and reawoken?

As disciples of Jesus, how much of our faith do we/are we prepared to

show to others and how much do we keep hidden? And that which we keep hidden - are we content with that or do we long for the confidence and/or opportunity for it to reveal itself?

The discovery of three pieces of timber protruding from the sea bed in 1971 was the source of much excitement and delight for Alexander McKee's team. It represented the end of a six year quest to pinpoint the precise location of the Mary Rose. It would be another 45 years of painstaking work before the ship could be revealed as it now is, but just imagine what would have been lost to the world had three pieces of timber been overlooked and not explored further or if one person's passion and dedication hadn't rubbed off on others.

With every blessing

*Paul*

————— < 0 > —————

You don't think God can use you? Remember this....

Jacob was a cheater.

Thomas was a doubter.

Peter had a temper.

Sarah was impatient.

David had an affair.

Elijah was depressed.

Noah got drunk.

Moses stuttered.

Jonah ran from God.

Zacchaeus was short.

Paul was a murderer.

Abraham was old.

Gideon was insecure.

Miriam was a gossiper.

AND...

Martha was a worrier.

Lazarus was dead.

... Yet God used them all. Remember, God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called!



## **OPEN HOUSE LONDON 17TH -18TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

Every year in September a number of London's splendid buildings are opened to the general public. In previous years St Mary's Church, Merton Park was open as part of this project.

This year there are three very different places of worship taking part in Open House London in Merton.

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH & GARDEN HALL, 30 St Mary's Road, Wimbledon, SW19 7BP**

A Grade II listed church by Gilbert Scott. The Garden Hall has an uncompromisingly modern design using materials which echo the knapped flint and limestone of the Church. Incorporates a 'light-bar' of translucent glazing.

RIBA Award Winner 2005.



### **BAITUL FUTUH MOSQUE, 181 London Road, Morden, SM4 5PT**



A purpose-built mosque and the largest in Western Europe, with 15m diameter dome and minarets 36m and 23m high, accommodating 13,000 worshippers. The building is a blend of Islamic and modern British architecture and incorporates much of the structure of an old dairy site.

Voted one of top 50 buildings in the world by Independent Magazine.

**BUDDHAPADIPA TEMPLE,**  
14 Calonne Road, Wimbledon, SW19 5HJ

A complex of buildings on 4 acres of land with Buddhist Theravada Temple in Thai style - one of only two outside Asia. Interior walls with excellent mural paintings by Thai artists, depicting aspects of the Buddha's life.



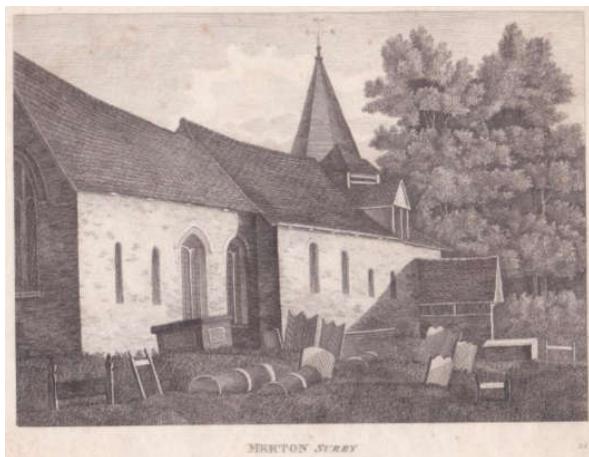
For full information of all the other buildings that are open during Open House London 2016 visit their website [www.openhouselondon.org.uk](http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk)

————— < 0 > —————

**Another look at St Mary's Church, Merton Park**  
*(Taken from St Mary's Church Newsletter)*

The newly refurbished heraldic shields on the North Porch catch our attention as soon as we enter the gates. Could it be that the carved head above, said to be Prior Robert de Windsor, is now looking down with approval? A few steps into the porch, however, our own eyes also look downwards, ready to negotiate the church steps, without giving a second glance upwards at the last remaining part of Gilbert's Norman building.

This sandstone archway dates back to 1121. We can still clearly see the two semi-circular dog



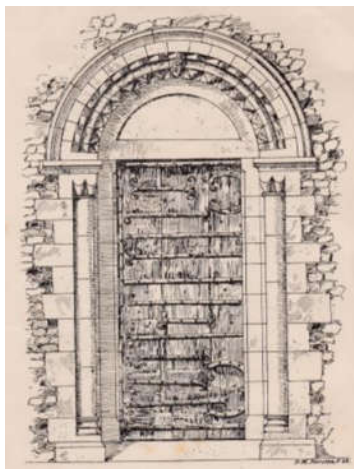
tooth mouldings. A closer look at its apex reveals a worn figure of a lion, with its back to us. It has lost its head but with a bit of imagination you can see its front paws and tail curled across its back.

When the North aisle was added in 1866, two thirteenth century lancets and two Norman windows were lost, but the Norman doorway and porch were saved and moved to their present position.

The church architect, Phillip M. Johnston, explained in 1905 that, fortunately, the length of the new aisle stopped short by about 15 feet leaving the Bell Tower with its 12th century West and North West walls intact. Old plans show that the old doorway stood in the original north wall just beyond where the pigeonholes are now, as can be seen in the lithograph of 1809 on the previous page (published by S. Woodburn).

Johnston goes on to say that the rebuild was rather clumsy; for some reason they failed to make the opening wide enough. The pillars don't actually support the arch and the bases and the upper plinths are missing. The porch, dated around 1390, was also altered to accommodate the new entrance but still retains its beautiful old tracery.

Johnston comments that the door is one of the finest examples of this period in Surrey. Made of heavy oak planks it still has its original twelfth century iron work: a plain marginal strip of iron, two C shaped hinges and scrolled terminals and twelve horizontal straps also with scroll ends of ram's horn pattern. The next time you enter the North door, stop and take a few minutes to look again at the details, and give thanks to those in the past who helped to preserve our Norman legacy.



*Hazel Abbott*



**CHRISTIAN  
SOLIDARITY  
WORLDWIDE**  
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

**August Press Releases  
from CSW**

*The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love. Psalm 33:18*

We would like you to pray for three men unjustly imprisoned in Sudan. **Reverend Hassan** is in prison for responding to **Mr Abdumawla**'s appeal for money to treat a friend who was badly burned during a demonstration at a university in 2015. **Reverend Kuwa** is being detained simply for being a friend of Rev Hassan and a church leader. All three men face charges that may lead to them being given the death penalty.

We're thankful that they've been moved from the cramped and dangerous holding cells to an official prison, but please keep praying. The prison has a contaminated water supply and it's further from Khartoum, so it's harder for their families and lawyers to visit them.

This is the second consecutive year that church leaders have been charged by the Sudanese authorities with crimes that carry the death penalty: you might remember the case of Reverends Yat Michael and Peter Reith, who also faced the death penalty and were released in August 2015.

Rev Kuwa's wife told us how grateful she is to know so many people are praying. She asked us to thank you, saying: "Thank you very much for your support. Please do your best to help us."

This week, please pray:

- For God to protect Rev Hassan, Rev Kuwa, and Mr Abdumawla
- For God's presence to be strongly felt by the families of Rev Hassan and Rev Kuwa, both of whom have young children
- That the judge would dismiss the case, and the men would be released immediately and unconditionally
- For wisdom for the legal team representing all three men as the trial begins this weekend
- That this would be the last time a church leader is unjustly charged with crimes that carry the death penalty in Sudan.

**Mexico** is often ignored when people talk about religious freedom. In reality, many Protestant Christians suffer from harassment, violent threats and other more insidious methods of discrimination as their communities try to force them to conform or leave.

Pastor Guillermo Favela, pastor of the Rios de Agua Viva Church, was stabbed on a street near his church after refusing to pay protection money. Let's thank God that Pastor Guillermo's wounds weren't life threatening, and pray for his continued healing.

José Gabriel wants to be a pastor when he grows up. He loves to go to school and learn, but he hasn't been in a long time. His village wouldn't let him because he was an evangelical Christian. Pray that one day José Gabriel would be able to return to school without fear.

In June, 11 people from the same family were killed in a massacre in the village of El Mirador. The youngest survivors are six and four. They were part of a community of Protestant Evangelical Christians, and had been forced out of their original, mostly Roman Catholic, village 12 years ago. Please pray for the survivors of the massacre.

We'd like you to pray for José Gabriel's father Caralampio today. He was kicked out of his village along with his sons because he was an evangelical Christian. He told us, "I have suffered for my faith since the day I accepted the Lord in my life, but I am willing to go on despite these conditions; I have to continue on God's path". Give thanks for his courage and pray for Caralampio and his family today.

Recently, Casto Hernandez Hernandez and Fidel Lopez Hernandez went to Washington DC to talk to US policymakers about their experiences of being displaced in Mexico. Join us in thanking God for this amazing opportunity.

Imagine if you had no water or electricity because you believed something different to the rest of your street. It sounds unbelievable, but many Protestant Christians in Mexico have their basic services cut off by their communities simply because they're a different denomination. Please pray for the Protestant Christians who live in such oppressive circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

*The CSW team*





## Food and drink in Uganda today

We are extremely well fed at Care for Uganda HQ. Sometimes as you travel around you see some interesting sights.

sometimes in the middle of nowhere you come across something which makes you cry.

In amongst all our food experiences we met a family, in a brick built house in the bush. We soon learned that the saying 'don't judge a book by its cover' is so true. The children living here had an alcoholic father. Mum and older sister couldn't cope and had left. There was absolutely



nothing in their home except a few cups and plates and a pile of clothes. Nothing -no bed, no mattress, nothing. There was nothing to cook with, nothing to cook on and the children were living on Jack fruit.

We delivered a bunch of bananas and returned later with mattresses, mozzie nets, pots, fuel and food, solar lamps and to build a tippy tap. I just wanted to cook those poor children a meal, but we did what we could and went away hoping Dad wouldn't sell everything to buy more booze.

CFU desperately needs sponsors to be able to fund children like these through school and give them a chance in life. It costs the equivalent of a Mars Bar a day. Nothing, but everything.



Outdoor kitchen in the bush



Tippy Tap in action



Enjoying BBQ sweet corn



Cooking on an energy saving stove

## Our trip to Uganda 2016



Our time in Village of Bbowa in the Luwanda District in the Kingdom of Buganda in the country of Uganda was for me very special as I got to see the young girl [Lilian Namutebi] I am sponsoring and was able to meet her family and see where she lives, which really made me realise just how education sponsorship is able to not only help the children but their family as well by hopefully lifting them out of abstract poverty.

But I'm getting in front of myself.

Our journey out there seemed as if it would never end we left Gatwick Airport at 10am (UK time) and arrived in Entebbe Airport at 4am (Ugandan time) then we had a 2½ hour drive to reach our home for the week – the Ugandan HQ for Care for Uganda. However once settled in our time was occupied very well with things to do and people to see. Emily Bacon Phoebe Pallister and Rebecca Smith came with



us (12 people in all in our group) and I have to say they were amazing and the girls stepped up to the challenges when the need arose I am so proud of them as I trust you are also.

Phoebe and Rebecca had written short bits for this Newsletter but we all hope to give a good presentation later in the year (We will have to work out when as Rebecca is off to Reading University later this month – and we all wish her well).

As always I'm happy to take to anyone who would like to know more about our time in Bbowa.

God Bless

*Tony Loft*

Going to Uganda was a once in a life time opportunity, but hopefully It won't be for me.

The people there are so welcoming and friendly that I would like to spend every year there. For people who don't have much they share what they do have, even if it is just giving an avocado or welcoming someone into their home.

Care for Uganda [C4U] is doing so much work there to help build a better future for the people who are suffering. This opportunity for me to experience life in Uganda has not only opened my eyes to the poverty in this world but taught me the different between hand outs and hand ups (Hand out mean to just give money etc. without really knowing how it will help and hand up mean that if they help themselves then C4U will help them and everything is closely monitored). C4U help families become self-sufficient, giving them the animals or tools to sustain a better life for themselves.

There is still so much work that needs to be done but to know that I had a small part in making someone's life cleaner or safer or longer puts a smile on my face. I am so encouraged to go out and tell

people of the amazing work and all the work that still need to be done in Uganda.

*Phoebe Pallister*



My time at Uganda has been one that I will never forget. With many highs and lows, it will be an experience that I will always treasure. I feel very privileged to have been able to visit a country like this, that's so far away from our own, and to be able to meet the people, and give something to them which will surely make life a little easier is such a fulfilling feeling to have.

Particular highlights for me were visiting the schools and being able to see the excitement on all of the children's faces as we came to visit and play sports with them. I also really enjoyed building the tippy taps, and as much hard work as it was, it was overwhelming to think that we'd given a family a lifeline by building them a working hands free tap. Of course I also loved the visit to the equator, and doing the science experiments either side of the line was just brilliant.

To conclude, I'm hugely grateful to everyone who supported us as a group going to Uganda, and I'd like you all to know that what we give individually and from the church as a whole is really worth it. I can say that I've seen it with my own eyes, it really does make a difference, so thank you.

*Rebecca Smith*



————— < 0 > —————

God has given us two hands — one for receiving  
and the other for giving.

*Billy Graham*

## GARRISON KEILLOR ON "METHODISTS"

We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed, and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese.

But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodist-less place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Methodists, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage.

It's natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. They are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By joining in harmony, they somehow promise that they will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: People, these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you can call up when you're in deep distress.

\*If you're dying, they will comfort you.

\*If you are lonely, they'll talk to you.

\*And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad.

\*Methodists believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.

\*Methodists drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

\*Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

\*Methodists believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.

\*Methodists usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

\*Methodists believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.

\*Methodists think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

\*Methodists feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

\*Methodists are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at the church.

\*Methodists believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, You know you are a Methodist when:

It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.

You hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.

When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "and also with you."

And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye!

*Garrison is an American Author, poet and radio personality*

## **Extreme Deception**

*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.*

### **PAKISTAN : Zahid**

Zahid was a Pakistani Muslim priest who ambushed Christians and burnt their Bibles. Once he kept one of the Bibles and started studying it to prove that Christianity was a lie.

"I read the Bible, looking for contradictions I could use against the Christian faith, Zahid shared. "All of a sudden, a great light appeared in my room and I heard a voice call my name. The light illuminated the entire room.

"Zahid, why do you persecute me?" The voice asked.

"I was scared. I didn't know what to do. I asked, "Who are you?"

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.' For the next three nights, the light and the voice returned. On the fourth night, I knelt down and accepted Jesus as my Saviour."

Having converted to Christianity, Zahid was arrested and imprisoned as a traitor to Islam. He was tortured in prison for two years and eventually sentenced to death. As the noose was placed around his neck, Zahid told his executioners that Jesus was "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." He wanted his last breath to be used to save his countrymen.

Then suddenly, guards rushed in and said that there had been a stay of execution and Zahid was released. No one knows why Zahid's sentence was reversed, but today Zahid continues to travel Pakistan as an evangelist.

*People who have been through a near-death experience usually say the same thing. They conclude that God must have had a purpose for extending their lives. Unfortunately, television interviews rarely go back to see what that purpose turned out to be! Did they discover God's purpose for their lives or not? Actually, God has the same purpose for each one of our lives. He wants us to know him and to make him known to others. Some, like Zahid, may go through unique experiences to come to those particular places where they are to make God known. However, our mission remains basically the same. Ever feel like God has you on this earth for a specific reason? It's to know him -- and to make him known.*

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)





# Forever Living Products

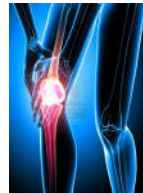
The Aloe Vera Company

**BRING ALOE  
INTO YOUR LIFE**



**Beneficial for:**

- \*Healthy Digestive System
- \*Skin Disorders
- \* Arthritis
- \* Asthma
- \* Bowel Dysfunction
- \* Blood Cholesterol
- \* Diabetes
- \* High Blood Pressure  
and many more.



**Young, Old or Middle-aged**

**Pure Aloe Gel will do you *good***



*You can't change your life if  
you don't change your thinking*

**FOREVER** 

**For further information contact:**

**Mike Fuwa**

**Tel: 07956 369579**

**Email: [mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk)**

# CHURCH DIARY



Sun	4	10.30 am	Morning Service
Tue	6	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	11	10.30 am	Morning Service with Baptism led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	13	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	14	8.00 pm	Leadership Meeting
Fri	16	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	17	10.30 am	Big Brunch
		3.00 pm	Christian Care Open Afternoon
Sun	18	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Mon	19	7.30 pm	Finance & Property Meeting
Tue	20	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Jerusalem from a social and political perspective</i> - Suki
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	25	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Margaret Adams
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	27	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	30	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*

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

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Abigail Fuwa on 15th September**



————— < 0 > —————



### **Martin Way Summer Book Club**

#### **Hiding in the Light by Rifqa Bary**

*Rifqa Bary grew up in a devout Muslim home, obediently following her parents' orders to practice the rituals of Islam. But God was calling her to freedom and love. He was calling her to true faith. He was calling her to give up everything.*

You may have missed joining the Martin Way Summer Book Club this year, but you can still read this thought-provoking book. You can get a copy from the Library, any good book shop or speak to Abby Herring or Jane Smith.

————— < 0 > —————



### **CHRISTIAN CARE OPEN AFTERNOON**

3.00pm – 5.30pm on Saturday 17 September  
at Martin Way Methodist Church

Please join us for a delicious tea, meet the volunteers and find out about all the exciting developments in our work as we approach our 70th Anniversary in 2017.

There are a variety of opportunities for volunteering.

If possible RSVP to

Tel: 020 3302 0181 or eMail: [christiancaremerton@gmail.com](mailto:christiancaremerton@gmail.com)

## Grace's Baptism

We were delighted to celebrate Grace's baptism on Sunday 14th August with our families and all of our friends from Martin Way.

We were especially blessed to be joined by Martin's brothers family who were visiting from Nairobi which meant it was the first time Nathan and Grace's cousins have all been together at once.



Thank you to everyone for your cards and good wishes and for your continued love, support and encouragement.

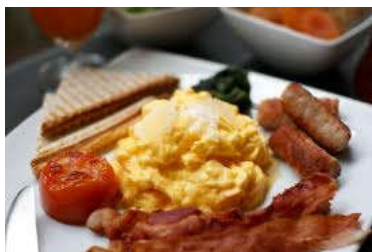
*Ruth and Martin Harker*

*Grace, Ruth and Martin with godparents Amelia Schocliffe and Christopher & Kimberly Rayson*

————— < 0 > —————

## Big Brunch returns!

On Saturday 17th September  
The Big Brunch restarts.  
Running from 10.30am until 1pm,  
come along and enjoy the food  
and the company.



Items for the **October Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 18th September** at the latest