

Martin Way Methodist Church

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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017



MINISTER'S LETTER



‘What is truth?’ is a question that we usually wait until Holy Week to ponder, when we find ourselves alongside Jesus as he stands before Pontius Pilate and Pilate, who seemingly holds all the power in this situation, asks this question of Jesus. This year, however, and following the election of Donald Trump as US President, we have been confronted by it somewhat earlier.

In the wake of the election of Donald Trump as US President, Sean Spicer, White House Press Secretary, used his very first statement to complain about the media’s coverage of the Inauguration. In doing so he made a number of claims that were very quickly rounded upon as being false - one of which being that Trump’s Inauguration had attracted “the largest audience ever”. In seeking to later defend Spicer, Kellyanne Conway, one of Donald Trump’s advisers, suggested that he had simply offered “alternative facts”.

Given that this followed an election campaign during which Trump was repeatedly shown to have offered his own “alternative facts” - it seems that ‘truth’ is something that is up for grabs in the eyes of Donald Trump.

When Pilate asked of Jesus, ‘What is truth?’, it was in response to a claim that Jesus had made moments before. Pilate had previously asked him, ‘So you are a king?’ and “Jesus (had) answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.’” (John 18: 37).

Trump made a lot of his love of the Bible during the election campaign, frequently calling it either “the greatest book of all time” or “my favourite book”. He also said that, should he win, he would become “the greatest representative of the Christians that they’ve had in a long time”. Mmmmm.

We can only hope that, in the days, weeks, months and years ahead, as he finds himself charged both with the responsibility of the office to which

he has been elected and with the need to speak the truth, he might truly listen for that voice to which Jesus refers. For, as I mentioned on the Sunday following his inauguration, I might not be looking in the right places but nowhere can I find kingdom values (values that I see as being synonymous with Jesus' voice) being aligned with self-interest, national interest, racism, misogyny, the open mocking of a person living with disability or lying. Rather, in the light of the kingdom values that I discover from those things that Jesus identified himself with and committed himself to, I see this to be a list of things to be opposed and confronted.

The next four years may well see us asking ourselves the question, 'What is truth?' - or even, 'Where is the truth in all of this?' - many times over. As we do so, let's remember that it remains our task to listen for Jesus' voice at all times, our task to examine ourselves (and not just others) in the light of this voice, and our task to speak truth to power wherever and whenever necessary.

With every blessing,

Paul

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Merton Street Pastors



In December 30 of our volunteers, representing 18 churches, patrolled the Mitcham, Morden and Wimbledon areas. During this time they spoke with many people and gave support to others .

On 23rd December the team joined with the Salvation Army brass band to host a Carol Event in the White Lion of Mortimer pub in Mitcham and on New Year's Eve five members joined in the joint Central London Patrol.

To date we have 47 people from 26 churches in the area as trained Street Pastors. If you wish to join the team there will be a Training Course starting on **Saturday 11th March 2017** - to find out more email merton@streetpastors.org.uk or phone 07412 018920



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

Psalm 33:18

The verdict should be delivered in the trial of Rev Hassan, Mr Jašek and Mr Abdumawla. They've been in prison in Sudan since December 2015 – all because they helped raise money to treat a young man who'd been badly burned in a student protest. A fourth man, Rev Kuwa, was also on trial but was released on 3 January after the charges against him were dismissed.

Please pray:

- That Rev Hassan, Mr Jašek and Mr Abdumawla would be released and the charges against them dismissed
- For the families of the three men as they await the verdict
- For God to protect the lawyers defending Rev Hassan, Mr Jašek and Mr Abdumawla
- For unity and protection for the Church in Sudan and particularly in the capital, Khartoum.

This week's Prayer Diary:

China

January marks the start of Chinese New Year, and the end of what has been another year of harassment and uncertainty for many of China's human rights defenders. As a new year starts in China, please pray that it would bring with it justice and freedom for all China's citizens.

In October 2016 CSW supporters gathered outside the Chinese embassy to protest the imprisonment of Li Heping, a Christian human rights lawyer who has been in prison since July 2015. Today, please pray that he would be released.

At the protest we read a message from Wang Qiaoling, his wife; “I will speak up not only for my husband, but for all the people that ‘fall down’ in front of me. It is your action that encouraged me.” Let’s ask God for bravery and protection for her & the family today.

Alimujiang Yimiti is a Christian from the Uyghur ethnic group, who has been in prison since 2008 – the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concluded that it was ‘solely because of his faith’. Please pray that Alim and his family would be reunited.

In September 2016 the UK government expressed concerns about restrictions on freedom of religion or belief in China: an great development following Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit. Thank God for this today.

Human rights lawyer Zhang Kai was released in March 2016 after being detained for his work defending human rights. Though he made a televised confession, some believe he was coerced into doing this. Please pray for his safety today.

Christians aren’t the only group at risk. Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur Muslims and Falun Gong practitioners are all targets for government harassment, suffering imprisonment and torture just because of what they believe. Pray for them today.

God, at Chinese New Year we pray for the Chinese human rights defenders who have been imprisoned and tortured for their vital work. May the coming year bring them peace and safety, we pray.

Amen.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

The CSW team

0845 456 5464

admin@csw.org.uk

Visit www.csw.org.uk for latest news and information

Here is something that we shared in our House group recently on answered prayer.

Gwen Wildman

George Müller
My Eye is Not on the Fog

Key Thought: "My eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God who controls every circumstance of my life."

The following incident from the life of George Müller is related by Mr. Inglis, who heard the story from the captain of the ship with whom Müller prayed.



When I first came to America, thirty-one years ago. I crossed the Atlantic with the captain of a steamer who was one of the most devoted men I ever knew, and when we were off the banks of Newfoundland he said to me:

"Mr. Inglis, the last time I crossed here, five weeks ago, one of the most extraordinary things happened which, has completely revolutionized the whole of my Christian life. Up to that time I was one of your ordinary Christians. We had a man of God on board, George Müller, of Bristol. I had been on that bridge for twenty-two hours and never left it. I was startled by someone tapping me on the shoulder. It was George Müller:

"Captain, he said, 'I have come to tell you that I must be In Quebec on Saturday afternoon.' This was Wednesday.

"It is impossible,' I said.

"Very well, if your ship can't take me, God will find some other means of locomotion to take me. I have never broken an engagement in fifty seven

years.'

"I would willingly help you. How can I? I am helpless.'

"Let us go down to the chart-room and pray.'

"I looked at that man of God, and I thought to myself, what lunatic asylum could that man have come from? I never heard of such a thing.

"Mr. Müller,' I said, 'do you know how dense the fog is?'

"No,' he replied, 'my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God who controls every circumstance of my life.'

"He got down on his knees and prayed one of the most simple prayers. I muttered to myself: 'That would suit a children's class where the children were not more than eight or nine years old.' The burden of his prayer was something like this: 'O Lord, if it is consistent with Thy will, please remove this fog in five minutes. You know the engagement you made for me in Quebec Saturday. I believe it is your will.'

"When he finished. I was going to pray, but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray. "First, you do not believe He will; and second. I believe He has. And there is no need whatever for you to pray about it.' I looked at him, and George Müller said..

"Captain. I have known my Lord for forty-seven years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to gain an audience with the King. Get up, captain, and open the door, and you will find the fog is gone.' I got up, and the fog was gone!

"You tell that to some people of a scientific turn of mind, and they will say, 'That is not according to natural laws.' No, it is according to spiritual laws. The God with whom we have to do is omnipotent. Hold on to God's omnipotence. Ask believingly. On Saturday afternoon, I may add, George Müller was there on time."

Herald of gospel liberty, Volume 102, Issues 27-52

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday 3rd March 2017 'Am I being unfair to you?'

The Day of Prayer service for 2017 has been written by the Christian women of The Philippines. Although written by women, all are invited.

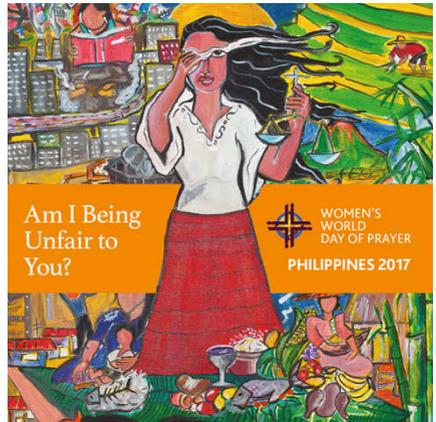
In the story Jesus told about the kingdom of heaven, he saw no wrongdoing in giving equally. However, the workers who felt entitled to receive more greatly complained. This dialogue is turned into a question for the 2017 WDP theme - "Am I Being Unfair to You?"

Many Filipino women and girls are victims of domestic violence or sex trafficking, migrant domestic workers in the country or abroad, and survivors harmed emotionally and economically by disasters in the environment or unsustainable development policies. How can we hear these stories and not realize the sinfulness of structures that consolidate economic inequality? We are called to confess and take on our ethical responsibility to answer God's call for justice.

A traditional cultural practice, known as *dagyaw*, is introduced in the program. *Dagyaw* is a communal way of laboring each other's farms and equally benefiting from the harvest. It is used more frequently among organic farmers for sustainable agriculture.

"It is a good practice for building and sustaining a community, an actualization of compassion and care for each other." Maybe this is the key to a collective answer to "Am I Being Unfair to you?"

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend. Further information and resources, can be found on the WWDP website at www.wwdp.org.uk



EYES WIDE OPEN

Sharing moments all around us in pictures.

Faithfulness, Hopefulness, Joyful, Sorrow, Good, Bad, Work, Play, Growing, Slowing, Energetic, Calm, Encouraging, Discouraging, Happy, Sad, Creative.....the list is endless.

‘Eyes Wide Open’ will be a new monthly article in our Newsletter, so please submit your images, digital photographs or scanned artwork to Andrew (Newsletter Editor) at roife@hotmail.co.uk, or pass him a picture which he can scan (and return to you).

Every picture tells a story (so they say) but if you want to add just a few words to accompany your image, please do.

We would love to see your images, so open your eyes...

Colin Smith and Andrew Fox



Light in the darkness

In Poland they remember their departed on All Saints Day and over Christmas, always leaving a candle burning to their memory, so the graveyards are full of light during these special days!

Andrew Fox



New life and small life.

I was observing a young Deer in Richmond Park when a Dragonfly stops for a rest right in front of me!

Colin Smith

THE LANTERN
METHODIST CHURCH

**Raynes Park
Quiz Night**

**Saturday February 11th
From. 6pm
Tickets £10. Concessions £7**

Ploughmans Supper included and entry to Quiz. Please bring your own non alcoholic soft drinks - coffee or tea provided.

Raffle on the night

Tickets on sale in the coffee house or at the tea/coffee stand on Sunday. For more information or to reserve tickets please contact naomi.lantern@gmail.com or phone Rev Margaret Adams 020 8946 3181

**Last day for purchasing tickets Wednesday 8th
February**

All Proceeds towards supporting a young person on a Development Support Programme with Care for Uganda in July

A Big Thank You from Christian Care



On behalf of the Christian Care Committee, I send my thanks to you and to all the congregation at Martin Way for the gifts of toys for our families from the gift service held in December. Everyone was very thoughtful and generous. The toys will mean so much to the children, some were given as Christmas presents, by the time you read this many will have been distributed at our 'Great Big 50th Birthday Party' held on January 28th and others will be used throughout the year as birthday gifts.

We are getting an ever increasing number of requests from professionals working with children and families for toys and books for children who in many cases have little or nothing to play with at home. It is always a pleasure when we are able to help.

Sue Boyd

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THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED

Martin Way made donations to a number of causes from our special Christmas Collections. Thank you to those who contributed their time and talent as well you who donated money.

Action for Children from carol singing at Morden Station and Sigma/carol service - £910.54
(£337 less than last year but a new record for carol singing)

Methodist Homes for the Aged from Christmas postbox - £143.38
(£56 less than last year)

Christian Aid Yemen Appeal from Christingle and Christmas Day collections - £600.25

A total of **£1,654.17** was collected, which is an increase of £206 over last year's collections.

Roy Ellis

Safe Guarding Refresher Training

Five years ago myself and Angela Linton-Smith ran 'The Foundation training' for all who are involved with Children, Young people and Vulnerable Adults at Martin Way and other Churches in our Circuit.

There is now a refresher course which is 2 to 2½ hours long and it is required by 'The Methodist Church' that those in roles that require DBS must complete this course.

Myself and Angela Linton-Smith are going to be running the training again and we have come up with 2 dates we can offer these courses. Please let us know which date you can make - we really hope you can make one of these dates as appreciate you are giving up your time but please remember so are we so would really appreciate your support by coming to one of the following courses.

**Thursday 23rd Feb 7 for 7:30 prompt start
venue Lantern church - South Wimbledon Methodist Church.**

**Sunday 26th Feb 12:15pm for a 1pm prompt start
venue Martin Way with a light lunch provided.**

There is a handful of people that haven't completed the Initial Foundation training, so we are offering the following date in the hopes all those who need to attend this course can make it.

**Thurs 16th March 7pm for 7:30pm prompt start
venue Lantern church at the Wimbledon site.**

I will be emailing and contacting each person who is required to attend personally but in case I have missed anyone who thinks they should do one of these courses - Please accept my apologies and get in touch with me on 07739185814 or abbyloft@googlemail.com

Thank you for your support and again we really appreciate you giving up your valuable time on this!

Abby Herring

Sign up for Pursue Justice 2017, and you're signing up for a day that's jam-packed with exclusive information on religious freedom from CSW staff and other experts, and firsthand accounts of religious persecution. Not to mention incredible worship and informative seminars...



Our keynote speaker this year is Eritrean gospel singer **Helen Berhane**



Helen's story is challenging, inspiring, and deeply moving. She was arrested in a 2003 raid on a house where she was teaching young Christians. Beaten and imprisoned, she spent 32 months in a shipping container without adequate ventilation, light, sanitation or food. While in prison Helen was regularly tortured, a severe and sustained assault by a prison guard almost killed her and left her unable to walk. Helen was released in November 2006 and escaped to Sudan, where she had to keep a low profile. She was finally granted asylum in Denmark, where she recovered from her injuries.

Other guests include:

- Internationally renowned worship leader **Lou Fellingham** will be heading up the day's worship as well as running a seminar on prayer and worship
- **Canon Sarah Snyder**, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor for Reconciliation, will be leading a seminar on justice and forgiveness
- **Brian Heasley** from 24-7 Prayer will be leading the opening devotion and the prayer and worship seminar with Lou Fellingham.

Our CSW advocacy experts will review our work over the past year in an exclusive seminar.

Where and when?

Date: Saturday 22nd April 2017

Time: 12-4pm (Doors 11am)

Venue: St Paul's Church, Hammersmith, Queen Caroline Street, London, W6 9PJ

Price: Free, but registration is essential

Register at: www.csw.org.uk/pursuejustice

CHURCH DIARY



Weds	1	8.00pm	Church Council
Fri	3	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	5	10.30am	Café Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	7	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Thurs	9	7.00 pm	Circuit Meeting at Martin Way Methodist Church
Sat	11	10.30am	Big Brunch
		6.00pm	Quiz Night at The Lantern - Raynes Park
Sun	12	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	14	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	17	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	18	10.00am	Table Top Sale
Sun	19	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Emma Atkins
Tue	21	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Dr Ross White</i> - Chief Executive of Mildmay, a Christian based charity, supporting people stigmatised by society.
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	26	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	28	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00 pm	Circuit Meeting at Martin Way Methodist Church
		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
in February a very

Happy Birthday
and especially to:



Ashleigh Hillhouse on 1st February

Joshua Fuwa on 20th February

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Church Family News

Sad News:

Some of our congregation may remember Dora Newton who passed away many years ago after being a long-standing member of our congregation. We have just learnt of her son Ray's death in July in his widow Marianne's Christmas greeting to us. They leave fond memories for those of us who knew the family well.

It is with great sadness we inform you that Dr Arthur Miller died peacefully during his sleep on 19th January. Please remember his daughters in your prayers.

Please also remember Joan Harding in your prayers. She suffered a fall and is now in hospital, probably for a long stay. Joan is coping, but only just.

Happy News:

Mary and Derek received the Christmas Greetings from Grace Ashwood. She sends her love to all and is very well. She is still getting about on her scooter and recently been on a cruise to Norway in September, which she enjoyed very much.



CAROL SINGING - THANKS

Once again Thank you to all those who braved the elements and joined together to serenade the commuters of Morden with carols during two nights in December.

The singers are going from strength to strength, each year the performances are raising more money.

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TABLE TOP SALE

We are holding a Table-Top sale on **Saturday, February 18th 2017** from **10.30am to 3.00pm**.

Tables are £12 to hire, so come along to sell your unwanted items and gifts. To book a table, please email Sylvia Baxter at Sylvia.baxter1@tiscali.co.uk

Refreshments and lunches will be available. Proceeds will be going to our "Flush Fund" to refurbish the gent's and all-access toilets.



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BIG BRUNCH



Big Brunch is happening again on **Saturday, 11th February, 2017**.

So come along between 10.30am and 1pm for a Full-English for £4 and support our youngsters going to Spring Harvest in 2017.

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



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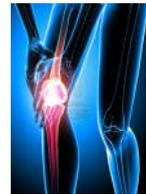
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FOREVER 

For further information contact:

Mike Fuwa

Tel: 07956 369579

Email: mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk

Church Activities

SUNDAY	Morning Worship	10.30 am
	Morning Communion (once a month)	10.30 am
	Evening Communion (once a month)	6.30 pm
	Sunday Club	10.30 am
	SIGMA—the Circuit Choir (as advertised)	4.00 - 5.30 pm
	Platform 10¾ Young People's Fellowship (1st & 3rd Sundays)	8.00 - 9.00 pm
TUESDAY	Coffee & Chat	10.30 - 12 noon
	Men's Supper Club (3rd Tuesday of the Month)	7.00 pm
	Time for Prayer	8.00 pm
WEDNESDAY	Morning Frogs Club (Carer & Toddlers Group)	10.00 - 12 noon
	Afternoon Frogs Club (Carer & Toddlers Group)	1.00 - 3.00 pm
	Rainbows (1st Merton Park)	5.30 - 6.30 pm
	Guides (2nd Merton Park)	7.30 - 9.00 pm
THURSDAY	Brownies (2nd Merton Park)	6.00 - 7.30 pm
FRIDAY	Luncheon Club (Fortnightly)	12.30 pm

House Groups, Coffee Mornings, Concerts, etc (as advertised)

