

# Martin Way Methodist Church

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(020) 8542 8211

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**Minister: The Rev Paul Timmis**

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# NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2017



## **MINISTER'S LETTER**

Recent events on Westminster Bridge and outside the Houses of Parliament have shocked us all. Incidents in other European cities in the not so distant past had suggested that it was 'just a matter of time' before our capital was hit again, and so it proved, but, whatever we were expecting, it probably wasn't this. This a footpath that most, if not all of us, have walked along at some point in our lives. 'It really could have been me', we might well have thought.



For a while on the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd March I sat, transfixed to the BBC news channel - until I realised that I was being told the same thing over and over again and what I was being told wasn't much. As shocking and as terrible as the incident undoubtedly was, the near wall-to-wall coverage in the following days seemed to me to be somewhat disproportionate - not least when hundreds were/are being blown to bits in Mosul and thousands, if not millions, of people were/are starving to death in East Africa. Beyond this, such blanket coverage only serves to increase fear levels, which I imagine is what some people want. My hope was that, once the police had identified the perpetrator of the crime, the media would perhaps print a name but no photographs and, rather than give him any news time, instead focus on the stories of those who were killed, those they left behind grieving and those who rushed to help.

The late US TV personality, Fred Rogers, once said: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." It is a quote that surfaces at times like this for good reason. It is helpful.

To begin with, the signs were good. The media did briefly focus on these people, these acts of courage and kindness - but possibly because there was no other information to share. Since then the focus has largely shifted on to the back story of the perpetrator.

We are drawing ever closer to Easter. At the heart of Easter there is, of course, a violent death. An innocent man is brutally and unjustly murdered. For much of church history, there have been those who have

wanted to point a finger of blame, identifying who it was who was responsible for Jesus' death. Some have argued, 'the Romans'; many more, taking the lead from John's gospel, have been quick to label 'the Jews' 'Christ-killers' and countless others have sought to burden already guilt-laden individuals with their 'he died because of your sin' theology. I am not sure where any of this gets us other than into some kind of downward spiral.

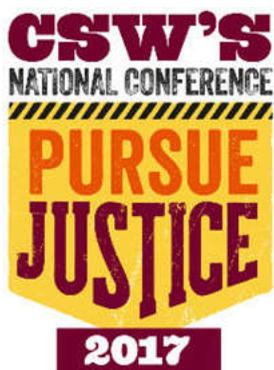
This Easter then, and in the days and weeks that follow, I invite you to focus on the story of the one who was killed (on how he lived his life and how he called others to live theirs), on those who tried to help and on those who sought to pick up the pieces of their lives and work afterwards. It is in doing this that resurrection life becomes tangible and hope and peace are found.

Whatever violence, hatred and anger we meet, we have to go on living and loving. This is the message of Easter. May it sustain us and may we have the courage to live it and share it with others.

Wishing you a blessed Easter.

*Paul*

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### **Pursue Justice**

**Date:** Saturday 22 April 2017

**Time:** 12-4pm (Doors 11am)

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

Join hundreds of CSW supporters for an inspiring day of expert speakers, real life testimonies, latest news from the front lines. The whole event is designed to equip you and other Christians in your role of encouraging the persecuted Church and speaking up for religious freedom.

For more details and information visit [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)



**March 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

“The prison cell became my Bible.”

Ladan, who converted to Christianity, was subjected to solitary confinement for 37 days in Iran. Without a Bible and hungry for the word of God, she wrote verses all over the walls of her prison as they came to mind. These verses sustained her through her ordeal, a challenging reminder of the importance of God’s word.

For Ladan, her release after 37 days was “an answer to many people around the world praying.”

So we encourage you to turn to your favourite Bible verses to fuel your prayers.

With this in mind, we ask you to pray for **Pastor Nadarkhani**, and church members Mohammadreza Omidi, Yasser Mossayebzadeh and Saheb Fadaie whose trial for “acting against national security” has now been referred to the authorities in Tehran. The three church members have **also appealed against a sentence** of eighty lashes for drinking wine during communion. Verdicts in both these cases have been delayed, and our contacts have requested increased prayer at this uncertain time.

**In summary, please pray:**

Thanking God for Ladan’s release and testimony, but pray for others in Iran who are interrogated, arrested or imprisoned because of their faith.

For a just outcome in the two cases concerning Pastor Nadarkhani, Mohammadreza Omidi, Yasser Mossayebzadeh and Saheb Fadaie.

For the families and church of these four men, please pray that as they await verdicts they would know God’s peace and comfort.

## **CSW is going to Big Church Day Out!**

We are really excited to announce that CSW is going to Big Church Day Out on 28th and 29th May. Not only that, we'll have our very own Airstream stage!

We'll be hosting a fantastic line-up of artists including Yvonne Lyon, Lily-Jo, Tom McConnell, Daughters of Davis, Paul Bell, Jules Rendell, Rob Halligan, Bunderland and Dance Like Kings.

We're also going to be your one-stop-shop for all the information on the Real Change for Refugees campaign -- we've even got free water bottles to give away if you sign our petition!

If you're going to Big Church Day Out be sure to stop by and say hi -- we'd love to see you there!

### **FULL DETAILS:**

Big Church Day Out

28th-29th May 2016

Wiston House, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3DZ



### **And finally a personal thank you...**

To the person who gave a generous donation to CSW via Rosemary Keen who distributes the Martin Way Newsletter. It was given in person to CSW Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas and received with grateful thanks. This amazingly on the date that the CSW office was moving to new premises in Malden Road, KT3 3YF Tel no: 020 8329 0025. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

*The CSW team*

0845 456 5464

admin@csw.org.uk

*Visit [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk) for latest news and information*

## Church Humour

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly,  
"I know what the Bible means!"  
His father smiled and replied,  
"What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"  
The son replied, "I do know!"  
"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"  
"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly,  
" It stands for '**B**asic **I**nformation **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth.'

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There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.  
"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.  
"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

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A minister parked his car in a no-parking area in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windscreen that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a ticket from a Traffic Warden along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."





# WINTERSHALL

*Experience the story*

## **The Passion of Jesus in Trafalgar Square**

On Good Friday 20,000 people will be able to gather to watch the Easter story in Trafalgar Square in central London.

Supported by the Mayor of London, one hundred Wintershall players bring their electric and moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus to this iconic location in the capital.

The 90-minute production is completely **free of charge**. No tickets are required. There is a performance at **12 noon and 3:15 pm**. The production is open air with visibility maximised using large screens. British sign language interpretation is provided.

There is a realistic interpretation of the crucifixion so parental guidance is advised.

Invite your friends and family to this unmissable annual Easter event on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017**.



## **The Passion of Jesus in Guildford**

On Easter Saturday the Wintershall cast of players and animals moves to the High Street in Guildford, in their home county of Surrey. The play begins at the junction of High Street and Quarry Street.

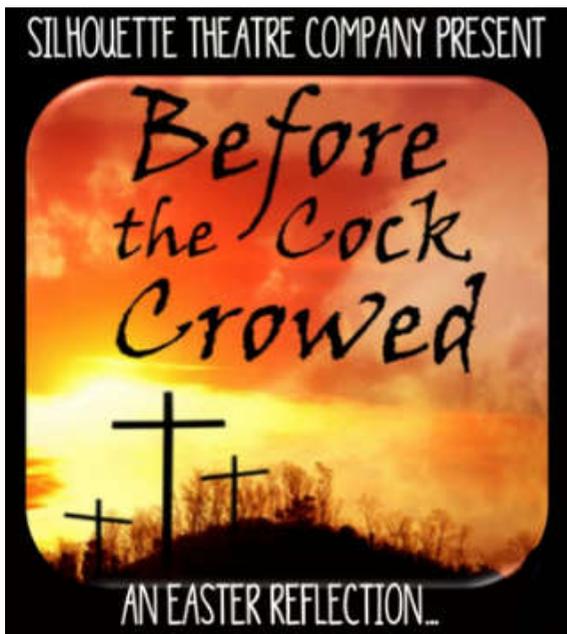
The free 90-minute performances take place amongst shoppers in the home town of many of the cast and crew.

Come and see the High Street transformed into the stage for one of the greatest stories ever told.

The open-air viewings will be on Saturday **15<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at noon and 2.30pm**.

No tickets are required. Parental guidance is advised.





**Date:**

Friday 14th April 2017

**Location:**

Lantern Methodist Church,  
Raynes Park, SW20 8RA

**Time:**

7pm (doors, 6:30pm)

It is Saturday night, the day after Jesus was crucified. Peter alone, distraught, lost, bewildered reflects on the events of the previous week and what life, if any, there is after the death of His Lord and friend.

So much has happened in such a short space of time. From the triumphant entry into Jerusalem when everything felt so positive, to the confusing Last Supper, the dramatic arrest & trial and the brutal crucifixion. His friends are now in hiding and all the promises and words that Jesus said, now mean nothing.

It's just another Saturday night...or is it?

The remarkable story of Jesus from Peter's point of view!

The Lantern Methodist Church, are hosting Silhouette Theatre Company's production of 'Before The Cock Crowed' on Good Friday evening as part of their Easter reflections. The 50 minute show uses drama, video and audio to help to bring the story to life for the audience.

Admission is free, but they are asking people to book in advance as there is limited capacity, so please email Naomi Yearwood at [naomi.lantern@gmail.com](mailto:naomi.lantern@gmail.com) to book tickets.

# EYES WIDE OPEN

Sharing moments all around us in pictures.



*Spring,  
Spring,  
Spring!*





### *A Trio of Gwens in Spring*

Gwen is a Welsh feminine name meaning, white, pure, holy and blessed and we are lucky to have three Gwens in Martin Way Church!



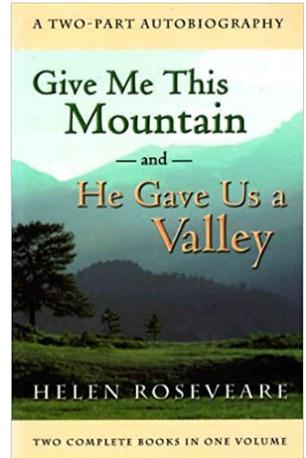
*Please submit your images, digital photographs or scanned artwork to Andrew (Newsletter Editor) at [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk). Every picture tells a story (or so they say) but if you want to add just a few words to accompany your image, please do.*

## Helen Roseveare

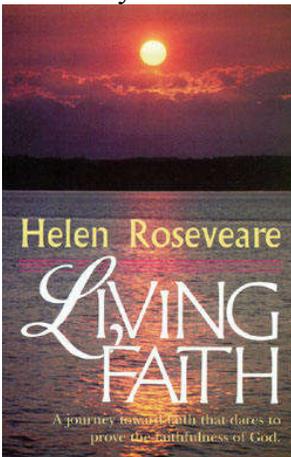
Last month Gwen Wildman's House Group submitted the story of Helen Roseveare. This month we look at two of her books.

### Give Me This Mountain & He Gave Us a Valley

“If you think you have come to the mission field because you are a little better than others, or as the cream of your church, or because of your medical degree, or for the service you can render the African church, or even for the souls you may see saved, you will fail. Remember, the Lord has only one purpose ultimately for each one of us, to make us more like Jesus. He is interested in your relationship with Himself. Let Him take you and mould you as He will; all the rest will take its rightful place.”



The crown jewel of this book is the last chapter, entitled *Was It Worth It?* And the answer is a resounding yes. Not spurred on by impulse. No one who has read this book and seen the cost of fellowshiping with Christ in His sufferings could ever confuse her Yes with an impulsive one. But rather it's a yes motivated by an understanding of the superiority of Christ over all circumstances. *He Gave Us a Valley* won't ever be the topic of an inspirational Disney movie. But it is the tale of a woman who faithfully served the Lord, and a God who faithfully upheld His servant.



### The Hot Water Bottle – A True Story - taken from **Living Faith**

One night, in Central Africa, I had worked hard to help a mother in the labour ward; but in spite of all that we could do, she died leaving us with a tiny, premature baby and a crying, two-year-old daughter.

We would have difficulty keeping the baby alive. We had no incubator. We had no electricity to run

an incubator, and no special feeding facilities. Although we lived on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacherous draughts.

A student-midwife went for the box we had for such babies and for the cotton wool that the baby would be wrapped in. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly, in distress, to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst. Rubber perishes easily in tropical climates. "...and it is our last hot water bottle!" she exclaimed. As in the West, it is no good crying over spilled milk; so, in Central Africa it might be considered no good crying over a burst water bottle. They do not grow on trees, and there are no drugstores down forest pathways. All right," I said, "Put the baby as near the fire as you safely can; sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from draughts. Your job is to keep the baby warm."

The following noon, as I did most days, I went to have prayers with many of the orphanage children who chose to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle. The baby could so easily die if it got chilled. I also told them about the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died. During the prayer time, one ten-year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt consciousness of our African children.

"Please, God," she prayed, "send us a water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, the baby'll be dead; so, please send it this afternoon." While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added by way of corollary, " ...And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?" As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say, "Amen?" I just did not believe that God could do this. Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything: The Bible says so, but there are limits, aren't there? The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending a parcel from the homeland. I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never, ever received a parcel from home. Anyway, if anyone did send a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle? I lived on the equator!

Halfway through the afternoon, while I was teaching in the nurses'

training school, a message was sent that there was a car at my front door. By the time that I reached home, the car had gone, but there, on the veranda, was a large twenty-two pound parcel! I felt tears pricking my eyes. I could not open the parcel alone; so, I sent for the orphanage children. Together we pulled off the string, carefully undoing each knot. We folded the paper, taking care not to tear it unduly. Excitement was mounting. Some thirty or forty pairs of eyes were focused on the large cardboard box.

From the top, I lifted out brightly coloured, knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled as I gave them out. Then, there were the knitted bandages for the leprosy patients, and the children began to look a little bored. Next, came a box of mixed raisins and sultanas – – that would make a nice batch of buns for the weekend. As I put my hand in again, I felt the...could it really be? I grasped it, and pulled it out. Yes, “A brand-new rubber, hot water bottle!” I cried. I had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could. Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, “If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!” Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. Her eyes shone: She had never doubted! Looking up at me, she asked, “Can I go over with you, Mummy, and give this dolly to that little girl, so she’ll know that Jesus really loves her?”

That parcel had been on the way for five whole months, packed up by my former Sunday School class, whose leader had heard and obeyed God’s prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator. One of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child — five months earlier in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old to bring it “That afternoon!” “And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.” Isaiah 65:24

*This story originates from Helen Roseveare, a missionary from Northern Ireland. This story is true and that she included it in her book “Living Faith.” She has written about the revival that took place in the 1950’s in what was then the Belgian Congo.*



## EASTER COLOURING TIME

Colour the picture using the code

1 = green

3 = blue

5 = pink

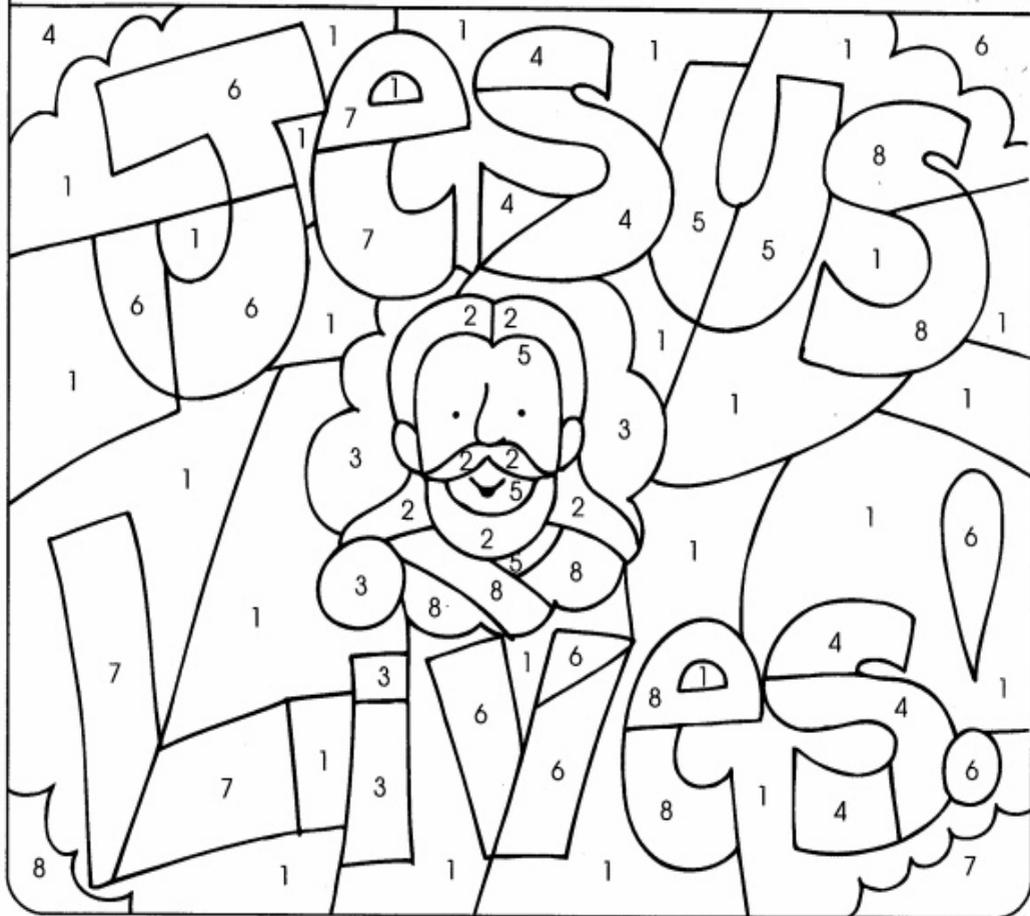
7 = purple

2 = brown

4 = orange

6 = yellow

8 = red



## Jesus Is Alive!

(John 20)

At the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene talked to a man. She thought he was a gardener. But then she saw that the man was really Jesus! He had risen from the dead and was alive again!

# CHURCH DIARY



## April

Sun 2 10.30am Morning Worship led by David Eagle

Tues 4 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat

8.00pm Time for Prayer

### *Spring Harvest (8th to 13th April)*

Sun 9 10.30am Morning Worship led by Viv Hewitt  
and Brenda Cannon

6.30pm Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis

Tues 11 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat

8.00pm Time for Prayer

Thurs13 8.00pm Maundy Thursday Service at Worcester Park

Fri 14 10.30am Good Friday Service with the local Baptist  
Churches at Morden Park Baptist Church

Sun 16 8.00 am Easter Breakfast at Martin Way

10.30am Café Worship with Communion led by  
Rev Paul Timmis

Mon 17 *Easter Monday*

Tues 18 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat

7.00pm Men's Supper Club - *'Experiences &  
conversations that have changed my life'*.  
- Members' insights, Chaired by Graham

8.00pm Time for Prayer

Fri 21 12.30pm Luncheon Club

Sun 23 10.30am Morning Worship led by Brenda Cannon

Tues 25 10.30am-noon Coffee and Chat

8.00pm Time for Prayer

Weds26 8.00pm Leadership Meeting  
Sun 30 10.30am Morning Worship led by Tony Loft

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

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We wish all of those who celebrate a  
birthday in April a very

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Celia Johnson on 4th April**

**Rosie Randall on 10th April**

**Phoebe Pallister on 29th April**

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### **Church Family News**

On behalf of all our family we would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks for all the support that has been given to us following the passing of our beautiful mum. Paul spent time with us getting to know mum and was able to take the information and deliver such a beautiful tribute to her and her life.

Sylvia and her team just took all the pressure off us and arranged, cooked, baked and provided refreshments after the service. We received many many comments from those attending about how beautiful the service was and what a wonderful and warm church and we couldn't agree more.

We feel blessed and loved by our church family who, through prayers, thoughts, actions and kindness have demonstrated Gods love.

With love

*Jane, Shelley and Polly*

# **EASTER 2017 AT MARTIN WAY**

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Due to the timing of Easter, our folk going to Spring Harvest this year coincides with Holy Week and therefore there will be no meditative services this year. The Spring Harvesters return on Maundy Thursday and Martin Way is invited to join with the congregation at **Worcester Park for their Maundy Thursday service at 8.00pm.**

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

The Good Friday joint service with the local Baptist churches will take place at **Morden Park Baptist Church at 10.30am.**

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

There will be no Sunrise Service this year but, as last year, there will be an **Easter Breakfast at 8am at Martin Way** further details of which will follow except to say that a selection of cereals, toast and boiled eggs will be available.

The Breakfast will be followed by the Rev Paul Timmis leading our **Easter Communion service at 10.30am** in the Cafe Worship setting, where more food in the shape of sausage and bacon butties will be available from 10am alongside coffee and tea.



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



# Forever Living Products

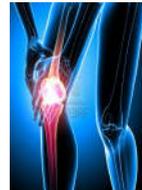
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you don't change your thinking*

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**For further information contact:**

**Mike Fuwa**

**Tel: 07956 369579**

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

