

Martin Way Methodist Church

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NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017



MINISTER'S LETTER

There are days when we want to do nothing else but lock the door and shut out the world, times when we can't face anyone or anything and every fibre of our being screams at us to stay at home, lock the doors, close the curtains and pull up the duvet.



It should come as no surprise to us then that, having witnessed Jesus' death, his disciples weren't really up for going out. They were grieving the loss of their leader and friend, who'd given their own lives purpose and meaning. If ever there was a right time for a duvet day, it was surely this one, but, in the eyes of the author of John's Gospel, that wasn't the main reason for staying in. No, "John" is certain, Jesus' friends stay inside after Jesus' death because they feared for their own lives. They were afraid that the religious leaders that had plotted and schemed and all but arranged Jesus' death would come for them next. Jesus' death had been a brutal execution and had come about because Jesus refused to stop talking about God's kingdom and doing things to show what that kingdom might look like. If his opponents wanted Jesus and his message eradicated - and it certainly looked like they were serious about this - it would make sense to wipe out his followers too, wouldn't it? No wonder they were afraid. No wonder they stayed in, behind locked doors.

For those of us who are ever even a little bit fearful of what lies beyond our doors in this often dangerous and scary world of ours - and, given the state of things at the moment, it'd be understandable if that was just about every one of us - this is an important story to hear. For where all seems lost (including all hope) and life appears to be at its bleakest, Jesus appears in the midst of his friends - in the midst of their fears, anxieties and troubles - and brings a message of peace.

His friends didn't seek him out. They displayed no strength or courage. They took no risks. They didn't go anywhere or ask for anything - it doesn't appear that they even prayed (it isn't mentioned anyway, perhaps they weren't up to it). Through no course of action that they undertook, Jesus came to them where they were with a message they so needed to hear. No wonder his friends rejoiced.

However seemingly bleak a situation and whatever the cause of it, God can break in with a message of peace to ease troubled minds, to alleviate the despair and restore hope. That's good news!

It's important to remember this. When we see the bravado of world leaders take countries seemingly to the brink of war; when we see bombs falling on homes, schools and hospitals reducing buildings to rubble and killing thousands of people; when we see a suicide bomb destroy a convoy of civilian refugees fleeing a war zone; when we see terrorist attacks on city streets, some of them close to home; when we see far right parties in the ascendancy and/or worry about democracy being diluted here, it's important - vital even - to remember this good news.

But it's important - and just as vital - to remember too that Jesus didn't leave things there. More than once he offered a message of peace to his friends before saying, 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' 'In other words', Jesus is saying, 'the work doesn't end here. This isn't all about giving you hope, though that's important. You need to carry that hope for and to others.'

In the original ending to the Gospel of John, Jesus signs off by imparting the Holy Spirit to those friends - to empower and guide - and reminds them that forgiveness lies at the heart of who he is, who God is, and therefore at the heart of the work to which his followers are called.

The news that we are called to continue this work, that we are to be hope carriers and peace bringers, might be daunting, but the Easter story tells us that we're not on our own.

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

And his Spirit is with us.

With every blessing

Paul

Merton Street Pastors

Gwen Wildman, Brenda Cannon and I attended a special meeting called by the Trustees of Merton Street Pastors. The meeting was call so that all the Merton Street Pastors [MSP] could hear and understand the financial state of the Charity.



It was explained that in order for the MSP to continue with the high standard of work for the Churches on the streets of Merton a minimum amount of money is required.

Our very good Coordinator John who has been working for MSP for over 10 years is having to reduce his time to just 3 days a week and this will impact on the overall work of MSP as he will have to change his approach and prioritise his work load.

I have always understood that it costs money to run any charity (Having been involved in setting up a charity working in Kenya), but I had not given any thought as to the amount required.

We were told that a minimum amount of money is needed per year of around £18,000 (John's wages, insurance for all the SP's, uniforms, training, rent of a very small room, etc.)

As you can see finding that amount of money is always going to be a problem but we believe that with the blessing of God for this work and by prayer of everyone in ALL the churches we can and will find the money.

Now I know that we are all asked for money by all sorts of worthy causes and I know that we only have a small amount of spare money, but I'm asking you to seriously think and pray about giving a regular amount each month to Merton Street Pastors so that God's work can continue on the streets of Merton. Brenda, Gwen or I would be very willing to give you further information.

God Bless you.

Tony Loft

SUN
SAT

27-28 MAY

WISTON HOUSE, WEST SUSSEX



1 EVENT - 2 LOCATIONS
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AND CELEBRATION

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REUBEN MORGAN FROM HILLSONG WORSHIP
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ANDY MINEO • JONATHAN + MELISSA HELSER
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Open Doors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

Thank you to all who came to the Lent group every Tuesday at Martin Way during Lent - Whether you joined us for one week or all of them. This was a thought provoking and challenging resource from Open Doors charity - serving persecuted Christians worldwide. www.opendoorsuk.org

'Fast food' resource encouraged us to share a meal together, then focus and pray for our Christian family in other countries worldwide, who live their lives persecuted for their faith. But in faith we stand together with our family.....in Jesus name we can all live in him through the good and bad times! As hard as it is for us to hear these stories, there is also a valuable lesson for each one of us to learn from our Christian family worldwide - of how their trust and faith in our God is never failing or faltering! Very humbling.

"EVEN IF I WALK THROUGH A VALLEY AS DARK AS THE GRAVE, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID OF ANY DANGER, BECAUSE YOU ARE WITH ME." - PSALM 23:4

We had a donation plate out each week to cover the food and other expenses - anything left over will be donated to the charity, We will be sending Open Doors £328. So thank you to everyone who donated and especially those who took time to prepare meals for us, set up tables and projectors, prepared prayers and helped clear away. It was nice to spend time with each other from Martin Way and The Lantern Church (Raynes Park & Wimbledon) plus challenge ourselves.

"PEOPLE WILL COME FROM THE EAST, WEST, NORTH, AND SOUTH. THEY WILL SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM." - LUKE 13:29

There are other charities that support the Persecuted Church such as Christian solidarity worldwide, Barnabas fund to name a few. We chose Open Doors due to their resources over Lent - all of them have prayer diaries and partners they work with. Please continue to keep all the Persecuted Church in your prayers.

Abby Herring

Making Contact With Old Friends

For some years the church has been the recipient of an annual donation to the Flower Fund in memory of the late Gladys Nott. However, with the passage of time and the death of John Butland, Church Treasurer, we lost contact with the donors, DO and FJL Nott, and did not know their address or relationship to Gladys. Recently, with the help of the bank, we once again made contact and I have been able to extend the thanks of the church for this longstanding and ongoing donation.

The donor is David Nott, Gladys's son, and his wife Françoise who now live in Lancashire. In reply to my letter David writes:

“Many thanks indeed for taking the trouble to write to me in connection with my donation to the church. It is good to know that the donation is still helping to fund the church's ministry of flowers.

I have looked at the pictures on your church website, and the oval layout of the chairs is indeed very appropriate - welcoming and inclusive.

My mother Gladys was always one for flowers, and it is the best memorial she could have. She also loved music, and enjoyed dressing up for her part in the local Light Operatic Society's shows. After she was widowed in 1970, the warmth and fellowship of the church community meant a lot to her, and helped to sustain her in her life alone.

I was brought up just opposite the church, at 1 Buckleigh Ave, where we occupied just the ground floor, but had the use of most of the front and back gardens. I expect the house has changed a lot since my parents moved out in 1959! At that time, I was an undergraduate at Pembroke College, Cambridge; I ended my career as Professor of French Language Studies at Lancaster University.

Since 2004, I have had some interesting post-retirement occupations, and I am currently Chair of our Parish Council, which is the 3rd tier of local government in the City of Lancaster [county - city - parish]. With my French wife Françoise, we have been in the same house in Carnforth since 1987.

My very good wishes to you and to the church.”

On request, David kindly sent some photographs of his mother.

The picture reproduced here was taken on Boxing Day 1985 at the home of Bill Goodrum (top right) and his wife Betty (seated centre) and their children Nikki and John (in the photo frame on the piano), with Gladys Nott (seated left), Valerie and Graham Currie (seated right and top left respectively), and Kit Cousins, Valerie's mother, (standing centre).



How sad that we have lost so many good friends but we remember them with affection. (Did Graham really once look that young and suave?)

Subsequently we have learned that Hazel Lloyd who attends Coffee & Chat used to go to school with David Nott!

Do you remember him or Gladys? I now have contact details for David and his wife and we thank them sincerely for their generosity.

Roy Ellis

EYES WIDE OPEN

Sharing moments all around us in pictures.

This April a group of people from the Wimbledon Circuit went to Spring Harvest in the Butlins Camp in Minehead.



Please submit your images, digital photographs or scanned artwork to Andrew (Newsletter Editor) at 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.



AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

Please put the date of Saturday, 13th May in your diary and come along at 7pm to Martin Way for "**An Evening of Entertainment**", headlined by the **Rock Choir** of Wimbledon led by the energetic Elliot Sutcliffe and supported by musicians from **The Purcell School for Young Musicians**, a Poet and a Vocalist.

The Rock Choir visited us last November to highlight the Bags for the Homeless charity and were a huge success so we are in for a treat once again. There is no admission fee but there will be a retiring collection in aid of our own **Flush Fund**.

We look forward to seeing you there to enjoy this magical evening.



Circle the City

LONDON

Sponsored Walk

Sunday 21 May, 2017

Discover London's historic places of worship

Come and join the huge celebration at the end of Christian Aid Week! Explore some of the City of London's best-loved sights and places of worship, and enjoy pop-up exhibitions, music and activities.

Book your place now, as a group or an individual,
at ctc2017.eventbrite.co.uk
or call 020 7523 2417



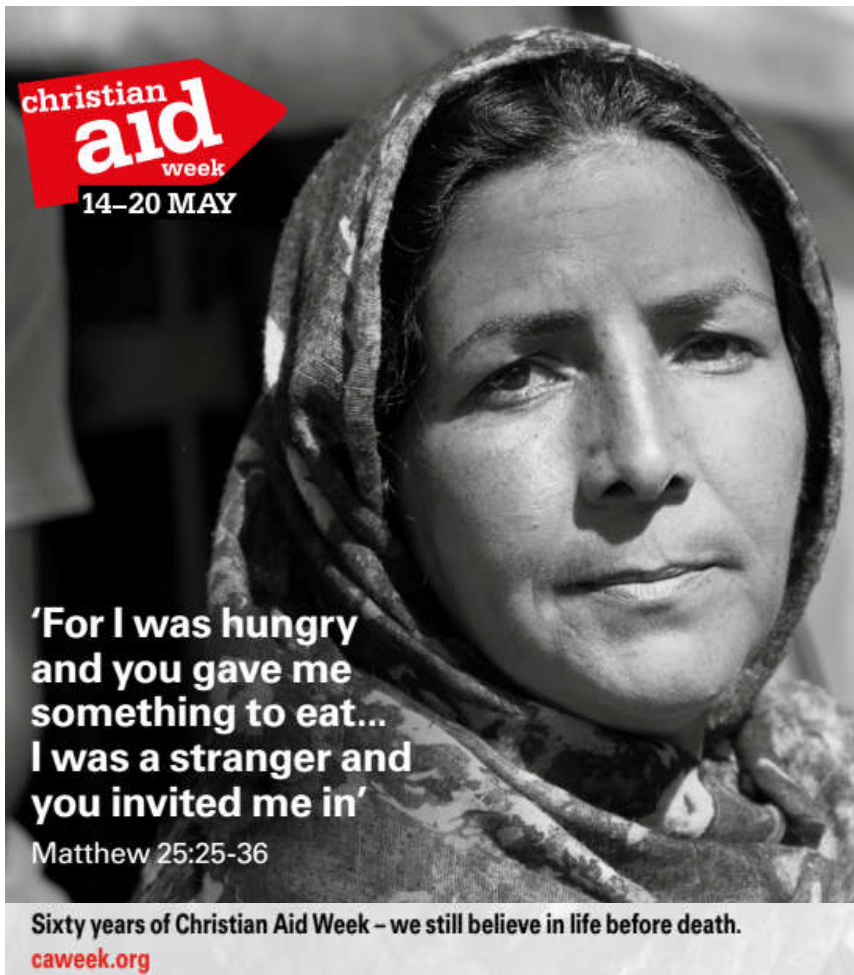
christian
aid
week
14-20 MAY

CHRISTIAN AID - CIRCLE THE CITY SPONSORED WALK - SUNDAY 21st MAY

Tony Loft, as well as few others, plan to do the Christian Aid Sponsored Walk again this year they hope that more people will join them and get sponsorship from friend, work colleagues, etc. Circle the City is a 8km walk around London, visiting many interesting churches on the way.

Even if you can't make the walk please sponsor them. This will then enable the church to make a substantial contribution to a worthy charity.

For more details please speak with Tony.



**christian
aid**
week
14-20 MAY

**'For I was hungry
and you gave me
something to eat...
I was a stranger and
you invited me in'**

Matthew 25:25-36

Sixty years of Christian Aid Week – we still believe in life before death.
caweek.org



April 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

Thank you so much for praying with us over Easter: as you may know, it's a dangerous time for many Christians around the world as their celebrations become a target. In India, the police interrupted a Good Friday service, dragging away the priests, nuns and families who had gathered. In Nigeria, Asso village in Kaduna state was attacked by Fulani militia as people gathered in churches for their Easter vigils. At least 12 people were killed and several others were injured. Please also pray for Nepal following an arson attack on a Catholic church on Tuesday after Easter, and thank God that no one was seriously injured.

Amazing answer to prayer! Finally, we're pleased to announce that we have been officially accredited by the UN! CSW's application for ECOSOC consultative status was approved on Wednesday, after eight years of deferral, many, many questions, and a lot of prayer. We're thrilled that this will allow us to promote freedom of religion or belief at the UN even more effectively, and we're so thankful for your faithful prayer and support. Please join us in thanking God for this wonderful news.

CSW's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said: "This is a significant day for CSW. UN accreditation will enable us to advance our work of promoting the right to freedom of religion or belief across the UN system. This vote is also a welcome acknowledgment of the importance of NGO contributions to the UN's work. CSW is deeply grateful to the UN member states who co-sponsored the resolution to grant us consultative status, and to the ECOSOC members who voted in support of our application. I would also like to express our gratitude to the UK Mission to the UN in New York for appealing our case after our application was rejected in February. We also thank the distinguished signatories of the joint letter urging ECOSOC to grant accreditation, and the five UN Special Rapporteurs for their strong letter in support of CSW."

Please continue to pray:

- Thanking God that nobody was seriously hurt in the attack on a church in Nepal on Tuesday, and that God would provide somewhere for the congregation to worship
- For God to comfort the congregation in India following the brutal interruption of their Good Friday service
- For God to protect and comfort the survivors of the attack in Nigeria and bring the perpetrators to justice
- Thanking God for the great news about the UN vote
- Please pray for the family of U No Ki, a lawyer and human rights campaigner who was assassinated in January. He was a dedicated advocate and his loss will be sorely felt
- Dumdaw Nawng Lat and Langjaw Gam Seng, Christians from the Kachin tribe, went missing just before Christmas after taking journalists to see a Catholic church that had been damaged in an airstrike.
- Pray for the Rohingya, an ethnic and religious minority in Burma that's one of the most persecuted people groups. At least 30,000 Rohingya have been forced to flee their homes and blocked access to aid.
- Please pray that more voices will speak up for freedom of religion, especially more Buddhist monks.
- Continue praying for a movement towards peace between Burma's ethnic groups and the government.
- Finally, please pray for Burma's constitution to be reformed, which is vital for all the changes we're praying for – especially settlement for the ethnic groups.

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

CHURCH DIARY



Tue	2	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	5	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	7	10.30 am	Café Worship led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	9	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thur	11	7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting at Wimbledon Methodist Church
Sat	13	10.30 am	Summer Brunch
		7.00 pm	An Evening of Entertainment
			<i>Start of Christian Aid Week</i>
Sun	14	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	16	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Major Alan Walsh</i> - Rusty, the first world airport's drug dog
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	19	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	20	3pm-6pm	CCA 50th Anniversary Service
Sun	21	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Arigon Sinani
			<i>Christian Aid Walk - Circle the City</i>
		6.30 pm	Healing and Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	23	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	28	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Tony Loft

*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 May a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:



Seleso Sepanya on 3rd May

Lesedi Sepanya on 17th May

Elizabeth Turnbull on 22nd May

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BIG BRUNCH – SUMMER BRUNCH

Big Brunch, which raises funds to enable us to take our youngsters to Spring Harvest, has now closed until September BUT you do not have to wait until then to get your bacon and eggs. Big Brunch is morphing into '**Summer Brunch**' which will open on the following dates:



Saturdays 13th May, 17th June and 15th July

So come along between 10.30am and 1pm for a Full-English for £4, the profits from which will go towards our '**Flush Fund**' to refurbish the gent's and all-access toilets.

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BE NICE TO BEES



Bees are having a tough time at the moment, so spare a thought for them when you start pulling your weeds. Dandelions are one the most important sources of nectar and pollen for bees, which help the hives thrive. From that point of view, perhaps it is good that dandelions are so notoriously tough and fast growing.

myraynespark festival

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2017

MyRaynesPark is a community arts festival, run by the local churches. Every summer we organise a Raynes Park festival for the residents of SW20, helping to celebrate arts and culture within our community.

Events are chosen that fit with our values:

(Uniting) Community

(Celebrating) Culture

(Promoting) Justice

(Inspiring) Faith

(Enriching) Wellbeing



Partner churches include; Be Church, Cafe Church, Doxa Deo, Dundonald Church, Dundonald Congregational Church, Raynes Park Community Church, Raynes Park Methodist Church and Sacred Heart. RPCC was a founding partner member of this Raynes Park Festival, and we're excited about helping celebrate life in SW20.

This summer the Festival will run from 5-14 June 2015, and the theme is *Are You Sitting Comfortably... Let's Begin.*

For more information visit our website: www.myraynespark.co.uk

Items for the **June Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 21st May** at the latest



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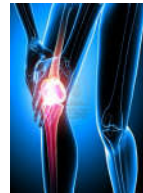
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For further information contact:

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)

