

Martin Way Methodist Church

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017



MINISTER'S LETTER

In mid-August we took advantage of *Kids Week* and went as a family to the Apollo, Victoria to see the Stephen Schwartz musical *Wicked*. Rebecca and I first saw this show in its opening week eleven years ago but not since and the girls had been desperate to see it for quite some time.



For the unaware, based on a novel by Gregory Maguire, *Wicked* tells “the untold story of the witches of Oz” and, in so doing, purports to be the prequel to L. Frank Baum’s classic, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

This then is a story of origins. Along the way, we see how the Cowardly Lion, the Tin Man and the Scarecrow come to be, but mostly it shows us how Elphaba - someone who is essentially good - is made an outcast because of the colour of her skin (green) and declared to be the Wicked Witch of the West whilst Glinda, the so-called Good Witch of the North, becomes a publicity spokesperson for the new oppressive political order. This is a story that turns upside down our lazy assumptions about how things are.

Though clearly a work of fiction based on another work of fiction, *Wicked* offers us a powerful and stark reminder that history is written by its winners. It reminds us that we can no longer afford to believe that things are the way that they are – or happened the way we have been told they happened – just because that is what we have been taught; that there is always more than one side to any story and that, by delving deeper into history, we might well uncover a richer, deeper version of events.

Dealing with themes of marginalisation because of difference, regime change and the questioning of trust in government leadership, this is a musical for our own troubled times.

I had thought this when I first saw this production in those early post-Bush/Blair Iraq invasion days and still believe it to be the case today - when on both sides of the Atlantic migrants are repeatedly scapegoated, Muslims demonised and now, worryingly, hate-filled far right white supremacists march and murder in the US without the immediate and unequivocal

condemnation of its President.

In thinking about the musical's focus on difference, I am reminded of some words once uttered by Fergal Keane, the BBC foreign correspondent, on the first Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2001 - words that have stuck with me ever since.

He said, 'Every time you hear powerful men scape-goating people because of their race or religion you pause for thought. Every time you hear the outsider, the refugee, the minority demeaned and denigrated, you pause for thought. And in that pause, remember how genocide begins, remember exactly where it takes us.'

Recent weeks have seen a number of television programmes broadcast marking the seventieth anniversary of Partition, when India declared independence from the British Empire and was split to create Pakistan and East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. I watched a two part programme by Anita Rani, *Partition And Me: India 1947*, and wept as I heard story after story of violence, murder and bloodshed amongst people of different faiths who had previously lived harmoniously, side by side. 'How could this have happened?' is a question that I wouldn't have been alone in asking. 'How could people who profess to believe in a loving God act in this way?'

Within days of asking such questions, we were learning of Klu Klux Klan members marching with torches and flying Nazi flags in the US and were coming to terms with further terrorist attacks, this time in Barcelona, Spain and in Turku, Finland. That these crimes were carried out in the name of God beggars belief - but so too does the fact that the primary source of knowledge for the Ku Klux Klan is apparently the Bible. Members of the Klan believe in the literal truth of the Bible. Quite clearly, it is possible for people of all faiths to pervert the central messages of their scriptures.

All of this should make us more determined - as individuals and as a church community - to do all that we can to see past difference and work tirelessly to break down those barriers that exist and divide people one from another and from God. This is what Jesus came to understand his

mission to be and this is what, as his followers, we are called to commit ourselves to.

In recent weeks I have found myself returning to one hymn in particular - 'There's a wideness in God's mercy' by Frederick William Faber (1814-1863). I do so because of lines that I believe sum things up perfectly:

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of man's mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.

If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

With every blessing,

Paul

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Harvest Festival Flowers Sunday 1st October

The flower committee are planning ahead and thinking about decorating the church for the Harvest Festival. Would you like to help?

We wondered if any individual, couple or family would like to take responsibility for decorating a window sill.

If so please speak to Lesley, Sue or any of the flower committee.



**MARTIN WAY
HARVEST FESTIVAL
Sunday 1st October**



FAITH IN ACTION
helping with homelessness

This year our Harvest Festival donations will be passed to
Homeless Drop-in Centre.

The FiA Homeless Drop-in Centre is open every Wednesday and Friday from 10:00am to 3pm. The Drop-In is in the Salvation Army Hall, 109 Kingston Road, SW19 1LT.

They welcome all rough sleepers, street users and the precariously housed, as well as those who are socially excluded, vulnerable and isolated or who have mental health or addiction issues.

The Drop-In offers friendship and a warm welcome to all from the moment they come through our door.

In addition, service users can obtain:

- Breakfast, snacks and a home-cooked lunch
- Shower and laundry facilities
- Clothes and food parcels
- Supported internet access, giving assistance with online registration forms, job and housing applications, and benefit claims
- Help with access to local statutory and voluntary services such as the Community Drug and Alcohol Teams, Spear Housing, Street Rescue, and Merton Winter Night Shelters
- Help in the search for work: assistance with putting together CVs, looking for jobs, and making online applications. And we help service users get the best out of the Government's own jobs website Universal Jobmatch.

They particularly need:

Ring-pull tinned food (specially meat and fish)

Men's boxer shorts (medium)

Warm thick socks

Men's toiletries (Shower gel, Disposable razors, Shaving cream/gel, etc)

Scarves, Gloves, Hats

Dry food for meal preparation (Rice, Flour, Pasta, Tea, Coffee, Sugar, etc)

For Further information:

See their website for more information about their work.

www.mertonfaithinaction.org

Thank you!

Summer is a time for holidays and leisure activities for many - but not everyone. Church activities may have taken a break but many members of the church community have been hard at work. We extend our sincere thanks to the following:

Gwen Wildman - for many hours tidying up the patio which had become very overgrown and unkempt. The higher branches have been pruned by a gardener, **Mark Scribbins**, but the low level work has all been done by Gwen.

Graham Currie - for keeping the grass cut and making sure the front of the church looks at its best.

Pete Boyd - who has quietly over several weeks painted all the external window frames of the church – essential maintenance which is much appreciated.

Colin Smith - who has masterminded the redecoration of the church hall. Colin has planned the whole operation, sought volunteers to help with the work, consulted on colour schemes, obtained all the paint and equipment necessary, spent many hours working on the hall, plastered (for the first time) parts of the ceiling and wall, scheduled all the various tasks and motivated his team. In his quiet unassuming way he has achieved what some of us may have thought was impossible. Well done and thank you Colin. His team consisted of (as at 24 August):

Brenda Cannon

Pete Boyd

Ruth Harker

Geraldine Ellis

Moira Bailey

Simon Turnbull

Abby Herring

Gwen Wildman

Sue Boyd

Jane Smith

Roy Ellis

Leslie and Mike Mortley

Tony Loft – cleaning acoustic screens

Peter Randall – electrical work

Thanks to them all – and to any others who have contributed quietly without being noticed or who did so after the time of writing. Even

making a cup of tea for the workers has been welcomed! Also thanks to our neighbours, **Brewers Decorator Centres**, who have very kindly donated all the paint (50 litres). And particular thanks to **Jane Smith** and **Ella** for putting up with Colin's long hours at the church.

Dave Harris of Discerning Developments Ltd (known affectionately as 'Dave the Toilet') and his team of sub-contractors who have spent August (sometimes late into the night) renovating the gents' and all-access toilets, bringing them up to the high standard of the ladies' toilet.

Christian Care, Coffee & Chat, Time for Prayer, Summer Brunch, Lunch Club, Fitness with Natasha, Arthritis Care and the Elizabethan Floral Arranging Society for putting up with the disruption caused by all the building and decorating work whilst they continued their activities during the summer.

Sylvia Baxter – for her tremendous efforts raising money for the Flush Fund. Over the past two years her efforts have helped bring the total in the Flush Fund to **£9,000**.

All donors who, over the same period, have made gifts or loans to general church funds amounting **£24,500**. Without these gifts it would not have been possible to do all that has been achieved this summer. Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way. Hopefully you are pleased with the result.

Are you feeling left out?

Some people are doubtless disappointed that they have not had the time or opportunity to help with the work on the hall. Fear not, there remains something for you to do!

How about volunteering to redecorate the entrance vestibule at the Buckleigh Avenue end of the hall? This is quite small but in serious need of redecoration and there hasn't been enough time for it to be done as part of the main project. The main team of workers is weary after its efforts so this is your opportunity to demonstrate your painting skills.

Are you up for it? Please speak to Colin Smith.

Snowdon Rocks 2017



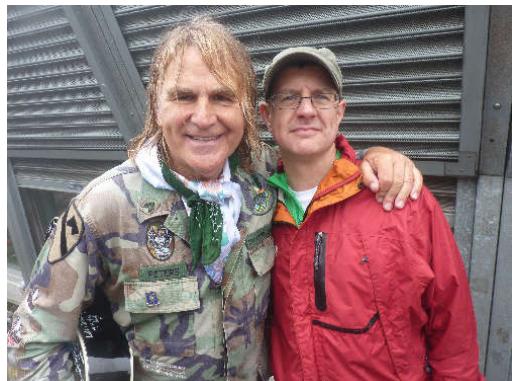
On 24th June the Timmis Tribe headed for North Wales to join Mike Peters (lead singer of the Welsh rock band, *The Alarm*) and his wife Jules on their annual ascent of Snowdon, walking for the Love Hope Strength Foundation. In doing so and with your generous support we have raised in

excess of £3,000 once Gift Aid is taken into account. Thank you so much.

Since you hear from me all the time, I asked other members of our ‘tribe’ to share their thoughts and reflections with you. These follow together with some photographs taken on the day.

Love. Hope. Strength.

Paul



Matilda

We go to a festival called Greenbelt and in 2016 we signed up for Snowdon Rocks Hike 2017. After buying all our special equipment because Amélie and I had never been up a mountain before we were ready to climb Snowdon.



We started off in pure sunshine but as we got higher up the mountain it got progressively colder. Within a few hours we were at the top where we were standing in the freezing cold with thick fog surrounding us.

It felt amazing to get to the top and to have raised so

much money towards curing cancer. Now we just had to get back down!

Amélie

Climbing Snowdon has to be one of the biggest achievements of my life so far. There were of course pros: knowing that the money we raised as a family was going to save people's lives; the rocky road traybake at the halfway point; getting warmer as we descended and the relief of sitting down at the end!

But along with the pros came the cons: the first bit being the steepest ramp you could ever imagine; waiting for half an hour in a toilet queue at the halfway point; the mist and fog; not knowing what was on either side of you during the slippiest and windiest part of the walk (just before the peak); and of course, being so cold at the top that I had at least six layers on my top half.

Every time we drove past Snowdon on the journey to visit our friends' in Wales, I always said, "When can I climb Snowdon?" The reply was always, "When you're a bit older". To climb that mountain has always been one of my lifelong dreams and now I have achieved it. Thank you to everyone who has generously supported us. You have saved lives. Visit the websites

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/timmistribe

www.byyourside.com

www.lovehopestrength.co.uk

Part two, sharing Rebecca's thoughts, will be in next months newsletter

EYES WIDE OPEN

Sharing moments all around us in pictures.



Karen and Moira were doing Coffee Duty one Sunday in July and they asked Gwen to take a photo.

It appears they have decided on a uniform for this duty, so dust off your pink cardigans ready for your turn.

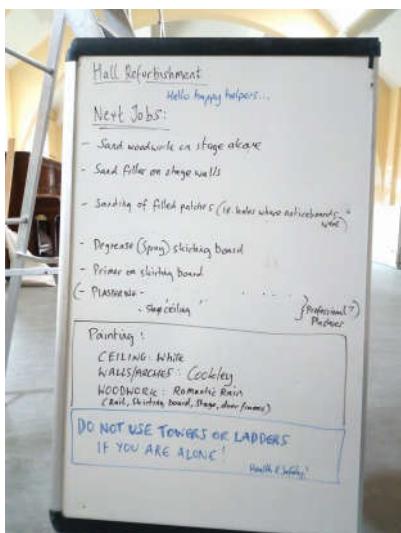
Please submit your images, digital photographs or scanned artwork to Andrew (Newsletter Editor) at roife@hotmail.co.uk. Every picture tells a story (or so they say) but if you want to add just a few words to accompany your image, please do.

Church Hall Refurbishment during August

It was all go during August. The gent's and all-access toilets are at last being refurbished to the same standard as the ladies. The Hall had been given some TLC by being redecorated by a bunch of willing volunteers.

Huge thanks to those few who have given up their precious time thus far - it's been hard work so far and your efforts are much appreciated.





**Are you looking for
a part-time or full-
time income?
We are Recruiting**



We are looking for:

- The employed looking for additional PART-TIME income**
- The unemployed looking for FULL-TIME employment.**
- Retired/looking into retirement with no hope of enough retirement income.**
- Mothers at home who want to look after their children and want a steady income.**
- Graduates/undergraduates with no employment and no work experience.**
- Students who fear huge students loan debts after graduation.**



**For further information contact:
Mike: 07956 369579
www.mof.flp.com**



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TESTERS REQUIRED!

I'm looking for a number of local people to try out a variety of different products for me FREE of charge, for approximately 2-3 days at a time.

You don't even need to leave your house as I will deliver to your door and collect. All I need is honest feedback for my market research.

The VIP Experience Packs available are:



Perfect Skin



Weight Management



Everyday Essentials



Anti-Ageing Skincare

(Feel free to try as many as you like, completely free of charge)

Please contact me to arrange delivery of the packs.

Feel free to share with a friend or colleague if you think they might like to try too!

Mike – 07956 369579

mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk mikefuwa@flp.com

**One of the Organisations that use Martin Way Church
as their meeting place**

The Players Academy

The Players Academy, an independent performing arts school, meet every Saturday morning during term time at Martin Way Methodist Church, children aged between 4 and 18 years old come along to the sessions and take part in singing, acting and dance. The focus is on having lots of fun and boosting confidence, and the teachers love seeing the children develop over their time at Players.

Players like to think of themselves as a big family and whilst children are split into different age groups for lots of their session time they also perform together, with the older children helping the younger Minis (our 4-7 year olds) and quite often the Minis showing the teenagers how it's done!

With one big production taking place each year, every child gets a chance to perform on stage in front of their family and friends with costumes, scenery, lighting and a live band.

The children and teachers love the happy atmosphere at Martin Way and particularly enjoy the bustle of the Big Brunch weeks, especially when it's break time and they've ordered a bacon or sausage sandwich!

2 week free trials are available for all age groups so that youngsters can go along and see if they enjoy themselves.

It's not just the children that can join the fun of Players, there's also an adult choir for anybody aged 18 -99, they meet every other Monday evening in the coffee lounge for 2 hours of singing and laughter with a tea or coffee and biscuits during the course of the evening.

To find our more come along to one of our meetings or contact us via email at info@theplayersacademy.co.uk

Lara



Players Minis
on stage



Rehearsals in the hall



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

Psalm 33:18

When we pray, God listens.

This is particularly encouraging to remember as we pray for situations in need of God's comfort and peace. Last week, mother of four Fikadu Debesay died from untreated kidney complications, while imprisoned Metkel Abiet, an Eritrean desert camp known for its intense heat and arid climate. She was detained along with her husband in May, during raids that targeted evangelical Christians. Their son aged 17 was arrested at his school and is detained in a labour camp, and his three younger siblings have been left without parental care.

At least 210 Christians have been arrested since May and detained in these desert camps and military facilities – and that's just the ones we know about. Since 2002 there's been an ongoing crackdown on non-government-sanctioned churches in Eritrea, but it's been ramping up in recent months. We need to pray for an end to this.

You might feel helpless – but prayer is something we can do. While the family and friends of Fikadu grieve, we can offer our prayers, whether that be loud cries or gentle whispers, and know that God the Father hears it all.

Please pray:

For Fikadu's three young children, whose elder brother and father are still detained. Pray that they would have people to surround them with the love, support and care they need at this time

For the release and safety of those in Eritrea still detained in desert camps and military facilities

That the raids targeting evangelical Christians and other religious groups in Eritrea would stop.

SUDAN

Sudan has been on our minds a lot in the last couple of years, following the trial of four men on unjust charges: Mr Abdumawla, Reverend Kuwa, Reverend Hassan and Mr Jašek. Though Rev Kuwa was released in early 2017 and Mr Jašek received a presidential pardon in February, it took until May 2017 for Mr Abdumawla and Rev Hassan to be released after their own presidential pardon. Their case remains a striking example of the government pressure on religious minorities and activists in Sudan.

On 15 August local authorities forcibly evicted Reverend Yahia Nalou, the head of the Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church (SEPC), from his home. Rev Nalou and his family were left on the street outside, with all their possessions, during the rainy season. They have nowhere else to live. Please pray that the judge hearing their appeal will overturn the eviction order, and that Rev Nalou and his family will be able to return home.

On 7 May the last remaining church in the Soba Aradi district in the capital, Khartoum, was demolished. Pray that the government will permit them to rebuild their place of worship, and will reverse the official decision to prevent new churches from being built.

On 3 April an elder of the Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church (SEPC) in Omdurman was killed while peacefully protesting the unauthorised sale of church land. Please ask God to comfort his grieving family, and pray that the perpetrators will be brought to justice.

Three weeks after the SEPC elder was killed, a mob supported by police officers broke into the church building and ransacked the guard's living quarters. Police later arrested his wife and three young children. Pray for protection of all SEPC properties, and for God to comfort the guard and his family today.

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.' James 1:12.

Pray this verse over Sudan today

Father God, we pray for Sudan. Thank you so much for the release of the four men who were on trial on unjust charges: we pray that you will continue to move in power in Sudan. Amen.

CHURCH DIARY

SEPTEMBER



Sun	3	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	5	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	8	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	10	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	12	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.00 pm	Circuit Meeting at Christ Church with St Philip, Worcester Park
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	17	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Viv Newitt
Mon	18	8.00 pm	Finance & Property Meeting
Tue	19	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	<i>Men's Supper Club - Photos of Botswana - Arthur & Marion Strange (Shooting Star Charity)</i>
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	20	8.00 pm	Leadership Meeting
Fri	22	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	23	10am-1pm	Big Brunch
Sun	24	10.30 am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
Tue	26	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	27	8.00 pm	Church Council Meeting

Please refer to the Website (www.martinway.org.uk) or Weekly Notice Sheet for any additional information

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



Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Abigail Fuwa on 15th September

And to a few belated Birthday wishes to **Joan** (5th July),
Gwen (25th July) and **Roy** (24th) on his special birthday.



EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST

Derek and I have just received a package from our small charity asking us to share the contents with our church and others.



It contains a new publication of a separate Prayer Diary (this one from August to January 2018) instead of its usual placement within the quarterly magazine. This sets out a prayer request for each week of the next 6 months and will be used by the staff's prayer group in Amersham to focus on their weekly meetings too, so they will be praying for the same "partners" at the same time as us and you.

The 2nd publication. Annual Review 2016 highlights the amazing things you've helped the Christian Partners achieve and unfolds to reveal the "difference you've made and gives thanks to you!"

Please help yourselves from the vestibule and respond to the request.

God Bless

Mary & Derek Heaton

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Big Brunch returns!

On Saturday 23rd September
The Big Brunch restarts.
Running from 10.30am until 1pm,
come along and enjoy the food
and the company.



Future dates will be 21st October, 18th November,
and for 2018 20th January, 24th February, 17th March.

Items for the **October Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 17th September** at the latest

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 10½ 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)	

