

Martin Way Methodist Church

serving the communities of
Morden & Merton Park



Minister: Rev Paul Timmis

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Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JZ

Newsletter

October 2017

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MINISTER'S LETTER



We begin October this year, as we so often do, with our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. It is an opportunity for us to give thanks to God for all God's many gifts to us and to remember before God all those for whom life is something of a struggle.

Of course, giving thanks to God is not something that we reserve for Harvest time. Each week in worship we give thanks to God in song and prayer and never more so than when we gather around Christ's table and share bread and wine together. We tend to call this meal 'Holy Communion' or 'the Lord's Supper' but our Anglican friends prefer the term Eucharist - and with good reason, I think, for the word (as I am sure you are already more than aware) comes from the Greek noun εὐχαριστία (eucharistia) which means 'thanksgiving. As we share in this meal, as we become aware that Christ draws especially close to us in and through the bread and wine, we give thanks for all that Jesus was, did and is.

All of this is a good and appropriate response to God but we should not leave it there. We should not restrict our thanks-giving to Sundays or to church services.

This is easier said than done, of course. Whenever we switch on our televisions or radios, whenever we open our newspapers or look at whatever devices we have that connect us to the internet, we are confronted by bad news. There is so much pain and suffering in this wonderful but messy world of ours. In the face of war and hatred, earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and terrorist attacks, it's easier to become despondent and either forget that we have anything to be thankful for or feel guilty that we do. But remaining thankful for all that we do have and enjoy is vital.

As I have mentioned before, the Jesuit theologian and writer Gerard Hughes encourages us to carry out a review at the end of each day. Go back over the day - the activities, the encounters, the conversations - and look at what you've enjoyed, he suggests. And then he says, see these

things as being God-given and say thank you to God for them.

If we can do as Gerard Hughes recommends and do this each day then, over time, we'll surely begin to identify and acknowledge all that we've been given and, in giving thanks to God for these gifts, we'll learn more and more of what it means to live with a spirit of thankfulness. Such a spirit of thankfulness will, in turn, lead us deeper and deeper into God.

And that, just as surely, is the way to transformation not only for our worship and our lives but, ultimately, also for our world - as our thankfulness leads us to become more generous people, and our living generously inspires others to acts of kindness.

'We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.'
(Mother Theresa)

With every blessing

Paul

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Circuit Invitation Committee Update

Over the past few months, the Circuit Invitation Committee has consulted with the churches in the Circuit regarding the extension of the invitation to Revd Paul Timmis. Consultation took place with the minister and the churches for which he has pastoral charge.

As a result of the consultation, a recommendation to re-invite Paul for a further 5 years commencing 1st September 2018, and also to serve as Superintendent for the same period, was made and agreed at the Circuit Meeting on 12th September 2017.

Angela Linton-Smith

On behalf of the Circuit Stewards

**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



Forever Living Products

The Aloe Vera Company

**BRING ALOE
INTO YOUR LIFE**

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



Royal Parks Half Marathon



On Sunday 8th October I will be taking part in the Royal Parks Half Marathon in central London, named after the four parks (Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park) through which most of the route goes. To find out more about the Royal Parks run you can visit their website at <https://royalparkshalf.com/>

I am raising money for Action for Children (NCH), which I know most of you know very well. They of course do fantastic work all across the country, and now help more children each year than any other UK charity. So I am very pleased to be able to raise money for them in this way.

If you would like to sponsor me then you can do that online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MartinHarker>, give to Ruth on the 8th (whilst I am running!), or catch up with me at any point afterwards. Many thanks.

Martin Harker

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Some thoughts to follow in life all the time

- Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
- So why is a car's windscreen so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.
- Friendship is like a book. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
- All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.
- Old friends are gold! New friends are diamonds! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!

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 last months newsletter we heard from Paul, Matilda and Amélie. Here are Rebecca's reflections (and a couple more photos)

Rebecca

I openly confess that, when the ascent of Snowdon was proposed, my first thoughts of prospective gains were purely selfish:

- 1) a family weekend away (an unheard of concept and one that seemed surprisingly perplexing to pack for)
- 2) the opportunity to spend time (albeit not enough) in the company of my best friends who happen to live (for the most part extremely inconveniently) within Snowdonia National Park.

And how hard could it be? We go up. We come back down. There are bigger mountains.

Sitting in Friday afternoon traffic on the M25, I mused on just how many people do 'this', that going away for a weekend was a 'thing' and I felt a little sad. I also began to reflect on what we were about to do. I am relatively fit but not that fit and had a run of viral illnesses and knocks earlier in the year that left me drained. With only a hip left to cause him grief, Paul's legs are not what they were. The girls have never climbed a mountain before and were showing no signs of resting up (ie. going to sleep) in preparation. However, the welcome we received was worth the journey alone and the midnight pizza feast one of those special times you wish you could bottle. We all took to our beds happy.

If the journey to North Wales was far from straight forward, the trip up Snowdon ostensibly was. As I had told myself, we go up, we come back down, no detours. Failing was never in question with the moral and financial support of so many. Whether we would be able to function with any level of coherency afterwards was. After a gathering and welcoming words, we set off towards the Llanberis Path, the precursor being a lane so steep I began to think the 'we go up' part might present rather more challenge than I would like. The girls looked somewhere between nervous

and dismayed. The path, however, flattened out to a gradual gradient and we walked and chatted and resisted breaking open the Kendal mint cake before Halfway House.

At Halfway House there was a pause and many (although admittedly not all 600) walking for this cause stopped. The cloud came down like a blanket as Mike played some songs and introduced a time of remembrance for who doesn't know someone affected by cancer? Coming just three months after the untimely departure of Françoise (my dear friend and ally since I was ten years old) from lung cancer, the physical demands of the walk were welcome for my mental wellbeing and the mere fact of 'having something to do' helpful. The opportunity to yell the names of loved ones lost to cancer into the mountain valley was both useful and heartbreaking and in the human silence that followed, only birdsong came back. It was a minute I will always remember. We climbed on through the tears in defiance of that hideous disease.

Momentary breaks in cloud nearing the summit gave those almost 'glimpses of heaven' that stop you in your tracks. Through the white to



my left at my feet, people seemed to be clambering up from the edge of the world, we heard the train but couldn't see it despite how near it was and somehow I wondered if it wasn't perhaps better to *not* be able to see. Those coming down were, however, holding coffee cups and with a last scabble we were at the top, in cold temperatures and persistent wind. Mike sang his way through his set, smiling. Realising that children don't retain heat in the same way as adults do, we listened for a bit, queued for the loo, ate a sandwich and headed down.

We crossed Mike and Jules on the descent, still smiling. I suddenly felt shy in the enormity of this man's journey and story. The pain and struggle. Where do you begin? I asked him if he'd always liked climbing mountains. "Oh yes," he said with that smile, "They're a great opportunity for a good conversation. And a great opportunity to be silent". There was little I could find to say to that. He could have every reason to be bitter but instead he was choosing determination and kindness, mixed up in a humility not always associated with a rock star. He was living the 'now'. The sun was back shining, lighting all the glorious greens in the valley. I glimpsed what it meant to be fully alive - to be present in what is happening now, cushioned and bruised by all that has gone before and is to come, concentrating on putting one foot in front of the other.

Nearing the bottom, the girls still had energy for some boulder leaping and we then rewarded them with ice creams from the farm shop. As they swung about the playground, we made a call and sent two texts to confirm we had done it! We had bagged the mountain.



We go up. We come back down. We put one foot in front of the other. Thank you everyone who has generously supported us.

EYES WIDE OPEN

Sharing moments all around us in pictures.

ALL DONE!

It's been all go during August but the Hall has been completely redecorated by a bunch of willing volunteers. A big thank you to all those willing hands who scraped, sanded, painted, braved the high scaffold towers and cleaned and in particular to those who organised the whole enterprise. A great team effort!



In addition the gent's and all-access toilets have now been refurbished to the same standard as the ladies.

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.



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

www.iforevercare.com

Colouring Time - A Bountiful Harvest





**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

*September Update
from CSW*

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person availeth much.
James 5:16

You may have already heard of the death of our Special Ambassador, Rev Stuart Windsor, who passed away at his home on 17 September. As tributes and messages have poured in this week, we've been reminded again of how special a man Stuart was, with an enormous heart for God's people and a deep and genuine love of Jesus. Stuart touched so many lives over the last quarter of a century of working for CSW: his loss is sorely felt.



Stuart was a dedicated campaigner for religious freedom for everyone, and the best way we can honour his memory is by carrying on the work to which he dedicated his life.

There will be a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Stuart Windsor at Westminster Chapel on Wednesday 29th November 2017 (open to all)

Pray for the crisis in Rakhine State, Burma

As the crisis in Rakhine State worsens, CSW has called on the United Nations to take immediate action to halt the Burma Army's all-out assault on the Rohingya people. The Rohingya, who mainly live in Rakhine State, are one of the most persecuted people groups in the world. Since the current violence against them began, over 400,000 people have been displaced and thousands have been killed. Hundreds of villages have been destroyed. CSW has urged the UN Security Council to impose a global arms embargo on Burma, and delivered a statement at the UN Human Rights Council calling for action to stop the attacks on the Rohingya, and for the government to allow aid to reach the survivors.

Please pray:

Giving thanks for the life and work of Rev Stuart Windsor

For God to comfort his wife Ethel, children Elizabeth and Stuart, and his grandchildren, as they mourn

For the UN to pressure the Burma Army to stop its attacks on the Rohingya people

That much-needed aid would be able to reach the survivors of the brutal attacks.

In the last issue of Response newsletter we shared with you some of East Asia Team Leader Benedict Rogers' hopes for Burma, and the importance of long-term prayer in supporting our work. We've been working in Burma for more than 25 years and we thank God that he has already answered many prayers in a powerful way.

But there is still a long way to go and so we must continue to pray! The current crisis is the worse human rights emergency in the country in recent years and is a very serious setback.

Prayer:

Father God, at this time of crisis for Burma, we ask you to help those who are suffering persecution and crying out for justice. Intervene, we pray. Awaken the conscience of the international community to act, bring true peace, real justice and reconciliation and make Burma a country of equality for all people, whatever their religion or ethnicity. Amen

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Afternoon Tea Social

The Afternoon Tea Social raised £287 toward Merton Street Pastors.



Huge thanks to all those generous people who helped make it a successful and blessed afternoon. The contributions given with love will make a difference to the Street Pastor ministry in Merton. Please, if anyone would like to observe one night and get a taste of the experience, please speak to Brenda, Tony or Gwen.....

CHURCH DIARY



Sun	1	10.30am	Café Worship with Harvest Festival led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	3	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	6	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	8	10.30am	Morning Service led by Richard Grahem
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	10	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	15	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
<i>CRE at Sandown Park (17th to 19th October)</i>			
Tue	17	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
		7.00pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Further history and tales of the Middle east - Suki</i>
Fri	20	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	21	10.30am-1.00pm	Big Brunch
Sun	22	10.30am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Margaret Adams
Tue	24	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	29	10.30am	Morning Service led by Arigon Sinani
Tue	31	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		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 this month a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Jennifer Smith on 13th October

Ella Smith on 14th October

Jason Hillhouse on 23rd October

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Church Family News



Rebecca Smith has just started her second year at Reading University, studying Meteorology and Climate. Although she had applied for the four year Masters course, her A-level grades weren't high enough, so she accepted a place on the three year course, which she was happy about. To be at Reading and studying Meteorology at all was good enough for her.

She managed to get 73.8% in her end of year exams in the summer, which is equivalent to a first. As she had done so well, she was able to switch (back) onto the Masters course she had initially wanted, which means that she spends her third year (starting September 2018) at the University of Oklahoma, studying the weather systems there.

She needed to do well in her first year, especially in Maths and Physics, as the course in Oklahoma involves using Maths and Physics to do very difficult calculations.

She'll also have the opportunity to observe tornadoes and the unique weather systems of Oklahoma, which is a dream come true, something she has wanted to do since she decided she wanted to be a meteorologist.

We all wish Rebecca all the very best for her future trip to America as she follows her dream.

Big Brunch returns!

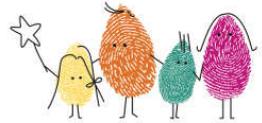


Big Brunch has returned! The next Big Brunch is on **Saturday, 21st October**, serving from 10.30am until 1pm. Come along and enjoy a full English breakfast including coffee/tea, fruit juice and toast for £4. The company is not bad either. You'll also be supporting our youngsters for their trip to Spring Harvest.

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Christmas and Craft Fayre

I know too many of you this advert may seem to be very early but as from the 1st October it is only 12 weeks to Christmas Eve!



Come along to our Christmas and Craft Fayre at Bourne Hall, Spring St, Ewell, KT17 1UF.

**Shooting
Star Chase**
Children's Hospice Care

We have over 40 stalls with unique and unusual crafts and gifts. If you are looking for that extraordinary Christmas Gift this is place to be. Not only will you be delighted with what you see you will also be supporting a very worthwhile charity the Shooting Star Children's Hospice.

There will also be face painting Father Christmas and Sand Art for the young and the not so young!

We will also have a raffle, tombola and children's tombola. There is also the magnificent 7, please come along and support us on **Saturday 2nd December 2017** from 10.30am to 3pm.

If you are a crafty person and would like to have a stall please contact me on 07803724989 the price is only £35.00

Sylvia Baxter

Items for the **November Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 22nd October** 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	4.00 - 5.30 pm
	Platform 10¼ YPF (1st & 3rd Sun-	8.00 - 9.30 pm
TUESDAY	Coffee & Chat	10.30 - noon
	Men's Supper Club (3rd Tuesday in	7.00 pm
	Time for Prayer	8.00 pm
WEDNES-	Frogs Club (for Carers & Toddlers)	10.00 – 12.00
	Rainbows (1st Merton Park)	5.30 - 6.30 pm
	Guides (2nd Merton Park)	7.30 - 9.00 pm
THURS-	Brownies (2nd Merton Park)	6.00 - 7.30 pm
FRIDAY	Luncheon Club (Fortnightly)	12.30 pm

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