

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 December 2018 & January 2019

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MINISTER'S LETTER



Wherever we look in the world at the moment, things seem to be either falling or breaking apart. Whenever we watch, listen to or read the news, we are continually being confronted by angry voices. Fingers of blame are being pointed everywhere and in all directions. Overly-simplistic answers and solutions are being proffered to really complex questions and problems - and people are buying them. It is all deeply troubling, not least because, as the human race, we've been here before - and the last time we were "here" it didn't end well.

I mention this not to scaremonger or to make you more fearful but because throughout Advent, we are reminded of the need to remain vigilant and to be alert, alive and awake to those events taking place around us. We need to be so, our scriptures tell us, lest we miss seeing those signs that point to God breaking into the world and acting within it today.

If we believe that there is no real need to heed such a call because, year after year, we receive the same message and nothing new or different ever happens, those same scriptures also proclaim that we've been "here" before too - and that then, in the unlikeliest of times and places, God did indeed act. Such a message demands that we do not let ourselves give in to despair. There is always hope.

Every Christmas we celebrate a child being born among us and, as we do so, we talk about life and love, of course, but also of smallness and vulnerability, of humility and fragility. It is vital that we do this. Focussing on such aspects of the Jesus story teaches us some important things about God - about who God is and how God works - and it shows us something about how and where God enters our world and our lives.

We cannot afford to leave the story there though, however warm the glow we feel emanating from the stable scene. We cannot afford to leave Jesus - nor our expectations of him - forever bound in swaddling

bands and lying in a manger, assuming that all that he asks of us is to bow down and worship. That child grew up and we must too.

As we remember Jesus' coming into the world, we also - and urgently - need to recall the message that he came with, a message that he identified with what he called the coming of "the reign of God" or the "kingdom of God".

In Jesus' teachings on "the kingdom" we find the anticipation of the coming of an altogether better, fairer and more just world at some point in the future. We also find a call to action in the present. Whenever Jesus talks about the kingdom, the language of challenge and cost is never too far away from his lips. The implication is always that, as his followers, we each have a part to play in the transformation of this all-too-often-troubling world of ours. The change we most desire and seek may well need to be brought to birth in us and through us.

Let us hope and pray then that we can all make the most of this time of preparation that Advent affords and, in doing so, not only hone and revise our expectations but also raise them. As we celebrate Christmas, may we commit ourselves afresh to building a more loving, inclusive, compassionate and caring society and world.

Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Christmas

Paul

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You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up
into the Father's face and tell him you have received
his Christmas gift.

John R Rice

Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality
in the hall and the genial flame of charity in the heart.

Washington Irving

ROSEMARY KEEN

It was with some sadness that we learnt of Rosemary's death in November. Among her many roles in the church she was the Editor to the Newsletter for about five years before she passed the baton over to me. She then volunteered in the Merton Heritage Centre in Morden Library.

As this newsletter goes to press we are still waiting to hear news of her funeral, but below are a few thoughts from Moira and Sarah.

Andrew Fox

The first time I was aware of Rosemary was at the newly formed Prayer Time on Tuesday evenings during the Rev Ann Rushbridge's ministry 2000-2003.

Like many people in the church we are not always aware of what people do within the church and local community the reason may be that Rosemary was quite unassuming, accomplished tasks in a quiet way. Gifts and talents were plentiful which became evident when she took on various roles. One of the first jobs was being Editor of the church Newsletter, other roles serving as church rep to the church council, on rota to count the weekly offering, setting up for Coffee and Chat on Tuesday mornings which she stepped down from but continued to attend and offer to clear up. She also attended the fortnightly lunch club. Whatever role she took she was reliable and earnest.

More recently it was noticed that Rosemary's memory wasn't so sharp and occasionally needed help in finding correct page etc during the service, those of us who sat near her witnessed some deterioration nevertheless Rosemary seldom missed a service or meeting and always a good time keeper. Rosemary was truly a sincere, committed disciple of her Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ. It was a great privilege to have known her and worship alongside.

Moira Bailey

It's very sad to hear about Rosemary but she was active to the end coming into the Heritage Centre on a regular basis to help archive all the historical material we hold. She was regarded with great fondness by me and all my team, never complained about anything and always had a smile on her face – a kind, sweet and lovely-natured lady. We will all miss her.

Sarah Gould - Heritage & Local Studies Service Manager



**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

**November and December
Press Releases
from CSW**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

These verses about the early church remind us that God calls us to make regular prayer part of our lifestyle as Christians: and not just prayer by ourselves. The inclusion of prayer after two examples of gathering in community (fellowship and the 'breaking of bread': group meals or maybe communion) infer a connection between prayer and gathering together with other Christians. Corporate prayer, then, is an important part of Christian life.

Many criminal groups view church leaders, both Catholic and Protestant, and their influence, as a threat to their power. In remote communities the majority religious group often believes it is their right to enforce religious belief and practice, and will attempt to force minority religions to conform to the faith and traditions of the majority. Furthermore, a culture of impunity in the local and federal governments means that justice can often be extremely slow in arriving.

*Lord God, today we commit the nation of **Mexico** to you. You know how long some of the people we've been working with have waited for justice: grant it to them soon, we pray. Amen.*

Throughout Advent, we're joining together to pray scripture over a particular country on which we work. In the face of a systematic, targeted campaign of harassment against both registered and unregistered, Catholic and Protestant churches, as well as against people of other beliefs, let's stand in prayer for **China**. Chinese Christian human rights lawyer Zhang Kai was arrested and spent over six months in detention after a crackdown on human rights lawyers in 2015.

Attacks on the Coptic community persist in parts of Upper Egypt, and the lives and rights of ordinary Egyptians continue to be impacted by the government's counter terrorism strategy. Together, let's cover Egypt in prayer this week.

*Lord God, we commit the country of **Egypt** to you and ask you to watch over all its people: particularly Christians. We know that you are a God who answers when he is called upon, who can grant protection and strength in abundance: we ask that you grant this to Copts in Egypt today. Amen.*

Indonesia's tradition of tolerance faces increasing erosion, as the country prepares to hold presidential elections in April 2019.

Heavenly Father, God of governments and nations, we commit the people of Indonesia to you as they enter a year in which they'll vote for a new president. We ask you to bless the electoral process and move powerfully to bring about change: a return to tolerance, pluralism, and peace for all of Indonesia's citizens. Amen

Increasing Hindu nationalism is making India increasingly dangerous for Christians, Muslims and human rights activists of all faiths

*Lord God, on this final week of Advent we remember the people of **India** and commit them to you: especially those who are still awaiting justice after surviving religiously motivated attacks. Move in power and grant them justice, Lord, we pray. Amen.*

As CSW marks its 40th anniversary in 2019, please join them in thanking God for his favour for the last 40 years.

*Father God,
We thank you for your abundant blessing over the past 40 years.
Thank you for every prisoner released,
Every family reunited,
Every story told.
Thank you for guiding to stand against injustice,
For walking with them and enabling them to walk alongside others,
Thank you for everyone who has been part of their work;
For partners around the world.
We dedicate the future of CSW to you and humbly ask you for your continual blessing and your provision and guidance as they work towards a world where everyone is free to believe.*

The CSW team

Extreme Letters - part 2

Taken from: Extreme devotion, the voice of the martyrs from the co-authors of Jesus freaks. Serious followers of Jesus pay a price, and extreme followers often pay the ultimate price. Each story is true.

RUSSIA : MARIA

Dear Mum and Dad,

In my last letter I told you about the atheist girl, Varia. Now I am so happy to tell you the exciting news: Varia has received Christ! She is so different and is already witnessing openly to everyone.

When Varia first believed, she still felt guilty inside. I think she was unhappy because for so long she believed and made a point of telling others that there is no God. She felt that she needed to suffer and pay for this.

We went together to the assembly of the godless (Communist Youth Organisation meeting). Although I warned her to be reserved, it was useless. After refusing to join in the singing of the Communist hymn, Varia went forward to address the whole assembly. She courageously told everyone about accepting Christ as her Saviour!

She begged everyone to give up the way of sin and come to Christ, and the whole place was silent. When she finished speaking, she sang with her incredible voice the old hymn, "I am not ashamed to proclaim the Christ who died, to defend his commandments and the power of his cross." I could only watch helplessly as they took her away. Today is May 9, and we haven't heard anything about her.

Please pray!

Maria

The greatest enemy of Christianity are prime targets for prayer. Like Saul of Tarsus, it is possible for a former enemy to become one of the greatest

spokespersons for Christ. However, without prayer, it will remain only a possibility. Instead of being afraid of them or resenting them, we should pray for those in our community, country, and throughout the world who are vehemently opposed to Christ. Whenever we pray for nonbelievers—even atheists - we can envision the changes that would happen if their energies were redirected toward Christ instead of against him. They could become the next evangelists to share a powerful testimony of God's grace. None of our enemies are beyond God's reach, and prayer keeps them within their grasp.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

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REMEMBERANCE DAY LUNCH

A huge thank you from everyone who attended the special Remembrance Day Lunch held after the service on 11th November to the very capable team of cooks who provided a superb offering of various dishes. We also give thanks to those who were responsible for decorating the church and hall with poignant red poppies.

An additional thank you to Geraldine, Lesley and Graham, accompanied on the piano by Kate, led us all in singing the good old songs which most of us remember.

The proceeds from this lunch amounted to £238 which will go towards the Coffee Lounge Floor Fund.

Derek and Mary Heaton

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**We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.**

Sir Winston Churchill

ROCK CHOIR CHARITY CONCERT

A fantastic evening was had on Saturday 17th November when the Wimbledon Rock Choir gave a concert. Led by their energetic choirmaster, Elliot Sutcliffe, the choir treated us to a few new songs as well as the more popular from their collection.



The many gifts that were collected will be distributed to the homeless in Merton through Community Table.

If you feel that the Rock Choir may be for you, then visit their website at www.rockchoir.com and sign up for a free taster session. They rehearse at St Mark's Church in Wimbledon at 6.30pm on Wednesday evenings. No previous singing experience needed!

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COMMUNITY TABLE

Community Table opens every Thursday 11-2pm at Southcroft Church, which is on the corner of Mitcham Lane and Southcroft Road, for the homeless and those in need. We are a faith based organisation. Each one of us believe God has called us to this work. It is not easy but with God's help we succeed. When we started we used to get about 20 people but now we get 35 plus and one week 60. With winter almost upon us we expect that to increase. What follows is a typical day

Steve, Sara and Annette arrive at about 7.30 am to start preparing the food and get the main room set up. The rest of us arrive between 9 and 10am and help with whatever still needs to be done. At 10am we gather together for a cup of tea and spend 30-45 minutes praying for the day, for peace in the building and ourselves. So far we have not had any trouble during the sessions.

At about 10.45 the homeless start to arrive. We let them in early if it is cold or raining and they wait in a separate room. Once they are allowed in they can get as much tea and coffee as they want. We also normally have a big bowl of fruit which they can help themselves to. Once they are settled several of us will go from table to table chatting to them. This



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could be a general chat in which we ask them if there is anything we can help them with, and if it comes up talk about Christianity.

If needed they can also get a shower, shave and a change of clothes. We also have people come from St Mungo's, Spears (both seeing if they can help them get off the streets), mental health nurses and nurse Practitioners to help with minor ailments. Once a year the mobile x-ray machine comes to test them for TB and give them a flu jab.

Lunch is served at 12 noon which has been cooked by Annette. Between dinner and pudding we have a 3-5 minute slot where one of us will do a small talk normally using a passage from the Bible. We know they listen as one day because we had so many people in from different organisations we decided to do it after pudding. When we went to dish up the pudding we had chorus of "We haven't had our talk yet." That gave us a big boost. Normally people slowly start to leave after 1pm. We then start the big clear up which takes to about 3pm. We then gather together for more tea, a debrief and final prayers before we leave.

I hope this gives you some insight as to what we do and we would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Barbara Filby



MARTIN WAY GIFT SERVICE 2nd DECEMBER

CHRISTIAN CARE ASSOCIATION TOYS FOR 2019 PARTY



We would like presents (new or as good as new) to give to the boys and girls aged between 6 months and 11 years (but especially for the older children) who attend the Christian Care Association New Year Party on Saturday 2nd February 2019. They do not need to be wrapped.

For babies and toddlers – rattles, bath toys, pull-along toys, puzzles, phones, baby dolls, building blocks etc

Cars, trucks, trains, Lego, games – appropriate for different ages.

Dolls - including anything from Action Man, Spider Man and Superman ranges as well as doll buggies and tea sets

Outdoor Games - footballs, skittles etc.

Stationery – crayons, gel pens, pencils, pencil cases, drawing books, photo album, disposable camera, craft activities for boys and girls.

Books – fun activity and story books for all ages, but appropriate for children where English is not their first language for the family.

Clothes etc – hats, scarves, gloves, pretty tights, backpacks, bags, umbrellas, jewellery.

We are always particularly short of toys for the younger children (the under 5's)

Sorry but we cannot accept toys and games with batteries which have to be replaced. We cannot use jigsaws and games with small pieces that are easily lost such as Monopoly and Scrabble, nor games featuring war or soft toys.

Martin Way Methodist Church

Carol Service

Sunday 16th

16:00

Rev Paul Timmis

Christingle

Monday 24th

17:30

Rev Paul Timmis

**Nativity &
Communion**

Sunday 23rd

10:30

Rev Paul Timmis

**Christmas
Morning**

Tuesday 25th

10:30

Rev Paul Timmis

Come & join the celebrations

THE NATIVITY

A PLAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Come and enjoy the
'real' Christmas story
at Wintershall

Stand with shepherds in the field and see Mary arrive on a donkey. Sit in the barn where the baby Jesus lies in his manger. A timeless, memorable experience for young and old as we bring the story of Christmas to life for you.



Adult £18 & Child £9
Family £50 (2 adults & 2 children)

12 December 4:30pm & 7pm
13 December 4:30pm & 7pm
14 December 4:30pm & 7pm
15 December 11am, 2pm & 5pm
16 December 2pm & 5pm

Each performance lasts approximately 90 minutes.

Holly Barn, Wintershall, Bramley, Surrey GU5 0LR
Wintershall CIO, Charity Number 1167111



Book tickets **now** on
our website:
www.wintershall-estate.com
or by calling **01793 418299**



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 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

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There was a very gracious lady who was mailing 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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Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world.

There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord,"

and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

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A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone 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 wiper 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 police officer 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."



Forever Living Products

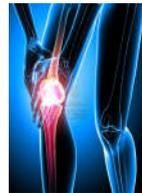
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you don't change your thinking*

FOREVER 

**For further information contact:
Mike Fuwa
Tel: 07956 369579
Email: mfuwa@blueyonder.co.uk**

GASTRONOMIC FOOD WEEKEND

Forget the winter blues, come along to Martin Way Methodist Church for their Gastronomic Food Weekend of the 19th and 20th January 2019.

There will be the usual fantastic Big Brunch on the Saturday but also on the Sunday you can spoil yourself with a gourmet French Themed lunch served after the service. There will be no charge for the lunch but we ask for donations towards the cost of the coffee lounge floor. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the notice board if you would like to have lunch.

Please contact Sylvia on 07803724989 or sylvia.baxter1@tiscali.co.uk if you would like any further information.

BIG BRUNCH

Big Brunch happens on **Saturday** between 10.30am and 1pm on the following dates:

- 19th January 2019,
- 16th February 2019,
- 16th March 2019



It will only cost you £4 for the full English breakfast but other options are available. We look forward to seeing you there.

COFFEE AND CHAT EXTRA

Anyone who fancies a cup of tea or coffee, a slice of cake and a chat is welcome to come along. If you or someone you know is lonely, at a loose end, just passing the church or simply wanting a chat, you are welcome to pop in and join us - the more the merrier!



We are meeting from 2.30 to 4pm on Fridays,

- 16th November, 30th November,
- 14th December, 28th December.



MORDEN CAROL SINGING

It's that time of the year that we serenade the commuters of Morden. We will be raising money for charity and would welcome as many people to come along and join in the singing of carols at Morden Underground Station. We will be meeting at the Station on

Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th December and plan to start singing at 5.00pm and finish about 7.00pm both of these nights.

All welcome to come along - singer, players, collectors. Or if you are just passing by, say hello and drop some money in the collection buckets.

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CHRISTMAS POST BOX AND CARDS

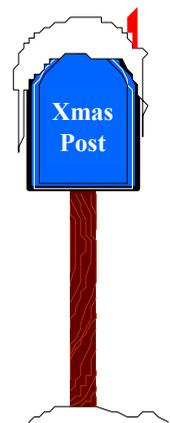
As it has been our tradition over the years, we will again place our Christmas post box. The church Christmas post box will be outside the vestry from Sunday 2nd December to Sunday 16th December for those wishing to send cards to members of the church family.

As in previous years, you are invited to make a donation which will go to Methodist Homes for the Aged (in doing so you may wish to remember that you are saving 58p for each card posted in the church post box rather than using the Post Office!) last year we raised over £180.

Please address all cards clearly using surnames and initials or forenames to avoid confusion.

If you prefer, you are welcome to post a single card addressed to the whole church family. Such cards will be placed on display panels in the vestibule.

The cards will be available for collection on
Sunday 23rd December.



CHRISTMAS COLOURING TIME



CHURCH DIARY



Sun	2	10.30am	Gift Service with Café Worship with Baptism led by Rev Paul Timmis
		12.30pm	Faith in Action Fundraising Quiz and Lunch
Tue	4	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	7	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	9	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	11	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	14	10.30pm	Coffee and Chat Extra
Sun	16	10.30am	Morning Service led by Richard Graham
		4.00pm	Carols Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	18	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		5pm-7pm	Carol Singing at Morden Underground Station
		7.00pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Members evening</i>
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Thur	20	5pm-7pm	Carol Singing at Morden Underground Station
Sun	23	10.30am	Nativity and Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Mon	24	5.30pm	Christingle Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tues	25	10.30am	Christmas Day Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Fri	28	10.30pm	Coffee and Chat Extra
Sun	30	10.30am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft



CHURCH DIARY



Sun	6	10.30am	Covenant Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		4.00 pm	Circuit Service for Epiphany at Martin Way Church
Tue	8	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	11	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	13	10.30am	Café Worship led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	15	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sat	19	10.30am	Big Brunch
Sun	20	10.30am	Morning Service led by Viv Newitt
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	22	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	25	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	27	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Chris Morley
Tue	29	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
in either December or January a very



Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Natalie Johnson on **2nd December**
Kabelo Sepanya on **13th December**
Zandile Sepanya on **16th December**
Kutloano Sepanya on **19th December**
Floyd Sepanya on **24th December**
Christopher Sweby on **23rd January**

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A New Rota

A new rota for December to February is now on the notice board on the ramped corridor just as you enter the church. If you feel that you could help take part in our Sunday morning fellowship by stewarding or preparing and service refreshments then please enter your name against the slots you would like to adopt.

If you would like to find out what is involved then just ask one of the regulars - you will be playing a vital part in our ministry.

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Faith in Action Fundraiser Quiz and Lunch

Platform 10³/₄, our Young People's Fellowship group, invite you to a fund raising **Quiz and Lunch Event** on **Sunday 2nd December** from **12.30 until 2pm.**

No tickets are required - donations will be accepted on the day - but please sign up on the list of the Notice Board so they will know how many to cater for.

Items for the **February Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 20th January** at the latest

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

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 (occasional)	4.00 - 5.30 pm
	Platform 10¾ YPF (1st & 3rd Sundays)	8.00 - 9.30 pm
TUESDAY	Coffee & Chat	10.30 - noon
	Men's Supper Club (3rd Tuesday in month)	7.00 pm
	Time for Prayer	8.00 pm
WEDNESDAY	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
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)