

MINISTER'S LETTER

Everyone an Evangelist



The words ‘you are an evangelist’ might make you feel all kinds of things: excited, afraid, uncomfortable, fulfilled, inadequate – what else?

“Evangelism” literally means sharing good news – the good news of our faith in Jesus Christ. We each have an experience of Jesus we can speak to others about, we each have a story to tell about the difference that God makes in our lives, we each have good news to share.

When people are asked what their biggest barrier to engaging in evangelism is, it’s usually one of the following:

- I don’t have the confidence.
- I am afraid of what might happen.
- I don’t think evangelism is my thing.

Evangelism can be scary, and we can feel that we’re not confident enough or skilled enough, or that other people will be better at it than us, so we should leave it to them. But telling the story, sharing the good news of Jesus – that God is with us and loves us no matter what – is something that we can all do. Indeed, it is something that we are all called to do. We are, each of us, commissioned as faith-sharers by Jesus.

Being sent out to share our faith might feel risky or uncomfortable, but so often in the Bible we see God calling people out of their comfort zones. For Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Ruth, Mary, the twelve disciples, and so many others, saying ‘yes’ to God’s call required a bold stepping out into adventure, into the unknown.

These people were sometimes afraid and uncertain and exhausted, just as we are. But just like them we are promised that we will not be left on our own when we follow.

As God tells Joshua, “Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9). Our boldness comes from this knowledge – that God is with us and that, with God, all things are possible.

You might think God has not called you in this way. You might think you don’t have time, or energy, or enthusiasm enough for this. You might think you are not equipped for evangelism or that it’s not your thing. But all of us are called to participate in the life-changing work of God, and we are promised that when we do so, we will find that God goes with us and before us as we follow that call. And if not now, when?

Everyone an Evangelist is a course to help encourage us as individuals and churches in authentic, confident faith-sharing. Whether you are wondering whether evangelism is actually good news, are excited to explore what faith-sharing looks like or feel a bit anxious about the phrase ‘Everyone an Evangelist’ – this course is for you.

As I mentioned in a letter in March, we are running *Everyone an Evangelist* across the Circuit this year. As part of this, there will be three Circuit-wide “Gatherings” with space between Gatherings 1 and 2, and then between Gatherings 2 and 3, for each local church to explore and respond to this course in different and bespoke ways, firstly through study and then through a practical project.

We would like as many people as possible at Martin Way to engage with *Everyone an Evangelist* and to attend Gathering 1 at Stoneleigh Methodist Church on Sunday 12th June at 3pm. As a minimum we need 6 people to represent us at this Gathering, but we would be delighted if we could send more!

To register an interest, simply let me know or ask someone else to let me know. I look forward to hearing from you!

With every blessing

Paul

A note from Church Council

Church Council has been meeting regularly to discuss many aspects of church life including finances, property and worship, as well as hearing proposals for new projects and updates on current ventures, including the community garden.

At the recent Church Council on 5th May we welcomed a presentation by Rebecca and Anne about The Junk Food Café. Rebecca spoke with passion and enthusiasm about the idea of running the café, using surplus food sourced from local supermarkets and traders to make a nourishing and healthy meal for people in the community to come and share. The idea was met with overwhelming support from those present. If you want to find out more, please talk to Rebecca or Anne.

In addition, it was agreed that:

- the church could open for quiet prayer and reflection during Coffee and Chat on a Tuesday
- there would be a church picnic this summer

At an earlier meeting of the church council, it was agreed that the building would be registered for the purposes of same-sex marriage and we can confirm that this process is underway.

Future church council dates:

Wednesday 29th June (Church)

Thursday 22nd September (Church)

Wednesday 16th November (Zoom)

Rosie Wills, Church Council Secretary

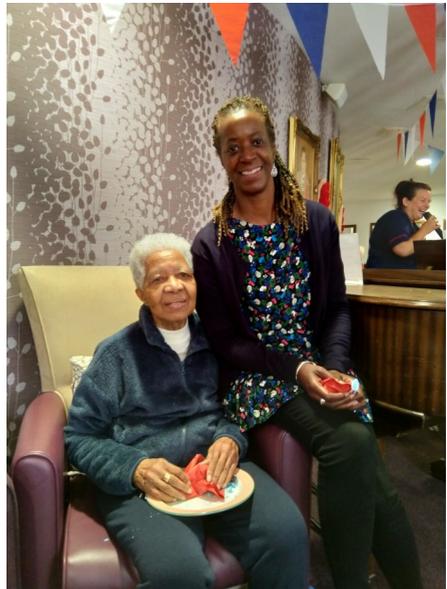
Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea

Hall Grange Methodist Care Home invited family and friends of residents to attend this special occasion on Monday 30 May. It was a really happy and fun time with some of the staff and residents providing entertainment in form of songs and piano music accompanied by us the guests joining the residents and staff with enthusiastic singing!

The photos show Marjorie with youngest daughter and one of me both of us delighted to not only see each other but to sit along side, wonderful.

This was a very memorable occasion, worth sharing.

Moira



Community Garden

Hello all, we continue to have our bring and share lunch for the community Garden. All are very welcome to join us even if you really don't like gardening. It is a chance to have a chat, see the plans and progress in the garden. These lunches are really just a

chance for Martin Way Community to get together.

Our next dates are:

Sunday 12th June

Sunday 17th July

Sunday 21st August

Also keep an eye on our community garden board (which is on the grass area nearest the side entrance on Martin



Way) for updates of what we are doing and our shout outs for little help occasionally with watering or other small gardening jobs that might need to be done.

Join us and enjoy a cuppa in the garden

Abby & Shelley



2021 year of the staycation—Part 2

As I said in the previous letter 2021 was the year of Staycation. Despite staying at home both Phil and I visited some lovely places. If only the weather could be more predictable perhaps none of us would want to go and seek the sunshine abroad! During 2021 I read 18 books by L. J. Ross; it was a series about a Detective called DCI Ryan and the books were set in around Northumberland. The description of the country side in the books was amazing and you really felt you were there. So we took a 6 day trip to Northumberland and visited some of the places in the book. We were not disappointed the countryside and beaches are amazing. The area is also steeped in history which is very interesting.

The place that stood out for me the most was our visit to Lindisfarne or Holy Island. Irish monks settled here in AD 635 and the



monastery became the centre of a major saint's cult celebrating its bishop, Cuthbert. The monastery did not disappoint, there was a feeling of calm and tranquillity about the place. The statue is St. Cuthbert. In fact I had

goose-bumps going round the ruins. I hope you enjoy the pictures. More pictures to follow in the next magazine!!

Sylvia



Bonjour from South America!

I am already over 6 months in to my job and life in French Guiana! With just under a year left, I still have many things I want to do, but I wanted to share a little about what it's been like so far in the few fleeting months that I have been here.

Firstly, I must of course mention the weather... It's hot. Always hot.

The average daily temperature is 27°C or so. At a first glance that sounds quite pleasant, but that's not counting the humidity factor (relative humidity values vary around about the 80% mark) making it actually feel about 10°C warmer! Picture the sun shining inside the tropical greenhouse at Kew gardens, and you have a good idea of what it's like to be outside during the day!



Thankfully, everywhere is air conditioned, which is a necessity in such harsh conditions.

But to the surprise of many people that I have spoken to, constantly hot does not equal constantly sunny. In fact, sometimes the sky can even resemble the UK horizon! Sometimes sunny, sometimes cloudy, even dull cloud at times! But, though just like the UK it rains here, the rain is nothing like what is normal in the UK. For context, when I facetedimed parents Karen & Andy Smith and they mentioned the term “spitting” or drizzling” when discussing the rain, I had forgotten that those terms had even existed. Because when it rains here, it absolutely pours. Being within the scope of the Amazon rainforest, this is not a huge surprise, but I am still captivated every time nonetheless.



But anyway, I've rambled enough about the weather, French Guiana has many other spectacles worth mentioning.

For a start, I still pinch myself every morning that I work in a space centre. Being able to witness three rocket launches in person, and watching the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope on Christmas day from home in the UK have been moments that I am beyond grateful for, and for which I will never forget.

Unfortunately, one of the types of rocket we use, Soyuz, is a Russian model, and since the middle of February all remaining Soyuz launches have been cancelled for the rest of the year due to the ongoing conflict with Ukraine. I agree that the right decision has been taken, but with the Soyuz rocket serving over half of our annual rocket launches, our expected total of launches for this year is less than half the usual amount, which is a shame given that I am only here temporarily. But, I remind myself that even to see one rocket lift off is beyond my wildest dreams, so I count myself lucky regardless.

My work in itself has been thoroughly enjoyable. My research project is nearly coming to an end, where I have been assimilating 10 years' worth of weather data to create a new climatology for the space centre. I am slowly beginning to move in more of a direction for issuing weather forecasts for daily operations around the site (all in French), so this will of course take some more time and practice to master.

Outside of work, I have been very fortunate to meet lots of new people here, both working within and outside of the space centre. I have even taken up some salsa classes, to add a little South American spice to my weekly routine. I may even begin to try some rugby or tennis too!

Weekends usually consist of seeing friends, going to the beach or various outdoor swimming pools, or exploring somewhere new in French Guiana. Particular highlights have been visiting the Isles des Salut (Salvation Islands) and seeing wild monkeys within just a few metres of where I was standing. Exploring the mangrove forests of Cayenne has also been a delight, the sound of the rainforest will never grow old.



Of course it all seems perfect by my description, but there are of course days that are more difficult. Unfortunately, not being able to drive is a major disadvantage here, as a formal public transport system doesn't really exist here (it's a shame that the new Elizabethan line doesn't run as far as French Guiana), so everyone drives. This makes getting around the town quite difficult sometimes. But hopefully soon this will change, as I have recently acquired a "voiture-sans-permis" ("car-without-license"), which I am legal to drive here.

And then of course there's mastering the French language. I can certainly say that since arriving my level has improved, but I am still not fully self-sufficient (everyone speaks far too quickly), but I hope I will continue to improve and life will get a little easier in this respect.

I hope that with the rest of my time here I can continue to be amazed by the sights of South America, and hopefully give some weather forecasts to help launch a rocket or two in to space!

Sending lots of love, and my best wishes to everyone at Martin Way,

Rebecca Smith

RNIB—Collect Stamps



Collect stamps for RNIB and make a difference to blind and partially sighted people.

We at Martin Way Methodist Church have started to collect stamps. Stamps don't need to be thoroughly sorted, but try and make sure you leave a centimetre of envelope or packaging around each stamp. This is just a recommendation and stamps that have been trimmed less or more will still be accepted.

The collection box for stamps is on the table in the entrance by the toilets.

Thank you Abby

Your Church Needs You!

At our recent Annual General Church Meeting, we held an honest conversation in which we identified some gaps in both what we are doing and how we have been operating since the church building was re-opened for worship last Pentecost. If we are to move forward in a way that is fair and sustainable, we will need to work together recognising that we are each a member of the body of Christ, that we each have a unique part to play in the life of the church. As you will see below, there are several gaps that urgently need to be filled. If you can think of a more creative way to address any of these roles, please say. We are open to the possibility of doing things differently. There are though some essential tasks that need to be done. Please have a look at the list below and prayerfully consider if any of these are something that you can offer to do. If you would like more information on any of them, please ask me.

With every blessing

Paul

Assistant Treasurer

Someone to work alongside our Treasurer, Tim. Duties to be agreed on in conversation with Tim but would ideally include maintaining the cash-book (i.e. recording all transactions); monitoring regular giving; banking cash; reconciling the bank statement; liaising with our Gift Aid Secretary, Rosie; paying bills and refunds by cheque or cash; and being aware of direct debits that are due e.g. from utility companies.

Worship Prep Team

Team of people required so that two people can be on duty each week on a rota basis. To arrive at 10am, open up, turn on lights, light candle, ensure readings and any other roles are allocated and that those in the congregation have all that they need for worship. At the end of the worship, work with others to ensure that the candle has been extinguished, lights turned out and everything locked up.

Vestry Stewards

Team of people required so that one person can be on duty each week on a rota basis. Work with the Worship Prep Team to ensure that the church has been readied for worship and that the preacher has all that s/he needs. This will involve providing the preacher with water, a microphone and, in some cases, praying with them. Sometimes (if worship is being led by a visiting preacher) this role may additionally include the issuing of a welcome to the congregation, introduction of the preacher and the announcement of notices.

Communications

We need someone to maintain our Facebook page and update it on a regular basis. This person will additionally liaise with our Newsletter editors, Yvonne and Simon, and our Church Council Secretary, Rosie, to ensure that, as a church, we communicate our ideas, decisions, and activities well.

Property Team

The property team plays a very important part serving our church and community by caring for the place in which we gather for worship and which we offer to the wider community.

Jobs for team members are quite varied from hands on practical skills to administrative roles and can include any one or more of the following:

- HANDY PERSON - maintenance, repairs and/or renovations
- DIARY CHECKER - manage and book annual servicing contractors
- RECORD KEEPER - complete annual online property schedule, file certificates etc.
- PROJECT DEVELOPER - investigate project ideas for future improvements big or small.
- ON SITE MONITOR - walkabout to check and report on the condition of the premises and grounds in accordance with annual property check-list and Quinquennial Report
- HEATING TIME SETTER - set the times for the heating.
- CLEANING COORDINATOR - liaise with professional cleaners as required for regular cleaning checks, carpets, deep cleans etc.

Audio/Visual (A/V) Team

We are looking for anyone with experience or enthusiasm for A/V to join our team whose role within the church is as follows:

1. Services

- Set up and operate the service laptop using SongPro, a service presentation application (app)
- Set up and operate the Digital Hymnal
- Operate the sound system via the mixer, microphones, etc

2. Maintenance of the A/V equipment

- Screens, speakers, cabling, microphones and transmission boxes

3. Upgrading the system

- We have an extensive A/V system some of which is starting to show its age. The Church Council has therefore commissioned the A/V team to evaluate the system and recommend upgrades.

Circuit Leadership Team

We need to recommend someone from MW to the Circuit Meeting to sit on the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT). This person, if appointed to the role, will become a Circuit Steward, and will work closely alongside our other Circuit Stewards (we have one from each local church), our Circuit Treasurer and our ministers. Each Circuit Steward has different skills and responsibilities. Combined with the skills of others, they enable the development of God's work in the Circuit. Further details can be provided to anyone interested. Circuit Stewards attend CLT Meetings (4 per year), Circuit Meetings (4peryear) and, potentially, District Synod (2 per year). Circuit Stewards play a key role when ministers enter the Stationing/re invitation process to determine where they will be/what ministry will look like in the Circuit in the future. At this point the CLT becomes the Circuit Invitations Committee and manages this process in tandem with Church Stewards. This summer both Paul and Deacon Dawn will enter this process. Martin Way needs to have a voice in these conversations.

Circuit Meeting Reps

We need to elect an additional two people to attend and represent MW on the Circuit Meeting (4x per year). It is important that Martin Way has a full say on this meeting. There presentative will take news and issues raised at MW to the Circuit Meeting and, will in turn, share Circuit news and decisions with us at MW.

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Mike on 07956 369579**

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For further information contact:

Mike: 07956 369579

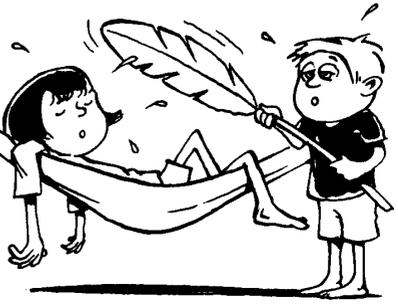
CHURCH DIARY



Sun	5	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	7	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Wed	8	8.00pm	House Group
Fri	10	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	12	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Viv Newitt
		12.00pm	Gardening lunch and share
Tue	14	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	19	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Revd Chris Morley
		6.30pm	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	21	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Wed	22	8.00pm	House Group
Fri	24	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	26	10.30am	Morning Worship – Café Worship lite – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	28	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Wed	29	8.00pm	Church Council (MW)

Please email items for next month's Newsletter to
newsletter@martinway.org.uk by **Sunday 14th August.**

July



Sun	3	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	5	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	8	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	10	10.30am	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	12	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	17	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Richard Graham
		12.00pm	Gardening lunch and share
		6.30pm	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	19	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	22	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	24	10.30am	Morning Worship – local arrangement
Tue	26	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	31	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Valerie Ashcroft



Tue	2	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	7	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Tony Loft
Tue	9	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	14	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Brenda Cannon
		6.30pm	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	16	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	21	10.30am	Holy Communion/Café Worship – led by Revd Paul Timmis
		12.00pm	Gardening lunch and share
Tue	23	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	31	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Viv Hewitt