

MINISTER'S LETTER



This summer has been a hot, dry one and, with drought declared in eight areas of England, ongoing questions have been raised about the resilience of our water supplies. Pressure is building on water companies to not only introduce hose pipe bans but also to build more reservoirs and fix leaky pipes. A plea has been issued by the National Drought Group for all of us to rethink how we use water, that we might do so more wisely.

As much as everyone likes a spell of good weather – and I'm no exception – what we're currently experiencing, says Professor Richard Betts of the University of Exeter, is not a typical summer but climate change. Given that signs of climate change include hotter, longer heatwaves; more persistent droughts; more fuel for wildfires (as everything dries up); and more extreme rainfall events, it would be hard to disagree. And this is happening now, when the global average temperature has risen by 1.1[°] above pre-industrial levels.

Even if all the commitments made by world leaders at last November's COP26 climate summit were to be honoured, the effect would be to limit the global increase to just below 2[°] (i.e. below the stated aim of 1.5[°]). In fact, the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report shows that Europe, especially Southern Europe, is warming faster than other parts of the world, with temperatures already 2.2[°] above the pre-industrial level. Urgent action is needed but whatever happens, things are going to get worse and possibly much, much worse. I don't wish to be a prophet of doom but this isn't scare-mongering – it's a description of the reality of the situation that we're now in.

So often in church communities we find a desire to be seen as being fine, up-standing members of society. We crave respectability and sometimes question how our beliefs and decisions will be perceived and/or

received by those beyond our walls. But Scripture tells us that we can't afford to worry too much about whether our words and actions offend or upset people if together we've discerned that we're speaking and living God's word faithfully.

That's not to say that we should go out of our way to seek to insult or offend others or do anything to suggest that we're somehow better than anyone else, but as followers of Jesus we have to stand for something and sometimes that'll mean that we have something to say and do things that others may find unpalatable. Often, I think, much of this will come down to the question as to who we choose to stand alongside and with. To the many examples that the Bible gives as to who this might include – the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, the vulnerable, the unloved and unlovable – let me add 'climate activists', people who all too often get bad press.

Gary Lineker last week retweeted something that had been posted by Go Green. It read, 'If you demand action to save life on Earth you are called a freak, a radical, an extremist, a fanatic; but if you demand more drilling, deforestation, mining and unsustainable economic growth that will transform our earth into a dead planet, you are called a respectable moderate.'

In church we believe that this is God's creation, gifted to us as our home to care for, to be stewards of that we might hand it on to future generations to call similarly home and live-well in it. We can't look at what's happening to our world – our planet home – and remain silent. So, a question to ponder as we approach Harvest season. What does respectability matter when the very future of life on this planet is at stake?

With every blessing

Paul

A note from Church Council

At the most recent Church Council we heard and discussed updates on many aspects of church life including finances, property, worship, the community garden and the junk food café. In addition, we discussed some of the feedback from the Annual General Church Meeting, noting that some ideas have already been implemented (job sheets, coffee and chat prayer space) and that others require more detailed thought at our next meeting.

We are pleased to announce that both Paul and the Church have recently received their certificates from the General Registry Office. These state that the building is registered “for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couples” (in addition to marriages between a man and a woman) and that Paul is authorised for “the solemnization of marriages both between a man and a woman and of same sex couples”.

Future church council dates:

Thursday 22nd September (Church)

Wednesday 16th November (Zoom)

Rosie Wills,
Church Council Secretary

Community Garden

Thank you to all who have come along to the Bring and Share Community Garden lunches over spring/summer. We have had some great discussions including during the last Café worship about 'How can the Community Garden be used to share God's love in the community?'

Here is our vision board for the community garden exploring what we want to do within the garden and the hope we at Martin way have to use of it for our local community.

We have made some great progress and look forward to the next coming months as we hope to have some Volunteers from Volunteer matters who will help us build the raised beds out the front. Have a look at the photo board of all the progress in the hallway at Church.

Two dates for your diaries

Bring and share Lunch **Sunday 18th September** after the Church service – all are very welcome. You don't have to want to garden we just want to share this project progress with you over lunch and just enjoy each other's company

Community Garden Fund Raising Quiz – **Saturday 24th September**
5.30pm for 6pm start and finish by 9.30pm. There will be food half way through - jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings for all dietary requirements (please tell us yours when you book) and puddings included.
Tickets Adults £7.50 and Children £5.00 each.

Abby & Shelley

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, A TIME FOR
EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN
ECCLESIASTES CH3 V1

Love



**Grow
your
own**



Reflection space

Mud kitchen



wildflowers

Hope



Environment



For everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes

**Mural
Together**



COMMUNITY GARDEN

VISION BOARD

Memories Local Support



Bug Hotel



Support



Accessibility

Community

Flower Meadow

Share



2022 continuation of the staycation

In February Phil and myself had a mini break on the edge of the Cotswolds. The pictures are of a small village called Dorchester.



The Abbey was a really interesting place to visit. The Abbey was founded in 1140 by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln. *DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES*. The Roman town of *Dorcic*, or *Dorchester* as it is now called, is an attractive and prosperous *Thames*-side village.





The village and Abbey are steeped in history, if you are in the area I would definitely recommend you visit.

Sylvia

A summer story from Martin Way's past

Some of you may know that I have a history with Martin Way Methodist church dating back to the 70s when my school friend, Helen Grimwood, took me to the Youth Club here. The Youth Club was run by a chap called Bob Hamblyn . Funny fact of life when I started my first teaching job at Eastfields Boys School I discovered Bob was the Head of Science there.

Anyway Bob was going out with, engaged to lady called Janet and they both attended the church. Janet was a primary school teacher in Hackney in a large multi- racial school. She found out that many of her children had never actually seen the sea and so she devised a plan to take 50 children to the seaside and called on the Methodist church to help. Martin Way agreed and pitched in for the coaches and offered helpers and Helen and I offered to help.

Well on that Saturday in July about 1971(?) the coaches went up to Hackney to collect the children. Martin Way had called on the Methodist church and Hurstpierpoint Methodist had agreed to lay on a lunch for the children.

As there was not room for all the helpers on the coach Helen and I were offered seats in a car by two older twin brothers at the church – we thought they were very dashing. So we drove down to Hurstpierpoint and waited for the coach to arrive.

Well the coach arrived and the children got off – some rather wobbly on their legs after their first coach outing. Some had on casual gear but some were obviously in their Sunday best. They all had little labels pinned to their clothes with their names on. With the members of Hurstpierpoint Methodist we fed them lunch. They were terribly excited at the thought of going in the sea.

After lunch we set off again for Saltdean beach. Our cars arrived first and we were there when the children stepped off the coach right beside the beach. It was magic as we saw their faces. We told the children to sit on the beach and Janet called us for a conflagration while we were going to work out quite how we were going to supervise the children in the sea. (Bit before risk assessments etc)

Suddenly we caught a movement and turned to see about 10 stark naked children running into the sea. They had ripped off all their clothes (it was a lovely hot day) and just gone for it. There was little we could do but persuade the rest to keep more of their clothes on.

A wonderful time was had by all until they all had to get dressed. Many of them had no idea which were their clothes and I believe the last week at school was spent getting clothes swapped back. One mother also apparently kept asking why her son had a badge that said Edward when his name was Rudy. Still...

Postscript on Helen and I – the twins asked us if we wanted to go and see the new Beatles film in the evening and once our parents had agreed they drove us up to Chelsea. (Oh the days when you could just park the car there) and we saw “Let it be” – I say we saw, I don’t know about Helen but what with the early start, sun, fresh air etc I woke up at one point to realise I had missed about half an hour of the film.

Anyway it’s days like those you remember all your life and I suspect the youngsters we took still remember that day. And it was all thanks to Martin Way and Hurstpierpoint Methodist church.

Alison Morgan



Quiz Night

Saturday 24th September

5.30pm for 6pm start

At Martin Way Methodist
Church SW20 9JZ

TICKETS - ADULTS £7.50

CHILDREN £5.00 EACH

INCLUDED JACKET POTATOES AND PUDDING

**In Aid of the
Community Garden**



Book your tickets by contacting Rosie Randall
rrandall1999@gmail.com or speak to Abby or Shelley.

Care for Uganda

A letter from
Nakiwala Jenifer
who Martin Way
sponsor via Care
for Uganda

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BELWA PRIMARY SCH,
P.O. BOX 22
WOBULENZI

DEAR SPONSORS, Martin Way church,

How are you? What is the weather?
I am also fine and it is rainy in Uganda
I thank God for our being alive.
How is COVID disturbance? I thank
God because I am studying in form
three. Thank you very much for the support.

God bless you.

Yours

*Nakiwala Jenifer
Sponsored child.



78 Janifar
Nakiwala

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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Promotes a healthy immune system

Helps maintain natural energy levels

Assists natural beauty

Young, Old or Middle-aged

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**For more information Contact
Mike on 07956 369579**

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- Students who fear huge students loan debts after graduation.

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- We create a learning and earning environment where each individual can with dignity be what they want to be.
- You will be working for yourself but not by yourself. We have an impeccable support system to guide you every step of the way.



For further information contact:

Mike: 07956 369579

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

CHURCH DIARY

SEPTEMBER			
Fri	2	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	4	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Deacon Dawn Canham
		6.00pm	Holy Communion – led by Rev Emma Cusack
Tue	6	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	11	10.30am	Holy Communion – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	13	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
		7.30pm	Circuit meeting – Worcester Park
Fri	16	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	18	10.30am	Cafe Worship – led by Rev. Paul Timmis
		12.30pm	Gardening lunch bring & share
Tue	20	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sat	24	5.30pm	Community Garden Quiz Night
Sun	25	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Tony Loft
Tue	27	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	30	12.30pm	Lunch Club
OCTOBER			
Sun	2	10.30am	Café Worship - Harvest Festival – led by Rev. Paul Timmis
Tue	4	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	9	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Liv Newitt
Tue	11	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	14	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	16	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Brenda Cannon
		6.00pm	Holy Communion – led by Rev. Paul Timmis

OCTOBER cont.			
Tue	18	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	23	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	25	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	28	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	30	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Rev. Paul Timmis
Mon	31		All Hallows Eve
NOVEMBER			
Tue	1	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Wed	2		All Souls Day
Sun	6	10.30am	Holy Communion – led by Rev. Paul Timmis
Tue	8	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	11		Remembrance Day
		12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	13	10.30pm	Café Worship – led by Rev. Paul Timmis
Tue	15	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	20	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Richard Graham
		3.00pm	Everyone An Evangelist Gathering 2
Tue	22	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Fri	25	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	27	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Liv Newitt
		6.30pm	Holy Communion – led by Rev. Paul Timmis
Tue	29	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Wed	30		St. Andrew's Day

Please email items for next month's Newsletter to
newsletter@martinway.org.uk by **Sunday 13th November.**