



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, WALTON-ON-THAMES

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 70 No 6

JULY/AUGUST 2014

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*"...for whatever we lose (like you or me) it's always ourselves we find in the sea."*

*E E Cumminas*



## *Dear Friends*

It's ingrained into us from childhood that we are due for a long break over the summer — and I think that still holds true long after we have left all the limitations of school terms far behind us. Perhaps it goes back to the far-off days before railways and tarmac, when travelling for leisure (if you could afford it) was only something you would even consider doing when the days were longer and there was a reasonable chance that the roads would be relatively dry.

For me, August was for very many years associated with the childhood experience of escaping from the oppressive heat of summer in central London and having a family holiday surrounded by the beauty and tranquillity of the Solway coast in Kirkcudbrightshire. Not surprisingly, coming back was sometimes pretty hard: with the walls of the tall buildings of London closing in around us again as we arrived at home, it could be difficult to avoid the feeling that the holiday had just been a dream — as if the city were the only real world. I wanted those summer holidays to go on for ever.

But we know that the most memorable holidays are so very special at least partly because they don't go on for ever. By definition, holidays are different from our everyday lives; and if they become commonplace, they lose part of their power. New and different places and experiences go together with rest and relaxation: we are refreshed and renewed equally through a change of scenery or a change of activity.

Here at St Andrew's we're starting on something new, as we move into the Design Stage of our plans to redevelop parts of our premises. I think I'm safe in saying that for those most directly involved so far, it's already been an energising and renewing experience — and my hope and prayer is that as we all become involved in this exciting new venture, it will renew and re-energise the whole of our life together.

Having said that, I'm still going to be away on my summer holiday in August... but I'm already looking forward to the challenges which await us in the autumn!



Your minister,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Romilly". The script is cursive and fluid, with a long tail on the final 'y'.

<b>SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES IN JULY 2014</b>
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*No Guild meetings in July*

<b>Tuesday 1 July</b>	<b>8.00 pm</b>	<b>Elders' Meeting, Hersham Room</b>
<b>Thursday 3 July</b>		<b>URC General Assembly, Cardiff Anna Crawford will be attending</b>
<b>Saturday 5 July</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Choral Concert at Weybridge URC conducted by Peter Stobart (see page 5)</b>
<b>Sunday 6 July (Pentecost 4)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by Mrs Thelma Roberts</b>
<b>Monday 7 July</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Bridge Club, Hersham Room (last until September)</b>
<b>Wednesday 9 July</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Prayer Group, Hersham Room</b>
<b>Sunday 13 July (Pentecost 5)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship with Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 20 July (Pentecost 6)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship</b>
		<b>3.00 pm Messy Church</b>
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Wessex Synod Area Service at Woking URC (Tea from 5 pm onwards) (see page 16)</b>
<b>Wednesday 23 July</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Prayer Group, Hersham Room (last until September)</b>
<b>Sunday 27 July (Pentecost 7)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>'All-Age' Worship</b>

 *Traidcraft Stall after the service* 





There will be a Coffee morning in August  
- details to come (hosted by Anna  
Crawford)

## BRIDGE CLUB



Monday 7 July

2.00 pm  
Hersham Room  
*No Bridge Club in August*

## LADIES GUILD



*No Guild meetings July and August*

## PRAYER GROUP

Wednesday 9 and  
Wednesday 23 July  
Hersham Room  
*No Prayer Group Meetings in August*

*Cover photograph 'Blue Bucket and Spade'  
© Michelle Meiklejon*

## Anthems



Rheinberger Palestrina Monteverdi

## & Nursery Rhymes



A Choral Concert  
Conducted by Peter Stobart  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm  
**United Reformed Church,**  
Queens Road, Weybridge, KT13 9UX

TICKETS: £10  
At the door, or contact:  
01932 244423 or 07900 907738

Hilary Netherwood reminds everyone that it  
is always great to have St Andrew's  
support at these concerts, which are a  
guaranteed treat with the  
A Cappella Singers - you'll hear her there!



*Road closures for cycling  
race on Sunday 10 August !*

So how many people  
change a church light



does it take to  
bulb?

Who does it?

Have you ever wondered how things like light bulbs get changed, new toilet rolls bought, or who just does all those jobs we do in our own homes which also have to be done on church premises?

We can assure you there is no army of fairies or helpful elves on the premises: all these things are done by volunteers. So, to give you an idea of the scope of the work and following on for the promise of a list of all the jobs in St Andrew's, here is an insight into the running of the church.

The chain of officers and main leaders/co-ordinators will be well known.

Minister

Elders      Church Secretary      Treasurer      Assistant Treasurer

Junior Church      Messy Church      Pastoral Co-ordinator      Pastoral Visitors

Management Committee      Hall Hire Secretary      Finance Committee

Development Committee

From here we cascade down to many, many other roles that are vital to the smooth running of the Church. We could just list the over 50 jobs we have identified but that would probably send you to sleep. So breaking those down into their constituent parts, with the names of the current holders or vacancy, may give you an idea of the possible areas in which you have a skill and could help.

There are a number of roles that are filled by volunteers on a regular or ad hoc basis. We are very grateful to all these people and we are sorry if we are not able to list your names under the relevant job. (The newsletter Editor may not like too many pages.)

The schedule overleaf does not include the actual work done by those in the list above; to them we also give our grateful thanks for the work they do for the smooth running of our church, especially our Minister. They all work extremely hard in many different ways giving a faithful commitment to the life of St Andrew's.

Please feel free to offer your services if you can help in any way.

*Anna Crawford & Mike Rodgers*

<b>SPIRITUAL</b>		<b>FINANCE</b>		<b>House Keeping</b>	
Minister		Treasurer	Jan de Kok	Care of Communion Cloth	Anna Crawford
Elders		Assistant	Alan Crawford	Silver Cleaning	Anna Crawford
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Barbara Rodgers	Gift Aid Secretary	Hilary Netherwood	Purchasing from Bookers	Anna Crawford
Pastoral Visitors				Liaison with Cleaners	Jean Smillie
Junior Church Co-ordinator	Paula Walsh	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		Liaison with gardeners	Johnston Simpson
Junior Church leaders/helpers		Church Secretary	Anna Crawford	Care of small flower beds	Johnston Simpson
Prayer Group Leader	Sue Groves	Stationary Stores	Anne Fitzgerald	Care of tea towels etc.	Jean Smillie & others
Bible Study Leader	??	Photocopier responsibility	Anne Fitzgerald	Sanitary boxes	Anna Crawford
Messy Church Co-Ordinator	Anne Fitzgerald	News Letter Editor	Norma Reid	Care of dustbins, taking excess to tip	Alan Crawford
Messy Church helpers		News Letter proof reader	Minister/Johnston Simpson		
Organist	Paul Reed	Maintenance of the roll	Anne Fitzgerald	<b>Maintenance</b>	
Choir		News Letter Labels and Postal Envelopes	Anna Crawford	Liaison with Electrician/ Carpenter/Plumber	Mike Rodgers
Quarterly Seasonal Cards	Anne & Keith Fitzgerald	Maintenance of Membership Directory	Barbara Rodgers	Liaison with Decorators	Mike Rodgers
Pulpit Supply	Margrit Doust	Webmaster ??	Minister pro tem	Replacement of Light bulbs	Alan Crawford
		Post Box	Anne Fitzgerald/ Alan Crawford	Small DIY	Alan Crawford
<b>SUNDAY RELATED JOBS</b>		Publicity	??	Water Cooler	Iris Collins
Elders/Stewards Roster	Doris Hutson	Maintenance of inside notice boards	A & A Crawford	Gas / Electric meter reader	Alan Crawford
Stewards		Maintenance of external notice boards.	Minister / Alan Crawford	<b>Other</b> <b>And just as important</b>	
Compiling and copying Service Sheet.	Anne & Keith Fitzgerald	Access system. Maintenance of fobs and data base.	Minister / Mike Rodgers	Ladies' Committee. Lunch & Coffee mornings	Nancy Hampton/ Barbara Rodgers
Provision of Flower List	Anna Crawford			Bridge Club	John Hutson
Flower arrangers		<b>LEGAL</b>		Ladies' Guild	May Dow
Distribution of Flowers list	Irene Pearson	DBS Checks co-ordinator	Anne Fitzgerald	Commitment for Life	Johnston Simpson
Flower Distributers		Wedding Registrar and ¼ returns.	Anne Fitzgerald	Art Peace (Silveira House)	Johnston Simpson
Sunday Coffee Roster	Hilary Netherwood	Health & Safety/ Fire Officer	Mike Rodgers	Brownies	Suzanne Hirst
Makers of Sunday Coffee		Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Kendal Coombs	Contact	Anne Fitzgerald
Audio Visual System	R & B Micklem Mike Rodgers	Safeguarding Assistant	??	Credit Union	Sue Groves



## ORGAN MOVE

On Monday 16 June, I met up with Mike Rodgers at 09.30 to receive the hoist, hired from HSS of Weybridge. After it was signed in Mike left me to it. Just after 10.00 Hugh Banton, the Organ Builder, arrived and started disconnecting everything. About half an hour later, David Wilkinson and a very strong colleague arrived. They specialise in moving pianos and organs.



I was amazed how efficient they were. As soon as they had assembled the hoist, it was up in the air and testing it out with the pedalboard and organ stool. As you can see from the photo, the time on the church clock read 11.25 and the organ was mostly down!

*The hoist is in position*

They then wheeled the console to its new position in the 'South Aisle'. The two strong men left and Hugh systematically connected everything up. It worked first time!



*Wheeling the consul to its new home*



*Connecting up*

As far as you, the congregation, you will notice no change, but for me and the choir the sound is ever so much better - cleaner, sweeter and not so deafening!

When the choir pews are sorted and a music cupboard installed, I, for one will be very happy.

*Paul Reed*





## FRIENDS REMEMBERED

### *Christina ('Chrissie') Irvine Brooman*

Chrissie and her late husband, Fred, can rightly be described as pillars of St Andrew's over the last 50 years. Chrissie was born in Aberdeenshire in 1921. She always retained her love for Scotland and her links with her two sisters and their families.

Chrissie and Fred met doing military service during the Second World War. They enjoyed almost 60 years of a loving and happy marriage and spent most of their married life living in Shepperton and Weybridge. They became involved in the life of St Andrew's and, while Fred spent his days at the Inland Revenue, Chrissie brought up their two children, Lesley and Hugh, and did work in the local community. Hugh married Jan, whom he met at St Andrew's and they have two sons, Andrew and Michael, who shared their memories of a wonderful grandmother at the Service of Thanksgiving for her on 28 May. They remembered Granny and Grandad as always together and seemingly unbreakable. Having met during the war, Chrissie had relished telling tales of mischief that they had both got up to. There was the time when the Canadian pilots came to stay on Chrissie's base when they would fly low over the radar towers when she worked, dipping their wings once for the pictures, twice for dinner and three times if they wanted to go out dancing that night! She was involved with the Cub Scout Pack, volunteering as Akela and continued her support for the Scout Movement through another of her passions, baking. Chrissie could always be relied upon to produce lovely cakes and marmalade and other items for Church festivities.

St Andrew's was a huge part of her life. As an Elder, she became a fount of knowledge about members past and present and kept in touch with many members who had moved away. She took enormous pleasure in the fellowship and communion of the church, and despite being nearly 90, she would drive around Walton picking up the "old biddies". The countless pastoral visits which she made during her many years of service as an Elder were both a duty and a delight to her. She continued to work as a non-serving member for some years, until she was forced to stop because she could no longer drive herself. Even then, when she was no longer able to visit much in person, she seemed to be everywhere – or at least to have got news of every pastoral need slightly before anyone else in the congregation. She regularly sang in the church choir and desperately missed this in her later years.

Chrissie was an avid gardener and wildlife lover. She could make any plant look fantastic with just a few days of her loving care. She found an affinity with penguins, reflected in her DVD collection (March of the Penguins, Happy Feet, Life in the Freezer) and it is an indication of her zest for life that for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday she was trying to organise a family trip to the Antarctic. She was a tireless supporter of good causes, and when Michael became involved with a new charity, the Mosame Trust, working with orphans in Cameroon, Chrissie got behind it with great heart, running coffee mornings, selling cakes, arranging talks from visiting speakers and presentations about the charity.

Whilst the last few years of Chrissie's life were punctuated with prolonged stays in hospital, her spirit stayed strong and her sense of what was important never wavered. Such was her enthusiasm for the fellowship of the Church that she was given a bell to attach to her wheelchair to make sure that she could talk to as many of her friends as possible at coffee mornings without running innocent bystanders over. She was blessed in receiving so much love and care from her family, as well as, latterly, from her two wonderful carers, Grace and Mami.

The Service of Thanksgiving for Chrissie's life at St Andrew's was conducted by the Reverend Dr Romilly Micklem, followed by a short service of Committal at Randall's Park, conducted, at Chrissie's request by the Reverend David Netherwood. We send our condolences to Chrissie's family and her many friends. We shall not see the like of Fred and Chrissie again. They are much missed.

*Margaret Ward (and thanks to the Brooman family)*

## News from the Development Committee: Development Plans move to the Design Stage

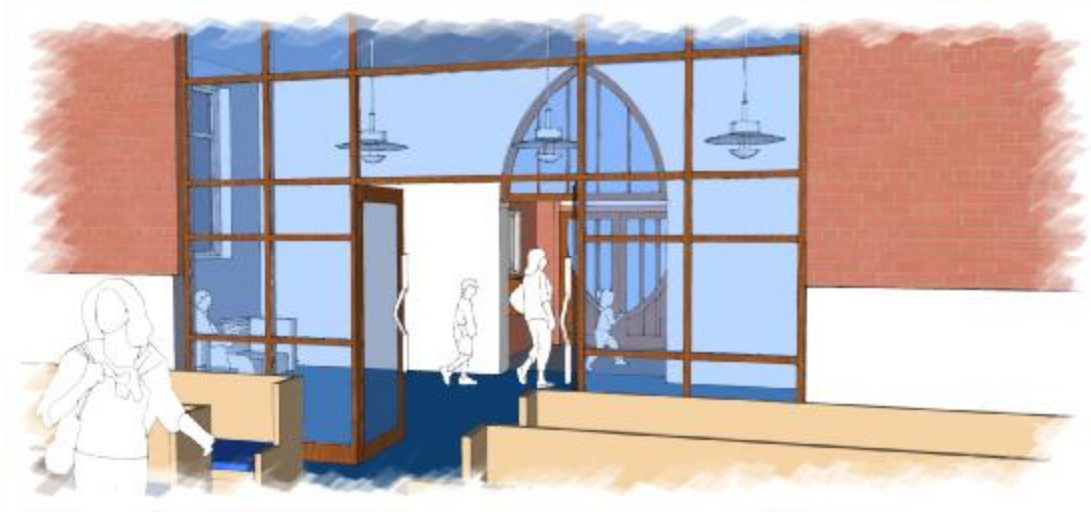


By now we hope that very many of you will have had the chance to see these draft drawings from our architects, Ralph Allen Associates, which give a very good idea of the preliminary design for enlarging the vestibule area. These were on display in the hall after Sunday morning service for a few weeks in the run-up to our Church Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

At that meeting, the unanimous decision was taken to instruct the architects to proceed with the next stage of the project, which consists of developing detailed designs and coming up with a more precise figure for the overall cost. This Design Stage also includes obtaining any necessary planning permission from the local authority for the changes to our toilet accommodation. (The vestibule changes will not require planning consent.)



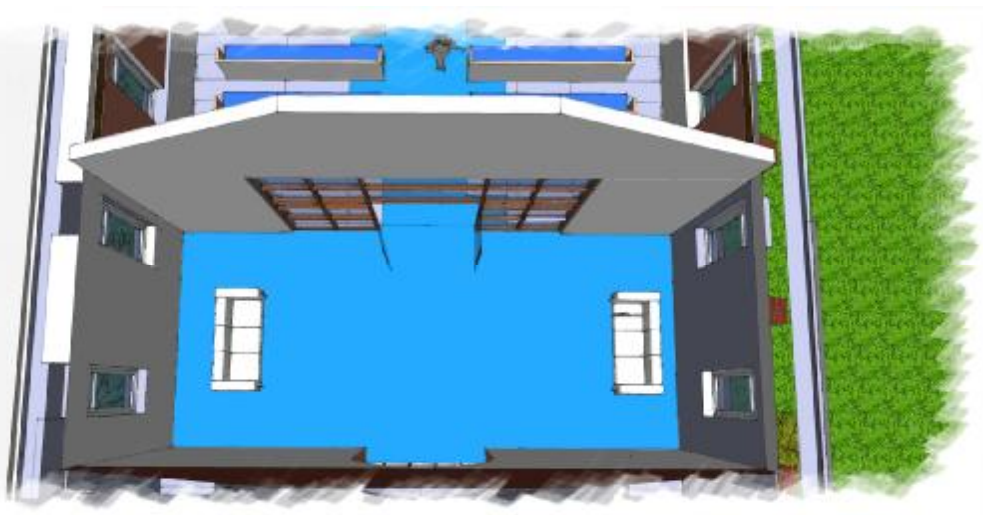
**This is an exciting time in the life of St Andrew's — and the Development Committee is very grateful for the enthusiasm, support and suggestions which have flowed from the whole congregation. It is tremendously encouraging to have that engagement and backing to keep our energy levels up as we work through some of the more down-to-earth paperwork which is an inevitable part of this sort of project.**



**What next?**

**Over the next several weeks, the architects will be working with the Development Committee - and through us, with the whole congregation at St Andrew's - to make sure that the final design for both the vestibule and the toilet accommodation meets our needs and expectations.**

**In parallel with that conversation on design, the Development Committee is preparing our formal application to the Wessex Synod Trust. This has two purposes: first, although these are our buildings, they are held in trust for us — so we need the formal consent of the Trustees for any major building works. And second, we are seeking a substantial capital grant from the Trust towards the overall project cost. If we miss the September deadline for our application, the next opportunity for the Trustees to approve the project and award any grant will not arise until the end of January 2015. So you can see that it's important to get this application in for the meeting of the Trust in September.**



This means that at our September Church Meeting, even if we're not in a position to agree a final design, we will decide as a congregation whether to approve the application to the Wessex Synod Trust, based on the best available project cost information.

That is still not the final step in our decision-making process, however. When we have a final design, Church Meeting will need to approve it formally (though the intention is that everyone should be happy with it before it comes to the Church Meeting). And assuming all goes according to plan, when we have received tenders from building contractors, the Church Meeting will need to make a formal decision on awarding contract.



So there are still several decision points to come, as well as some hard work for the Development Committee on the design and project plans. Of course, there will be more hard work needed from everyone in the congregation, too: in praying for guidance from the Spirit as we engage in this part of our mission, in reviewing the designs — and in raising the estimated additional £150,000 we need to complete the project, on top of the £150,000 from existing reserves.

Before we close, here's a reminder of the figures presented at Church Meeting:

from St Andrew's existing reserves:	£150,000
Gifts from congregation:	£30,000 or more?
Synod grant:	<i>maximum of</i> £60,000
other grants:	<i>up to</i> £60,000
Making a total of...	£300,000

More, much more, about this in the near future!

*The Development Committee and Elders*



## ST ANDREW'S – THE THIRD GENERATION

### *CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN ... ALL IN A DAY'S WORK*



Bill Murray has much to be proud of. In May, his granddaughter, Harriet Gwilt, completed the “3 Peaks Challenge” raising £700 for her chosen charity - *Hearing Dogs for Deaf People*.

The essence of the "3 Peaks Challenge" is to climb the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales all within 24 hours. Harriet's training for this demanding physical and psychological endurance test really paid off. She climbed Ben Nevis in six hours, Scafell Pike in four hours, and Snowdon in five hours. She walked 24 miles, climbed 3,407 metres (11,178 feet) and was driven 450 miles.

“Well done, Harriet”, I hear you say, but what has this to do with St Andrew's? Harriet and her older sister, Emilie, have an enduring connection through their grandparents who were active members of the church. Maurice and Winnie Gwilt's younger son, Jeremy, met and married Fiona, younger daughter of Bill and Margaret Murray, and Jeremy and Fiona were married at St Andrew's. Many of our long-standing members will recall the Murrays and the Gwilts and Bill remains an Elder Emeritus. It is through Bill they continue their link with us.

*Margaret Ward*

### *AN ORPHAN RETURNS TO HER ROOTS*

Our elder daughter, Lorna, now a professor at St Andrew's University, has always been determined to have a family life as well as being an academic. About 18 years ago, she and her partner adopted a Chinese orphan baby girl (a laborious and expensive process that needed all her determination).

Our adopted Chinese granddaughter, Eleanor Yong-An Hutson is now 17 years of age and studying for the International Baccalaureat (instead of A Levels). Not a prodigy (just as well) but quite bright and a hard worker, as well as being musical, fortunate girl, and an athletic team games player.

Why are we telling you all this? Because, in early July, Lorna is taking Eleanor (Ellie) on her first visit to China. They will fly to Beijing and spend some time there before taking an internal flight to Guilin, where they will meet their guide. She will accompany them when they take the high-speed train to Changsha, where 'Ellie' was born. On July 7 they will visit the Welfare Institute from which she was adopted. Then, after a day sightseeing on the Yuelu mountain nearby, another high-speed train will bring them back to Beijing where they will spend a few more days before flying home to Scotland.

It seems this return to their roots is normal for adopted Chinese children; in fact most of them are taken back on a visit like this an earlier age than 17. But Ellie is old enough to take more in and draw comparisons and she should return with broader horizons!

*John and Doris Hutson*

*page 13*

# ST ANDREW'S URC (WALTON) INITIATIVE



**STRUGGLE FATIGUE:** Communications from our friends this past month has all but died. Everyone is struggling to get by so there is no money for text messaging. Teddy Masedza's wife Constance died recently from TB. He was forced to beg for money to cover modest funeral costs but hit a stumbling block when the hospital mortuary refused to release her body for burial until he settled his medical bill. Meanwhile, interest is being added weekly! It has not been this bad for several years. One commentator **calls it** 'Struggle fatigue'. After fourteen years striving for change, most adult Zimbabweans who lived through terror and loss have run out of energy and motivation to fight. Confusion, resignation & weary head shaking are the most common responses to events in Zimbabwe.

**SALES:** Susan and I have been busy topping up the Southwark Cathedral shop and our URC Windermere Centre with sculptures. We also ran a sale at Christ the Prince of Peace Church in Weybridge. Unfortunately this fell on the same evening as **England's** first World Cup match so the turnout was poor but it was nice to see a few folk from **St A's**. The combined effort of £1550 from these sales including some **purchases from 'The Shed'** was worth the effort and will lift our friends. **Let's hope** their children dance for joy like the **'Happy Girl'** piece (right), one of 2 sculptures recently displayed in St Andrew's porch. This delightful piece is now available for sale. The sister piece 'Mother Playing with Child' was bought by a Weybridge lady, a long time supporter of ArtPeace.



**MAE HONG SON CALLING:** I received an email from Ashleigh Callow, a remarkable young lady who, whilst with Jesuit Missions Wimbledon, acted as a link between schools in Zimbabwe



and the UK. Photo left: Ashleigh with a few artists at Silveira House in happier times in 2007 helped our project in many ways, not least as a courier. She was born in Zimbabwe and moved to England eight years ago. Her great grandfather was a Presbyterian minister in India. Now based in Mae Hong Son, Ashleigh (below), teaches English at a refugee camp in the jungles of Thailand near the border with Burma. She said: *'In terms of poverty here, people are very much at the margins in camp. There is no electricity or water supply and they are not allowed to leave camp to look for employment which, of course, creates frustrations and dependency issues. Homes are simple bamboo structures and people have very*

*little by way of possessions. They sleep on the floor and could not live more simply.'* There was a recent military coup and although a curfew is in force, it is comparatively quiet in Mae Hong Son. Ashleigh sent me half a dozen beautifully woven items to sell: scarves, shawls and runners for which the country is famous, provided by WEAVE (Women's Education for Advancement and Empowerment), a NGO committed to teaching women to become socially, economically and politically empowered. *If there is enough interest from the congregation, we could mount a small table-top sale of these exquisite colourful woven goods combined with a few small ArtPeace crafts in the hall after a service in July. Please let me know your thoughts.*







Photos taken by Ashleigh. Above left, a student weaving. Right: woven items displayed at a local WEAVE shop. Below: fields of yellow daisies. Although a remote misty area, Mae Hong Son is called the 'Switzerland of Thailand'. Right: the end of the Buddhist 'Lent'. **Johnston Simpson**



## BANGLADESH - Traditional Handicrafts

Sometimes all that is needed to give people a step onto the business ladder is a little help. Shanti and Kusum now run their own successful handicraft income generating scheme helped by Christian Aid partner Shushilan. Shushilan supported them by providing the initial sticks for weaving, training to make the different baskets and a small loan. Shanti and Kusum have now repaid the



initial loan and their business is doing well. The wide varieties of baskets they make are sold in local markets. The increase in their income has allowed them to make plans for the future and given them a sense of pride. Kusum is particularly proud of the woven basket, shown in the picture, which is used for winnowing rice. By throwing the rice up into the air it is separated from pieces of husk. Not only does this project help Shanti and Kusum, it also supports Kusum's parents too, as they are involved in the business. So the initial



training and gift has multiplied many times and made a significant difference to the family's lifestyle. *Image 1: cforl. Shanti and Kumum showing their wares including the winnowing basket. Image 2: cforl. Shanti.*



*Wessex Synod*

*North East Area Churches*

Worshipping  
Together

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Woking URC White Rose Lane, Woking, GU22 7HA

Come for tea from 5 pm onwards  
(hosted by Woking and Worplesdon)

Service begins at 6.30 pm  
Preacher: The Revd Clare Downing  
Moderator of the Wessex Synod

There are some parking spaces at the Church and at the Christian Science Church opposite Heathside car park next door to Woking URC (charges apply)

Numbers required for catering purposes  
Please tell Anna Crawford ([secretary@standrewsurc.org](mailto:secretary@standrewsurc.org) or 01932 244466)  
if you would like to attend, by 6<sup>th</sup> July at the latest

## ARE YOU A 'SHEDDER' ?

If you have a shed - what do you do in it?  
Or, if you don't have a shed - what would you like to do in one?

'Men's Sheds' is a charity initiative started in Australia to provide men with time on their hands to practice or learn crafts that could benefit the community and provide social networking. Sheds have now been set up across the UK in the last few years and are going from 'strength to strength'.

Having seen an article on BBC Breakfast last autumn, Molesey resident, Dick Moore, has been investigating whether a 'shed' for Elmbridge 'Shedders' would be feasible.

If you meet the criteria above and would be interested in learning about 'shedding', then contact Dick on [ramoore@ntlworld.com](mailto:ramoore@ntlworld.com) or 020-8224-2061. He is particularly looking for 'shedders' who are craftsmen or have an expertise that could be used and people who might have tools or equipment that they would like to donate.

Shed your inhibitions, get those hands and 'little grey cells' going and become an Elmbridge 'shedder'.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

*This month's spotlight is on NORMAN SHOULER (photograph in next issue), one of our longest-standing church members*

I was born in Valparaiso, Chile, on St Michael's Day 1918. My paternal grandparents lived in Leicester and could trace their ancestors back to the 1660s. My maternal grandparents lived in Glasgow, grandfather, Martin, a Scot and grandmother English and they emigrated to Valparaiso, Chile, before starting their family of nine, my mother the youngest. Grandad Martin started a successful ships' chandlery business. One uncle worked for Pratt's Oil in Valparaiso and also owned a large fruit farm a few miles north. At age 10, I had the thrill of sitting next to him and steering his model T Ford car once we had reached the quiet gravel coast road.

As did many sons and daughters of European families, I came to England in 1930 to continue my education in the care of an aunt as my guardian. The assistant master of one English school I attended had the name of Pugin and was a direct descendant of the architect of the Houses of Parliament. My aunt took me to the Royal Albert Hall in 1933 to hear Jan Padereski's only piano recital for years. After his performance I was taken to the Artist's dressing room, was introduced and shook his hand.

In 1935, I left school a term early and joined some friends of my aunt who owned a 50-foot motor yacht in Chichester harbour. We toured some Belgian and South Dutch canals and experienced a gale along the way. It was a great experience and I learned a good deal about yachting and sailing. My working life started after that as a trainee with the building company, Bovis.

In August 1937, seeing the war clouds gathering, I was one of the thousands who joined the Territorial Army. Being a lazy type, I chose an armoured car unit, the Westminster Dragoons, part of the Royal Tank Corps. Adjutants of TA units were Regular Captains. Ours, Capt C W M Timmis, always took drill nights in his "Blues" with mesh epaulettes and yellow stripes on the trousers, inherited from the Unit's cavalry days. On 4 September 1939, the postman delivered my call-up papers and on 5 September the unit paraded at Waterloo station, thence by train to Blackdown Barracks near Bisley rifle ranges. The Royal Berkshire Regiment were in the brick barrack blocks and we in Nissen huts in between. A week or so later, my ears picked up their band practising playing the Chilean National Anthem. Being curious, I went in and the assistant bandmaster asked what I wanted. "I was born in Chile, Sir," I said "and I wondered why you were playing their National Anthem. "Well," he said "it's a b..... good practice piece!" And so it is, with several changes of tempo and style.

Alamein was my baptism of fire, followed by North Africa, Italy – including four months in the Anzio Bridgehead – and finally 18 months in Greece. On April Fool's Day 1946, I was released from the Army. I came home on leave in late November 1945: one night was spent in the Officers' transit hotel in Milan. In the restaurant for breakfast, who should be sitting on his own at a table for two but C W M Timmis, by then a Brigadier. "May I join you, Sir?" Half looking up, he said "Please do." "Before I sit down, may I introduce myself, Private Souler, 7888847, your staff car driver/wireless operator at TA Camp 1938?" A very interesting breakfast indeed! After the War, I returned to work with Bovis, retiring a little early mid-1981 after 47 years, finishing up as Bovis Group Welfare Officer.

War interrupted my rowing to which I went back in 1946, taking part in tideway and up-river regattas, including Henley. In 1950, at the wedding of a member of my crew, I met Pamela, who in 1952 became my wife. Rowing and some other sports do not mix well with marriage and I gave it up in 1954. We were blessed with a son and a daughter, and I have two grandchildren. My grandson is reading Civil Engineering at Bath and my granddaughter, who is three years younger, is still deciding what path in life to take.



## Macmillan - World's Biggest Coffee Morning – Friday 26 September

On Friday 26 September, people around the UK will be getting together with friends for coffee and cake – all in the name of Macmillan Cancer Support. The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is a great excuse to catch up with your favourite people and raise some money for a good cause. And it's really easy too. Just ask your guests to make a donation for the coffee and cake you serve.



Whether it's steaming mugs and biscuits, or homemade cakes and your best cups, it really doesn't matter how simple or fancy you make it. The only thing that really matters is the treat of getting everyone together and knowing that every coffee and cake you share with your friends will help someone affected by cancer get the support they need to feel more in control of life.

Last year 6,629 people living in Southern England called the Macmillan Support Line for cancer information, advice or simply a chat. And so far, there are 355 Macmillan nurses in the region providing expert support for people affected by cancer, and their families. But there's still more needed and that's where your coffee morning comes in. Every pound you raise will mean more people can get the Macmillan support they need. So make time for a treat this September. It all starts with ordering a free Coffee Morning Kit from [www.coffee.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.coffee.macmillan.org.uk).

### STOP PRESS

#### SILVEIRA HOUSE

Fr John Dove (92) who founded this NGO ([www.silveirahouse.org](http://www.silveirahouse.org)) in 1964 died on June 20th. He served with the Gurkhas in India and Malaysia during the Second World War and was ordained a priest nine years later at Heythrop, UK.

Fr David HB said: *'Fr Dove was inspired in his works by what he saw during his exploration of African townships during the colonial era. That is when his eyes were opened and he decided to do something and formed a study group based on the social teaching of the church'*. President Mugabe attended and spoke at the funeral. I was privileged to meet Fr Dove several times.

NORTHERN THAILAND (where Ashleigh Callow is based) had a visit on June 21st from Angelina Jolie, a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Ashleigh thought St Andrew's would like to see this short video link giving some idea of the conditions faced by many refugees from Myanmar also known as Burma (by coincidence where John Dove was born): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZRUbPVn4r4>

JS (See article on pages 14 and 15)



## FLOWER POWER

**Eleanor O'Dowd says:**

*"I would like to say thank you very much for the lovely flowers I received from the Communion Table and also to the two lovely ladies that visited me. As I have been feeling so down lately because I cannot do anything, they really cheered me up no end and the flowers are just beautiful. I would like to thank everybody involved."*

**And a message from Mavis Netherwood:**

*"Many thanks indeed for the lovely basket of flowers which I received in early June on the occasion of my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. The flowers, which included peonies and roses, gave much pleasure and were so much appreciated."*

**Bill Murray says:**

*"I was delighted to receive recently a lovely bouquet from the Communion Table, kindly delivered by Irene and Marigold. I was sorry I was not available to have a chat, but I much appreciate their kindness in thinking about me. Many thanks."*

**May Dow writes:**

*"I was delighted to receive some beautiful flowers from the Communion Table at the end of last month, kindly delivered by Irene and Marigold. It was a pleasure to receive the flowers and it was also lovely to see Irene and Marigold - I very much enjoyed their visit and our chat. Thank you to everyone at St. Andrew's."*

**Beryl Brown says:**

*"What a lovely surprise to receive flowers from the Communion Table! It was a really special bouquet as the flowers were from Chrissie Brooman's Service of Thanksgiving. Thank you!"*



*Ed is a little embarrassed to include this, but Norman was insistent ...thank you! I know how much the Newsletter is appreciated so it is time well spent. I am only too happy to continue as long as I am able and know that it will all be much easier once I have mastered my new computer! Ed (aka Norma)*

**Heartfelt thanks on behalf of all the readers of our Newsletter to Norma Reid who spends many hours almost every month compiling, editing, photocopying and distributing it via pigeon holes and post. Long may she continue!**

*Norman Shouler*

