



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

## **NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 68 No 8**

**OCTOBER 2012**

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*'Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile'*

*William Cullen Bryant*



## *Dear Friends*

What a splendid surprise it was for Bridget and me to be fêted with cake and bubbly after morning service to mark our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in early September! Thank you all so much for making our special occasion even more memorable. It got our celebrations off to a flying start, from which we never looked back: a short break in Shropshire with lovely walks, good food, and excellent weather — and of course each other's company.

Many of us are lucky enough to be able to share our experiences and reminisce with family and friends, reliving past happiness in memories of good times, or finding wry humour in events that are memorable for all the wrong reasons. That sort of sharing of our stories is one of the most important building-blocks of the relationships which form our social units and communities — and it's something which just seems to happen naturally wherever two or three are gathered over coffee, without the need for an anniversary or other special occasion.

The thing about anniversaries is not that there is no other time when we get to share our memories or remember past events; it's that they provide a focus for quite specific kinds of memories and sharing — birthdays and wedding anniversaries obviously so, as well as occasions such as Remembrance Day and our church festivals of Christmas and Easter.

Yet for most of us, the anniversary which we celebrate at Harvest Thanksgiving doesn't tap into any shared memories of actually gathering in the harvest year after year as a community, where the success or failure of the crops would mean the difference between comfort and starvation in the year to come. Generally we only have the experience of harvesting the limited produce from our gardens or allotments — or perhaps of working on a farm as a gap-year student for just one summer long ago.

So in order for us to make our Harvest anniversary celebration mean more than an opportunity to decorate the church, sing our harvest hymns and enjoy a meal together, it makes sense to share not just the memories we have gathered, but also the money we have received — to give a helping hand to those whose harvests have not been as rich as ours. Elsewhere in this newsletter, Anna and Johnston have written with details of our collection this year for ArtPeace and Commitment for Life. I commend it to you most warmly, not only because of the good that your generosity will do for others, but also because of the way in which it builds us as a community when we celebrate our Harvest together in this way.

Your minister,

*Ronilly*

<b>SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES    OCTOBER 2012</b>
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Monday 1 October	2.00 pm	Bridge Club   Hersham Room
Tuesday 2 October	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting   Hersham Room
Wednesday 3 October	12.15 - 2.00 pm	Church Lunch Anna Crawford will give a flower- arranging demonstration
Saturday 6 October	7.30 pm	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert at St Mary Oatlands ( <i>see page 5</i> )
<b>Sunday 7 October</b> <i>(Pentecost 19)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship</b>
Tuesday 9 October	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild, Hersham Room
Wednesday 10 October	2.00 pm	Prayer Group   Hersham Room
<b>Sunday 14 October</b> <i>(Pentecost 20)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship</b> <i>Weybridge URC will have a Harvest Lunch after their service – all St Andrew's Congregation are warmly invited.</i>

<p><b><i>COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE: <u>WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER</u></i></b>  <b><i>ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID,</i></b>  <b><i>3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP</i></b>  <b><i>Email: <a href="mailto:aristocats.2000@talktalk.net">aristocats.2000@talktalk.net</a></i></b></p>
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Saturday 20 October		Elders' Training Event (details to be confirmed)
	7.30 pm	A Concert for Tom's Trust Weybridge Male Voice Choir ( <i>see page 8</i> )
<b>Sunday 21 October</b> <i>(Pentecost 21)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship</b>
Monday 22 October	2.00 pm	Bridge Club   Hersham Room
Tuesday 23 October	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild   Hersham Room
Wednesday 24 October	2.00 pm	Prayer Group   Hersham Room
<b>Sunday 28 October</b> <i>(Pentecost 22)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>'All-Age' Service</b> <b>conducted by Thelma Roberts</b>



Traidcraft stall after the Service on 28 October



## A HARVEST TALE

As it is Harvestide, I thought this tale might amuse the congregation – one of many embarrassing moments from my youth! Perhaps best entitled:

### GREED !

My first and last experience of picking potatoes during one October school half-term proved quite memorable. I was fifteen at the time and in those days 15 shillings (75p) for a day's labour was good money. In Aberdeenshire, it was called 'tattie howkin'. Prospective 'tattie howkers' gathered by the town clock at 7am to await transport to take us to a farm a few miles away. A tractor pulling a flat open sided cart called a bogie pulled up and locals of all ages clambered on board. Not quite what one expected but at least it had air conditioning - rare indeed in those days. We were dressed like tramps as potato picking was dirty work. With backs permanently bent we followed the furrows gauged by the tractor up and down the field for hours, using our hands to shovel potatoes into baskets whilst furiously trying to keep pace with one other. Our wellies became clogged with heavy red clay. The farmer's wife appeared mid morning with refreshments contained in two enamelled pails – one full of creamy milk, the other with scones still hot from



the oven. A 45 minute break for lunch held in the farm kitchen, consisted of piping hot mince and tatties followed by cloutie dumpling which lay heavy in our stomachs for the rest of the day.

Backs breaking so that we could barely stand up, we finished at 4pm and were paid. The farmer generously told us to take as many tatties home as we could carry: I took him at his word! Some old hands had come prepared with shopping bags etc. I used an old paper fertiliser sack I found wedged in a hedge

so proceeded to fill it to the brim with huge Kerr's pinks. Three inches taller with solidified clay firmly wedged under my boots, I staggered the mile or so to the bus stop clutching the bulging sack. Caked with dust and sweat, it inevitably started to rain creating rivulets of mud down my face. The blue double decker bus duly arrived. It was packed! 'Room upstairs only,' bawled the conductor. I grimly heaved my heavy load upstairs and perched on the edge of a seat, near the stairwell with the now sodden sack balanced on one knee, my other leg in the passageway. The bus swayed from side to side as the driver drove like a maniac. It was all too much for the sack which burst open. A torrent of Kerr's finest pink potatoes bounced down the metal staircase step by step and out of the open bus door, leaving a trail down the main road.

I arrived home somewhat crestfallen with two large tatties, one in each pocket. 'Is that all he gave you laddie!' my mother exclaimed, but we had a good laugh that night. However, this was one of life's experiences which the couch potatoes of this day and age have surely missed.

**FOOTNOTE :** 'Kerr's Pinks' above, was painted by Ann Martin an American, now living in West Cork, Ireland. Ann said: 'The field is on the lane to her home. The farmer was a ferocious Methodist who needed to clarify my damnation before I could sit in the field with him and work on this painting. The time was October. The farmer's legs were conformed to the task in the same bent construction as the potato picker in the left foreground.' See her work at: [www.annmartinart.com](http://www.annmartinart.com)

## CHURCH LUNCH



**Wednesday 3 October  
St Andrew's Church Hall  
12.15 pm**

Anna Crawford will give a flower-  
arranging demonstration

Everyone welcome!



A Concert for Tom's Trust

**Saturday 20 October  
7.30 pm at Weybridge URC**  
(See page 8 for details)

## WEYBRIDGE URC EVENT

St Andrew's members  
are warmly welcomed

**HARVEST LUNCH**  
**Sunday 14 October**  
**12.15 – 3.00 pm**

By ticket only £8.00

Contact: [Brian.ashfield@talktalk.net](mailto:Brian.ashfield@talktalk.net)

## BRIDGE CLUB



**Monday 1 and  
Monday 22 October**  
**2.00 pm**  
Hersham Room

## LADIES GUILD



**Tuesday 9 and  
Tuesday 23 October**  
**2.00 pm**  
Hersham Room

Please do come along (with or without  
knitting) and catch up with the chat!

## PRAYER GROUP

**Wednesday 10 and  
Wednesday 24 October**  
**2.00 pm**  
Hersham Room

## ST MARY OATLANDS 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Friday 5 – Sunday 7 October**

Enjoy an elegant Flower and Embroidery  
Festival Weekend (£5 entry)

Cheese and Wine evening  
(opened by Michael Aspel)

**Friday 5 October 7.30 pm** (£10 entry)

Singing & Instrumental Concert  
**Saturday 6 October 7.30 pm**

Tickets: £10

(with complimentary glass of wine)

**Sunday 7 October**  
Songs of Praise service

**For all tickets contact Parish Office:  
01932 231274**

## NOVEMBER WINDERMERE COURSES

[www.windermere.unc.org.uk](http://www.windermere.unc.org.uk)  
(for full details see November issue)

### 12-15 November:

Photography - Beyond Point and Shoot

Cost: £195

All Kinds of Stories – Story and storytelling

Cost: £180

### 26-27 November

Finding Your Voice – Helpful for reading  
Bible passages or prayers

Cost: £60

## JUNIOR CHURCH – SEPTEMBER 2012

There has been a unifying theme in all our thinking and activity in Junior Church this month – which is our dependence on God and on each other for our daily needs and willingness to stand up for this. This is truly a “harvest” perspective.

We started off by thinking about Jesus’ teaching on putting our cares in perspective, knowing that God is looking after us: in the words of the “Moses” hymn:

“Look at the birds in the air, “  
the Lord says,  
“They fly unhampered by care”  
the Lord says,  
“You will move easier if you’re travelling light”.

To illustrate this, we made papier maché bowls, which we decorated with pictures of birds and flowers. This was a two-week project, as the bowls had to be made and then left a whole week to dry before any decoration could be added.

Here is one of the bowls: – I love the care that’s gone into the colouring of the nest and the beautiful blue bird with its eggs.



The third week in September, we thought about our interdependence – and how, in this country, part of what that means is that we expect everyone to pay taxes towards the benefits and services that the state provides.

When someone doesn’t pay the taxes they should, they deny that relationship. So part of what we may then have to do as Christians is stand up for what we believe in by speaking up for what is right.



To illustrate this we looked at the Christian Aid campaign on tax dodging; and we made model buses, like the Christian Aid tax bus that has been touring round the country. (The Sunday we made our tax buses was in fact the Sunday nearest to the date when the tax bus had been travelling in the SE, near Walton.)

I hope you can see the slogan on the bus; it is “Tax dodging hurts the poor”.

We also thought about other things we may have to stand up for as Christians – for example, to speak out if someone is being bullied at school; or to celebrate something good, like Katie's trip abroad where she helped out in painting an orphanage dining room.

At the end of September, we are focused on preparations for, and the actual enjoyment of, Harvest.

We have painted some posters for Harvest – with the round hay bales on the fields and the trees with turning leaves. Look out for them in the front of the church and in the hall! We have also made invitations to send out to missing friends.

So we look forward to our Harvest celebration. See you there!

*Bridget Micklem*

## **COMMITMENT FOR LIFE & ARTPEACE (ZIMBABWE) HARVEST 2012 COLLECTION**

Dear Friends

You will have noticed the CfL Gift Envelope attached to your October Newsletter. The Minister and Elders have decided that this year's collection should again be shared equally, with half going direct to Artpeace, based at Silveira House, Harare, and the other half channelled through the URC then via Christian Aid, who allocate contributions to projects in our partner countries of Jamaica, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, Bangladesh and other parts of Zimbabwe.

It is hoped that you will continue to be generous as in previous years despite the many other worthwhile calls upon your pocket. Throughout the year, through the pages of our newsletter, we have tried to show how these monies are used to their best advantage helping the poorest of the poor in all these countries. We **know** from first-hand experience how much our contributions lift our artist friends and their large extended families, not forgetting the numerous people in desperate situations they bring to our attention. We help out with school and medical fees, medicines, rents, funerals, raw materials and most importantly the spiritual dimension – St Andrew's congregation means so much to so many and we are very much in their prayers. Our articles are circulated to many denominations throughout the UK and are now featured on our Wessex URC (World Church section) website.

We shall be collecting Gift Envelopes at services over the next two or three weeks (please note that we can only reclaim tax on your gift if you are a UK taxpayer and you write your name and address on the Gift Envelope). Anyone unable to attend church to deposit their contribution should, please, contact their Elder or the undersigned.

On behalf of the Minister and Elders of St Andrew's

*Anna Crawford – Church Secretary*

*Johnston Simpson – Commitment for Life Representative*



## A CONCERT FOR TOM'S TRUST



presented by  
**Weybridge Male Voice Choir**  
**Weybridge United Reformed Church**  
**7.30pm 20 October**

**In aid of The Tom ap Rhys Pryce Memorial Trust**

Tickets (£10 adults) are available in advance on 01932 874189 or 01932 506143 or at the door on the night.

Tom ap Rhys Pryce and his parents lived in Weybridge for several years. He later moved to live in London where, sadly, he was robbed and killed in January 2006 as he walked home one night. He was 31 years old and looking forward to getting married the following September. 'The Tom ap Rhys Pryce Memorial Trust' (a registered charity) was set up as a lasting memorial to him by his parents, his fiancée and the law firm for which he worked. Tom was always grateful for the education he received and one of the Trust's goals is to provide educational and vocational training opportunities to individuals who might not otherwise have access to them. Another goal is to help tackle the root causes of violent gang culture and violent street crime. In this way the money raised by Tom's Trust is being used to ensure that as much good as possible comes out of Tom's tragic and senseless death.

### **SHOE BOX ALERT !**



Time, once again, to think Shoe Boxes!

We all know the joy these boxes bring to underprivileged children all over the world – well over a million of them. So, as soon as you can, please find a shoe box and cover it with “Christmassy” paper, lid and box separately. The fun part is collecting suitable gifts to cheer a child at Christmas. Ideas for gifts are listed in the Samaritan's leaflets, to be found on the table in the Church foyer and so, too, are listed items which are not suitable.

***DO PLEASE READ THE LEAFLET!***

Collection of boxes is at church on Sunday 25 November.  
Let's see what we can do this year.

*PS Why not share a box with a friend?*

## MINISTERIAL ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS



Having found out, by accident, that Rom and Bridget were celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary on 5 September, the congregation decided to hold a surprise celebration after morning service on 3 September. Rom and Bridget cut the cake and we drank a toast to them.

Congratulations on your Silver Anniversary! We wish you much happiness in the next 25 years and beyond.

*Nancy Hampton*

## UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

Congratulations and all good wishes to Piers Micklem as he embarks on his studies at Southampton University.

We also take this opportunity to send our best wishes to all our young people starting on new academic years and at new schools

## RHS FLORAL ART COMPETITION

Anna Crawford, representing Walton and Weybridge Flower Club, was awarded 'Very Highly Commended' at the RHS Floral Art Competition, Wisley, for this lovely, creative arrangement, under the section 'A New Slant'. Many of us already know of Anna's talent in this sphere, as she often arranges the church flowers for those who contribute but are unable to arrange the flowers themselves. We are always grateful to you for this, Anna, and are delighted with your success.



## WORLD CHALLENGE VIETNAM AND LAOS AND HOME AGAIN

Katie Reardon gave us a fascinating and humorous, illustrated talk on 16 September during the Church Meeting. A short summary of her experiences will (hopefully!) be included in the November issue.

# St Andrew's URC (Walton on Thames) Artpeace Initiative



**You win or lose, then die - that's Zim!** News and photos from Zimbabwe are at a premium this month. The artists are forced to spend most of



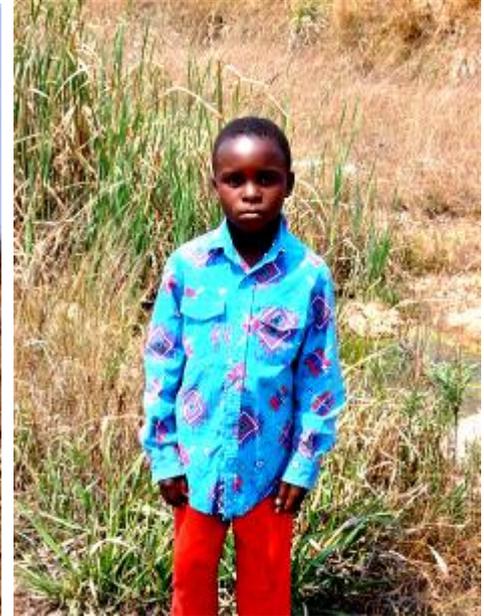
their time striving to support their extended families as life appears to be getting even tougher. Walking five miles to an internet cafe in Harare uses energy, not to mention a few dollars to cover the cost of sending these photos, money which may mean the difference between the family having a meal or going hungry – it's that bad. Fortune (extreme left in photo) was struggling to pay for his HIV medicine and was so relieved to receive some funds from us last month. He said: 'At Mabvuku and Tafara clinics we are asked to buy drugs, so it is difficult for people living with HIV. Many people are in trouble resulting in deaths but thanks for

70\$ from sales – I am still alive! The UK is not like Zim as you have to walk many miles to find tablets or medication - you win or lose, then die - that's Zim!' The cost of Fortune's medicine? 15US\$ (£10)! I have been involved with these good people for many years but a decade of struggle and anxiety has taken its toll; they are running ragged – that's the best way I can describe their situation. They so need our support.

**Caledonia Farm:** Coster Balakasi (40) is another artist forced to live with relations (seen below preparing lunch at this large displacement camp). This is one of three photos he took



showing the conditions faced by Coster, his wife, two children and relations. 'There is a massive degradation of land around here as people are digging pits to excavate sand for building', he said. The photos opposite show his wife trying to break up some rough ground in order to sow maize seeds before the rains come, and a photo of his son Alaba who like so many others cannot afford to attend school.



**GAMU MABANJI:** I have sold two of Andrew Mabanji's last small pieces; 2 hornbills, at which he excelled. They eventually arrived via my Liverpool courier after a mix up at Johannesburg Airport. His last piece, an angel carved from the same raw lemon opalstone used in his 'Christ Arising' masterpiece on display in our sanctuary, will arrive later. This money will prove a godsend for Gamu his widow (photo LHS), who has 3 children and gave birth to premature twins, Andrew and Shingai, on the 20th September!



**IT'S A SMALL WORLD:** Whilst at RHS Wisley's recent Flower Festival, I chanced upon a display of 30 or so large Zimbabwe sculptures and met Ronnie Dongo (left) and Hilary Manuhwki, two Zimbabwean artists now resident in the UK. Pointing to one large piece valued at £2500, Ronnie said that 'back home', a dealer would have offered £50 – take it or leave it! He knew a few members of Artpeace. His late step - father was the internationally known Joseph Ndandarika, a first generation sculptor, who tragically died in a car crash in 1991. Ronnie was delighted to learn that a few of Joseph's pieces and those of his contemporaries will be included in St Andrew's display of sculptures at St Mary's Oatland's Flower Festival from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October. I also learned that Ronnie's mother Locardia Ndandarika aged 66, was the driving force behind Artpeace artist Mike Masedza's decision to become a sculptor. Locardia (above right) has maintained her position as one of Zimbabwe's most prominent female artists and has exhibited/held workshops in the United States, Holland, South Africa and New Zealand. On the subject of top artists, now that three of Artpeace's best artists have died, I am encouraging the group to introduce art from top but still poor artists vis: Luke Saidi, Edmore Sango, Collin Sixpence and others. Perhaps even Locardia will contribute a piece which will raise the profile of the group so expect to see some superb works of art gradually appear on the URC Wessex (World Church section) website: [http://www.urcwessex.org.uk/world.php?id=za\\_gallery](http://www.urcwessex.org.uk/world.php?id=za_gallery)

**FINALLY:** Mike Masedza thought his UK friends may be interested in his photograph of a San Bushman rock painting around 2000 years old near his home. I wonder if the world will comprehend Artpeace's struggle to survive depicted through *their* art in 4012?





## FLOWER POWER

**Chrissie Brooman** would like to thank all her friends at St Andrews for the love, support and prayers that she has received over the last few weeks (as well as the dozens of cards - the PO must now be in profit!)

This message also comes on behalf of **Hugh, Jan** and **Lesley** who reiterate these thanks.

**Bridget Micklem** writes:

*"Rom and I were very touched to have a beautiful basket of flowers delivered to us from the church when we got back from our silver wedding trip. This was an especial surprise after you gave us champagne and cake to celebrate just before the actual anniversary. So we were doubly spoiled - and we thank you all very much and thank Ghislaine and May, who brought the flowers to us.*

*It has been very good to be able to celebrate this moment in our lives with the church family. We are most grateful."*

**Sheila and Alastair Gardner** thank their friends at St Andrew's for the lovely flowers kindly delivered by Irene Pearson.

**Christine Carlile** thanks May Dow for delivering some lovely flowers from the Communion Table. Unfortunately, she was out when May called but Holms very much enjoyed a chat with her.

**Joyce Wallbanks** writes:

*"Thank you for the flowers I received from St Andrew's. They were lovely and much appreciated. Thank you, also, to May Dow who kindly delivered them. I was delighted she had time to stay for a chat. Thanks, as well, to Chrissie Brooman who donated the flowers. I do hope she will soon be well again - I do miss her visits!"*

(All of Chrissie's friends are with you there, Joyce! Ed)

**Marigold Crampton** says:

*"Sorry to have missed Paula when she brought the lovely arrangement of flowers. As I was going to my daughter's, I took them with me, so we all had the pleasure of them."*

**And finally...**

A big thank-you from **Norma** for the strikingly simple assortment of orange and white flowers presented to her by May Dow after the Church Meeting on 16 September, in appreciation of her work on the Newsletter. They are still going strong and brightening up the kitchen. Please keep those interesting newsletter contributions coming in - and don't forget the deadline!



*Thanks to Johnston Simpson for our seasonal cover picture of Bushy Park*

The site on which Bushy Park lies has been settled for at least 4,000 years but most of us know it from our history as the deer-hunting grounds of Henry VIII, established when the King took over Hampton Court Palace from Cardinal Thomas Wolsey in 1529. Chestnut Avenue which runs in a straight line from the Lion Gate entrance of Hampton Court Palace to Park Road in Teddington, was designed by Sir Christopher Wren as a grand approach to Hampton Court Palace, is a wonderful sight in May when the white and pink blossom is at its best. Sir Christopher Wren also designed the Arethusa 'Diana' Fountain, recently restored to its former gilded splendour, and which separates the two halves of Chestnut Avenue.