



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

NEWSLETTER



Volume 75 No 3



APRIL 2018

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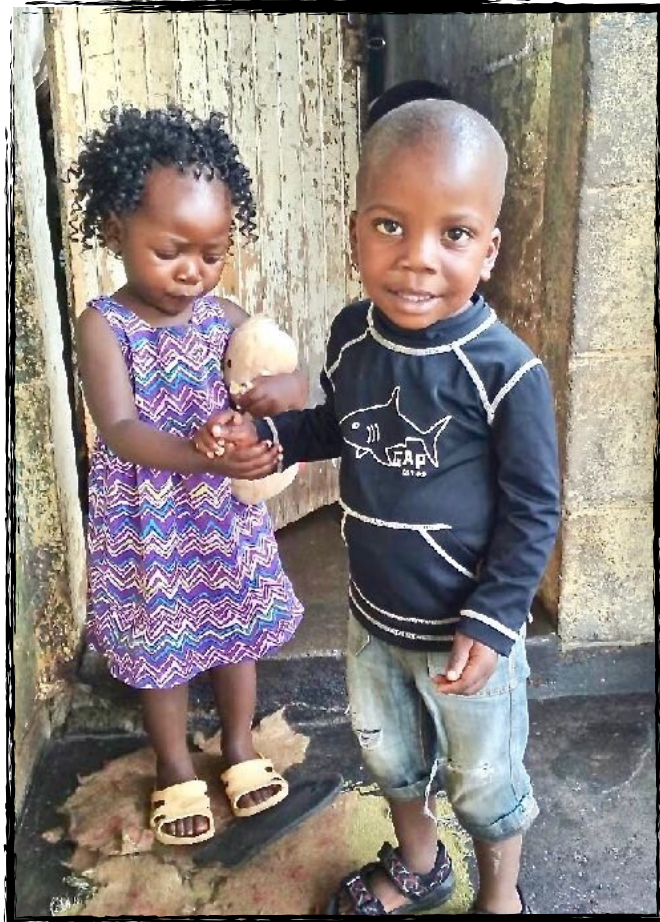
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"Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven."

Henry Ward Beecher

Dear friends

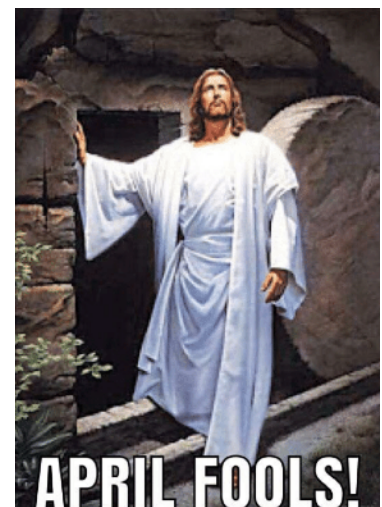
When I realised that Easter Day this year falls on 1st April, my initial thought was that April Fools' Day and Easter Day coinciding was unfortunate. Would it be a gift to atheists, saying that our beliefs are as valid as the famous spaghetti harvest of 1957? Then I remembered St Paul's words to the church in Corinth, written rather earlier than that: "The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1 verse 18).

In my Bible, that section is headed: "The wisdom of men and the foolishness of God". In it, Paul points out the point where reasoned logic and learned argument runs out and "the weakness of God is stronger than men." The passage continues with a reflection from Paul. The church in Corinth was not made up of the "great and the good" of the town. It was not "the county set" at prayer and that few wore "twin-set and pearls". Instead, not many were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful and not many were born of "good families" and yet it was these whom God called into the church in Corinth. It was these who heard the message of the Gospel and responded - those who God chose - the weak in the world to shame the wise. That, says Paul, is the "foolishness of God" - and it's wiser than the wisdom of Man.

The Sarum Rite or Sarum Breviary was established by Saint Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, and by Richard Poore in the 11th century. Originally, it was to be the local form of worship used in the Cathedral and Diocese of Salisbury. It later became prevalent throughout southern England and came to be used throughout most of the United Kingdom until the reign of Queen Mary. Although abandoned after the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation, it was a notable influence on the pattern of Anglican liturgy represented in the Book of Common Prayer. A small part is printed on the inside cover of our hymnbook and begins, "O Lord you have chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty." - a thought which seems to follow on from Paul's thinking in about AD 55.

So perhaps Easter Day and April Fool's Day coinciding this year is not as unfortunate as I first thought. Paul does famously call us "Fools for Christ" (1 Corinthians 4 verse 10). At its heart, the Christian message is one of hope and of life. We believe that death is not the end it may seem and that, instead, it's the doorway to a new life which is eternal. To quote Paul again, "we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen" (2 Corinthians 4 verse 18). If that makes me a fool then so be it.

Happy Easter.



Michael

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES APRIL 2018



Sunday 1 April
(Easter Day)

10.30 am

Easter Communion service conducted by the Minister

Tuesday 3 April

2.00 pm

Ladies' Guild Hersham Room

8.00 pm

Elders' Meeting Hersham Room

Wednesday 4 April

12.30 pm

Midweek Service in The Gateway

Sunday 8 April
(Easter 1)

10.30 am

Sunday Worship conducted by Anna Crawford

11.00 am -
1.00 pm

MENCAP Jumble Sale (*see page 5*)

Friday 13 April

12.30 - 2.30 pm

Weybridge URC - Ladies Who Lunch
Queen's Road, Weybridge KT13 9UX
(*see page 5*)

Sunday 15 April
(Easter 2)

10.30 am

Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister

3.00 pm



Messy Church

Monday 16 April

2.00 pm

Bridge Club Hersham Room
(*only one meeting this month*)

Tuesday 17 April

2.00 pm

Ladies' Guild Hersham Road

COPY DATE FOR MAY ISSUE WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL

***ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID,
3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP***

Tel: 020 8785 4392 Email: aristocats.2000@gmail.com

Saturday 21 April

2.30 pm

Adelaide House Open Day
36 Hersham Road, Walton-on-Thames
(*see page 7*)

Sunday 22 April
(Easter 3)

10.30 am

Sunday Worship conducted by Anna Crawford

Friday 27 April

10.30 am

Prayer Group Garden Room

Sunday 29 April
(Easter 4)

10.30 am

Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister

Fairtrade after the service

185 EMPTY CHAIRS



Moira and Jan de Kok, members of our congregation, were recently on holiday in New Zealand when they visited this site in Christchurch and were moved by its installation as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the earthquake of 22 February 2011. There is a bucket of fresh flowers in front of the chairs and visitors are encouraged to place one in the holder on a chair which speaks to them. All the flowers on the chairs are fresh.

The concept of The Empty Chair depicting the loss of someone has been used repeatedly across time and culture.

When artist (Samuel) Luke Fildes (1844-1927) learned of the death of Charles Dickens, for whom he had illustrated a book, he drew "The Empty Chair, Gads Hill - Ninth of June 1870" showing Dickens' empty desk and chair. It was inspiration to Vincent Van Gogh when in November 1888 he portrayed the differences between his temperament and approach to art and life and that of fellow artist Gauguin in two separate paintings. More recently, public memorials have made use of empty chairs to embody loss of lives, as in Bryant Park where the lawn was lined with 2,753 empty chairs facing south to the fallen towers ahead of the 10th Anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks - one to honour each person who died in the attacks. Similarly, the victims of the 1995 Oklahoma bombing are remembered at an Outdoor Symbolic Memorial with their names etched on chairs constructed of bronze and glass.



On the day of the earthquake's first memorial, local artist Peter Majendie arranged 185 empty chairs that he had painted white on the site of the demolished Oxford Terrace Baptist Church. The site was subsequently moved and is now opposite the site of the CTV building. The individuality of each chair pays tribute to the uniqueness of each person represented. The prayer below was written by James Leung.

Dear God

Give comfort and peace to those of us who are separated from loved ones.

May the ache in our hearts be the strengthening of our hearts.

May our longing bring resolve to our lives, conviction and purity to our love.

Teach us to embrace our sadness lest it turn to despair. Transform our hearing into wisdom.

With the passage of time, let our hearts grow fonder.

Amen



**NO COFFEE MORNING
IN APRIL**



BRIDGE CLUB

Monday 16 April
2.00 pm
(one meeting only this month)

Hersham Room



LADIES' GUILD

Tuesdays 3 and 17 April
2.00 pm

Hersham Room

PRAYER GROUP

Friday 27 April
10.30 am
(one meeting only this month)

Garden Room

LADIES WHO LUNCH

WEYBRIDGE URC

FRIDAY 13 APRIL - 12.30-2.30 PM

**Soup, rolls, dessert and coffee
along with convivial company
all for just £4!**

Book your place with Margaret Faultless
Tel: 020 8399 3402

Email:
ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

Wednesday 11 April

12.30 pm at Weybridge URC,
Queens Road, KT13 9UX

This month's concert features Ed Sutton,
Organist, Recitalist and Teacher
He has held posts at St Peter Mancroft,
Norwich, The Kings School, Ely, and at
Edinburgh and Exeter Universities, where
he undertook research into the choral music
of Giovanni Paolo Cima.

*You can see reviews of these lunchtime
organ recitals by Gordon Faultless, resident
organist at Weybridge URC, on their website
www.weybridgeurc.org*

Bring your own snacks - enjoy the music
Tea and coffee available

Free entry with retiring collection in aid of
Musicians Benevolent Fund



**MENCAP GRAND
JUMBLE SALE**

SUNDAY 8 APRIL

11.00 am - 1.00 pm

Burview Hall, Queens Road,
Weybridge KT12 5AB

Clothes, shoes books, DVDs, small furniture,
bed linen, Bric-a-Brac and lots more

Entrance 50p. All Welcome!

**Any jumble?
Contact Jean Rigden
on 01932 225747**

Our cover picture brings Easter greetings from
ArtPeace, on behalf of all our artists, delivered
by Elias, son of one of them,
and his friend Tsitsi

BITS AND PIECES

GIFT AID

Weekly 'Freewill' offering envelopes are available in the church to facilitate regular giving. All UK taxpayers who give to the church are urged to use the Gift Aid Scheme in order that the maximum benefit may be derived through the recovery of Income Tax by the Church. Contributions may be made through the envelopes or by monthly, quarterly or annually payments. If anyone would like any further information about this please contact either Hilary Netherwood or Alan Crawford.

COFFEE AND TEA ROTA

It is becoming increasingly difficult finding people to cover this valuable part of our fellowship each Sunday. Would everyone who is able, please make an effort to help by adding their name to the Coffee and Tea Rota? Thank you!

READERS' ROTA

If you would like to read the lessons in church one Sunday, please contact Hilary Netherwood. Several members of the congregation already make this valuable contribution to our services (and enjoy it!) but new readers are always very welcome. Details of the lesson(s) are given well in advance so there is plenty of time for a private practice!



CALLING ALL SEAMSTRESSES!

*"I cannot count my day complete
'Til needle, thread and fabric meet."
Author Unknown*

A little gem of a shop in Putney (home of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race and with some great pubs): The Sewing Rooms. The lovely staff (who are like a family) have expertise and knowledge in many fields of creative sewing. Whatever your need, experience or creative passion, they are on hand to support you with courses and everything you should need to pursue your latest creative sewing dream.

Visit Helle and her team for:

Sewing machines, Overlockers, Sewing Club (Dressmaking, Soft Furnishing, Accessories, Quilting, Knitting and more), Bespoke Dressmaking and Alteration Service, Haberdashery

Don't miss the downstairs showroom featuring Ling's irresistible collection of handmade Jewellery and Dress Collection and Alessandra's handmade Quilts and Fabric gift items. These ladies will also teach a range of jewellery-making as well as quilting methods and, by special arrangement, professional sewing techniques for students in Higher Education within the fashion industry.

The Sewing Rooms
14 Lacy Road
LONDON SW15 1NL

Tel: 020 8780 0126
Email: info@thesewingrooms.com
Website: www.thesewingrooms.com

Ed (who is not a seamstress but a frequent visitor when in need of some light relief)

**Thank
You!**

Thank you for your recent kind wishes. This year's 'flu bug, which I know some of you have also had, is totally debilitating and I had no option but to give in; I couldn't even stand up. My parents have also been extremely poorly and have needed some support as well. Particular thanks have to go to Anna who picked up a number of things at rather short notice and who had to do certain things for the first time as well. She also made it very clear to me that I was to get better and to deal with the things that I had to. St Andrew's was fine and understood. That was such a relief. Thank you Anna, and the others, who "covered". My parents and I are truly grateful to you.

Michael



MEMORIES, MEMORIES

The year before he died, Norman Shouler, who always took a keen interest in our church garden, gave Alan Crawford some snowdrop bulbs to plant. It was rather late in the season for bulbs but we found a small place beside the front wall. The ground there is very poor and stony and snowdrops in bulb form in my experience often struggle to grow at the best of times: far better to plant them 'in the green' after flowering so I had my doubts whether they would survive. However, up they came and brightened this little spot, doubtless cheering passers-by in our recent cold spell.

The thought occurred to me that some members of the congregation might also like to contribute some plants - perhaps favourite annuals or a perennial plant or small shrub to commemorate a loved one. I am sure I could find a little spot in the church garden to accommodate same. **JS**

ADELAIDE HOUSE OPEN DAY

Saturday 21 April at 2.30 pm

36 Hersham Road
Walton-on-Thames KT12 1JJ



Saturday 21 April is National Care Homes Open Day. Adelaide House invites people to join us from 2.30pm.

Special guest choir 'Cascade' will be singing plus afternoon tea. Iris Collins' daughter, Stephanie, is a member of the choir.
Barbara Rodgers

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

‘Ye shall know them by their fruits’ - I recently attended a talk in London by Kent-born farmer Ben Freeth who rose to international prominence (for suing the regime of Robert Mugabe for violating the rule of law and human rights) titled ‘Zimbabwe after Mugabe’. Excerpts from a poignantly documented award-winning, clandestine documentary film, ‘Mugabe and the



White African’ were also shown. Stripped of their land and forced to watch their house torched, Ben Freeth and family have seen at first-hand the violence of Zimbabwe’s authoritarian regime. They watched, appalled, as their home (above right) burnt down at midday on August 30, 2009. Below left, their home in better times. The family had just returned from church to find the war veterans had set fire to farmworkers’ houses (above left) barely 100 yards away. Ben along with his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Mike Campbell, were savagely beaten and the latter died



two years later of his injuries. The Mike Campbell Foundation was then established. Its goal is to work towards the restoration of justice and the rule of law in Zimbabwe and to uphold the basic



human rights that should be fundamental to society. They support rural people by, among other things, sending them on a ‘Foundations for Farming’ course teaching appropriate conservation agriculture farming methods to support themselves in extremely difficult times. The foundation’s ultimate vision is the elimination of human rights infringements throughout Zimbabwe. Despite beatings, torture and court battles, Ben Freeth, a committed Christian, still has hope for the hundreds of thousands of farmers, farmworkers and their families who lost their livelihoods.

Euphoria: Ben enthused about the historic occasion last November whilst dining with his son in Bulawayo. When news came through that Mugabe had finally resigned, they drove 270 miles through the night passing many tanks on the way to join celebrations in Harare. One million Zimbabweans spontaneously marched through the streets delirious with joy and not a policeman in sight – an unforgettable experience!

Ben had just returned from speaking about the current situation in Zimbabwe appearing before a US Congressional Committee, assessing the southern African nation. He said they certainly ‘got’ the message. Although he is still hopeful that step by step, there will eventually be real change in Zimbabwe, 100 days after his reign, President Emmerson Mnangagwa has still to ‘deliver’ and **no fruit has yet fallen**. All Zimbabweans await the next election in August with trepidation, hoping and praying it will be free and fair. Photos credit: courtesy of Ben Freeth.

ArtPeace, are feeling the pressure and were so grateful for recent sculpture sale proceeds plus a few donations but sadly, our kitty currently stands at the princely sum of £10.75p!



Herbert, a new artist friend from Kwekwe said: 'Money is now so short that people sleep on banks' verandas for two to three days and are limited to \$10!

Fortune attended the hospital (left) as he has been unwell for weeks and needs regular medicine following ghastly torture by thugs during the 2008 election. He said:

'A donor at this hospital gave queuing patients little bags of food. The photo below shows a funeral I attended of a lady who passed away coz of lack of treatment. She couldn't afford drugs so left behind her 2 little girls aged 9 & 6 right.'



Crops: The prolonged drought stunted growth of young plants and the excessive rains that followed worsened matters, but our friends are all so grateful for our help with seed and fertiliser. Artists are now sowing cabbage, carrots, tomatoes and onions. The first pickings of maize are now taking place. Right:



Emma, Coster's wife in their field and (left) the family's evening meal served with a relish. As you can see, there is **still no change** for these poor Zimbabweans - with life a constant battle. **Johnston Simpson**



SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY 12 APRIL - 8.00 - 9.00 PM

CHRIST THE PRINCE OF PEACE, WEYBRIDGE

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...

You are invited to a *wine and cheese* evening, where ministers from three different Christian backgrounds will try to answer the following question:

Why can't we all be one?



Thursday 12th April – 8:00-9:30pm

at

Christ the Prince of Peace

Portmore Way, Weybridge, KT13 8JD

For more information contact: cppsminarian@gmail.com

...WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CHURCHES?

The Picnic

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual Fourth of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This baked ham is absolutely delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The Rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin and said, "At your wedding."



DETERMINATION

Jacobo Rivera, below left, fought in the civil war in El Salvador. Following the Peace Accords, he was part of a group of combatants who were given land they thought would provide them with work and income into the future. Here is his story of how, from difficult beginnings, he is now part of a cooperative that benefits the whole community.

“In the beginning, when we were trying to harvest the salt from the land, we got in touch with the old locals. They had spent their lives working for the land owners and so gave us some technical assistance, but we could not make it pay. We were hungry and could not work hard so the project faltered. Previously, El Salvador had signed a free trade Agreement with Mexico and we could not compete with this. Their salt was coming in and being sold for less than we could do it.

“We thought about what we could do and re arranged our structure. We came up with the idea of shrimp farming. We made the walls of the old salt ponds higher and the water deeper. To start with it was very basic as we used wild spawn, but we soon realised that it would be no good because we were only getting 300 pounds per hectare. So, we responded and found another method. We sent people to see what else was in the area. Our production area is a biosphere and is protected by international law. So, we found ourselves in a difficult position as we needed to feed our families. However, we found we could put oxygen into the ponds which gives you a higher density of product.

Now we farm in a semi intensive way with 10 shrimp per square metre. Intensive farming is around 60 shrimps per square metre. We have had technical help from Christian Aid partner, PROCARES in the form of a micro biological lab kit which we use to monitor the water. When there is not enough algae we make adjustments. We make every effort to be good producers, but it is still difficult. We constantly worry about warming waters and climate changes.

We adjusted our systems to include women as we are aware we must look to the next generation. With our profits we have built the day care centre so women can work in the cooperatives. The care is not only for small children but also those wanting to go to university, as we think this is most important. We are currently looking to have an agricultural accredited degree. Most of us did not have formal education so we want to make sure our children do. We believe in handing the torch over to the next generation.

IMAGE: ©Commitment for Life: Jacobo Rivera and other co-operative members.



Who we are: Commitment for Life is the world development programme of the United Reformed Church. We encourage participating churches to take action, pray and give for people across the world but especially in our four partner countries/region of Bangladesh, Central America (Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador), Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Zimbabwe. We work in partnership with Christian Aid and Global Justice Now and have raised millions of pounds.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....



JAMES ZHANG

I was born and grew up in Shanghai, the most prosperous city in China, but I doubt I could still call it home as it has developed so fast and a lot of the old familiar landmarks are gone for ever.

My father was born in Zhejiang province and my mother in Jiangsu province. These two provinces are in the East coast and are very rich in both wealth and traditional culture. My father did not benefit from higher education. When he was 17 or 18 he became an apprentice in a hardware shop, then in a few years he established his small business. Many years later, he became a deputy director of a big steel plant and worked very hard. Early in the morning, when we got up, he had already gone to work and returned home very late. When the Cultural Revolution came, he was demoted as a “no-

grade-worker” but he was clever enough to learn quickly and became an experienced lathe operator in just a few months. My father never smoked and one day he warned us, when we were all very young, that if any one of us smoked he or she would have to leave home immediately. So all of us children never touched a cigarette and neither did the next generation nor, indeed, the current one.

My mother, similarly, did not receive any higher education but she could write beautiful Chinese characters. My writing in Chinese is not bad, so maybe I have inherited it from her. She often used to say that happiness lies in contentment. I always remember this as my motto for Life.

We are a big family - I am the eldest of eight brothers and sisters. All but one brother in Australia and myself in the UK live in Shanghai and all are married with one child with the younger generation also all married.

At the start of the Cultural Revolution, I had just graduated from secondary school. We couldn't go to university as the whole country was in chaos and all universities were closed down. One day, when in school, I witnessed a student who was a Red Guard beating a teacher with his belt and saw some blood trickling down the teacher's cheek. I felt so sorry and hated to keep silent but, if I had exhibited any sign of disapproval, I could have been labelled an anti-revolutionary.

We remained in school waiting for our future jobs. I buried myself in reading in the library. I remember some books I read that were so interesting and were criticised in public as “harmful bourgeoisie” works. Also, there were some 18th and 19th century English literature works exchanged secretly between classmates. I read *Great Expectations* and *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. Of course, we read these books in Chinese as we couldn't read English. We were able to read some Russian as our school had been chosen to be one of those who followed a Russian syllabus.

Two years later, I was sent to a textile factory as an apprentice. At the same time, my future wife Annie, (who I did not yet know) was sent to be a farmer in the suburbs. I worked hard and three years later I became a mentor - “shifu”. I trained two apprentices and one of them got a reward of excellence in technology. In 1978, all universities reopened for students and made no differentiation in their family background. I was lucky to pass all the exams and become a university student of the first group following the ten-year revolution. After my graduation, I was fortunate once again and became a teaching assistant. This involved a certain amount of training. My faculty was metallurgy. I continued with further study, research, teaching and guiding new students in work experience and was promoted to be a lecturer before I had the chance to go to the UK.

I met Annie in 1978 and we married two years later. At that time, our marriage certificate was so basic that it was not produced by an official printing company and there was no photograph on it. Little did we realise that this would present a big problem for us. Some years later, when she applied for a visa to France for tourism, Annie's application was refused as the French Consulate didn't believe our marriage certificate was genuine. We sorted it out eventually but for some years I had no desire to go to France.

We have one son, Richard, an only child, as the then government had declared a one-child policy. As a one-child family, we were rewarded 50p per month for some years. If we had dared to have more children, we would both have been punished. One of my colleagues was an example of this and was downgraded in his job and his salary reduced when he had a second child. A fortune teller once told me that I could have many sons, but I didn't have the chance to see whether it was possible. I gave my son a name "Yu" in Chinese, meaning "fool" but I really meant it as "the wise man appears like a fool". When Richard (his baptismal name) was in his first year in primary school, I often rode my bike to take him there. On the way, I would ask him questions on maths and he did many maths exercises with me. When he came to the UK for his GCSE course, he won two golden certificates for maths, only the third time his school has achieved such a record (before him there had been a Polish and Iranian student). Now, Richard works in an Italian fashion company as financial Chief. He married about eight years ago and his wife comes from Sichian (old spelling Szechwan) province, famous for its hot food. Our grandson, Leonard is almost four years old, named after Leonardo da Vinci and a Chinese name "tian" meaning "increasing in water (as a fortune teller said that Leo lacked water).

A new chapter in my life opened in 1988 when my feet touched UK soil. I spent 10 years in the library system as bilingual staff, and, again, had the chance to read many books, this time in both Chinese and English. I remembered many years ago when I had "Gone with the Wind" I found it so difficult that I had to check many words on each page with a dictionary, but I could tell that the writing was very rich and beautiful and that it deserved to be a masterpiece.

I was baptised in a Catholic church 10 years after my arrival in the UK. However, I didn't stay in the Catholic church for long but switched, by myself, to the Church of England and now I am happy to settle down in the URC.

For about 15 years before Annie and I retired, we ran a cafe/restaurant business. Like many 'gypsy' people we were setting up a business in a town for a while, then moving on to another one. One place I must mention is Ledbury in Herefordshire, a picturesque, old market town and only nine miles from Malvern Spring. Our tap water there was so clear that its quality exceeded most mineral waters sold in supermarkets. We were told, unofficially, that our Queen drinks water from the Malvern Spring.

I still remember that the first day when we entered the university our President, who was a well-known scientist, told us that studying in university is just a small part of our life and learning is our lifelong task. Jane Austen said: "*I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading.*" I believe both to be right. We need reading for best enjoyment and lifelong learning for keeping our brains young.

HOPE

希望

"Hope is the dream of a waking man." Aristotle

Footnote

The Cultural Revolution in China lasted 10 years from 1966-1976. During this time, religion became the object of oppression.

Most educated young people were forced to live and work in the countryside, with a smaller number being sent to work in factories (such as James and one of his brothers), so that they missed out on a chance of higher education. Family members were separated so that often a couple would be sent to work in places miles apart and could not see each other for long periods of time.

Writers, artists and intellectuals representing the "old culture" were persecuted and many were publicly humiliated, imprisoned or sent for hard labour.

It is thought that much of China's thousands of years of history was in effect destroyed, or later smuggled abroad for sale, during the short ten years of the Cultural Revolution.



On a cold, snowy Sunday afternoon we were delighted to welcome the children and their mothers to Messy Church. We were thinking about Easter and had activities on that theme.

Jean helped the children make Easter gardens. We had polystyrene eggs to decorate, and the children painted cross pictures, with beautiful results. I have put some up on the notice board in the hall.



Decorating Easter Eggs

Cooking is always a favourite activity. Besides icing biscuits to represent the empty tomb, together we made hot cross buns which we ate during the meal. Despite forgetting to add cinnamon and putting the cross on top, they were tasty.



The Empty Tomb

Continuing the food theme as part of the celebration, we made Rocky Road biscuits where all the ingredients were used to illustrate significant events from Holy Week. These were backed up with pictures. It was a bit chaotic at times, but kept the children's attention and the results were delicious and quickly eaten. Thanks go to all who assisted.



It's all in the mix

We provided clothes pegs and sticks, plus cocktail sticks and small model eggs and challenged the children to build crosses. We had some pleasing results when the children experimented with fizzing heart prayers which gave us the opportunity to talk about the forgiving power of God as they observed the powerful reaction between the bicarbonate of soda and vinegar.



Building a cross



Fizzing hearts



Painting a cross

Grateful thanks to all our volunteers. Members of the congregation would be very welcome to join us and try some of the activities on offer.

I have been told that Mrs Hodgeon was delighted with her Mother's Day card created at Messy Church.

Anne Fitzgerald



Just making sure it tastes right...



LOVE YOUR CHURCH

"The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake."

Basil Hume

Fourteen points on reviving a church by The Revd Robertson Ballard

from "The Wesleyan Methodist" September 1923

1. Turn up.
2. Get there before the first prayer.
3. When the service begins, remember you are part of it. Your very mood affects the atmosphere.
4. Don't shirk office. Remind yourself of what your father and grandfather did for the church and don't shuffle along on excuses.
5. Stick to your own church. As sure as anything you will be missed if your seat is empty. Religious foreign tourists never built up a strong church yet.
6. Most ministers honestly earn all they get - and more. Give your own man a hand. He is not paid overtime.
7. You can always hear better at the front and there are less draughts.
8. If you sing with your heart it doesn't matter whether you know the tune or not. The choir does its bit. Do yours.
9. If your religion isn't worth paying generously for, change your church because it isn't worth supporting. The Lord and His minister loveth a cheerful and regular giver.
10. Many a preacher breaks his heart over his sermons. If they help you and bring you nearer God a postage stamp costs mighty little and a letter to your minister means a mighty lot to him.
11. Yes, your minister is human but do tell visitors and strangers the best you know and believe about him.
12. Ask the non-churchgoers next door to your own bricks and mortar what time you shall call for them next Sunday.
13. Better than the best sermon or anthem or even collection is the happy, friendly spirit of churchgoing folk who are genuine Christians. It is your job to spread that spirit and to throttle any other.
14. Gossip is godless. Silence is golden. Tact is precious. Love is omnipotent.

Reproduced by permission of the Surrey History Society

FLOWER POWER



May Dow writes:

"It was a lovely surprise last week to receive some beautiful flowers from the Communion Table and they really brightened up a dull and damp Monday morning. The flowers were kindly delivered by Ghislaine and Marigold and I very much enjoyed their visit and our catch-up. Thank you to all at St Andrew's for thinking of me."

Christine Coulter says:

"Can I say thank you to St Andrew's for the lovely flowers received recently. Thanks to Sue for delivering them to me and to Irene for thinking of me."

A message from **Barbara Rodgers**

"Many thanks to Irene and Marigold who delivered flowers to both Michael and me - a colourful bunch of tulips and a beautiful bunch of gerberas and roses. Both much appreciated, as was their visit."

Jean Smillie writes:

"Thank you for the lovely flowers Irene gave me last Sunday such a mixture of colours and very much appreciated."

Irene Pearson was delighted to receive beautiful church flowers which had been donated by Marigold.

Mary Taylor thanks St Andrew's for the cheering lovely flowers donated by Moira de Kok that she received recently from the Communion Table.

Grace Farquhar says:

"Many thanks for the beautiful tulips I received from Marigold. They brought colour into the flat and brightened the day."

Norma (aka Ed) really appreciated the lovely assortment of pink and cream flowers given and arranged by Moira de Kok with which she was presented after coffee recently. They were also much appreciated by the friend she was having to stay that week!