



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

**NEWSLETTER**

Volume 75 No 4

**MAY 2018**

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*"Let all the joys be as the month of May ..."*

*Francis Quarles (English poet)*

## *From the Manse*

May 2018

*Dear friends*

I suspect that many of you will be aware that later this month the laws surrounding “data protection” are being tightened, specifically about the information an organisation keeps about people, for how long and about their active consent. You may well have already been asked by a number of organisations and groups to which you belong to sign a simple form allowing them to retain your details. The church is not exempt from this and so I’d like to take this opportunity to tell you about the main ways in which this affect us, as a church, and then explain why you are going to be contacted and asked to sign a consent form to say that you are happy for us to hold certain information. This probably sounds a bit heavy, possibly even a bit threatening but there’s nothing worry about.

We hold very little information about the congregation but quite obviously we do hold a little. For example, we have a record of your name and address etc. If you are a Church Member we have a record of when you were admitted to the Membership Roll. If you were married in the church we have a record of your marriage. At the end of this letter there is a list of the sort of information we keep, why we keep it, and for how long. Please read it. It’s quite useful and I genuinely don’t think that there’s anything there to surprise or concern you. We do, however, now need your written consent to keep some of it.

Probably the biggest change to church life which the tightened regulations make is that in order to continue to produce a church directory, which I know many of you find extremely useful, we need your written consent to allow us to include you. Someone from the church, probably your pastoral Elder, will be in touch with you to arrange this and to check that you are happy to be included. You are at perfect liberty (and always have been) to ask us not to include you in the directory at all, or not to print your address or telephone number. We have always respected this. We always will but as a result of the new regulations we now have to seek your written permission and would need to be able to produce it if ever we were inspected.

If you “gift aid” your offering, then the Treasurer has to keep records for legal reasons. This is all explained in the chart which follows this letter.

If you are a member of a group within the church, then they may have a note of, for example, your birthday. As a church, however, we do not keep this information.

I keep no pastoral records. I hold no files, either electronic or paper, on anyone unless they have asked me to keep something for them, e.g. their funeral wishes.

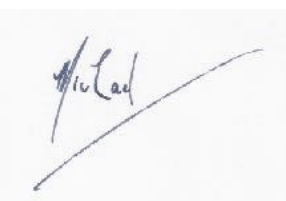
No details of pastoral news are recorded in the minutes of either Church or Elders’ Meetings.

Each church is required to adopt a “Privacy Statement.” Both St Andrew’s and Weybridge are working on this at the moment and we will advise you where a copy can be inspected. If you would like to see any records we hold on you then please contact the Church Secretary at St Andrew’s or a member of the Secretariat at Weybridge. You have a right to see them and we have no problems with that at all.

We do not permit other organisations to use our records. We do not “sell” your details to an outside organisation. We also do not give any details to anyone without your consent. If, for example, someone rings up the church and wants to get in touch with you, even if they say they are a friend of yours we do not give them your details. Instead, we take their number and contact you so that you can make contact with them if you wish.

Now, all this probably reads rather heavy and my apologies for it. Fear not! I truly don’t think that there’s anything to be worried about but the law is being tightened and clearly we need to observe this. That’s why we need to take this action - that’s all there is to it. If you do have any concerns though, do please contact me.

With all good wishes,



## Church Records

We retain data on the following basis:

Record Type	Retention Period
Membership rolls	Indefinitely
Members, adherents and friends contact details	24 months after the last contact
Junior Church roll	until the child/young adult reaches the age of 21.
Junior Church contacts	24 months after the last contact
Cradle roll	Indefinitely
Gift aid declarations and paperwork	6 years after the calendar year to which it relates
Registers of Marriage	As required by the Registrar General
Register of Baptisms	Indefinitely
Register of Funerals	Indefinitely
Grave Records	Indefinitely
Personal data relating to events for which additional information is gathered eg Church holidays	Disposed of immediately after the event unless anything has occurred (eg an accident) which indicates that records should be retained for a longer period.
Records of attendance of children/young people and helpers	Indefinitely for safeguarding purposes
Photographs and videos of events	24 months after the event - selected items retained for historical records
Insurance Records	Indefinitely
Safeguarding matters	Indefinitely or until advised otherwise by authorities
Accident Books	3 years from the date of the last entry (or, if the accident involves a child/ young adult, then until that person reaches the age of 21)
Complaints (non-safeguarding)	3 years after resolution of complaint (unless further action is anticipated)
Minute Books	Indefinitely
Employee Records	6 years after the date of termination of employment
Pension Records (money purchase)	6 years after transfer or value taken
Visitors Books	Indefinitely
Church Directory	Revised Annually




**Minister of Word and Sacrament**

**Eldership ?**

**Stipendiary or non-stipendiary ?**

This day is for you if you feel God is calling you to serve in some way but you're not sure what or where or how!

**Called to serve?**

Those experienced in a range of ministries will share their stories and answer questions you may have.

**Worship Leaders**

**Church Related Community Work Ministry**

**Youth Work**

**Saturday 29 September 2018**  
**Fleet URC**  
 25 Kings Road, Fleet, Hants, GU51 3AF  
**10am - 2pm**  
 Sandwich lunch provided.

To book your place, please contact  
 development@urcwessex.org.uk 023 3067 4513

Do you ever struggle to fill all the vacancies for roles in the church? Do you ever have people who feel they want to offer more, but don't know what or where or how? If so, then September 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 is a key date for your diary – and theirs!

The Synod Vocations day will provide a day of exploration of several vocations, hearing from people who are following each telling the story of their journey and calling. There will be time for questions, and time for worship and prayer. Through all this we hope and pray that people will be challenged and released to pursue new areas of service.



### **MENCAP GRAND JUMBLE SALE RESULT**

Elmbridge Mencap had a very successful Jumble Sale on 8 April. We raised a magnificent £1128.01, as can be seen from happy helper, David Reeves, on the left.

Thank you to all who contributed to the sale.

We are now raising money for our next project which is to make a sensory garden.

*Jean Rigden*

<b>SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES    MAY 2018</b>
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*No Coffee Morning or Fairraid this month*

Tuesday 1 May	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room
Friday 4 May	12.30 - 2.30 pm	<b>Weybridge URC</b> - Ladies Who Lunch Queen's Road, Weybridge KT13 9UX <i>(see page 9)</i>
Saturday 5 May	7.30 pm	<b>Re:Creation - An Oratorio</b> The Millmead Centre, Guildford Baptist Church GU24BE <i>(see page 8)</i>
<b>Sunday 6 May</b> <i>(Easter 6)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by</b> <b>Anna Crawford</b>
Monday 7 May	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
Tuesday 8 May	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Friday 11 May	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
<b>Sunday 13 May</b> <i>(Easter 7 - Ascension Sunday)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by</b> <b>Mrs Thelma Roberts</b>
Tuesday 15 May	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Road

<b><i>COPY DATE FOR JUNE ISSUE    <u>WEDNESDAY 16 MAY</u></i></b>
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<b><i>ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP</i></b>
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<b><i>Tel: 020 8785 4392    Email: <a href="mailto:aristocats.2000@gmail.com">aristocats.2000@gmail.com</a></i></b>
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<b>Sunday 20 May</b> <i>(Day of Pentecost - Whitsunday)</i>	10.30 am	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister</b>
	3.00 pm	 Messy Church
Monday 21 May	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
Friday 25 May	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
<b>Sunday 27 May</b> <i>(Trinity Sunday)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by</b> <b>Mr Graham Pearcey</b>
Tuesday 29 May	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Road



## NEW LIFE AND HEALING

Messy Church in April fell on the last day of the Easter holidays and we had fewer children but nevertheless a good time was had by all.

Our theme was new life and healing based on the story of Jairus' daughter and the woman healed by touching Jesus as he made his way through the crowd. We talked about the power of touch and made handprints.



*Hands touching*



*Can I beat my record?*



*Oops I dropped it...*

We all attempted to beat the clock going round the slalom course balancing a bean bag on our head.

Very popular was making - and later eating - pizzas with a choice of toppings.



*Super-scrumptious - and I made it all by myself!*



*WOW, the light's come on!*



*Making clocks*



*Painting sure needs concentration...*

Jim encouraged people to make an electric circuit. It was great to see the delight on the faces of the youngsters when they managed to light up the bulb.

We made card clocks and tried to blow a marble through a maze Jean created with Lego. At the celebration the children made good use of the percussion instruments during the singing. These were used to help illustrate the story. At tea, we ate our homemade pizzas and celebrated the birthday of one of the regular attenders with cake supplied by Carolyn.

*Anne Fitzgerald*



*It takes all ages to make up Messy church!*

## *An Easter Day to Remember*

We had two very special visitors at St Andrew's on Easter Day: Paddington Bear and The Revd Wesley Bear. Paddington is currently touring the Wessex Synod and spent Easter Week with us, having spent Holy Week in our sister church at Weybridge. Paddington was really pleased that there was a fellow bear preaching that day, although Wesley did rather frighten him with his very stern look. At the end of his visit, Paddington wrote up his diary and thought he'd like to share with us what he wrote.



*St Andrew's Walton-on-Thames - Easter Day.*

Busy day. Minister Michael took me from Weybridge to Walton. Do you know, even Reverend Bears have to serve more than one church? The Revd Wesley Bear was preaching at St Andrew's too. *(As well as at Weybridge. MH)*

They're a lovely group of people, even if most have Scottish accents! I waved at them and they waved back to me and smiled. They gave me an Easter Egg too but I got chocolate all over my paws and had to lick it off quickly in case I was told I had to have a bath.

After all my travels I had a lovely Bank Holiday on the River Thames. Tuesday afternoon, I visited the Ladies' Guild who wanted me to have a cup of tea with them but I declined. I'm a bit "tea-ed" out by now. They were very nice, though, and I made yet another new friend - Brodie, the Church Secretary's dog.

Elders' Meeting in the evening and I made a big mistake. They were discussing new Hall Hire Contracts and changes to the Data Protection laws. I went to sleep. When I woke up I found that I'd been proposed, seconded and voted on as St Andrew's Protection Officer. Apparently it was carried unanimously. I tried to get out of it but was told that under URC rules it can't be reversed for two years.

Finally, they talked about my story in their mid-week service. I did feel a bit homesick when Minister Michael spoke about all my family at 32 Windsor Gardens and my dear friend, Mr Gruber. It will be nice to get home but it's been great to visit Walton-upon-Thames.

They're fun!

*PB*



After seven silent years, *Re:Creation*, the 21st Century Oratorio, with its beautiful melodies by Surrey Composer, David Perkins, and the inspiring text compiled by Derek Wensley, is in rehearsal ready for its filmed concert on Saturday May 5 at Millmead. David Perkins took some two years to compose a challenging, tuneful score reflecting influences from Philip Glass, John Rutter and Karl Jenkins.

The *Church Times* Music Reviewer at the Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, 2007 Premiere, described it as “an always attractive and frequently colourful score... coasting momentarily from Stravinsky to the darkly Elgar-ian, from Gospel Music to the Salvation Army ... it felt masterly.”

Derek Wensley's inspiration from the beginning was Handel's 1741 English language Messiah and Haydn's 1798 *The Creation*, motivating him to produce a selection of different Scriptures using 21st Century dignified English which told the Bible story chorally from the first verses of Genesis to the last verse of Revelation. *Re:Creation's* five movements tell the story progressing from the release and realisation of God's creativity, through to Humanity's resistance and eventually on to restoration and renewal.

Flyers will be available in The Gateway.

**Derek writes:**

*Greetings from Re:Creation Singers as we prepare to present the new Biblical Oratorio Re:Creation on Saturday 5th May at Guildford Baptist Church. This concert will enable Choral music lovers across Surrey and Hampshire to hear this work which, although launched in 2007 with London concerts at St John's Smith Square and Westminster Central Hall, has not been performed locally for some seven years. This is an opportunity to hear the Biblical story in contemporary English, set to a beautiful, evocative score composed by David Perkins, Musical Director of Guildford's Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre.*

*The concert is free - no tickets or advance booking required - as we are keen for music lovers from across the area to hear this inspiring work. Thank you for your co-operation and every success with the musical presentations you may be currently preparing.*

*All good wishes*

*Derek Wensley  
 on behalf of Re:Creation Singers*



NO COFFEE MORNING  
THIS MONTH  
BUT WATCH THIS SPACE...



### ELDERS' MEETING

**Tuesday 1 May**  
**8.00 pm**

Hersham Room



### BRIDGE CLUB

**Mondays 7 and 21 May**  
**2.00 pm**

Hersham Room



### LADIES' GUILD

**Tuesdays 1, 15 and 29 May**  
**2.00 pm**

Hersham Room

### PRAYER GROUP

**Fridays 11 and 25 May**  
**10.30 am**

Garden Room

This month's cover picture was taken by the river at Barnes, by the towpath. It was the bike's first outing since 2016! Ed

### LADIES WHO LUNCH

#### WEYBRIDGE URC

**FRIDAY 4 MAY - 12.30-2.30 PM**

*(Note: one week earlier than usual this month)*

**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](mailto:ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk)



### LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

**Wednesday 9 May**

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

This month's concert features Gillian Lloyd, Organist and Director of Music, Guildford URC

*You can see reviews of these lunchtime organ recitals by Gordon Faultless, resident organist at Weybridge URC, on their website [www.weybridgeurc.org](http://www.weybridgeurc.org)*

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

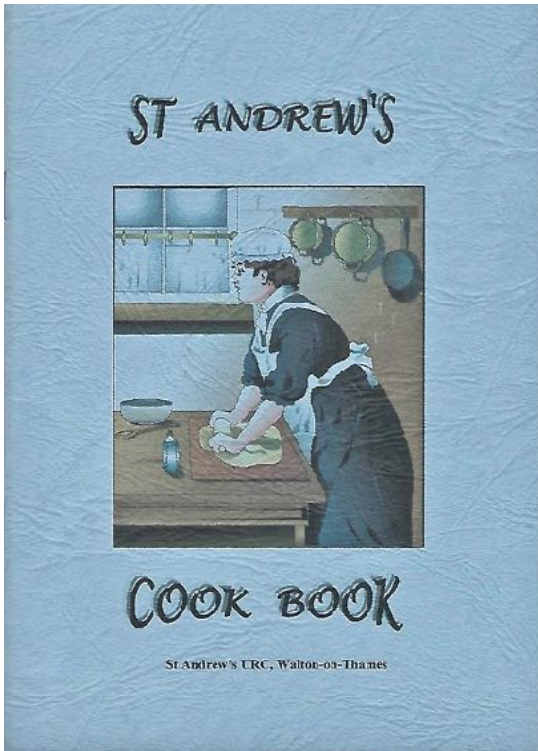
Free entry with retiring collection in aid of Musicians Benevolent Fund

"If you can spend a perfectly useless afternoon in a perfectly useless manner, you have learned how to live."

*Lin Yutang (1895-1976)  
Chinese writer, philosopher and philologist*

## A TASTY BLAST FROM THE PAST

*God, we thank you for this food. For rest and home and all things good.  
For wind and rain and sun above. But most of all for those we love.*



In 1999, members and friends of St Andrew's got together to produce a St Andrew's Cookery Book with a foreword by our then minister, David Netherwood.

Its sale contributed to the proceeds of the then annual Church Christmas Fair of that year and was used to purchase a 'Doppler' machine (for the relief of leg ulcers), for the Walton Community Hospital where David was Chaplain.

From time to time, I hope to include a Cookery Corner in the Newsletter and to reproduce some favourite recipes that were shared in this little book (with permission from contributors where possible).

Any new contributions would also be welcome, and if there is a story behind your favourite recipe, do, please, include it!

Apart from the many delicious-sounding recipes in the St Andrew's Cook Book, these quotations reproduced below really hit the spot!

*Ed*

### Notes left out for Milkie:

Do not leave milk at Number 14 as he is dead until further notice.

Milkman, please close gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the top off the milk.

**Quick Tip:** For an instant birthday cake cover an ice cream block with Smarties.

Proportion your expenses to what you have, not to what you expect.

Men seldom repent of eating too little.

A good dinner sharpens wit and softens the heart.

### SOUPS AND STARTERS

Hunger is the best sauce

### FISH SECTION

God grant that I may live to fish,  
Until my dying day.  
And when it comes to my last act  
I then most humbly pray,  
When in the Lord's safe landing net  
I'm peacefully asleep,  
That in His mercy I be judged  
As big enough to keep.

### MAIN COURSE

Abundance, like want, ruins many

### DESSERTS

Gluttony kills more than the sword





## Working together in Bangladesh

Shisamondnay Forum has 17 members (10 male and 7 female) each representing a family. Both Hindu and Muslim families in Dhankhali Village where the forum is situated, live in wooden, well cared for buildings. Cyclones, flooding, drought and salinity all affect this area so Shushilan, supported by Christian Aid Bangladesh, have been helping the forum

with cultivation so they are better qualified and get better crop yields. Shushilan has made them aware of the best research and ways of managing disasters as well as nutritional advice, health and sanitation. This means lives have improved as they know their crops are good quality so when they go to market they ask for a fair price for the crops. They like it that Shushilan investigates and collects other information to help them.

Shushilan has given them training for paddy field production. They gave saline tolerant seeds, provided advice e.g. It is better to store seeds in plastic not jute bags. It keeps them in a better condition and more protected. They can see the benefit of these seeds and are now collecting their own from the harvested crop which they are storing and sharing with others. They also feel they can discuss issues and resolve them together rather than going to Shushilan for advice or help. They meet every 15 days and discuss what training they feel they need. They want to be more organic in their farming methods and raise homesteads, as they have learnt of the benefits from Shushilan.



The women appear to have a full voice in the forum and work together in the fields. This did not used to be the case. All are willing to learn and they want to share what they have learnt. Both Muslim and Hindus work together well here making the whole community aware of the problems related to climate change.

Shapna Shome has an air of confidence about her and shared how life had changed through the forum.

'Earlier we could not come out of our house, now we can share and talk. The difference has been the forum. We work together, and this is a real cultural change. Earlier we hid ourselves. Women feel better from the knowledge we have strength and can even go to Government offices to get our rights. No one would have done this earlier as we felt timid (shy.) Earlier we did not have the power or strength. We feel the committee is behind us to fight against any intimidation'.

Shapna explained how now both male and female children are starting to be treated the same.

'It is all for the children. We listen to advice about eating vegetables. Our children learn from us and are healthier. They do not play in the dirty waters and they wash their hands. With all this new knowledge, I know I should send my children to school'.

This confident forum is a great example of how, through training and sharing, life for the whole family can become better.

IMAGE: ©Commitment for Life: Shapna Shome

## FLOWER POWER



**David and Mavis Netherwood** wish to express their thanks and appreciation for the delightful bunch of daffodils received from St Andrew's on Easter Day. They made a cheery sight and brought much pleasure.

**Nan Mercer** writes:

*"I'd just like to say a big thank-you for the lovely flowers from the Communion Table - they were so colourful and lasted well. It was a pleasure to have a nice chat with Janet who delivered them. It's a great service, especially for the housebound."*

## GARDEN FORCE

*A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness;  
it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.*

*Gertrude Jekyll*



*L-R: Johnston, Jan, Alan and James*

The four hard grafters at the Garden Work Party on Saturday 14 April taking a well-earned rest. Clearing and weeding is thirsty work!

The Church garden looks lovely and has even been drawing admiring comments from passers-by. Our thanks to the four gallant gents for improving our environs.

Following Johnston's recent idea that church members and friends might consider buying a plant or tree for the garden in memory of a loved one, one person has decided to take him up on this suggestion and is currently in the throes of deciding (with his help) on something to fit both the memory and the garden. *Ed*