

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

NEWSLETTER

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JULY/AUGUST 2018

MINISTER

CHURCH SECRETARY

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"Little flower, but if I could understand what you are, root and all in all, I should know what God and man is."

Alfred Lord Tennyson



Your help is needed!



One of the stories of Jesus concerns a miraculous catch of fish (John 21 verses 1-6). I'd like to pick up that story and use it as a Biblical basis for some thoughts about the future for St Andrew's URC.

We have a gospel story and a faith to share with others. It's something we believe to be important but looking at the church today it's fairly obvious that if we are to have much in the way of a future we have to go out and do a bit of fishing.

How therefore can we get our net out of the boat and into the water? Call me an optimist or call me a "glass half full" person if you like but I don't think that we're in a bad starting position.

We are extremely fortunate in having extensive premises which have recently undergone a considerable and superb upgrade. Well used and well "fit for purpose" : we are so lucky. We also have many groups using the premises so during the course of a month we have a good footfall.

Time to go fishing!

Clearly, we need to raise our profile a lot. We need to reach out to attract new members. We need to give careful consideration to how we advertise ourselves and our events, after all, how can people hear if we don't tell them or if we only whisper it? This is something which traditionally the church, in general, is not very good at. Selling ourselves and promoting ourselves is not something which comes naturally to us. In the past the church has often worked on the basis of, "if we build it they will come in". Problem is, they don't these days. The bottom line is that we are going to have to improve if we are to survive. To say, "that's not really our sort of thing" isn't a tenable position if we are to have a future. Don't panic though!

I wonder if we can set up a small group to think about this whole area and look at ways in which St Andrew's might move to a brighter future? Would you like to be a part of this small group? Call it an "outreach" group if you like. It could be a really interesting working party to be part of. It's certainly something that's important. There's lots of options open to us. We just need to decide which to pick up. So, is this something you'd like to become involved with? This is not just for the Elders, but for the whole body of the church to consider.

Would you like to be involved? If so, have a word with me, with Anna or with one of the Elders.

Fancy a spot of fishing?

iclas



(Main picture copyright "Free Bible Images". Net picture from Education Scotland.gov.uk via Clip Art)



Synod calling"



What are your gifts?

How do you share them?

Sometimes we think our gifts are too humdrum to be much use to other people, but this is just not true.

Look again at these well-known verses from 1 Corinthians 12 in

"The Message" version:

"You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything. You're familiar with some of the parts that God has formed in his church, which is his "body":

Apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, organizers, those who pray in tongues."

We are all somewhere on that list! We just need to "accept our part".

And then comes the question: where are we called to play that part - in our community, in our local church, in the wider church?

The work of Wessex Synod relies on the many volunteers who generously play their part and share their gifts.

At the moment, we are in need of;

- Someone with legal and accounting skills to serve as a Trustee.
- People willing to take minutes at some of our Committee meetings.
- People interested in social justice issues to serve our Church and Society group.

But the needs are constantly changing. Why not find out more about the work we do by looking at the Synod website <u>http://wessexsynodurc.org.uk/</u>

If there is an area of our work that interests you, **please contact Sue Brown to find out more:** <u>clerk@urcwessex.org.uk</u> or 01329 232454.

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES JULY 2018

No meetings for Bridge Club, Ladies' Guild or Prayer Group in July

(Guild meetings will start up again on Tuesday 4 September and every two weeks thereafter)

Sunday 1 July (Pentecost 6)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
(1 01100031 0)	12 noon	Quarterly Meeting, Church Hall
Tuesday 3 July	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Sunday 8 July (Pentecost 7)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Anna Crawford
Friday 13 July	12.30 pm	Lunchtime Organ recital at Weybridge URC with organist Antony Cairns (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sunday 15 July (Pentecost 8)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
	3.00 pm 🏼 💃	Messy Church
Sunday 22 July (Pentecost 9)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Mr Graham Pearcey
<i>Fairtraid after the service fairtraid after the service</i>		
Sunday 29 July (Pentecost 10)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Anna Crawford (see page 11 for Ride London article)



NOTE: ROAD CLOSURES 29 JULY - PRUDENTIAL CYCLE RACE Extensive road closures can be expected in the area throughout the day. Visit <u>https://www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk</u> for the very latest information

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES AUGUST 2018

No meetings for Bridge Club, Elders, Ladies' Guild, Prayer Group or Messy Church in August

Sunday 5 August (Pentecost 11)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
Wednesday 8 August	12.30 p m	Lunchtime Organ recital at Weybridge URC with organist Christopher Beechey (see page)
Sunday 12 August (Pentecost 12)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Revd lain Stewart

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE <u>WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST</u>

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

Email: aristocats.2000@gmail.com

Sunday 19 August (Pentecost 13) 10.30 am Sunday Worship conducted by the Reverend Roy Bones No Messy Church!

Sunday 26 August (Pentecost 14)

10.30 am

Sunday Worship conducted by Mr John Badcock (St Mary's Walton)



FATAL ATTRACTION!

Thank goodness we haven't had to wait quite as long as they apparently did at Shere!

We are delighted to announce that the new toilet in the entrance to the hall of St Andrew's has finally been completed and is a huge improvement on its predecessor with an updated and fresh look, all white apart from the new floor. Thanks to all concerned for their contribution to our latest church upgrade!

A VISIT FROM ARGENTINA



Norma (*aka Ed*) spent a happy day in early June with family friends from Argentina and made sure she brought them to see St Andrew's. Juan Carlos and Margarita Strong made the journey of a lifetime to the UK and Ireland to learn more about their roots; Juan Carlos's paternal grandfather hailed from Newcastle and Margarita's grandmother from Kilfinan, Scotland. In Argentina, they attend a tiny Evangelical chapel in the farming province of Entre Rios, with a service only once a month (and sometimes it has to be cancelled in bad weather due to the state of the approach roads).

Margarita and Juan Carlos were enchanted by our church and also enjoyed a short stop on the way home at Marley's Pond in Thames Ditton for some light nourishment, washed down by a refreshing beer. *Ed*

Margarita writes (translated from the Spanish):

"We met up with our good friend Norma Reid who took us to her home and then to her church of St Andrew's where we felt very blessed, as we attend the Evangelical Church at Mandosoví, with its Salvation Army Chaplain. At St Andrew's we were able to thank God that he was able to allow us to realise our dream journey."



The approach to the Evangelical Church at Mandosiví



THE STORY OF THE STARFISH

An old man was walking on the beach one morning after a storm. In the distance, he could see someone moving like a dancer. As he came closer, he saw that it was a young woman picking up starfish and gently throwing them into the ocean.

"Young lady, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" "The sun is up and the tide is going out and if I do not throw them in they will die," she said.

"But, young lady, do you not realise that there are many miles of beach and thousands of starfish? You cannot possibly make a difference."

The young woman listened politely, then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea. "It made a difference for that one."

adapted from the original by Loren Eiseley



DON'T FORGET!

QUARTERLY CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 1 July 12 noon in the Church Hall



Belated Birthday Wishes to Zacc, our organist, on his recent decadebuster birthday!



THE SUMMER HOLS ARE HERE AGAIN!

There will be no Coffee Morning, Bridge Club, Prayer Group or Ladies' Guild meetings in July or August

Thanks to Johnston Simpson for our cover picture - a field of summer flowers in Grasmere.

Johnston also took this one (from a considerable distance) of a rarely seen red squirrel.



LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

Wednesday 11 July 12.30 pm at Weybridge URC, Queens Road, KT13 9UX

This month's concert features Anthony Cairns, Organist and Director of Music at Christchurch URC, Leatherhead.

Wednesday 8 August

Christopher Beechey, who is an organist from Wales and a friend of our Minister will feature in a concert today.

Bring your sandwiches - enjoy the music. Tea and coffee. Free entry. Retiring collection for Musicians Benevolent Fund.

PEOPLE WHO LUNCH

FRIDAY 13 JULY - WEYBRIDGE URC 12.30-2.30 PM

One of generally two occasions in the year when the ladies extend an invitation to the gentlemen to join them for their popular monthly get-together.

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

Limited availability of places and advance booking virtually essential!

Contact Margaret Faultless Tel: 020 8399 3402 or email ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk



The Minister with model baby, Jake

CELEBRATING JAKE'S BAPTISM AT ST ANDREW'S

There are so many people we wish to thank for contributing to this wonderful day.

Rene who did the shopping, cooking etc - he generally went to bed very late, got up very early and spent the day arranging, serving and clearing away the food, which was delicious. Mum (Shirley) who made the punch, organised the day and especially for finding Jake's adorable outfit. Tiffany and Sianna who happily helped with making the decorations (without the statutory 'teenage' moaning).

The godparents, Cole, Kitty and Dave, already love Jake. We are grateful to them for being willing to undertake this role; they were chosen for their sound characters, and we know they will each contribute these positive aspects to his upbringing. Jake already is seen as 'our little miracle' by all of those mentioned above, and all the other members of our family and friends, who came to help us celebrate him and his special day.

We wanted to leave this special thank you to the end. It was so lovely to have members of the

congregation of St Andrew's at Jake's baptism, we were made to feel so welcome and special - a 'part of the congregation' - by you all. The atmosphere was everything we could have hoped for. Led by Michael, what was a solemn and important occasion was also in every way lighthearted, heart-warming, and fun. The overall joyfulness of the day was tangible throughout.

We would like to thank you all for the thoughtful flowers, gifts and cards from individuals and the Church. Thanks to Norma for taking pictures and producing the newsletter, which will be a keepsake for Jake.

Last but certainly not least my heartfelt thanks to the ladies who, 'without even being asked', promptly provided coffee and tea (a perfect ending to our meal), then proceeded to undertake the washing up and clearing away, relieving us of this tedious task. Thank you so very much ladies for this huge contribution! Thanks, also, to everyone who 'pitched in' putting away the tables and chairs, and generally clearing the room.

These special memories and the joyfulness of the day will make Jake's baptism an occasion never to be forgotten. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We feel truly blessed.

Jessica and Tony Houlihan



L-R Front row: Cole Xiberras (cousin/godfather) Tíffany (sister), Jake Houlihan, Sianna (sister), Jessica Houlihan (Mum), Kitty Xiberras (cousin / godmother), Back row: Michael (minister), Dave Hazel (family friend/godfather), Tony Houlihan (Dad)



The Whole Family (Grandmother Shirley is on the extreme left)

A View from the Pew

A baptism at St Andrew's is aways a welcome highlight and we were all looking forward to that of Jake Houlihan on Sunday 3 June when Shirley McGrath's family were out in force to welcome her grandson, Jake, into the church family. Jake was remarkably well behaved throughout the entire service, not even crying at the cold water from the font, or when Michael paraded him all round the church for everyone to see and greet him. The Houlihan family had invited the congregation to lunch and had decorated the hall beautifully for the occasion with white cut-out bunting flags strung in zigzags across the hall, and a blue bunting banner above the door with 'JAKE' spelled out on the triangles. The tables were set with blue-andwhite floral patterned tablecloths with lovely centrepieces of white peonies, white roses and the palest pastel pink roses in ribbon and lace decorated glass jars in the centre of each one. Beside each centrepiece was a miniature version made up of one white and one pale pink rose, with a few vibrant blue cornflowers. Jake slept peacefully in his baby hammock at the front of the hall through much of the din of the lunch; quite a model baby, as he was on the earlier occasions when he was brought to church.



At the end, as well as distributing favours in the form of delightful little jar candles with Jake's picture on them, in lantern-style gold cardboard boxes together with printed 'Thank you for coming' postcards and commemorative bookmarks, Jessica was giving out the flower arrangements from the tables to departing guests. Altogether a very stylish affair, with so many thoughtful little touches!

GOLDEN CONGRATULATIONS OF A DIFFERENT SORT



We offer our congratulations to David Netherwood who on 16 July celebrates 50 years as a minister. David was our minister at St Andrew's from 1992 until 2008. We are fortunate still to be in touch with him and are always delighted to see him and Mavis when he occasionally takes our service. Hilary, their daughter, is still a member of St Andrew's and plays a big part in the life of the church with her cheery personality, her service as an Elder and her talent for singing.

I asked David if he would contribute a short piece on his career, which covered a variety of distinctly different ministries, and he has kindly obliged with the article below. *Ed*

FIFTY YEARS A MINISTER - VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

After five years training at the Northern Congregational College, Manchester, on the 16th July 1968, I was Ordained into the ministry of the Congregational Church and Inducted into the Eccleston pastorate. Eccleston was a rapidly expanding suburb of St Helen's in Lancashire, then a centre of the glassmaking industry. For a number of years a dual purpose hall/church had sufficed, but exciting times were ahead: a new stylish sanctuary was planned. We saw the building of a new church from the foundations to completion to cater for a growing congregation where I ministered for six years. It was during this time that I was appointed 'Protestant' Chaplain to the Roman Catholic Hospital in the town-centre. I have served as a hospital chaplain in each of my ministries.

Then came the move to Mill Hill Church in Blackburn which was to be an eight-year ministry. This saw us embarking on a joint venture with the local authority by developing a Youth and Community Centre. The area was very much like 'Coronation Street', with the mills, canal, cobbled streets of terraced houses. I ran the Centre for a couple of years until established. I also served at Tockholes, a very rural 1662 foundation, an interesting and often amusing village ministry. It was during this time that I became involved with Radio Lancashire, becoming Religious Programme Producer, also having a weekly Gardening spot – again with the encouragement of both churches. In addition I taught RE and encouraged community involvement at a local special residential school for boys.

There followed a ten-year ministry in the seaside holiday resort of Morecambe and Sefton Road Church. It was a large church, very busy with many activities and a strong musical tradition. Most church life closed down from Spring Bank Holiday until the end of September, except for the Sunday services at which we regularly welcomed visitors. At the end of September the church and the town's internal activities all came alive again. However, it must be noted that a seaside ministry is not all 'fresh air and fun!' Whilst at Morecambe, again with the encouragement of the church, I served as the URC's National Convenor for Communications at the behest and service of the General Assembly (and all its committees!) – interesting?

In 1992 came the move south to St Andrew's at Walton-on-Thames – quite distinctly different from previous ministries in many ways. This turned out to be a ministry of sixteen years, for ten of which I also served as Minister of the Hersham Church. It was during this time I also became Secretary of the then Guildford URC District, which kept me busy. This brought me to the completion of some 40 years in full-time ministry which then qualified me to take retirement – and this I did. But as you are all no doubt aware, it has not been a complete retirement by any means!

David Netherwood

REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE DAYS OF YOUR YOUTH!

A SERVICE TO STIR THE OLD CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

SUNDAY 29 JULY, 6.30 PM, WEYBRIDGE URC

July 29th sees the annual cycle race, Ride London, in our area, closing off many roads in Weybridge and some in Walton. As is our custom at Weybridge URC, the service will be moved to 6.30pm that day and, as last year, I'm going to take the opportunity to do something a little different.

Remember all the songs you sang in Sunday School and Junior Church? Depending on your age they may include "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam", "Gentle Jesus meek and mild" and "Hear the pennies dropping". Or they may include "If I was a butterfly", "Thank you for every new good morning" and the "Arky Arky Song". What about those Bible choruses, used to teach us the Bible stories? "The wise man built his house upon the rock", "Zaccheus was a very little man" and "Only a boy called David". There were lots more as well. I always used to like "Wide, wide as the ocean" because you could fling you arms open and in so doing, "accidentally" hit your neighbour in the face without being told off! "He who would valiant be" was a great favourite too with its good, solid tune.



Mind you, I used to think that the last verse must be about teasmaid because I didn't know what a Hobgoblin was but I knew that a Great Aunt had a Goblin "teasmaid"!

For many of us, these hymns and songs taught us all sorts of different things about the Bible and about our faith- and they remain in our memory to this day so, on 29th July, we'll have a service in which we

remember them and sing them again. Let me know which you remember, which were your favourites and which you'd like to sing again. We'll sing as many as possible and priority will be given to the specifically "children's" hymns, rather than, say, "Praise my soul the King of heaven" which, although we may remember singing as a child isn't actually a children's hymn and we do still regularly sing today.

Do come along and stir a few memories. Why not bring a friend? It'll be the sort of occasion you can bring a friend to and share those memories. And don't forget to let me have a note of the hymns you'd love to sing again. I can't promise but I'll do my best to

include them. "Tell me the stories of Jesu", "Jesus bids us shine", "God made little Robin" - the list is endless.

Do come! It'll be better than what's on the telly; that I can guarantee. Who knows, there might even be a sand tray and the Birthday Chair!

With good wishes,

Michael





Inspiration In Your Inbox!

Each morning the United Reformed Church sends out a reading, short reflection and prayer to around 2,500 people. The reflections are written by a variety of people from different places and perspectives across the Church.

You can sign up to receive them by going to

devotions.urc.org.uk

(and you can read previous Devotions there too)

If you'd like to receive the devotions as a booklet in PDF format – so you can print them off for yourself or for members of your church who'd like them but don't have access to the Internet please email Andy Braunston via dailydevotions@urc.org.uk and request this.



Our theme this month was Treasure in Heaven - a very difficult concept for adults let alone the mainly toddler group we have - so we concentrated on the camel through the eye of a needle story, using an excellent Nick Butterworth cartoon video as our background. Due to technical problems, the children had to cluster round a laptop to

watch the video, but they all concentrated well. Thanks to Susan Simpson for her lovely drawings (such as the one of the camel below).



It's all about sharing!

The greatest hit was little treasure bags for which the children chose items to fill. One little girl picked up bracelets and wore them - too nice to hide away in a bag! Older members of the congregation may remember these bags being used for fundraising in the days of our Christmas Sale. Christie Brooman gave me spare bags for the Brownies years ago and they came in useful this time. Keep a thing for seven years ...

We continued with the camel theme, trying, not very successfully, to make fruity camels, but the fruit was delicious. We modelled clay camels, and coloured camels adding a

threaded needle to remind the children of the story. The children balked at the idea of painting their own feet but took delight in painting mine to make a footprint picture.



I'm not letting go of my treasure bag even when I'm icing cakes ...



"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle ..."



A Treasure Game



The finished (very difficult to make!) fruity camel



This is exciting...

As usual we ended with a family meal enjoyed by all. We would welcome all of you to join us, perhaps try an activity, but more importantly enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with our parents and volunteers.

Anne Fitzgerald



WHEN THE LORD SAYS WE MUST BECOME LIKE CHILDREN:

Christine, the only painter in the group, shared her experience after a recent meeting at Silveira House. Quote: I was very touched by these little ones. I asked the girl in the dark dress (right) for directions home as I had lost my bearings. I had chosen an unconventional route from SH and got completely lost. She said she would show me the way and immediately started walking in front to lead the way. I assumed it was en route to where she was going as we were heading the same way. A little while later her shorter friend joined us asking if she could come with us. She remarked on her friend's absence of shoes so took off one of her shoes and gave it to her friend to wear. We walked quite a while before I started seeing familiar territory. I thanked them and told them I now knew the way back. I only realised when she said to her friend 'so let's head back home' that they had walked all that way in one shoe each, to make sure I found my way safely. Bless their young souls.'





friend of the group and keen for us to display his work in the UK.



Raphael became interested in the arts at a young age. Couriers pending, I hope to be able to bring a few of his pieces over later this year. Left: Ralph's 'Apples' made from springstone and opalstone.

TOLLER AGAIN! Following last month's donation, Toller URC (Kettering) came up trumps again by organising a coffee morning on behalf of ArtPeace. The group were

delighted with the proceeds which were shared between AP and **Dorcas** (see next page). The artists offered prayers and thanks to the good folk of Toller and all the other special **people** who have steadfastly and enthusiastically supported the

NOTHING CHANGES said Herbert, an artist friend from Kwekwe. 'Last month, our new prime minister E.D. Mnangagwa held a rally in our area. His Zanu PF party forced many primary and secondary school kids to attend'. They do not look too thrilled by the experience!

A BIG WELCOME to talented sculptor Raphael Machinjiri a





cooperative in various constructive ways over many difficult years.

UPDATE ON DORCAS: Readers may recall the March article (details supplied by Lovemore) about Dorcas (below left), the expectant mother illegally evicted from a farm and reduced to sleeping on a mud floor with plastic sheeting to avoid damp. Lovemore called on her again on his way to work and said: 'John. It never rains but it pours for Dorcas the poor lady living in the wetlands. I came across her again and saw that she had no pregnancy. As is usual, I offered congratulations, but she started to cry and told me how she gave birth to two very weak boys, who did not survive. It's a sad story as both died at her wooden house. She didn't register her pregnancy at the maternity hospital as she had no money to pay. The area she lives in doesn't have good roads. She said the babies were weak and she herself suffered from vomiting, high blood pressure and malnutrition from a lack of a balanced diet. She has lots of mosquito bites but no malaria. My photos show her living conditions with her children Bridget and Brian.'



mansion called 'Blue Roof' (above) in Harare, was built when millions of Zimbabweans wallowed in abject poverty. Herbert comments: 'Lots of children near me still don't go to school and have survived by picking cardboard and plastics from dumps (above) to sell to recycling people.' **GENERAL ELECTION:** The nation prays that this time round, the general election on the 30th July will help bring to an end decades of corruption, intimidation and violence. **Johnston Simpson**

FLOWER POWER



A message from Rowena Stewart:

"Please thank the flower ladies (or men!) for the lovely bouquet received via lain this morning. Lovely colours! Many thanks." We always enjoy lain's message and his lovely sense of humour! Ed

Nancy Hampton says:

"Irene Pearson brought me a lovely bunch of flowers from the Communion Table - thank you. I also met her two new doggy companions - lovely Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. It was good chatting to her." We hope that you are recovering well after your recent foot operation, Nancy. Ed

Ann Tranquillini-Gay writes:

"I want to thank you for the beautiful flowers given to me on Sunday 10th June. Some of the flowers were still good one week later. I always feel so welcome meeting up with all the friends at St Andrew's that Ian had known for so many years. I have been very busy the last few weeks, moving to a flat in the centre of Bookham."

We hope that you are happy in your new abode, Ann, and - most importantly - that Poncha the Pensioner Puss is settling in well! Ed

Moira de Kok writes:

"I was delighted to receive a bunch of very exotic and utterly beautiful peonies and stocks after church. They were donated by Ghislaine and arranged beautifully by Anna. We have enjoyed them on the mantlepiece and they have lasted really well. Thanks so much for the lovely flowers."

Irene Pearson says:

"Thank you to Anne for the lovely pot of roses she gave me after church, kindly donated by Ghislaine, which are still very fresh after a week. They really cheered me up after I had received some depressing news. On another more cheerful note, I now have my two new additions to the family in the form of Cavalier King Charles spaniels, Elsie who is 5-and-a-half and Nona who is sixand-a-half. They are really lovely but snore for England when I'm trying to watch TV!"

I know that Irene is recovering from a recent operation which she tells me appears to have been a success, but she will have to take it easy for the next few weeks, including not driving. We all wish you a speedy and complete recovery, Irene. Ed

Sincere thanks from Edith Pearce for beautiful tulips received from Irene after church recently.



We send our condolences, love and thoughts to Romilly, Ros, Becca, Judy and Allie on the recent death of their mother, Ruth Micklem, as well as to their extended family