



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

**NEWSLETTER**

Volume 75 No 7

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

**MINISTER**

**The Reverend Michael Hodgson**

**The Manse  
3 Elgin Road  
Weybridge  
KT13 8SN**

**Tel: 01932 841382**

**Email: [michael.mah@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.mah@btinternet.com)**

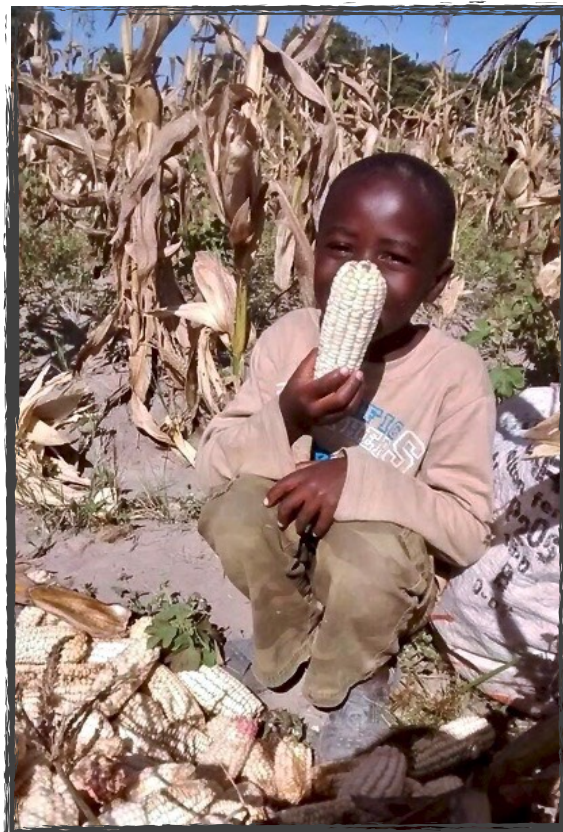
**CHURCH SECRETARY**

**Anna Crawford  
23 Shaldon Way  
Walton-on-Thames  
KT12 3DJ**

**Tel: 01932 244466**

**Email: [secretary@standrewsurc.org](mailto:secretary@standrewsurc.org)**

**Website: [www.standrewsurc.org](http://www.standrewsurc.org)**



*“Do not measure success by today's harvest.  
Measure success by the seeds you plant today.”*

*Robert Louis Stevenson*



From the Manse

September 2018

Dear friends

Hymn No. 334 in Rejoice and Sing is Hilary Greenwood's hymn, "Walking in a garden". Hilary reflects on three of the gardens talked about in the Bible: the Garden of Eden, the Garden of Gethsemane and the garden around Easter's empty tomb. An old poem states, "One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth" and I could be persuaded that there's something in that. Gardening and I have had a growing relationship over the years! What pleasure it brings me these days, although I have to admit that it wasn't always the case.

My first real manse, in Bideford, had a pleasant enough garden, complete with a greenhouse and a grape vine but, sadly, I knew little about gardening then and did little to it other than basic maintenance. It was Manse two, in Manchester, that started me off. When you're suddenly confronted with a rather large garden (two-thirds of an acre) you can't ignore it. Thankfully a previous minister had been a keen gardener and so it was nicely laid out with a more formal area close to the house and then a less formal area further away. I knew that I had to do something with it and that if I didn't keep on top of it, it would soon get on top of me so I began to learn a little - and suddenly found that I was enjoying it.

Cutting to Manse number five, in Brecon, and I soon realised that gardening was a non-starter there. In a very exposed position (but views to die for) it was a case of what the wind didn't destroy the rabbits would eat. I decided that God had set me in a stunning location so I'd make do with the landscape he provided, add a few pots in the summer to help out a bit on the colour front and call quits.

And so to Weybridge and Manse number six. Shall I tactfully just say that the manse garden was in need of a little attention and go for the art of understatement? Having cleared out some of the massively overgrown things there were, and in so doing having increased the size of the garden significantly, you may remember that some good friends of mine came down last year and gave me a hand to get something started. A year on things are beginning to bush out and become established. As last year progressed, I added things and I am also immensely grateful to some church members and to my neighbour opposite for giving me things from their gardens. "Every little helps." As last winter came, the garden was looking a lot more loved than it had been.

Sadly, a few things didn't survive the cold of the winter but I've replaced those and planted yet more in the various beds. I've also done a little more to the front garden but I have put much more energy into the back. This summer it's been a riot of colour and textures and I have been very pleased with it. Things planted last year have begun to fill out and I've also put in two scented honeysuckles - one behind the G&T bench and one against the back wall of the house so that in a few years the rooms might be scented of a summer's evening.

One of the things I've discovered is that 10 minutes in the garden during the mid morning and 10 minutes after lunch can achieve a lot but it can also refresh the mind and make it more productive. Then, in the evening, a little longer, staying on top of weeding and doing a bit of watering seems to calm me down and make me sleep better. The manse garden has become a little oasis and I'm grateful for it. My next project is to remove a large laurel, opposite the patio door, and extend the planting of a large border to give something nicer to look out at.

If you come into my study you might be a little surprised by the position of the desk. Sit in my chair though and you'll see exactly why it's where it is.

“The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,--  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.”

Dorothy Gurney's poem may hardly be of Shakespearian standard but I still think she's on to something!

With all good wishes,



Significant news from the recent meeting of the General Assembly is that our Synod Moderator, The Revd Clare Downing and Mr Peter Pay, a former Synod Clerk in Wessex, have been elected to become the Moderators of General Assembly for 2020-2022. Congratulations to them both.

If anyone would like to know any more about this or about the other Assembly business then do have a chat with Thelma Roberts, who was one of the representatives this year.





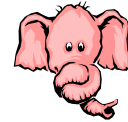
## DON'T FORGET - ELMBRIDGE MENCAP GRAND JUMBLE SALE EVENT !

SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER - 11.00 AM - 1.00 PM

BURVIEW HALL, WALTON-ON-THAMES, KT12 5AB

This is a popular event and our ever-willing helpers are looking forward to it enormously.  
We normally make about £1,000 when we have our sales and have a lot of fun!

Thank you to those of you who have donated items.  
It isn't too late to donate!



Additional items would be gratefully received by Jean Rigden (01932 225747)

## SAVE THE DATE - 24 NOVEMBER 2018 MARLOW URC EVENT FOR JACARANDA TRUST AND ARTPEACE

*Save the date!*  
**Concert at Christchurch, Marlow**  
*in aid of*  
*Jacaranda Trust and ArtPeace Zimbabwe*

24th November at 7.30 pm  
*Doors open 6.30 pm for drinks and canapés*

*Zimbabwean Sculpture Exhibition followed by concert*  
*featuring*

**Tsungai Tsikirai**


Tickets will go on sale in September

<https://www.tsungaitsikirai.com/>  
<https://jacarandatrust.co.uk/>  
<http://www.christchurch-marlow.org.uk/>

© 2018 Parkey Cook Publishing Ltd  
L150

## SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES SEPTEMBER 2018

**! PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE A DOUBLE ISSUE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER !**

<b>Sunday 2 September</b> <i>(Pentecost 15)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>conducted by Mr Graham Pearcey</b>
Tuesday 4 September	2.00 pm 8.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
<b>Sunday 9 September</b> <i>(Pentecost 16)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by</b> <b>the Revd Roy Bones</b>
	<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>Quarterly Church Meeting</b>
Monday 10 September	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
Wednesday 12 September	12.30 pm	Organ Recital, Weybridge URC featuring Stephen Lacey from St Andrew's Farnham ( <i>see page 7</i> )
Friday 14 September	10.30 am 12.30 - 2.30 pm	Prayer Group Garden Room Ladies Who Lunch, Weybridge URC ( <i>see page 7</i> )
<b>Sunday 16 September</b> <i>(Pentecost 17)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by</b> <b>Mrs Thelma Roberts</b>
	3.00 pm	 Messy Church
Tuesday 18 September	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room

**COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER ISSUE WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**  
**ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP**  
**Email: [aristocats.2000@gmail.com](mailto:aristocats.2000@gmail.com)**

<b>Sunday 23 September</b> <i>(Pentecost 18)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by</b> <b>Mrs Thelma Roberts</b>
---	-----------------	---

 **Fairtrade after the service** 

Monday 24 September	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
Friday 28 September	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room



<b>Sunday 30 September</b> <i>(Pentecost 19)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Harvest Thanksgiving service</b> <b>conducted by the Minister</b>
	11.00 am - 1.00 pm	MENCAP Jumble Sale at Burview Hall Weybridge ( <i>see page 4</i> )

## A BRIGHT FUTURE BECKONED, BUT NOT IN BANKING



### Bill (William) Currie McCrorie

The young Bill McCrorie left Scotland for New Zealand in 1955 with a contract to work for ANZ Bank and a promising career ahead of him. Three years later he returned, married, and on the path to becoming a Presbyterian minister.

Bill was born in Ayr and had a fairly traditional upbringing, attending Ayr Academy followed by two years' national service in the Royal Air Force. When he went to New Zealand, Evelyn followed and they were married in 1957. Accepting a call to ministry, he took a degree in philosophy and history at Auckland University and on returning to Scotland he completed his training at Trinity College, Glasgow University.

Bill and Evelyn and their two daughters, Pauline and Jennifer, came south to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Walton-on-Thames, in 1970. This was a church founded by a group of expatriate Scots in the 1930s; it was only 30 minutes by train from central London and was a great change from Galloway, where Bill had ministered for the Church of Scotland.

He was then 37 years of age and was eager to establish his ministry at St Andrew's. He did this by becoming involved with pastoral care, joining existing activities as well as creating new ones. He was keen to promote dialogue with other ministers and arranged regular meetings with colleagues. As a "braw lad frae Ayr" he was a lover of Burns and so a Burns Night supper became a regular feature each year.

The structure of the Presbyterian Church of England was to alter with the formation of the United Reformed Church in 1972. Bill's approach was patiently to help church members to understand the need for change; when the time came, approval was given without hesitation.

He delivered well constructed and thought-provoking sermons; his experience at Glasgow University led him to quote frequently from the work of Professor William Barclay. He also led the membership through major extensions to meeting rooms and the church hall. Nearly 30 years later he is still remembered, with gratitude, by those who benefitted from his ministry.

He went on from Walton to serve for seven years as Southern Synod Training Officer. He undertook his new role with enthusiasm, and produced training programmes, particularly for ministers, which brought encouragement and benefit to all who engaged in them. He will be remembered for his cheerful and professional approach to everyone with whom he worked. During this time, he was also minister at East Sheen.

Bill McCrorie was born on 15 December 1933 and died, aged 82, on 5 October, 2016.

*Taken from the URC publication "Celebrated Lives 2018"*

*This article was written in collaboration with Holms Carlile and David Helyar*

*Although a tribute to Bill McCrorie, our minister from 1970-1989, featured in St Andrew's Newsletter of November 2016, we thought it appropriate to include this piece from a URC publication which honours the lives of ministers and others who have served the Church*

**DON'T FORGET!**

**QUARTERLY CHURCH MEETING**

**Sunday 9 September**

**12 noon in the Church Hall**



**BRIDGE CLUB**

**Mondays 10 and 24 September**

**2.00 pm**

Hersham Room



**LADIES' GUILD**

**Tuesdays 4 and 18 September**

**2.00 pm**

Hersham Room

**PRAYER GROUP**

**Fridays 14 and 28 September**

**10.30 am**

Garden Room



**LADIES WHO LUNCH**

**Friday 14 September at  
Weybridge URC**

Soup, rolls, dessert and coffee for just £4.00  
Second helpings allowed!

Book your place with Margaret Faultless  
Tel: 020 8399 3402 /  
email: [ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk](mailto:ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk)

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL**

**Wednesday 12 September**

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

This popular series of concerts continues featuring, this month, organist Stephen Lacey, Organist at St Andrew's Church, Farnham

Bring your sandwiches and enjoy the music. Tea and coffee available. Free entry with retiring collection in aid of Musicians' Benevolent Fund.



**JUMBLE SALE**

**Sunday 30 September 11.00 am - 1.00 pm**

Burview Hall (off Queen's Road)  
Walton-on-Thames KT12 5AB

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**



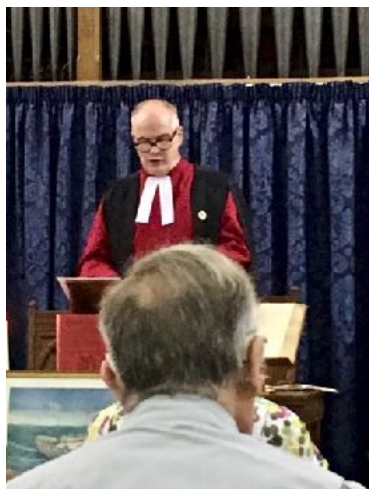
**Ron and Tessa Knight**  
Shannon Court  
Shannon Court Road  
Hindhead  
Surrey GU26 6DA

**Alan and Anna Crawford**  
*with effect from 12 September*

23 Shaldon Way  
Walton-on-Thames  
Surrey KT12 3DJ

Tel: 01932 244466 (unchanged)

## *We are but little children weak*



A good congregation gathered on 29 July at Weybridge URC for a service based on the Parable of the Mustard Seed, in which we remembered all sorts of things from Sunday School days and sang a number of the songs. As we went in we were given four different hymn books - all original copies of Sunday School Hymnary, Sunday School Praise, Carey Boner's "Child Songs" and CSSM Choruses, plus an order of service telling us which Sunday School Department we were nominally in.

Beginning with "All things bright and beautiful" (using both the well known tunes) and ending with "Praise him, Praise him all ye little children" we covered all sorts of things in between including, Bible

choruses such as "The wise man built his house upon the rock" and "Zacchaeus was a very little man" and simple hymns such as, "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam" and "Jesus loves me, this I know." We thought about the development of Sunday Schools, the founding of the National Sunday School Union and the ways in which everything was organised

The annual Sunday School Outing was always a treat and destinations were recalled, including, Skegness, Portree, "Doon the Watter" and Barry Island. A small amount of Sunday School Memorabilia was also on display including a picture of the last of the John Williams' ships, owned by the London Missionary Society to transport missionaries around the world, a collecting bag from the Junior Department and a "mud hut" collecting box from the LMS.



A good few memories were stirred and we were able to drop our offering onto the plates whilst singing, "Hear the pennies dropping."

It's amazing how the memories revived showed the things many of us had in common. And it's also interesting to reflect on our own spiritual grow from the first seeds being sown in our lives by our parents, our teachers and our Sunday School Teachers.

*Michael Hodgson*

### *A VIEW FROM THE PEW*

I had been looking forward to this service tremendously and loved every minute of it. I knew virtually all of the childhood hymns and it was fun being reminded of the actions to some of them. I went to Sunday School in Bearsden, Glasgow (we won't say how long ago...), always in my 'Sunday Best' (I didn't know any other shoes existed apart from Start Rite until I was about 12!). I had completely forgotten "Hear the pennies dropping" which had always been a key part of the service, when we made sure to keep back enough pennies to spend in the sweetie shop just outside the church gates. It was impossible to choose! Would it be an unwieldy gobstopper (they changed colour as you sucked them) a Barrett's Sherbert Fountain with a liquorice straw, a McCowan's Dainty (they kept the dentists in business!) or a Soor Ploom? Can we do it again?  
*NFR*



## HARVEST COLLECTION

Doesn't time fly as yet another autumn approaches! Our Minister and your Elders again hope that the congregation will support our two causes – the URC's Commitment for Life scheme, run in conjunction with Christian Aid, and our own unique ArtPeace Cooperative in Zimbabwe. Donations will be shared 50/50. It is always good to hear how training and help from Christian Aid partners has changed lives and brought joy. For example, here are a few messages from forum members in South West Bangladesh, supported by Christian Aid partner Shushilan.



**Kazol Mondol (right)** "People are willing to learn. This is so important. I hear what is being said at meetings so, with the training, I can go and try it out and then help others".



**Hadondada Mondal (left)**

"Before Hurricane Aila hit us we used to get a good crop but, after Aila, the crops were not healthy and the yield low. Through Shushilan, we have learnt to adapt. This has helped us to stay here. Now we use less seeds as we measure our fields out. First, we prepare the beds, then we sow the seeds and then plant them out in rows. Through this system nothing is wasted. Earlier it was haphazard but now we put them six inches apart in straight rows. It is simple and it reduces the fertiliser and makes it easier to harvest.



## ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

It would be good to be able to say that the recent election has put Zimbabwe on a firmer footing. However, Zanu PF, Mr Mugabe's old party, were deemed to have won again but this issue is being hotly contested though the courts by the MDC - the opposition party who say they have evidence of glaring discrepancies in the voting procedure, although some International Observers comment that this election was run more fairly than the last. Meanwhile, the country continues to languish, governed by Mugabe's old guard. ArtPeace (below) and numerous others



despaired at the result, not least the senseless killing of six or more protesters by the Army. By mid-afternoon after results were known, much of Harare City centre resembled a war zone, with military helicopters flying overhead and armoured personnel carriers moving through burning debris. Nothing has changed for our friends and families, so support is needed more than ever.

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

*Anna Crawford - Church Secretary Johnston Simpson - Commitment for Life Representative*

# WOODLAND WORKSHOP

TUESDAY 17 AND THURSDAY 19 JULY



A most successful two-day woodland workshop, held at Burview Hall, was sponsored by RC Sherriff Trust and Walton Charity, with Elmbridge Mencap providing Sausage Sizzle and cake for all those taking part.

On the Tuesday, we had 52 people (37 +15 carers) and on Thursday 41 (28 +13 carers). We had more young people attending this year.

We made Hoop Canopies and Clay Creatures which were placed in the woodland for people to explore and find.



*David*



*Clay Creature*



*Imogen Andrews was the artist leading the workshops*

The weather was perfect and we all enjoyed some very special time together.

Thank you to our sponsors and all the special needs people who took part in making two memorable days

*Jean Rigden*



*Dream*

## A TIME TO CELEBRATE!

### *HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY NETTA!*

Netta Philip recently celebrated her 90th birthday and gave the ladies in the Guild an excellent reason to have a party on the last meeting before the summer recess. Bubbly, cake and balloons set the scene with Michael's presence an added attraction. It was a very happy occasion and we were all delighted to celebrate with Netta, who is a very valued member of the team, always willing to lend a hand when needed.

*Janet Sommerville*



### *GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY*

*"All who joy would win must share it - happiness was born a twin. "*  
*Lord Byron (1788-1824)*

WE OFFER CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE  
CONGREGATION ON CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Anne and Keith Fitzgerald on 20 July

Susan and Johnston Simpson on 24 August

*From 'Rules for Reverends' by Jeremy Fletcher*

Everything stops in September. You thought that's when it started but it's when your congregation (who are all retired) go on cruises.

Most church problems are sorted out by the people who know in the car park afterwards. It's not worth having the original meeting at all, when you think about it.

If you get a lone bagpiper to play a lament, have a load of hankies ready.



## SYNOD QUIET DAY

WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER  
10.30 AM - 4 PM

All in Wessex Synod are warmly invited to attend the forthcoming Synod Quiet Day on Wednesday 26 September 2018 at The Centre for Reflection, Aston Tirrold URC, Spring Lane, Didcot, OX11 9EJ. The day will be led by Andrew Williams and the programme sounds most interesting. The cost is £10 per person to include morning and afternoon drinks and lunchtime bread and soup.

To book a place (*this should really be by 31 August!*), please contact Ruth Heine as below or through the [synod website](#).

**Ruth Heine**  
**Development Team Administrator**  
United Reformed Church - Wessex Synod  
120 Alma Road, Southampton, Hampshire SO14 6UW



### Later Life In All Its Fullness

A quiet day for all with elements of learning, discussion and quiet reflection on the spirituality of ageing

Led by **Andrew Williams**

Andrew is based in Poole, he trains and coordinates the work of voluntary chaplains in a number of settings including end of life care. He will be drawing on the STETS course "The Spirituality of Ageing"

**Wednesday 26th September 2018**

10.30am to 4pm

at The Centre for Reflection, Aston Tirrold United Reformed Church, Spring Lane, Didcot OX11 9EJ

The day will explore how we can all "age effectively" and the skills to help the process. What has been called our "last career" can be made wonderfully fulfilling: reflecting, integrating, reconciling, growing into wisdom and building new relationships. Together we can become not only better equipped to support those approaching the end of life, but also better able to reflect on and enhance our own spiritual and life journeys. Some stimulus material will be sent out beforehand.

**COST £10** - morning and afternoon drinks; lunchtime soup and bread will be provided, please bring whatever else you need for lunch

**Please book your place with Ruth Heine by 31st August**

[bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk) 02380 674513

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 6-9 JULY 2018, NOTTINGHAM

The Revd Kevin Watson, Moderator of General Assembly, opened Assembly with a quotation from the late Revd Kim Fabricius. 'There is a Bible verse on a plaque in the birthing unit of a maternity ward: "Jesus said: 'Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you an epidural.'" ' Kevin called for Jesus' help in discerning God's will during the Assembly. 'Help us to come to this Assembly like an expectant family, knowing that what happens here will bring change.' Concluding the prayer for all at Assembly, Mr Watson said: 'When the pain comes ... grant us that heavenly epidural!' Revd Nigel Uden and Derek Estill were inducted as our new Moderators of General Assembly. In his first address as Moderator, Nigel spoke about the transformational potential of listening, hearing God's voice in one another and engaging with the world. Nigel said that when we get listening right, listening becomes 'the most potent agent of change'.

### **The Synod Moderators' Report**

The Moderators' Report 'Giving up and taking up' is offered as a resource to all local churches, to help us take on all that God is calling us to as we Walk the Way. Our own Peter Pay and Moderator Clare Downing have both been elected as the Moderators of General Assembly 2020-2022 - congratulations to both. Amanda Mukwashi, Christian Aid's Chief Executive, spoke to us about the work of Christian Aid and Commitment for Life. She said, 'We know exactly what needs to be done. Let's stand together and really show a broken world that Christianity can heal, God can heal – and that's the message of the scriptures.'

### **Inter-Faith Dialogue**

We welcomed a Rabbi, a Muslim Chaplain, and the Anglican Area Dean of Blackburn to an inter-faith conversation on the theme of Assembly 'Walking the Way: Living the life of Jesus today'. They discussed together the meaning of discipleship in the context of the faith traditions they represent. We also reaffirmed our commitment to engage with global and intercultural themes and our desire to make this engagement integral to the whole life of the United Reformed Church...

### **Future of Assembly**

Things agreed included that:

- Moderators will be inducted at the close of Assembly.
- Assembly will reduce in size and there shall be the same number of reps from each Synod (at least one third of which will be Ministers, one third Elders or lay).
- Assembly will revert to meeting annually from 2022 meeting centrally in the UK.

We also agreed a change to the way Assembly Moderators will be elected, nominees each to be given up to 3 minutes to present their biography and 3 minutes to respond to a question set by the Moderator. All these changes are subject to approval by Synods.

### **Elders**

We agreed an additional promise to be included at the ordination and/or induction of Elders, referring it to Synods and churches for approval. The Missing Generation : We accepted the report from the 20s-40s Task Group, urging churches, Synod meetings, and committees to consider the questions in it and to act accordingly. One question is whether we are encouraging and allowing those 20-40s we do have to exercise their ministries in the church?

### **Some Other Matters**

- Recognising that some people wish to continue as members of the URC but are unable to remain in membership at a local church, we agreed to request each Synod to identify one or more local churches to hold their membership.
- The '12 Faces of Hope' exhibition arrived as Assembly, marking 50 years of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.
- The Equalities Committee presented a paper 'Encouraging equality, cherishing diversity'....
- We encouraged a flexible approach to the issuing of ministerial calls across the denomination, and agreed a definition of what it means to be an 'Active' minister!

*Extracts from Summary of Highlights by Wessex Synod*



The theme was Our Wonderful Bodies.



*Making sculptures of self with air drying clay*



*Putting body parts together*

From 'The Butterfly Song'  
Words and Music by Brian M Howard

If I were a butterfly I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings,  
If I were a robin in a tree, I'd thank you Lord that I could sing.  
If I were a fish in the sea, I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee,  
But I just thank you Father for making me, me.

*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile  
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child  
And I just thank you Father for making me, me.*



*How do you like my monster face  
made of clay?*



*He looks a lot better with  
his second leg on!*



*Yellow or green for nail varnish...*

## KEEPING THE CHURCH GROUNDS IN TIP-TOP SHAPE



We have from time to time (even once in rhyme!) thanked our team of gardeners for their sterling efforts to keep the garden looking great.

John Hutson was spotted after a service at the end of June going above and beyond by setting to with a broom and sweeping up the squidgy caterpillar-like seedpods that fall from the magnolia at the front entrance, thereby making sure that no-one (particularly those of us who are less agile) slipped on them.

Thank you, John, for looking after us!

*Ed*

## CALLING ALL NEWSLETTER READERS!

At the last Quarterly Meeting, it was agreed that the Newsletter should issue, for a trial period of a year, on a bi-monthly basis. Thank you. I am always grateful for your contributions but sometimes material is rather thin, and I struggle to put together as interesting a newsletter as I would wish every month. We already have two double issues: July/August and December/January. On reflection, and after further discussion with the Minister, we have agreed that there will be two single issues, in February and in September. This ensures that important dates for Christmas and Easter are taken care of. The weekly Service Sheet can take care of diary dates that pop up in between.

So, the new yearly issue pattern will be: December/January, February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September, October/November. Of course, I am prepared to be flexible and do an extra single-month issue if it proves necessary.

I want the newsletter to be the best it can be and much of this depends on your ideas fed in to me, which I can consider and act upon if appropriate and, most importantly, your regular contributions! News you may wish to share of members of the congregation and their families (such as special birthdays/anniversaries/achievements), as well as of old friends, is always welcome.

If you have any suggestions for improvement, please don't hesitate to let me know.

*Ed*

**Cover picture:** *Elias, the son of Herbert, one of our artists from ArtPeace, harvesting their maize.*

## FLOWER POWER



**Iris Collins's daughter, Stephanie,** writes:

*"I'd like to thank you all for the warm welcome I received when I attended service recently in July. It was very kind of so many of you to ask after Mum's wellbeing. As I mentioned to some of you on the day, whilst Mum is losing the ability to converse she is still very much sentient and my brother and I know that she would very much appreciate short visits late morning or early afternoon to hear your news if you are passing."*

**You can visit Iris at Adelaide House, Hershams Road, Walton-on-Thames**

**Irene Pearson** writes:

*"I would like to thank everyone at St Andrew's who sent me "Get Well" cards, emails and texts and best wishes and who visited me following my operation on 20 June to help me breath normally again. I am doing ok but my recovery is slower than I had anticipated. I can now drive again after seven weeks! Thank you to Janet and Jim who gave me lifts to church each week which I really appreciated. A big thank you, too, to Moira and Marigold who delivered the flowers each week during my absence and for their visit which really cheered me up and for the lovely flowers I received too. I realise how many caring people there in St Andrew's. I am truly pleased to be a part of it."*

A message from **Mary Taylor**:

*"I would like to thank Moira and Marigold for their visit with lovely flowers from the Communion Table recently. Their visit was very much appreciated as I am unable to attend church much these days. Thank you, also, to Irene, my Elder, for another bunch of beautifully colourful flowers from church. They do so cheer me up."*

**Hilary Netherwood** says:

*"I was absolutely delighted when Anne Fitzgerald handed me some beautiful flowers from Church on Sunday 15th July as a thank you for helping with Messy Church. It was a lovely surprise and very much appreciated. Many thanks for this kind gesture."*

**Susan Simpson** says:

*"Many thanks to Anne Fitzgerald for the lovely flowers she gave me when she celebrated her birthday."*



*We were so very sorry to learn of the death on 13 August of our minister's father, Alan. We send our love and condolences to Michael, to Joyce, his mother, and sister, Janet, on their sad loss.*