



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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 75 No 9



DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019



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*"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas,
when its mighty Founder was a child Himself."* Charles Dickens



THE MANSE

December 2018

Dear friends

The Christmas cards are written. I know which services I'm taking this Christmas and where they are! They're not all written yet but basically I know what I'm doing which, considering this letter is being written a few days before Remembrance Day, is a nice place to be in. Today the news is full of the American mid-term elections with President Trump claiming, "a tremendous success" yet with the Democrats taking control of the House of Representatives. Yesterday morning, we awoke to the tremendous news that the night before there **hadn't** been anyone killed on the streets of London the previous night in a stabbing. Tomorrow we'll all probably wake to some next Brexit headline and yet as I steel myself to sing "Away in a manger" ad nauseum over the next few weeks, I find myself thinking of one of my favourite carols - "The poor and the humble" (R&S 165) or "All poor men and humble" as it was in older hymnbooks.

It's a Welsh carol and the editors of The Oxford Book of Carols (1928) decided to include one verse from it and asked Dr Pennar Jones, Principal of Memorial College, Brecon, to write a second verse. Its tune (Olwen) is a traditional Welsh tune and both words and tune are extremely beautiful. The Welsh version is a little different to the English translation, for example, the actual translation of the list few lines would be along the lines of "O come every Christian to Bethlehem town to see how full of grace God is." and continues by inviting us to reflect on the depth of such wonder. I'll stick to the English translation where, as its first line implies, the carol focuses firmly on the Christmas message being for everyone, not just the rich and those posturing for position. The message is for all, even for those who don't always get everything right and for those who look at the present and who look to the future with worry and concern. How might we respond to this appropriately? Well, the English translation has a lovely comment, noting that the wise men "laid rich gifts" and that the oxen gave their hay and both were accepted by God. The last verse of "In the bleak mid-winter" makes a not dissimilar point.

The second verse talks about the Christ Child leading us and the Good Shepherd feeding us until we come into his God's reign. The Welsh then talks about us therefore singing the "anthem" begun in Bethlehem until we reach Salem (remember "Blessed city, heavenly Salem" - R&S 559). By the time you read this letter I am sure there will have been another twist in Brexit, another Trump story and who knows what else might have happened. Pushed to the inside pages will be stories of the poor struggling and of the starving dying. This carol gently but firmly pushes the proud to one side and makes way for the exultation of the humble and meek (Luke 1, verses 52 and 53).

*(So) haste we to show him
The praises we owe him;
Our service he ne'er can despise,
Whose love still is able
To show us that stable,
Where softly in manger he lies.*

With good wishes for Christmas and for the New Year,

Michael

Christmas Services at St Andrew's



16th December

10.30am "Bah Humbug!" with Anna Crawford

3.00pm Mulled Wine and Mince Pies followed by Lessons and Carols by Candlelight.

23rd December

10.30am "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas"

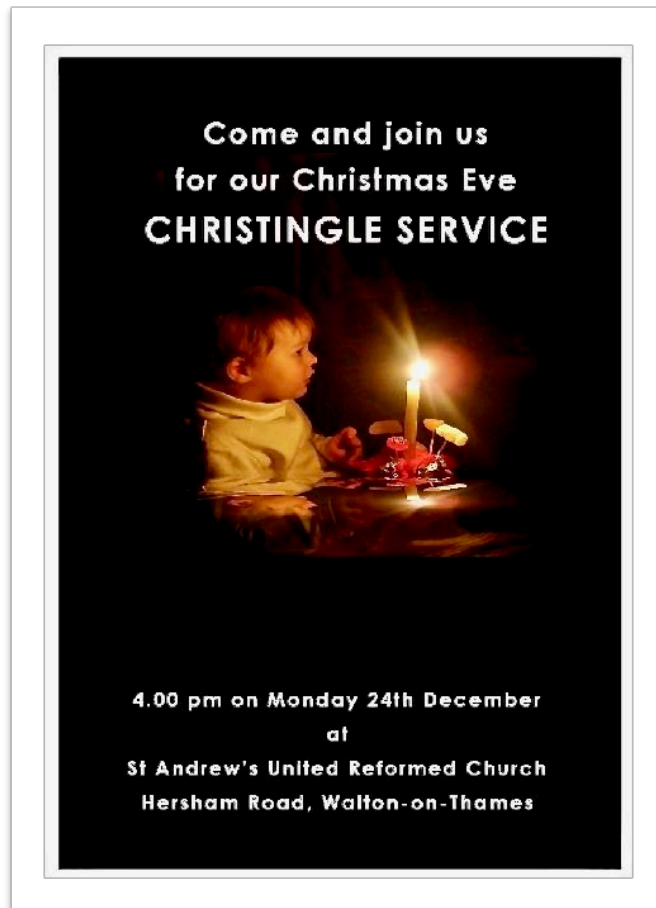
24th December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle Service

11.15pm Midnight Communion Service at Weybridge URC

25th December- Christmas Day

10.30am Family Service at Weybridge URC



SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES DECEMBER 2018

Sunday 2 December <i>(Advent 1)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
	12.00 noon	Quarterly Church Meeting
Tuesday 4 December	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Saturday 8 December	4.00 pm	A Cappella Christmas Concert, Weybridge URC (<i>see page 20</i>)
Sunday 9 December <i>(Advent 2)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Mr Sydney Shore
Tuesday 11 December	9.00 am	Westward School rehearsal
	2.00 pm	Westward School Christmas Service at St Andrew's
	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room (<i>last one this year</i>)
Friday 14 December	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
	12.30-2.30 pm	Ladies Who Lunch at Weybridge URC (<i>see page 7</i>)
	7.30 pm	Christmas Carol Concert at St James's Church Weybridge with Treble Clef Choir (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sunday 16 December <i>(Advent 3)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship 'Bah Humbug!' conducted by Anna Crawford
	3.00 pm	Mulled wine and Mince Pies followed by Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 23 December <i>(Advent 4)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' conducted by the Minister
Monday 24 December	4.00 pm	Christingle Service conducted by the Minister
	11.15 pm	NB: At <u>Weybridge URC</u> Midnight Communion conducted by the Minister
Tuesday 25 December <i>Christmas Day</i>	10.30 am	NB: At <u>Weybridge URC</u> Family Service for Christmas Day conducted by the Minister
Sunday 30 December <i>(Christmas 1)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Reverend Roy Bones

<p align="center">SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES JANUARY 2019</p>
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A Happy New Year to Everyone !

Tuesday 1 January		NB: NO ELDERS' MEETING!
Sunday 6 January <i>(The Epiphany)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion conducted by the Minister The next Communion service will be at Easter
Friday 11 January	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
	12.30-2.30 pm	People Who Lunch at Weybridge URC (contact Margaret Faultless 020 8399 3402)
Sunday 13 January <i>(Epiphany 1)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Anna Crawford
Tuesday 15 January	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER: WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY

ALL ITEMS TO NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP
[**aristocats.2000@gmail.com**](mailto:aristocats.2000@gmail.com)

Saturday 19 January	1.30-4.30 pm	Singing Hymns Again for the First Time, Guildford URC (<i>see page 17</i>)
Sunday 20 January <i>(Epiphany 2)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
	3.00-5.00 pm	Messy Church
Friday 25 January	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
Saturday 26 January	7.00 for 7.30 pm	Burns Supper at St Andrew's Church Hall (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sunday 27 January <i>(Epiphany 3)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Revd Philip Jones
	 Traidcraft after the service 	
Tuesday 29 January	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room

 Treble
Clef
Choir
Come and join us at our

**Christmas
Carol Concert**

**Friday 14th December 2018
7.30pm**

Musical Director: Tim Woodford
Deputy Conductor: Lesley Paterson
Accompanist: Hannah Stanley

**St. James' Church
Weybridge KT13 8DN**

£10.00

Including traditional refreshments
Accompanied children under 12 free

TICKETS FROM 01252 326514

Patron: Nerys Hughes



Addlestone & District Scottish Society

Burns Supper

Saturday 26th January 2019 7.00 for 7.30 pm

St Andrew's Church Hall,
Hersham Road
Walton on Thames,
Surrey. KT12 1LG

*There is limited parking at the church .
On-street parking in Stompond Lane, opposite.*

3 Course Haggis Dinner

*The Immortal Memory
Address to the Haggis
Toast to the Lassies and Reply
Piper
Entertainment & Dancing*



*Bring your own wine (glasses provided)
Dress – Highland/Black Tie/Lounge Suit
Tickets £27.00*

**All enquiries to: Alan Crawford
Telno: 01932 244466**

Vegetarian meal available if requested at time of booking

! POLITE REMINDER !



**QUARTERLY CHURCH
MEETING
SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER
AT 12 NOON**

Details of items for consideration under Any
Other Business should be passed to the
Church Secretary, Anna Crawford

(Tel: 01932 244466 or email
annacrawford972@btinternet.com)

by the evening of Sunday 25 November
at the latest



**RING OUT THE BELLS
FOR CHRISTMAS**



Saturday 8 December at 4.00 pm

Weybridge URC, Queens Road, Weybridge
Tickets: £8 adults and £2 children (at the door)

A joyful seasonal occasion for all the family with
music from A Cappella Singers & St James'
Handbell Ringers, as well as festive readings
plus a chance to join in
with carols and Christmas favourites



LADIES' GUILD

December

**Tuesday 11 (one only this month)
2.00 pm - Hersham Room**

January 2019

**Tuesdays 15 and 29
2.00 pm - Hersham Room**

PRAYER GROUP

December

**Friday 14
10.30 am - Garden Room**

January 2019

Fridays 11 and 25 - Garden Room



CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Treble Clef Choir

**Friday 14 December at 7.30 pm
St James's Church, Weybridge**

Tickets: £10 including refreshments
Contact: 01252 326514

LADIES WHO LUNCH

WEYBRIDGE URC

FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER and

**FRIDAY 11 JANUARY 2019
(People who Lunch)**

12.30-2.30 PM

Soup, rolls, dessert and coffee
along with convivial company £4!
Contact Margaret Faultless

Tel: 020 8399 3402

ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk

A BIG THANK YOU !

The Walton and Hersham Foodbank which is a
part of the Trussell Trust, thanks St Andrew's for
their generous donation and contribution of
101 kgs of food collected at their Harvest
Thanksgiving Service

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - SHOEBOXES



The Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts—filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

Children in Moldova opening their shoeboxes
(photograph taken from the website
Operation Christmas Child)

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 157 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 160 countries and territories. In 2018, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 11 million children in countries like Moldova, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda and Ukraine. More than 11 million shoebox gifts were collected worldwide in 2017, with more than 8.8 million collected in the United States of America.

Both St Andrew's and Weybridge URC churches have for some years been regular contributors, filling shoeboxes for distribution all over the world.

Adrienne Cooper, our coordinator at St Andrew's, writes:

"Thank you everyone for all your kindness and generosity in terms of donations and time and effort spent decorating and filling your shoeboxes this year. At St Andrew's we collected 26 boxes, which I duly delivered to our sister church in Weybridge to add to their collection of 28 boxes. As jointly we achieved a total of 54 boxes we qualified for a free collection by Samaritan's Purse (thank you to Brian at Weybridge for coordinating this). The shoeboxes are now on their way to some very deserving children whose Christmas will be happily transformed when they receive their gifts."

Flower arrangement in this photograph is
© Nick Grounds NAFAS National Demonstrator



Shoeboxes at St Andrew's



WESTWARD SCHOOL AND ST ANDREW'S - A HAPPY LINK

Norma has asked me to write something of an update on our link with Westward School which, I am happy to tell you all is strong and healthy. It's a link that's been going for many years now and the school make quite a bit of use of our main hall at St Andrew's. Space at the school is not plentiful. Their hall is very small and has to serve a number of different functions so the use of our hall is invaluable to them.

Twice a year (Christmas and Easter) the whole school comes to us for a service in church which is always brilliantly done. With parents coming we're always pushing the seating capacity of our church building but of course, we also leave leaflets on the parents' seats telling them all about our forthcoming services and about Messy Church - we don't pass up a chance like that! It normally yields some additional worshippers.

In addition to this, I also go into the school twice a term to take Assembly. The children are always extremely responsive and I certainly value the opportunity. I've always enjoyed doing this sort of thing and I am always made to feel most welcome at Westward. I do get invited to attend other things during the year as well and I see some of the children at Weybridge as well since they are members of our uniformed organisations. In fact, the lad who carried the Cub flag at our joint Remembrance Days service goes to Westward School.

So that link between St Andrew's and Westward is strong and is valued by all. The school would certainly regard St Andrew's as being "their church" and I hope to have a group in doing a project on us in the New Year. Do please remember this link in your prayers. It's a very important one to us at St Andrew's.

The Minister

SOME PHILOSOPHIES OF LIFE

The second mouse gets the cheese

We could learn a lot from crayons.

Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.

Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

Never buy a car you can't push.

Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker...

Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!

HARVEST COLLECTION



This year's collection including Gift Aid amounted to £686 and will be shared equally between Commitment for Life, the world development programme of the United Reformed Church and ArtPeace (Zimbabwe). Many thanks to all who contributed to these worthwhile causes and to those who occasionally donate to ArtPeace throughout the year. JS



This prayer was written by John Campbell for congregations who were feeling dispirited and thinking that they may be losing their battle to keep the church going. It was meant to offer encouragement. It was sung as a hymn at St Andrew's service on 8 July and we thought it deserved to be more widely shared.

It's not too late to pass it on
to those who ought to hear;
the love is real the message strong,
and God is always near.

Though we are raging year by year,
though money troubles scare,
We've liveliness and gifts and skills
to share out Saviour's care.

And thought the world is changing fast
and some feel left behind,
with willingness to learn and grow,
the church need not unwind.

To reach the young pass Jesus on
not leave a tragic rift;
to share the hope that we've received
is life's most precious gift.

So let us all, by God's good grace
risk sharing in new ways,
and, re-engaging with God's word,
pass on both faith and praise.

BEYOND THE DEEPENING SHADOW



Following on from the wonderful display of close to a million ceramic poppies in the moat of the Tower of London in 2014, to mark one hundred years since the start of the First World War, Tom Piper created another masterpiece, this time of ten thousand torches, to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice. They were on show for the week leading up to Remembrance Day.

I joined the thousands of people one evening to find a small corner from where to watch as, at 5 pm precisely, as happened each evening, a bugle call heralded the arrival of a Beefeater carrying a flame with which he lit the first of the myriad torches planted in the Tower's moat. It was quite magical to see the flickering lights slowly but surely increase, in places amid a veil of smoke.

The remaining torches were lit by Service personnel and volunteers who, at times, could be identified as barely distinguishable, shadowy figures moving around the moat, in the imagination the ghosts of those whom we were there to remember. It was over an hour before all the flames were burning. Solemn music composed especially for the event, lent additional poignancy to this very moving occasion.



Ghostly figures in the smoke

Ed



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

11th November 2018 was always going to be a Remembrance Day with extra poignancy as we marked the centenary of the guns falling silent on the Western Front. Our two churches decided to join together



for a joint service, which, for a number of reasons would be at Weybridge. That proved to be a right decision. With some visitors and with representation from the Cubs and Scouts the ground floor was virtually full. On the shelf below Weybridge's War Memorial was a photograph of the War Memorial at St Andrew's, remembering two men killed in the Second World War. Also on the shelf, was one of the brass vases from the old Hersham URC remembering two brothers killed in the Second World War (the other vase was in a window with poppies in it).

The service itself was extremely moving, particularly when the names of the fallen from the congregations at Weybridge, St Andrew's and Hersham were read out before the Last Post was played and the Scout and Cub flags dipped in respect. There were many

"little touches" in the decoration of the church and in the preparation of the service, including some "silent silhouettes" in two empty pews, the seats strewn with poppies. Amongst other things were a poppy from the 2014 commemoration at the Tower of London and 18 candles around it, for 1918.

At the end of the service there were many comments on the quiet power and appropriateness of the morning. We were probably all touched in different ways but it's going to be a service remembered for a long time. It was good to be there. *The Minister*

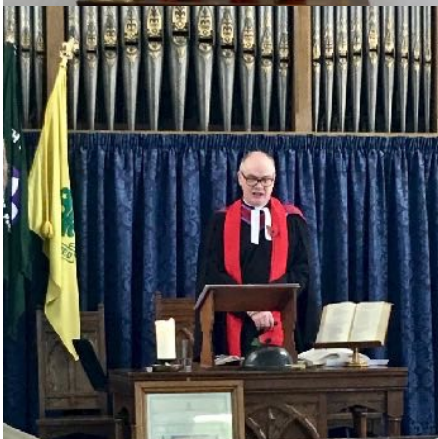
A View from the Pew

You could sense that there was a special atmosphere in the church from the moment you walked in and it was clear that a great deal of thought and sensitivity had gone into its decoration. It was lovely to be part of our combined church family with the singing, valiantly led by the choir from Weybridge URC, all the better for the augmented congregation. Against the Communion Table was the list of those on active service 1939-1941 from St Andrew's. Jean Rigden and her sister, Elsie, were delighted that this had been recently re-discovered at St Andrew's, as their father's name features on the list. He had served to the end of the War and ended up in Palestine, having come home, thankfully, safe and sound. On the table were a peace candle which is lit every week at Weybridge, the minister's paternal Grandfather's firewatcher's helmet from the Second World War and a poppy. Standard-bearers representing the cubs and scouts processed in to the opening hymn Praise my soul the King of Heaven and took up their place at the front of the church.



As well as the two Bible readings, one by a representative of each church, there was a moving reading of John McCrae's poem, In Flanders Fields. I was particularly affected by the silhouettes in the empty pews with scattered poppies, a gesture to those who did not return. Michael's words were spoken from the heart, allowing each one of us to remember in our own way; the organ music was perfectly fitted to the occasion and we were fortunate to have The Last Post beautifully sounded by Adam.

It was a truly memorable service. To all those who worked so hard to such good effect to make it so, thank you! *Ed*



A TRIBUTE TO A REMARKABLE BRITISH VETERAN OF WW1

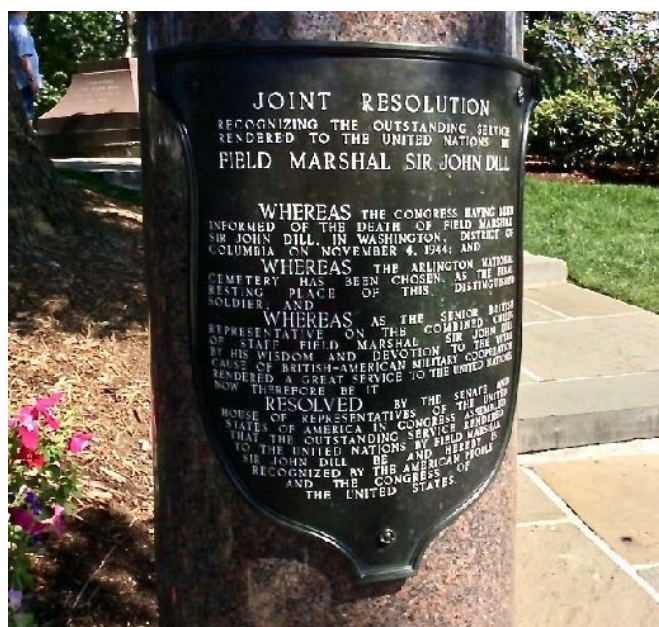
About 18 months ago we visited Arlington Cemetery in Washington and came across this beautiful Statue of a remarkable British veteran by the name of Sir John Greer Dill. Having observed the centenary of the end of WW1 this year it seemed fitting to write about this amazing soldier who was, unusually for a British Officer, interred in Arlington Cemetery



Born in County Armagh in 1881, he always intended to follow a career in the British Army and on leaving school he attended Methodist College, Belfast, Cheltenham and finally the British Army College. He went on to become a senior Army Officer in both the first and second World Wars. In addition, he served in the Second Boer War and the Arab Revolt in Palestine. He was recognised as an outstanding soldier and rose to the position of Chief of the Imperial Staff and Professional Head of the British Army. He finally attained the rank of Field Marshal Sir John Greer Dill GCB, CMG, DSO. Sir John Dill went on to become the Senior Representative of the Combined Chief of Staff in WW2 (based in the USA) and played a significant role in the formation of the "Special Relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States of America". This is explained on the panel in the photograph below.

In Nov 1944 he died of aplastic anaemia and his memory was honoured with a Service in Washington National Cathedral. The route of the cortège was lined with thousands of troops and other mourners. It is written that many senior soldiers became very emotional when taking leave to this very valued and respected colleague who was hugely popular. The Joint Chiefs of Staff sent a fulsome message of condolence to their British Colleagues which expressed their high regard for this popular and brave man. In one paragraph they wrote that "no other individual was more responsible for the achievement of complete cooperation in the work of the Combined Chiefs of Staff."

The Field Marshall was interred in Arlington Cemetery with a simple graveside ceremony. It is obviously very unusual to find the only British Serviceman buried amongst the thousands of Americans who have served their country. The statue of Dill astride a beautiful horse is remarkable and stands over the simple tomb, one of only two equestrian statues in the cemetery. Standing in the shade of one of the many beautiful trees in the peaceful and magnificently maintained grounds of Arlington, we felt a great reverence for this amazing British citizen. We can all be extremely proud of him
Moir and Jan de Kok



Brownies

9th

Walton

Brownies Autumn news

9th Walton Brownies are back after a long, hot summer and it's all change!

The summer break is always a time of change for the Brownies as some of our girls move up to Guides, some new girls join our Unit and we decide on our focus for the coming year. This year however the whole of GirlGuiding had a shake-up with a new Programme being rolled out for girls across all age groups.

GirlGuiding UK has always 'guided' our activities with specific activities and badges we work on both collectively and individually. This summer they have designed a completely new programme which a 5 year old Rainbow can begin and follow all the way through her GirlGuiding journey to complete it when she is a Ranger Guide (15yrs +).



Based on 6 'Themes' the programme encourages the girls to build specific skills by attempting progressively harder challenges as they grow in age and confidence. We work on the Themes in our meetings and the girls work on interest badges by themselves. Our hope is that they will all achieve many Theme Awards and some will even secure their 'Gold Award' before they fly-up to Guides.

This term we are working on the "Be Well" Theme.

While we are getting our heads around this new format, we are still without a qualified leader to move our Unit forward. We are delighted to have some additional volunteer help this year and, of course, are always grateful for the support of our parents and the Church however having a qualified Brown Owl who would be insured to take our girls out for adventures, sleepovers and holidays would really be the icing on the cake. If there is anyone out there that you think would be interested, please let us know.



In the meantime, we continue to meet each fortnight on a Monday evening between 6.30pm and 8pm. We have 20 Brownies, all of whom love the opportunities we can offer them. We are looking forward to a fun-filled year and, although you may not see us often we are keen to contribute to the various special festivals celebrated at St Andrews URC over the coming months.

CONNECTION

Many will remember the days when there were huge queues outside the cinema to see films in black and white like 'A man called Peter'. One such film was 'Reach for the Sky' starring Kenneth More playing the part of double amputee - flying war ace Douglas Bader. In the late fifties as a



79 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

1. The Lord's my Shep - herd; I'll not want. He
 2. My soul He doth re - store a - gain; And
 3. Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale, Yet
 4. My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In
 5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my life Shall

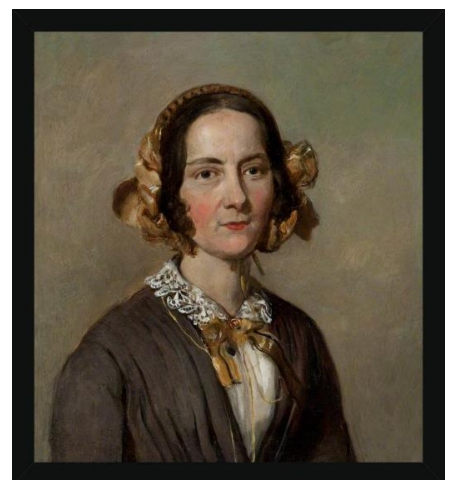
5 makes me down to lie In pas - tures green; He
 me to walk doth make With - in the paths of
 will I fear no ill; For Thou art with me,
 pres - ence of my foes; My head Thou dost with
 sure - ly fol - low me; And in God's house for -

young lad, I cycled the nine miles from Peterhead to a disused airfield, one time home of the 714 Naval Air Squadron. The occasion was the opening of a skid pan (a specially prepared surface on which drivers can practice controlling skids) by the great man himself and I took this photo of him addressing the crowd from the back of a trailer using my father's old 'bellows style' Kodak camera. He proceeded to give a demonstration, driving his sporty Alvis round the track like a man possessed - but what is the connection with Psalm 23? The skid pan was outside Crimond village which gave its name to the tune accompanying the words of 'The Lord's my Shepherd'.

Crimond was composed by **Jessie Seymour Irvine** (1836 – 1887) the daughter of a Church of Scotland parish minister who served at Crimond, Peterhead and Dunottar in Aberdeenshire. She is referred to by Ian Campbell Bradley in his 1997 book *Abide with Me: The World of Victorian Hymns* as standing 'in a strong Scottish tradition of talented amateurs who tended to produce metrical psalm tunes rather than the dedicated hymn tunes increasingly composed in England'.

Her composition *Crimond*, is best known as one setting for the words of Psalm 23. It is believed she wrote the tune while still in her teens, as an exercise for an organ class she attended.

The tune first appeared in *The Northern Psalter* (c.1872) where it was credited to one David Grant. It was subsequently revealed, however, that Grant had only arranged and not composed the tune, and the 1929 *Scottish Psalter* credits Irvine. The controversy is discussed in Ronald Johnson's article: 'How far is it to Crimond?' and Jack Webster's column in the Glasgow Herald.



Jessie Irvine is buried in St Machar's Cathedral in Aberdeen. So now you know!

JS



pcn britain



Singing Hymns Again For the First Time!

Saturday January 19th 2019 1.30 - 4.30pm

Guildford United Reformed Church
83 Portsmouth Road GU2 4BS

Parking available; easy access to public transport £5 (under 25s: £2)

Do we ever really think about the words we sing in some of our hymns and songs? Are we completely happy with some of the theology expressed? Are there some hymns or choruses which we just don't like? Why? Do we enjoy a good tune and like singing with others? Have we got favourite hymns we love to sing? This day is for you!

Under the guidance of PCN Chair Rev Adrian Alker and experienced musician and choir leader Andy Thomas, come and hear and sing a selection of songs and hymns and share in the discussion about them! Adrian was Vicar of St Mark's Sheffield for twenty years and Andy was the Director of Music there and later at St John's Waterloo. Together they will inspire you to sing and to think afresh about our Christian faith and how we express it in words and music.

Enquiries to premises@guildfordurc.org.uk

<https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/> <http://www.guildfordurc.org.uk/>



CARE IN WALTON AND HERSHAM

Registered charity no:801804

www.careinwaltonandhersham.org.uk

Care in Walton and Hersham is a local independent registered charity serving the elderly residents of Walton and Hersham and is celebrating 30th anniversary this year. The charity is completely self-financing and has become a very valued help in the community. Clients are frequently telling us that they do not know how they would cope without us!

Volunteer drivers use their cars to transport clients to medical appointments, wait and return them home. Expenses are paid at the current rate of 45p per mile.

There is no pressure for a driver to be available on specific days.

Duty officers work from home between 9.30 - 12.30 Monday to Friday again, on a day to suit themselves. No car is necessary for duty officers as the 'office in a bag' can be delivered and collected if necessary.

Nothing complicated, no computers for the office just our dedicated mobile to take the initial call from the client. A record is made on a card index and Da Book then the duty officer rings round to find a volunteer driver who is free to take the appointment.

Volunteering for Care is extremely flexible, both for drivers and duty officers and very rewarding.

If you think you might be able to spare time to volunteer as a duty officer or driver, please contact our Secretary Pauline Lamb 01932 222978 or e-mail Pauline_lamb@tiscali.co.uk



So much to do you don't know where to begin!



Rice krispies make the perfect manger

We ran out of gingerbread men which we were making into shepherds and had to quickly prepare more mixture to make Rice Krispie bases to represent Jesus' manger.
Grateful thanks to all our volunteers.
Anne Fitzgerald



Making gingerbread men into shepherds



Sometimes you need little help from a grown-up to get it right!



Building marshmallow towers



Red and gold for the Christmas Tree this year



It takes a lot of patience to make a Rose Window

THIS AND THAT



NEW BABY CONGRATULATIONS!

Beryl Brown is delighted to announce the arrival of a new granddaughter, Neve Frances, born on 2 November to her son Chris and his wife Kay. A sister for Erin (now four and a half) and a new cousin for Olivia (five) and Harriet (one).

Grandma Beryl with baby Neve



CHRISTMAS FAIR

We had a very happy Christmas Fair and the weather was dry. Santa and his Elves proved a particularly popular attraction. The magnificent sum of £1,608.00 was raised. Our thanks to all the volunteers who helped and for the donation of items to sell or put on the Tombola. Also thank you to those who came to support us on the day.

Jean Rigden



COFFEE MORNING - THANK YOU!

Jim and Janet Sommerville and Iris Pearson are highly delighted with the outcome of their coffee morning. They have raised the outstanding sum of £360.00 for Junior Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and would like to say a sincere thank you to all who came and so generously contributed .



Marigold keeps on top of sales

John makes a difficult choice....



Sometimes you just need a wee break !



Ring out the Bells for Christmas!

A Christmas Concert in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Saturday 8 December 2018 at 4.00 pm
United Reformed Church, Queen's Road, Weybridge, KT13 9UX

Tickets: £8.00 (Adults) and £2.00 (children under 16)
Price includes seasonal refreshments

A joyful seasonal occasion for all the family with music from A Cappella Singers & St James' Handbell Ringers, as well as festive readings plus a chance to join in with carols and Christmas favourites

Please see contact details below. New members very welcome!



A Cappella Singers rehearse on Tuesdays from 7.30 - 9.30 pm
in St Mary's Church Hall, Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge

Would you like to sing with us? Please contact us on
07900 907738 or visit our website at <http://acappellaweybridge.org.uk>



St James' Handbell Ringers meet every Tuesday evening
in the Parish Hall, Weybridge
If you would like to come along, please contact
Alan Sharps on 01784 244665

A CAUTIONARY TALE

Several of the Mensa members went out for lunch at a local café. When they sat down, one of them discovered that the salt shaker contained pepper and the pepper shaker was full of salt. How could they swap the contents of the two bottles without spilling any and using only the implements at hand? Clearly this was a job for Mensa minds. The group debated the problem, presented ideas and finally came up with a brilliant solution involving a napkin, a straw, sand and empty saucer.

They called the waitress over, ready to dazzle her with their solution. "Miss," they said, "We couldn't help but notice that the pepper shaker contains salt and the salt shaker...."

But before they could finish, the waitress interrupted, "Oh, sorry about that!" She leaned over the table, unscrewed the caps of both bottles and switched them. There was dead silence at the Mensa table.

Don't confuse IQ and education with common sense.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government will be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6



Mary Taylor would like to wish all her friends at St Andrew's a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

I would like to extend a very warm thank you to all of you – Michael and all the caring members of St. Andrew's – who were so kind to me and sent me many messages and good wishes during my spell of keeping the NHS busy earlier in the year. Your concern was much appreciated and went a long way to encouraging an early return to good health. Thank you so much for that.

I would also like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the best of health and good fortune in the New Year and beyond!



May Dow



Barbara and Mike Rodgers wish all their friends at St Andrew's peace and joy at Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Doreen Drylie sends warmest Christmas wishes to her friends in the congregation of St Andrew's and hopes that the New Year will bring them peace, health and happiness.



From your Editor, **Norma**, the very best of Christmas Wishes to you all and a big thank you for supporting the Newsletter throughout the past year. Please keep the contributions coming in 2019. May your New Year be full of hope, good health and happiness!

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

MAKING IT HAPPEN! No wonder ArtPeace look ecstatic! They had just heard that Marlow URC had decided to make a tremendous donation covering their families' annual seed and fertiliser requirement plus lots of water purification tablets. Marlow's treasurer transferred their donation to me on Thursday. On Saturday, the artists



ArtPeace artists in Harare



bought supplies and sent photos and messages of gratitude which were shown to Marlow's congregation on Sunday! *Above right: a delighted Lizeni. Left: Coster and Shingi loading a truck for delivery*



to their homes. *Above: Fortune using his water purification tablets to protect families against cholera.*



GLIMPSES OF LIFE IN

ZIMBABWE – THE GOOD: This tranquil scene of Growthpoint a village near Kwekwe, taken by artist Herbert, raises the question whether we are any happier than these poor villagers despite all our material benefits and technology. I doubt Zimbabweans will be appointing a Minister for Loneliness! There are so many lonely people in the UK and empty churches: are we are missing a trick somewhere?

THE BAD: From Lovemore: 'Hi John, I'm having sleepless nights over my daughter Enviolata



who is unable to go to school. It is so painful for me especially as I am a good artist but the frustrating situation our country faces means I cannot raise her enrolment fees. I have tried several doors, but none are being opened for my lovely daughter. It is not good at her age being at home for 2 years working in the fields. Please John, I beg for your support - help me please. I can write English, but my daughter cannot - without this she has no future.'

and **THE UGLY:**



From Coster: 'Hi John. Yesterday evening I was coming from town and encountered some thugs who wanted to rob me. When I realised they were thieves I started to run away and dropped the old phone you sent me in long grass by the roadside, but they caught up with me and beat me up badly. I think my ribs may be broken and I have a swollen head. Early the following day, fortunately I managed to find my phone and went to the police station. My problem is I don't have any money to go and visit the doctor and am now in bed resting.'

BLESSED IS THE HAND THAT GIVES: Artist Herbert said: 'An old man (below left with Herbert) approached my workshop asking for food so I shared what little I had and gave him some old clothes. Many years ago, Mr Banda moved to Zimbabwe from Mozambique coz of war and hunger and worked at a mine for 20 years. He was



promised a pension but when the mine shut no money was given. He used to live in this (left) terrible compound where 10 to 15 families shared one toilet. His wife died 4 years ago, and



he now lives alone in the bush.' Herbert, whose art is displayed in the Southwark Cathedral shop is now reduced to collecting and cleaning old bottles (above right) which he sells for 25 cents each to supplement his income - such is life for many in Zimbabwe.

Johnston Simpson

FLOWER POWER



May Dow was happy to receive a lovely assortment of flowers from the Communion Table, provided by Norma in memory of her mother. She also enjoyed the visit and cheery chat from Irene and Norma, who delivered them to her.

Nancy Hampton writes:

"Thank you Irene for the lovely flower arrangement from the Communion Table given to me recently. They were lovely and lasted for over a week. It is so good of you to do this and much appreciated."

Norma (aka Ed) says:

*"Thank you for the flowers I received the other day,
They let the sunshine in and I felt blessed they came my way.
To all who give, arrange, deliver flowers throughout the year,
A massive 'thank you' for they bring us undiluted cheer!"*

Special thoughts

After a short spell in hospital, **Doreen Drylie** has, for the time being at any rate, moved to Adelaide House in Walton. **Mary Taylor** has also been in hospital again but is back at home. **Ethel Pritchard**, resident in Silvermere, is unwell. **Mike Rodgers** is also very poorly at the moment. We send them our love and would like them to know that we are thinking about them.
Ed



It is with much sadness that we have to announce the death on 25 October, peacefully at Adelaide House, of Iris Collins. There will be an appreciation of Iris's life in the February issue of the Newsletter.

*We send our thoughts and prayers to her daughter, Stephanie,
her son, Victor, and to her wider family.*