



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

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

Volume 76 No 1



*Hear us, we humbly pray; And, where the gospel's day
Sheds not its glorious ray, Let there be light!*

John Marriott (1816)

The Manse

February 2019



Dear friends

Taking down the Christmas decorations the other week it was going through my mind how bare the house always looks afterwards and how we're now in for the long slog of January and February. It's not my most favourite time of the year. Cold. Long, dark nights. Cold. Potentially bad weather. Cold (you may be getting the impression that I don't like being cold). It's such a miserable contrast to the joy of the new birth we've just been celebrating; the story of God's love for us and of God's light shining in the darkness. As my spirits sank, I gazed out of the window and saw something which brought me up short and made me realise how wrong I was to think like that.

Back in the autumn I planted some spare pansies in a tub and put it on the patio. I suddenly realised that they were in flower - a delicate but cheering yellow, brightening a cold, grey Saturday afternoon. In the next tub some daffodils were coming up nicely and in my "Barbara planter" (the VW Camper van you planted up and gave me after my induction) another pansy was in flower. My mind started to wander. I thought of how, in my previous pastorate, some of the farmers would be beginning lambing. Sheds which have been cold and empty for months would again be places of light and possibly of warmth and of sound and of birth. Lambing sheds are quite noisy places, you know. Some farmers go for an early lambing in the hope of balancing potential losses consequential to harsh weather with the premium early lamb prices attract. Most will be starting lambing at the end of February/ beginning of March though, but there's often a few ewes rather giving birth earlier than they should be and normally referred to as "having been to a dance"!

As I wrapped up and put away the remainder of my Betjemanesque "tissued fripperies", baubles and Christmas "whigmaleeries" (ask the Scots for a definition), I realised that the joy of life and of new life is not actually something God's creation ever allows us to forget. The story of God's love for us doesn't stop when we take down the Christmas Decorations and then remains hidden until the horror of Good Friday and the joy of Easter morning reveal it again. Writing on 20 September 1822, John Keble affirmed, "New **every** morning is the love." "New mercies each returning day hover around us while we pray."

With mind more positive I embraced "The trivial round" (dusting) and "the common task" (hoovering). A tub of left-over pansies had just given me a valuable theological lesson. And then it was time to put the kettle on and make that cup of tea which also always cheers.

With all good wishes


Michael

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday 3 February (Epiphany 4)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
Tuesday 5 February	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Friday 8 February	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
	12.30 - 2.30 pm	Ladies Who Lunch at Weybridge URC (see page 5)
Sunday 10 February (Epiphany 5)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Reverend David Netherwood
Tuesday 12 February	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room

COPY DATE FOR MARCH/APRIL DOUBLE ISSUE WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY

ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP
Tel: 020 8785 4392 Email: aristocats.2000@gmail.com

Sunday 17 February (Epiphany 6)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
	3.00-5.00 pm	 Messy Church

Please note: 17 February is Deadline for AGM Reports !

Friday 22 February	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
Sunday 24 February (Epiphany 7)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Reverend Michael Hopkins

 **Fairtrade after the service** 

Tuesday 26 February	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room
Friday 29 February	09.15 am	Westward School Rehearsal

NOTICE OF AGM

ST ANDREW'S ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING (AGM)
Sunday 3 March 2019 at 12 noon

**Annual Reports are now needed for distribution
prior to the Annual General Meeting**

Anna Crawford would be grateful if you could let her have your reports by
Sunday 17 February at the latest, keeping them as succinct as you can.
E-mail (annacrawford972@btinternet.com) best option if possible

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Many members will not have seen our church floodlit hence the photos below may spark some interest. For decades at nightfall, St Andrew's has proved to be one of the darkest spots in all Walton but no longer! Our new LED floodlighting system comes alive around dusk and switches off at midnight thanks to two very sophisticated tiny timers. Our beautiful stained-glass window



incorporating a cross cannot fail to catch the eye of passers-by. The bonus of a brightly lit porch offering a glimpse of the Gateway allows scope for potential. Many Waltonians are clueless about our location but, hopefully, this latest initiative, along with our new Community Centre notice board by the hall door, will help rectify this situation. There is also a double independent power socket on the front wall which will prove invaluable should we be able to capitalise on the generous space on our front lawn – few local churches have this facility.



All this is part of a concerted effort by your elders to publicise our church and reach out to others. A second stage will involve a revamp of our somewhat dated website. Elders, like other members who faithfully attend church week in week out, are dismayed by the yawning gaps in the pews and are determined to stop this decline. Meanwhile your prayers and *your* ideas would be most welcome. It's now a case of use St Andrew's or lose it and wouldn't that be a tragedy!

JS

IMPORTANT - EARLY IN MARCH

**ST ANDREW'S ANNUAL CHURCH
MEETING (AGM)**

Sunday 3 March 2019 at 12 noon



BRIDGE CLUB

Normally first and third Monday.

No definite dates in February but those concerned will be advised as and when.



LADIES' GUILD

Tuesdays 12 and 26 February

2.00 pm

Hersham Room

PRAYER GROUP

Fridays 8 and 22 February

10.30 am

Garden Room



**LADIES WHO LUNCH
Weybridge URC
Queens Road KT13 9UX**

**Friday 8 February
12.30-2.30 pm**

Soup, rolls, dessert and coffee
along with convivial company for just £4
Second helpings allowed!

Book your place with Margaret Faultless
Tel: 020 8399 3402

ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk

! ADVANCE NOTICE !



**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
COME - EVERYTHING IS READY!**

**Praying for Slovenia
A service for Everyone**

FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2019

**Service starts at 10.00 am
at**

**St Mary's Parish Church
Church Street
Walton-on-Thames KT12 2QS**

followed by refreshments

ALL WELCOME!

! ADVANCE NOTICE !



**LUNCHTIME ORGAN
RECITALS 2019**

These monthly recitals will be
starting up again in March,
after the Christmas break. They will take
place on the second Wednesday of the
month at Weybridge URC at 12.30 pm.

Watch this space in the next issue for details
of the March and April concerts.

KEEPING IN THE LOOP



I am sure members who read my newsletter articles on the life and times of ArtPeace (Zimbabwe) have mobile phones - some may use 'WhatsApp' to keep in touch with family and friends. 'WhatsApp' enables me to liaise daily with ArtPeace at no cost and on an individual and group basis. This is how I receive all my photos, stories and videos without which I could not operate.

Interestingly, some churches occasionally use this material in their main service as their congregations have taken the artists to their hearts and appreciate the quick feedback.

However I digress as my real reason for writing is to enquire whether those members who are still interested in ArtPeace news would like to receive the occasional 'immediate' photo via 'WhatsApp' taken by our friends. Their photos range from animals, flowers (right: photo of a Flame Lily growing wild sent by Shingi) and art to family life. Everything becomes more immediate and alive and looks so much sharper on an electronic screen! *Please let me know if you are interested.* Rest assured that all mobile numbers will be kept confidential.



STOP PRESS: Scenes of recent outbreaks of violence across Zimbabwe owing to the price of petrol doubling along with ever increasing food prices have resulted in scenes of anger and



frustration. I received the following message via 'WhatsApp' from artist Christine: *'Today we woke up to the sound of hovering helicopters. We went to look for bread, it was \$3 per loaf and all the other tuck shops around had closed. There were eye witness accounts of people looting Choppies, a supermarket, and some were seen carrying cartons of sugar and other basics. As we were walking home from the tuckshops a truck full of riot police stopped at the same bar where a young man's body was found, and the uniformed forces began disembarking. We walked quickly home with my daughter. At some point while baking my bread, my skin was burning and eyes on fire. Not too far from here, they started throwing teargas. Then the gunshots started. They were multiple and heard for a long time.'*

Then people started leaving their houses with large sticks heading towards the shops. There were cries on the streets for some time. Now it is quiet everywhere. Photo shows a badly injured woman after she was shot near a police station in Epworth, while on her way from work.

OMINOUS: Ironically, soon after receiving Christine's message the government ordered Econet the internet supplier to shut down for several days as they clearly did not want the world to see these atrocities - there were many deaths and injuries. All contact with ArtPeace has ceased.

LATEST SITUATION: Message from Mike as the Internet now back: Hi guys. I'm safe now, but my eldest son and wife were not so lucky. They were badly beaten.

From Lovemore: Hey very sorry as I saw how the soldiers were brutally beating up people after they were doing door to door beatings in Mabvuku. I escaped into the maize fields and run for my dear life to seek refuge at Silveira House.

From Mike: Yes, many people were sleeping in the maize fields. I don't even know how I escaped this brutality. I thank the Lord.

From Coster: The situation here is not normal and we have a burning feeling in our stomachs from a lack of food. We never knew what is going to happen from one day to the next. **JS**

BERLIN IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Just before Christmas, Jan and I took a four-day trip to Berlin with the aim of visiting the three main Christmas markets and to learn more about the city itself. Everywhere was beautifully decorated with fairy lights and the people all seemed happy and festive. The markets lived up to expectations with hand made crafts and foods displayed in wooden chalet-like huts, evocative smells permeating the air of chestnuts roasting, sausages grilling on the coals and the spicy perfume of mulled wine. We were struck with the orderliness and cleanliness everywhere. Public transport is run on gas or electricity as are the taxis and most cars. Having lived in Germany and felt somewhat rebellious about all its laws, we had to admit that the system encourages the cities to work well. NO-one jay walks and there really is no pollution and certainly no litter.

Berlin, heavily bombed by the Allies, was almost completely demolished and in 1945 the city fell under Communist rule. In 1961, the infamous Berlin Wall was built, dividing the city into East and West. Many nationals died trying to escape from East to West and 28 years of hardship ensued. Only a small section of the wall now remains following its destruction after unification in 1990 and Check Point Charlie remains a big tourist attraction. Berlin, once razed to the ground, is now an elegant city and with a feast of wonderful museums and galleries.



The photo on the left shows the remains of the 1890 Kaiser Wilhelm church with a small Christmas market in front of it. The church was almost entirely destroyed by an Allied air raid on Nov 23, 1943 leaving standing only the lower 71 metres of the tower and remains of the nave. After the signing of unconditional surrender in May 1945, the first Pentecost service was held in the ruins of the church. In 1957, it was deemed unsafe but the remains of the steeple were kept as a reminder of the horror of war. It is now known as the Memorial Church. A lovely, new and modern church built of large blue glass bricks was erected next to the ruin (with a special mandate to foster church music). It is a beautiful space with a large 4.6 m modern, golden sculpture of Christ Arisen floating above the simple altar with the Saviour's arms outstretched in blessing. Directly above the entrance to the church is a loft housing the mechanical organ with its 63 stops and 5,000 pipes. The architect designed the building to have acoustically reflective surfaces. Jan

and I sat listening to a young vocalist singing carols, savouring to the full such a special experience.

On the right you can see part of the vast Holocaust Memorial, built between 1999 and 2005, to the murdered Jews of Europe with a central memorial to the six million murdered in Europe. From 2009 it also includes homosexuals and Romas killed under the Socialist Regime. Its 2,711 stark and lonely blocks in the centre of the city, all of differing sizes, some upright and others lying flat, have created a maze which we wandered through and which brought home the enormity of the atrocities of the Holocaust. We pray that such a horror will never be repeated.



Jan can be seen, bundled up against the cold, standing in front of the Brandenburg Gate which was completed in 1791. It is the only remaining gate of the original 13 Napoleonic gates which guarded the city. In front of the gate stands a Jewish chanukiah candelabra which bears the message: "This candle is a symbol of peace and freedom and democracy for all people." After seeing the Holocaust memorial it was reassuring that a Jewish symbol could stand in front of the city's famous gate. Maybe, lessons have been learned after all.

Moira de Kok



FRIENDS REMEMBERED



Iris Collins

Iris was born on her grandmother's farm, in a remote part of Carmarthenshire in 1937. She was the middle one of 3 and the family moved to small village in south Cardiganshire called Bryngwyn where she went to school and attended Sunday School (Ysgol Dydd Sul) every Sunday and, as a teenager, played the organ in the Chapel. Her "mother tongue" was Welsh.

A studious girl, Iris always knew that she wanted to go into nursing and so, after working as a general helper in her local hospital, she went on to train as a State Registered Nurse at Morriston Hospital Swansea, qualifying in 1958. Whilst still nursing in Swansea, Iris went on holiday to Switzerland with friends where she met her husband to be, Robert Collins. She moved to London to begin her midwifery training, qualifying as a State Certified Midwife at Camberwell Hospital in 1960 and then as a District Nurse 1962.

Bob and Iris were blessed with two children, Stephanie and Victor, but tragedy struck in 1980 when Bob died of bowel cancer. Three years later Iris suffered a serious brain haemorrhage. Thankfully, the strong, determined person that she was and the love she had for her children saw her fight back to good health.

After a brief hospital role as Liaison Officer at St Peter's, Iris returned to District Nursing firstly in Woking and then in Hersham, where she spent many happy years, finally retiring in 1995 after some 43 years of dedicated service to the NHS. So well was she respected and appreciated by her colleagues that they wrote to the appropriate authorities to put Iris forward to receive 'The Queen Mother's Award for Outstanding Service' for that year. This was presented to her by Her Majesty the Queen Mother at Clarence House on 6 July 1995.

Iris had a huge sense of the importance of friends and family. A home maker and a fabulous cook, her home was always filled with visits from friends and family. Interested in everything Iris was always looking to read and improve her knowledge. Even after retiring from nursing her caring nature could not be subdued as she worked for many years for Marie Curie and was an active driver for Care and deliverer of Meals on Wheels.

Iris's faith was very strong and important to her. Brought up within the Welsh chapel culture, she was a member and Elder of Hersham URC for many years, joining St Andrew's when it closed and quickly finding a new spiritual home here.

Sadly, some six years or so ago Iris began to become unwell, the problem finally being diagnosed as a particularly severe form of Parkinson's. Eventually, unable to remain at home, she went into Adelaide House where she was well looked after and died peacefully. Towards the end of her life, communication became increasingly difficult for her. However, the ability to speak in her mother tongue was less affected. Thankfully, this coincided with St Andrew's appointing a new Minister who is a Welsh speaker and the last prayers said with her and for her were in that language.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Michael Hodgson



Ethel Pritchard

Ethel came from Clydebank where she was born and brought up and went to school. She started work with Singer Sewing Machines but gave up work after she met and married Bob. They started attending St Andrew's as soon as they moved down from Scotland, some 40 or 50 years ago. Initially, Ethel wasn't a great socialiser, but she and Bob were very faithful in attending worship. After Bob died, she started to become more involved and to come to coffee mornings, the Lunch Club and the Bridge Club. Once you got to know Ethel, though, she could be good company with a great sense of humour and a good turn of phrase. I know that as after I got to know her I used to look forward to chatting with her and remember a conversation with her about a year ago after a programme had been on the TV about the war-time bombing of Clydebank. Ethel had some interesting tales of her own from that period - and a few observations as well.

As she became frail and unable to come to church, Ethel still kept up her interest in St Andrew's, looking forward to receiving visitors and to receiving and reading her church magazine. She also appreciated being remembered with the church flowers on occasions. Her faith, this church and her friends here meant a lot to her.

Michael Hodgson



*It is with much sadness that we have to announce the death of Doreen Drylie
on 29 December 2018 peacefully at Adelaide House.
There will be an appreciation of Doreen's life in the March/April issue of the Newsletter.
We send our love and prayers to her family, Tony and Caroline,
their daughter, Hannah and to her many friends.*



Scottish Blessing

Be Ye our Angel Unawares

If after Kirk ye bide a wee,
There's some would like to speak to ye;
If after Kirk ye rise and flee
We' all seem could and still to ye.
The one that's in the seat with ye
Is stranger here than ye, maybe.
All here have got their fears and cares,
Add ye your soul unto our prayers,
Be ye our angel unawares.

LOOKING BACK TO CHRISTMAS



Once again a number of events took place at St Andrew's over the Christmas period and things have gone really well. Decorated to a theme of giving, gifts and God's gift, the church itself looked most attractive and set the right atmosphere extremely well. The Westwood School service was as good as ever with the church being packed to capacity, with a number of parents standing as seating ran out. Our own Carol service went beautifully and having the refreshments before the service so that the candlelight was more effective when we went into church seemed to work well. We were no later finishing and next time we know that we can consider turning the church lights off from the start and having the entire service candlelit. We are also so well blessed with talents in our congregation, resulting in the Carol Service being memorable for all the right reasons.

The Christingle drew a significantly larger congregation than 2017 with regular congregation members being joined by members of Messy Church, visitors and the wider community. As a first at St Andrew's, the Christingles were not pre-made. Everyone had to make their own from kits (yes, we ran out - what a lovely position to be in, to have a service with significantly more there than expected) and this activity in the service went down really well. Moving some pews to make a bit of space was well worth it. What was rather nice is that the service was informal and a lot of fun but ,in addition, there were also some wonderfully moving, quiet moments. A nice balance.

Later that evening it was time for the Midnight Communion at Weybridge. Weybridge had decorated their church beautifully and it looked a treat. The service began with carol singing before moving to a simple communion service with the straw-filled manger being used as the Communion Table and the service being entitled "From Cradle to Table". The joint congregation was joined by members of the community and, together, we welcomed Christmas Day.

So to Christmas Day and a large, joyous congregation was beginning to get close to filling the ground floor at Weybridge. Alex, Thelma, Anna and the Minister all led the service and at the 11¾ hour, Zacc agreed to play the organ after Gordon sadly and worryingly lost the use of his right hand. It was a lovely happy service, a real celebration, with a number of people from the community joining us as well to rejoice in the message of Peas on Earth. It was good to be there.

The icing on the cherry has to be that the floodlighting of St Andrew's was completed in time for Christmas too. The light really did shine out in the darkness from our church - and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Minister



Come and join us
for our Christmas Eve
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



A PIECE OF LOCAL HISTORY

MOUNT FELIX - THE HOSPITAL AND THE TAPESTRY



Gateway to Mount Felix Hospital in its day

THE HOSPITAL

At the outbreak of WW1 in August 1914, the New Zealand High Commissioner in London, Sir Thomas MacKenzie, had called a meeting of his fellow countrymen to discuss how best to assist wounded New Zealand servicemen. An Association was formed, the New Zealand War Contingent Association (NZWCA), with the aim of providing comforts for the troops to include visiting them in hospital and finding accommodation for convalescents. Mount Felix, a mid-19th century Italianate villa by Walton Bridge and set in 18 acres of ground, was requisitioned by the War Office to house British troops. After they had left for the front, the War Office offered the estate to the

NZWCA for use as a military hospital. It became known as No 2 New Zealand General Hospital, Mount Felix and was officially opened in August 1915 by the Sir Thomas MacKenzie, with Lord Plunkett, an ex-Governor of New Zealand in attendance. Lady Islington undertook the conversion and refurbishment into a 350-bedded hospital with a large operating theatre. Eventually, expansion was required and the Oatlands Park Hotel was also acquired.

It was the first hospital established in the United Kingdom specifically for war casualties from New Zealand and was pronounced a 'model hospital' by the British military medical authorities. The cost of the hospital was borne by the people of New Zealand and those New Zealanders living in Britain, with the occasional small grants from the NZWC. On 3 August 1915 King George V, Queen Mary and the Prince of Wales visited the hospital and spoke to every patient New Zealanders soon became a common sight in the area and several married local girls. A new road built from Walton Bridge to the centre of Walton-on-Thames, opened in 1935, was named New Zealand Avenue in memory of Walton's historical link with that far off country on the other side of the world. The Mount Felix Hospital closed its doors in March 1920.

THE TAPESTRY

The Mount Felix Tapestry, the brainchild of Emily Boulting, Artistic Director of the Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre in Walton, was designed by Scottish artist, Andrew Crummy. It has 44 panels, each one telling a different story. Emily writes:

"It's a story that people don't really know that much about, there are a lot of place names in Walton that refer to New Zealand, people just walk down them every day and have no idea what the significance of that is, so we thought we'll change that."

The Tapestry that has brought about that change was designed by Andrew Crummy. Over 500 stitchers contributed to the tapestry, from members of the Embroiderers' Guild to primary school children. Even shoppers in the Heart, visitors to Riverhouse and the Libraries in Elmbridge have had a chance to contribute.

Information from the Internet

Having lived in Walton for 21 years, I had never discovered (nor, I suppose, been sufficiently curious about) the connection between Walton-on-Thames and New Zealand, although I had often reflected that the names New Zealand Avenue and Adelaide Road must have some significance in Walton's history.

The Mount Felix Tapestry is currently on tour in New Zealand. Our thanks to Evelyn McCrorie, who has sent in this touching account of coincidence which has happily filled a gap in my local knowledge - and possibly in that of other friends in our congregation. Evelyn's late husband, Bill, was our minister at St Andrew's from 1970-1989. Bill, of course, had a close connection with New Zealand, having emigrated to that country in 1955 to start a new life. Ed

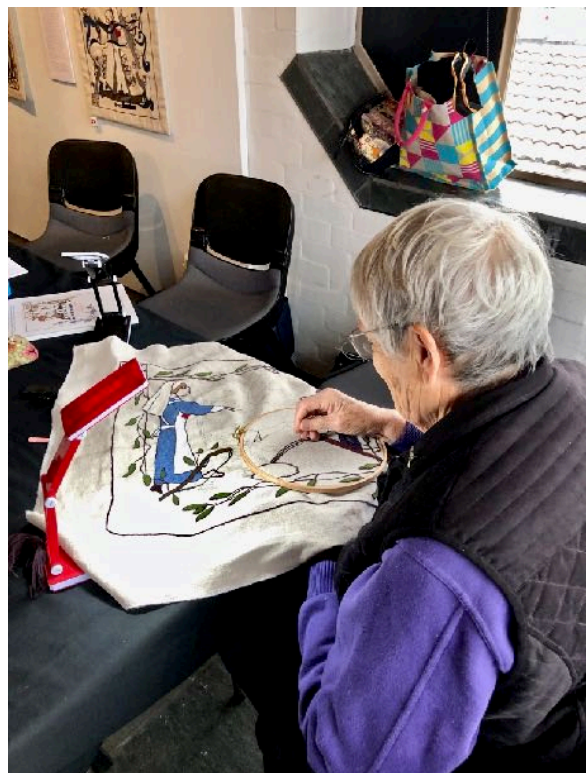
"No doubt, most Waltonians know about the Mount Felix tapestry. However, imagine my surprise when my New Zealand bridesmaid, Tricia, wrote to say she had participated in the sewing process.

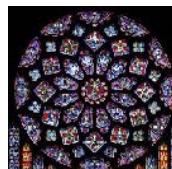
Back in 1975, Bill proudly showed Tricia (at work below), her husband and family the various New Zealand connections in Walton. Fast forward a couple of years ago when Tricia decided to research her mother's father's war history. He had served as a gunner in France and, on becoming sick, had been sent to Mount Felix Hospital to recuperate. Tricia saw the tapestry in Hamilton, New Zealand and she and her sister Barbara were able to participate in the stitching of the last one which is being created in New Zealand and will eventually be in the collection which will return to Walton-on-Thames.

It's a small world!

Kindest regards to everyone.

Evelyn McCrorie"





Sacred Music from Britain & Europe

Featuring John Rutter's Requiem

Conducted by New Musical Director Peter Hopkins

Date: Saturday 9th March 2019 at 7:30pm

Venue: United Reformed Church,
Queen's Road, Weybridge, KT13 9UX

Tickets: £10 (on the door, or book in advance
from 01932 840578)

New members very welcome, please see details below:

A Cappella Singers rehearse on Tuesdays, from 7:45 - 9:45pm in St Mary Oatlands Church Hall, Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge

Would you like to sing with us?

Please contact us on 01932 840578 or visit our website at

<http://acappellaweybridge.org.uk/>

A Cappella Singers is a Registered Charity - 1049088



ArtPeace Christmas Display

The ArtPeace Christmas display proved popular with many. Your Editor was particularly delighted with the impressive black cat on the right of the picture (left), now happily gracing the fireplace in its new home.



Passover food on the Seder plate

Our theme this month was "Where I belong" based on the story of 12-year old Jesus in the temple.

We talked about and illustrated sheets with cut-outs of baby Jesus and drawings of him at the age of 12. The older children sat round and tasted the things Jesus would have had at the Passover meal, remembering the relevance of all items on the Seder plate.



Patience wins the day....

We made scrolls and family coat of arms. Holes were punched round the edge of paper plates and the centres removed.

We asked the children to thread wool back and forward across the plate to create a web. We talked about the way each of us is connected in the community.



... to get you connected to the Web

Experts in their field, Susan Simpson and Jean Rigden, encouraged the children in art and sewing crafts.



Painting with Susan



Making a pencil case with Jean



I just LOVE my pencil case!



Science with Jim

In Church at the Celebration we sang "If I were a butterfly" and "Tell me the stories of Jesus", and heard the story of Jesus being lost. This connected with some of the little ones who recounted their experiences of being lost.

We all enjoyed a meal together before going home. Everyone is welcome to join us on a Messy Church Sunday. There's tea and company available all afternoon. Do pop along if you can.



Anne Fitzgerald



Bridge Builders course
*Changing how we handle conflict,
useful for Lay People and Ministers*

Fleet URC

10.30 am - 2.30 pm

Participants should plan to attend all sessions



Saturday 2 March 2019

1. Let's talk about Conflict
2. Our Theology and Attitudes

Saturday 6 April 2019

3. Communicating Better
4. Getting Unstuck

Saturday 11 May 2019

5. Beyond Default Mode
6. Recognising Emotional Process

Saturday 1 June 2019

7. Changing how we do conflict
8. Becoming Bridge Builders

For further information and to book your place

Please contact: bookings@urcwessex.org.uk

or phone: 023 8067 4513

STOP PRESS – LATEST ARTPEACE THREAT



As if they did not have enough worries, some ArtPeace fields are now under attack from the dreaded so called 'Fall Armyworm' and are anxiously watching their crops, fearing this relatively new pest that recently spread to the southern African nation and has devastated harvests. Artist Shingi has just reported signs of the worm in his field so the rush is on to scrape together some funds to pay for chemicals and rent sprayers for each artist within the next few days to treat their field without delay. Fall Armyworm destroyed 20 percent of the country's maize crop last season, according to government figures, at a time when the country was

recovering from devastating drought that had left more than 4 million people dependent on food aid. These crops constitutes the bulk of our artists' family food supplies for a year so is of vital importance. Some good news in that one of our artists who has been in hiding from army thugs has emerged safely but they stole the remainder of his last year's harvest. His friend was so savagely thrashed that he is in hospital recovering. These beatings often taking place in the middle of the night are still continuing. **JS**



FLOWER POWER

Nan Mercer says:

"I was delighted to receive the beautiful flowers from the Communion Table in November after the arrival of my new great-grandson. They were quite unusual and look stunning. Well done Anna for winning the lovely arrangement!"

So sorry for the delay in publication, Nan! Congratulations to all concerned.
Ed

Anna Crawford writes:

"Through the pages of our newsletter my I say thank you to you all for flowers given to me on a number of occasions in the past months. They always bring the love of St Andrew's with them and are very much appreciated. Also I would like to thank you all for the support, encouragement and prayers that you have given me in the last year. As Michael has said, I am on a journey, and the first steps on that path can be daunting. It is a journey that, whilst being scary, is also exciting, and it is good to know that I have all your kind thoughts behind me. I walk in footsteps of many before me, but am forging my own path. With prayerful thanks."

Christina Coulter says:

"Can I say thank you to St Andrews for the lovely pink roses received recently. Thank you, also, to the minister and to Sue for their visit to meet Hector and myself, which is greatly appreciated."

A message from **Jackie Rodwell** (our organist Zacc's mum):

"Many thanks for the beautiful flowers that you sent me via Zacc. It was a most pleasant surprise and truly appreciated."

A message from **Pat Sims**

"Many thanks for the lovely flowers Irene brought me - beautiful colours - to cheer me up. I am getting better now. Happy New Year to all members and friends! With love and best wishes to you all."

Susan Simpson writes:

"Many thanks for the beautiful bunch of flowers given to me by Irene and provided by Moira - all in different shades of pink."

A message from **Ghislaine Stevenson**:

"I was surprised and delighted when Moira de Kok presented me with a beautiful bunch of bright spring flowers after church on 20 January. They are now brightening up my living room in the same way they welcomed us to St Andrew's that morning. Thank you to both Moira and Anna for their beautiful arrangements and all the members of the congregation who provide fresh flowers for us all to enjoy every Sunday."



COULD YOU BE A FLOWER FAIRY?

Irene Pearson continues to do a great job organising people to deliver church flowers to cheer up those who are ill or just a bit down, maybe after sad news.

Any offers to help Iris carry out this valuable and rewarding task would be most welcome. Thanks so much!

If you think you could spend an hour or two on a Sunday or Monday once a month or even every six weeks, please contact Irene on telephone 01932 882653 or email piris83@yahoo.com

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

sculpture in December ensuring that at least our artist friends had some sort of Christmas – many families in Zimbabwe were not so fortunate (see photo below). The artists were delighted



and relieved to receive dollars to buy a chicken - a rare treat for them. Most meals consist of home-grown vegetables. However, around November to December some families harvest Mupane worms - caterpillars from the Mupane tree when in leaf. The photo below shows artist Herbert's friend Mhizhath with



his lunch. These caterpillars grow into a species of beautiful large but sadly short-lived Emperor moths (left). They are very nutritious, and are reputed to be delicious – orders anyone ☺? Yet another year has passed without any improvement to poor Zimbabweans' standard of living despite the appointment of a new leader. The situation is

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who either donated or bought a sculpture in December ensuring that at least our artist friends had some sort of Christmas – many families in Zimbabwe were not so fortunate (see photo below). The artists were delighted and relieved to receive dollars to buy a chicken - a rare treat for them. Most meals consist of home-grown vegetables. However, around November to December some families harvest Mupane worms - caterpillars from the Mupane tree when in leaf. The photo below shows artist Herbert's friend Mhizhath with



deteriorating and approaching the desperate levels of 2008. A month-long impasse between government and striking junior doctors over pay and conditions has left Zimbabwe's health care system in a critical state, after the government suspended more than 500 doctors and radiographers. Junior doctors earn just \$329 a month, despite many years of training and study and say they cannot support a family on this sum. There is also a chronic shortage of medical supplies and equipment in hospitals. Hundreds of teachers, nurses and senior doctors have



joined this prolonged junior doctors' strike. There is also a chronic shortage of medical supplies and equipment in hospitals. Imagine how ArtPeace cope with no formal employment, simply a daily scramble to raise a few dollars. *Our continued support is vital to all these families and new initiatives may be necessary as raising funds is getting much harder.*

Life changing: The December newsletter featured Lovemore's 14-year-old daughter Enviolata's distress at not being able to attend school and having to work in the fields. Two ladies kindly



responded to her plight so a delighted Enviolata (left), started school in January looking immaculate in her new uniform. Make no mistake, this is a life changer for this young lady! Lots of ArtPeace and friends' children benefit from proceeds of sculpture sales and donations - without an education all these youngsters would be trapped in a life of mediocrity.

Unlucky: Many children unfortunately are not so lucky. Artist Coster on his travels over the festive period, took the above family photo showing a sample of the poorest of the poor unable to attend school as their parents cannot afford

the fees. Tens of thousands of youngsters are in this hopeless situation and face a bleak future.

Maize update: Fields whose seed and fertiliser were donated by great supporters Marlow URC show signs of recovery following recent rainfall after a drought. Photo right shows Fortune's wife Norah enjoying a mango whilst weeding. Sights like this make one's heart sing as a good crop can supply a large family with food for much of the year!

Toller URC, Kettering – also great friends of ArtPeace, sent a donation raised from various church events.



Southwark Cathedral shop has offered two more shelves of selling space making four in total which is tremendous news for the artists as art still plays an important part in their lives.

CAFOD London and Harare offices are excelling themselves at keeping ArtPeace sculptures flowing so all things considered 2019 has got off to a promising start!

Johnston Simpson



MINISTER

The Reverend Michael Hodgson
 The Manse
 3 Elgin Road
 Weybridge
 KT13 8SN
 Tel: 01932 841382
 Email: michael.mah@btinternet.com

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs Anna Crawford
 23 Sheldon Way
 Walton-on-Thames
 KT12 3DJ
 Tel: 01932 244466
 Email: secretary@standrewsurc.org

Website: www.standrewsurc.org

ELDERS' AND STEWARDS' ROTA

FEBRUARY 2019

DATE	ELDERS	STEWARDS
February 3 Minister	Alan Crawford Johnston Simpson	Netta Philip
February 10 Revd David Netherwood	Paula Walsh Irene Pearson	Janet Sommerville James Sommerville
February 17 Minister	Jan de Kok Moira de Kok	Adrienne Cooper
February 24 Revd Michael Hopkins	Carol Lee Hilary Netherwood	Jean Smillie