



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



NEWSLETTER

Volume 76 No 2

MARCH/APRIL 2019



Springtime in Bushy Park

Thou art the Sun of other days. They shine by giving back the rays.

John Keble, The Christian Year: Easter Days

From the Manse

Dear friends

This year, Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, falls on 6 March, so my letter this month is all about Lent. The name "Lent" comes from the old English word "lencten" which itself comes from a Germanic root meaning "spring" or "lengthening", presumably because of the days drawing out. Lent is one of the two seasons within the church's calendar designed to be a time of spiritual preparation, Lent taking its cue from Jesus withdrawing to the wilderness and fasting as he prepared to being in his adult ministry. That's why the theme for the first Sunday in Lent is always the story of the "Temptations in the Wilderness".



Lent lasts for 40 days and a number of traditions include disciplines, such as fasting or giving something up for Lent. The number of days comes from the example of Jesus and from the fasts of Elijah and of Moses. On the Sunday before Lent, we normally remember the story of the Transfiguration, where Jesus was standing with the disciples on the mountain and Moses and Elijah appeared, the two great strands of Judaism (the Law and the Prophets) coming together.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the custom of placing ash, normally in the form of a cross, on the forehead to the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or the dictum "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

If you count the actual number of days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day you'll find that there are more than 40 but that's because Sundays are always feasts of the Resurrection and so can never, officially, be days of abstinence. That being said, many would keep up any Lenten discipline until Easter Day itself. But when does Lent actually end?

Well now, that's a very good question, because there's a number of answers and this is where counting 40 actual days (including or excluding Sundays) isn't hugely helpful. Some traditions hold that Lent stops as Holy Week starts so that the last day of Lent is Palm Sunday. Some traditions hold that Lent stops on Maundy Thursday, which seems logical, and then there are the traditions saying that Lent stops on Holy Saturday. (Little rant of mine - I do wish people didn't refer to the Saturday before Easter Day as "Easter Saturday" - it isn't. Easter Saturday is the Saturday **after** Easter. The Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Day is Holy Saturday. Plebs!!! Rant over!) Finally, there are some who hold that Lent ends on Easter Day, with the First Communion of Easter - although there is also a common tradition that the First Communion of Easter is celebrated as darkness falls on Holy Saturday. There's a very moving service to mark this which starts, possibly outside, in darkness, where a single candle is lit and gradually the Easter message is told and more candles are lit until the church is ablaze with light and the first Communion of Easter is then celebrated, light having overcome darkness.

Traditionally many people have given up something for Lent. In previous years I've given up chocolate and/or alcohol. If I'm honest neither is a great hardship for me and so this year I'm going to give up cheese which will be a far harder task. I love a bit of cheese, Gromit, but cutting down on it would be a really good idea. In recent years, however, the custom of giving something up for Lent has reversed, with people taking something up for Lent, and with Lent being viewed rather more positively.

Well, no matter if you find it more helpful to view Lent positively or negatively, or when Lent actually stops, surely the important thing to remember that Lent is a season of preparation – the joy of Easter will replace the darkness of Good Friday, but very often it's only by experiencing the darkness that we can appreciate the light.

With good wishes,



HOLY WEEK



As the natural year starts to move forward, so too does the ecclesiastical calendar, gathering pace as **Passion Sunday** and the start of Passiontide comes on 7 April, then **Palm Sunday** and **Holy Week** from 14 April.

Our **Maundy Thursday** Service on 18 April is at 7.30 pm at Weybridge URC. There is a service for **Good Friday** at 11.00am at St Andrew's and the Walk of Witness in Weybridge. Like last year, these two services will be "separate" services but there will be a link so that people attending both will find that the Good Friday service builds on the Maundy Thursday service.

EASTER DAY



Our **Easter Day** service is at 10.30am and is led by Anna Crawford. If you would like to attend an earlier service, then there is one at 8.00am at Weybridge, led by the Minister and followed by breakfast. Anyone from St Andrew's who would like to attend will be made very welcome.

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES MARCH 2019

Dates and details for Lenten Meetings will be announced in due course

Friday 1 March	10.00 am	Women's World Day of Prayer St Mary's Parish Church, Church Street, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2TA (see page 7)
Sunday 3 March (Last after Epiphany)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister followed by AGM at 12 noon

! IMPORTANT !

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

Thanks from Anna to everyone who submitted their Annual Report
by the deadline of Sunday 17 February

Any item(s) of a substantive nature to be raised at the AGM under Any Other Business
(AOB) should have been submitted to Anna Crawford by 24 February !

Monday 4 March	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
Tuesday 5 March	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Friday 8 March	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
	12.30 - 2.30 pm	Ladies Who Lunch at Weybridge URC (see page 7)
Saturday 9 March	7.30 pm	A Cappella spring concert at Weybridge URC (see page 6)
Sunday 10 March (Lent 1)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Mrs Thelma Roberts
Tuesday 12 March	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room
 Sunday 17 March (Lent 2)	10.30 am	Joint Sunday Worship for St Patrick's Day at St Andrew's, conducted by the Minister
	3.00 pm	 Messy Church
Monday 18 March	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room

Friday 22 March 10.30 am Prayer Group Garden Room

Sunday 24 March 10.30 am **Sunday Worship conducted by**
(Lent 3) **Mr Graham Pearcey**



Fairtrade after the service



11.00 - 1.00 pm MENCAP Grand Jumble Sale
(see below)

Tuesday 26 March 2.00 pm Ladies' Guild Hersham Room



CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD at 01.00 AM ON SUNDAY 31 MARCH

Sunday 31 March
(Lent 4)

10.30 am

Sunday Worship conducted by
the Minister



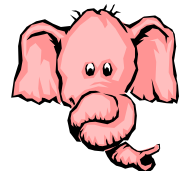
MENCAP GRAND JUMBLE SALE

SUNDAY 24 MARCH 11.00 am - 1.00 pm

Burview Hall, Queens Road, Weybridge KT12 5AB

Clothes, shoes books, DVDs, small furniture, bed linen,
Bric-a-Brac and lots more!

Entrance 50p



Any of the above contributions most welcome but NO ELECTRICAL ITEMS, please!

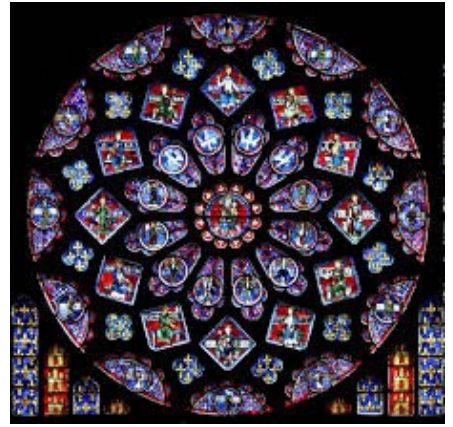
Contact Jean Rigden on 01932 225747



"Now mother had been puzzled for some time to think whatever connection there could be between Easter Day and the Hare, and she could not find out. But the other day a kind friend told her: she could never have been able to think of it herself, it is such a queer reason. The legend is that as the Hare always sleeps with its eyes open, it was the only living creature that witnessed the Resurrection of our Blessed Lord, and therefore for ever afterwards it has become associated with Easter.

The Easter egg is easier to account for; the idea there is, that as the little chicken breaks through the hard shell, and awakes to new life, so Christ broke the bars of death on the first glorious Easter morning. So the simple egg has become a symbol or sign of a great heavenly truth. Even little children can understand this if they think about it, and they will be able to find out other things too that are symbols in the same way."

from The Easter Hare (a German fairytale) by Margaret Arndt



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/](http://acappellaweybridge.org.uk/)**

A Cappella Singers is a Registered Charity - 1049088



**! DON'T FORGET THE
AGM !**

**Sunday 3 March
at 12 noon**



BRIDGE CLUB

**Mondays 4 and 18 March
2.00 pm
Hersham Room**



LADIES' GUILD

**Tuesdays 6 and 20 March
2.00 pm
Hersham Room**

PRAYER GROUP

**Fridays 8 and 22 March
10.30 am
Garden Room**

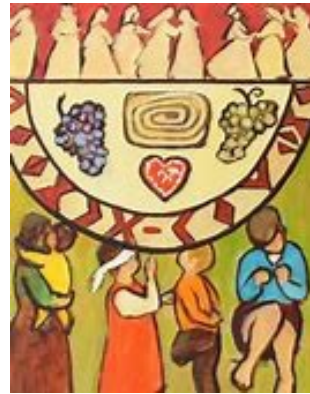


A CAPPELLA SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

**Sacred Music from Britain and
Europe featuring John
Rutter's Requiem**

Saturday 9 March

7.30 pm Weybridge URC



Praying for Slovenia A Service for Everyone

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Friday 1 March 2019 at 10.00 am**

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

The service will be followed by refreshments

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL



**Wednesday 13 March
12.30 - 1.30 pm at Weybridge
URC,
Queens Road, KT13 9UX**

The March concert features
Geoff Tuson, Organist at The
Garrison Church, Aldershot

Bring your own sandwiches
Relax and enjoy the music
Tea and Coffee available

Free entry with retiring collection in aid of
Musicians Benevolent Fund

LADIES WHO LUNCH

**Friday 8 March
12.30 - 2.30 pm
Weybridge URC, Queens Road, KT13 9UX**

Soup, rolls, dessert and coffee,
all for just £4.00

Book your place(s) with Margaret Fautless
on 020 8399 3402/email:

ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk



**CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD
at 01.00 AM ON
SUNDAY 31 MARCH**

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES APRIL 2019

Monday 1 April	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
Tuesday 2 April	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Wednesday 3 April	All Day	Westward School rehearsal and Service
Sunday 7 April (Lent 5 - Passion Sunday)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
Tuesday 9 April	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room
	7.00 - 8.00 pm	Stratus Piano Trio concert at St Andrew's (<i>see page 9</i>)
Friday 12 April	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
	12.30 - 2.30 pm	Weybridge URC - Ladies Who Lunch Queen's Road, Weybridge KT13 9UX (<i>see page 9</i>)
Sunday 14 April (Palm Sunday)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Reverend Roy Bones
	3.00 pm	 Messy Church
Monday 15 April	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Road
Thursday 18 April	7.30 pm	Service for Maundy Thursday Weybridge URC

COPY DATE FOR MAY /JUNE ISSUE WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL

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

Friday 19 April (Good Friday)	10.30 am	Hot cross buns and coffee in the Church Hall, <i>followed by</i>
	11.00	Good Friday service conducted by the Minister
 Sunday 21 April (Easter Day)	10.30 am	Easter Communion Service conducted by Anna Crawford
Tuesday 23 April	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Road
Friday 26 April	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
Sunday 28 April (Easter 2)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Mr Sydney Shore



See the land, her Easter keeping,
Rises as her Maker rose.
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,
Burst at last from winter snows.
Earth with heaven above
rejoices...

~Charles Kingsley



BRIDGE CLUB

Mondays 1 and 15 April
2.00 pm

Hersham Room



LADIES' GUILD

Tuesdays 9 and 23 April
2.00 pm

Hersham Room

PRAYER GROUP

Fridays 12 and 26 April
10.30 am

Garden Room

STRATUS PIANO TRIO CONCERT

Tuesday 9 April 7.00 - 8.00 pm

St Andrew's Church
Hersham Road

Stratus: a fresh take on the Piano Trio, offering
an eclectic mix of classical favourites and the
best of popular music

Featuring Nathaniel Brawn, violin, Sam Grew,
cello, and Zacc Rodwell piano

Entrance Free
Optional donation welcome



Wednesday 10 April

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

12.30 pm - Weybridge URC
Queens Road, KT13 9UX

This month's concert features
David P Oldfield, Organist, Examiner and
Choir Trainer

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

Free entry with retiring collection in aid of
Musicians Benevolent Fund

LADIES WHO LUNCH

WEYBRIDGE URC

FRIDAY 12 APRIL - 12.30-2.30 PM

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

Book your place with Margaret Faultless
Tel: 020 8399 3402

Email:

ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk

LEPROSY MISSION

Last year we sent £300 to The Leprosy
Mission. This is mainly thanks to three regular
donators. There are still 10 million adults and
children suffering from this awful but curable
disease. The money donated buys medicines
to help sufferers combat it.

Thank you to all those who have helped.

Jean Rigden



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 Day 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

Footnote: The late Bill Murray of St Andrew's was involved in setting up this charity

Brownies

9th

Walton

Brownies Spring news

Happy New Year from the Brownies! We returned from our Christmas break refreshed, full of chocolate (thank you!) and ready to get going with another term of fun activities.



This term we are focusing on the skills our Brownies need to be the **Leaders of the Future**.

We have investigated what makes a good leader by having the girls take turns leading their team blindfolded round an obstacle course...



... we have changed the rules to well-known team games and tried to lead others through



... and we have discussed some famous leaders and the qualities we think they have that have made them successful (or not!).

We will finish this set of sessions with a '**We've Got Skills**' talent show where the girls will show off their own skills and talents and try to teach others how to do the things they can do. Should be fun!

By the time you read this we will have had the honour of hosting this year's **World Thinking Day** celebrations at St Andrew's. Each year we come together on what would have been Lord and Lady Baden-Powell's birthdays to celebrate Girlguiding around the world. This year we are basing our celebrations around 'Our Cabana' the Girlguiding World Centre in Mexico.





The Bard

BURNS SUPPER REPORT

Addlestone and District Scottish Society were delighted to welcome 12 members of St Andrew's to their annual Burns Supper, held in St Andrew's Church Hall. Guests were greeted by a piper with a skirl of the pipes. A glass of sherry was then on offer to wet the whistle and warm the cockles on a cold evening.



The skirl of the Pipes



The Haggis was dramatically addressed with a wonderful extra verse:

*But while oor Government's in chaos
And parliamentary jinks dismay us,
And factions a' at odds wad hae us -
The question begs it:
Wad no' a Haggis Union dae us
Mair guid than Brexit?*

The Immortal Memory was delivered in the form of the Burns poem 'Holy Willie's Prayer' with the explanation of the history behind the dispute between Willie and the Church. Toast to the Lassies and reply were also given.



A happy crowd from St Andrew's



Looking after the Lassies

Entertainment came in the form of the Weybridge Male Voice Choir singing two sets of three songs. The highlight was the Addlestone demonstration team giving a medley of Jig, Strathespey and Reel. All enjoyed dancing throughout the evening.



Finishing with a rousing rendition with all the friendship circle, of Auld Lang Syne. it was a wonderful evening full of fun and friendship.

An enthusiastic attendee

Auld Lang Syne



ST PATRICK'S DAY AT ST ANDREW'S

Sunday 17 March

17 March is going to be a special occasion for us because there is going to be a joint pastorate service, at 10.30am at St Andrew's (no service at Weybridge). The couple of united services we've shared together since I came here have been very positive occasions, much enjoyed, and this time we're meeting at St Andrew's.

It's St Patrick's Day and there are people from both Northern and Southern Ireland in both congregations. In the famous hymn "St Patrick's Breastplate" the saint focuses on the power, the strength and the importance of the Trinity - "the Three in one, and one in Three". In one of the verses, he famously acknowledges Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger. As links and friendships develop between our two congregations, it will be good to be together again, to worship together again and to share insights from St Patrick's life and thinking.

Sunday 17 March - 10.30am - United Service at St Andrew's!

If any members need transport from Weybridge to Walton then just have a word with an Elder or a member of the Secretariat. Transport is not a problem.

The Minister



*Stained glass window of St Patrick,
St Benin's Church, Co Galway*

A PRAYER OF ST PATRICK

*Lord, be with us this day,
Within us to purify us;
Above us to draw us up;
Beneath us to sustain us;
Before us to lead us;
Behind us to restrain us;
Around us to protect us.*

(Patrick c 389-461)

Patrick was born in Roman Britain. Calpornius, his father, was a decurion and deacon, his grandfather Potitus a priest, from Banna Venta Berniae, a location otherwise unknown, though identified in one tradition as Glannoventa, modern Ravenglass in Cumbria, in what is now England. Patrick, however, was not an active believer. While in captivity, he worked as a shepherd and strengthened his relationship with God through prayer, eventually leading him to convert to Christianity. After six years of captivity he heard a voice telling him that he would soon go home, and then that his ship was ready. Fleeing his master, he travelled to a port, two hundred miles away, where he found a ship and with difficulty persuaded the captain to take him. After three days' sailing, they landed, presumably in Britain, and apparently all left the ship, walking for 28 days in a "wilderness" and becoming faint from hunger. After Patrick prayed for sustenance, they encountered a herd of wild boar; since this was shortly after Patrick had urged them to put their faith in God, his prestige in the group was greatly increased. After various adventures, he returned home to his family, now in his early twenties. After returning home to Britain, Patrick continued to study Christianity. After returning home, Patrick recounts that he had a vision where he saw a man 'as it were coming from Ireland'. Acting on his vision, he returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary.

from Wikipedia



FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Doreen ("Bobbie") Drylie



Tributes to Doreen were paid by her nephew Tony Redman, her great niece, Hannah, a family friend, Funda and on behalf of St Andrew's, the church that meant so much to her. Before the service, we were given a small candle to light in Doreen's memory. Extracts from the tributes are below.

From the Minister

Doreen was a very special person who will be greatly missed but I hope that when we come to think specifically about her that there will be smiles and nods and laughter too. Doreen had a great sense of humour and I am certain that she would not want us to sit here, po-faced, remembering her with faces which look like "ten pennyworth of God Help us"! Jesus says, 'Set your troubled hearts at rest'. And I think that he's saying that to us right now. So let's remember Doreen and let's celebrate her life.

Doreen was a remarkable lady who lived a long life and who was born into a very different world. When she was born the battles of the first World War were still being fought and many lives were yet to be lost before peace finally came. She grew up during the depression of the 20s. She lived through another World War. She enjoyed a strong marriage but knew the sadness of losing her own children. She knew the sadness of losing her sister yet opened her heart to others who gave her great joy and great pride and to whom she gave great love. Doreen lived a long and a remarkably independent life. Telling her she couldn't do something was like a red rag to a bull. Although parts of her body failed, her mind remained strong and her determination a source of great strength. With help, Doreen retained her independence and that meant so much to her.

She was a very special woman whose faith and whose trust in Jesus was total. Suffice it to say now that Doreen is someone who is going to be sorely missed by us all which makes me think of something which Kahlil Gibran writes in his book, *The Prophet*. Gibran says:

*When you are sorrowful, look into your hearts and you will see
That for which you weep has, till now, been your delight.*

I think that's a helpful thought today. Doreen truly has been our delight so let's all now spend a few moments quietly with our own thoughts and memories, before we come to the actual committal, remembering the lady who has been, and who still is, our delight.

From Tony Redman

Doreen, was known affectionately to the family as "AB" standing for "Auntie Bobbie", or by some as just "Bobbie", or Mrs Fudge", or Mrs Rabbit, or "Margaret", although the last name might have been due to a case of mistaken identity or short sightedness on behalf of the enquirer, was the eldest daughter of a butcher from Balham in South London, called Gordon Cooke. His wife Dorothy was the daughter of a competing butcher on the other side of Balham High Road. And how her parents ever managed to do their courting is anybody's guess. She left school at 15 and went to work in Bantalls department store at Kingston, and much later on at Hackbridge and Hewitts electrical company in Hersham as a book keeper, where she met and fell in love with James Drylie, known as Jimmy, from Glasgow. They were married in 1950 and moved to Wolsey Drive where they lived together until he died of Alzheimer's disease in 1987. Married life was one of devotion and sadness which came early on in their marriage with two pregnancies both of which ended with still born children. She also outlived all three of her younger siblings. When my own mother died, she became a sort of surrogate mother, looking after me together with the other assorted relatives who shared the house in Molesey Road. About 55 years ago she agreed to become guardian to two young girls who attended a school for the deaf in Sussex. Fiona was the tom boy, while Funda was the intelligent one, who went on to marry Ebrahim and produce a remarkable family.

She loved animals, especially toy poodles. She owned a succession of them, which she carried round in the front basket of her bicycle. The dogs went everywhere with her, and much later when she became a volunteer at Princess Alice Hospice, Heidi went too, starting off as a stroking dog, and finishing up as assistant receptionist "K9". After Jimmy died, she bought a car and delivered meals on wheels, and tea and sympathy wherever needed. She held the family record for

driving from Walton to Bury St Edmunds, in one hour 45 minutes. One day she arrived very annoyed that the police had caught her speeding in Bushy Park in the early hours, doing a stately 30 in the 20 mile an hour limit, but no amount of arguing with them got her off the points.

We have often asked ourselves what the secret was of her longevity and I think some of it must come down to a firm faith in God, a constantly thankful heart and a wicked sense of humour. When her eyesight deteriorated, it put an end to making stuffed rabbits, mending teddy bears, and of the fudge and cakes and pies, but it didn't stop her finding five-pound notes on her green carpet at home, and memorably correctly identifying the gender of a small dog on the opposite side of a main road from a speeding car. "How did you do that Auntie"? We asked: "Well darling, it's got its leg cocked...", she said.

She has been blessed with a list of people who have looked after her over the years, including Sue, Shamim, Vaska, Deborah and others and Teresa, who looked after her more or less to the end, patiently and constantly, as well as the staff at Adelaide House where she stayed for the last six weeks of her life. At the beginning of every of a phone call, I would always ask if she was behaving herself. Certainly not" she would reply, with an air of indignation, followed by a giggle. The conversation would always end with family pleasantries and conclude with "Well, take care Auntie"...to which she would reply, "care or gin darling, care or gin". If there is any gin or Baileys in Heaven, I am sure she will be very pleased, and if there is a supply of kapok for stuffing small furry creatures, and the ingredients for making heavenly fudge, then she will be well happy, and so will the rest of Heaven.



From Hannah Redman

My earliest memories of Auntie Bobbie involve food, creativity, kindness, laughter and immense generosity which for me summarises the incredible person that she was. The smell of braising lamb filling her house, cooked for hours in her beloved slow cooker. Bags of little presents – usually colouring books, crayons and sweeties - for my sister Kim and I left on the backs of our dining table chairs, even when we were going down to comfort her and we had been strictly told not to expect any of the usual surprises. Auntie arriving at our Cottage in Suffolk with huge slabs wrapped in silver foil – fudge; chocolate, vanilla or rum and raisin, the consistency and taste of which I cannot forget nor match in quality. Wonderful tray bakes, the likes of which Mum and I are still trying to recreate. Receiving shoe box parcels from the post man at the gate of The Cottage that would contain a beloved dolly that had gone to Auntie's doll hospital to be fixed and was returned with a new knitted outfit and a packet of mini cheddars. Or the special day that a certain bear called Edward, a dog called "Barclay" and then later "Clare Jo" arrived in my life, teddies made with exceptional skill and talent and to this day remain among my most treasured possessions. I once heard someone say that parts of this building had been funded from teddies and fudge!

Auntie and I grew closer when I spent what felt like endless hot, summer weeks with her in my school holidays as an early teenager. We would get up to so much mischief in her beloved Peugeot, the little pug that never seemed to go fast enough for her. Day trips to the coast, fights with John Rodden over the last of the treacle tart, afternoons on the swing seat eating mars bar ice creams and watching Concorde take off, being spoilt with shopping trips in Kingston, walks by the river with Holly the dog, successor to Heidi. However, the capers that had the single biggest impact on my life were delivering meals on wheels with her every week, something she continued to do until she had to give up driving at the age of 85. I remember being terrified of old people until I saw the love, kindness and devotion that she applied to each and every visit. Her struggling up the stairs to a 3rd floor flat to deliver a meal to an isolated lady almost 10 years younger than her. The kind old man who gave us a box of chocolates which Auntie gratefully accepted, later discovering to our disappointment that he had sucked and re-wrapped every single one. I think these were the early formative years for my future career in Occupational Therapy; a career that by coincidence I began on her birthday in 2004 and has continued as a passion in me for the outcomes of older people trying to live independently in their own homes.

The later chapters of Auntie's life have been hard on all of us, but not least on Auntie. Her church community brought her so much comfort in these later years and the times that I brought her here were highlights for us both. I have met and treated thousands of elderly people in my work life; never have I met anyone who could match Auntie for the rollercoaster combination of fierce independence, strong will, tenacity, enduring and often inappropriate sense of humour, and stoic pragmatism in the face of challenge. Her body and sometimes her mind let her down so many times, but her spirit remained resolutely determined to first reach 100, and then to see her family settled and happy. I am so grateful to have been loved by her, and she has set for me a wonderful example of how to live a Christian life with integrity and a cheeky glint in the blue eyes. She loved life, she loved all people, she loved her family and we loved her.

From Funda Saleh

I first met our beloved Aunt Doreen when my school friend Fiona asked me to spend weekends with her at Aunt Doreen's home when Fiona and I were boarding at Mill Hall School for the deaf. At the age of seven years of age I enjoyed staying with her and her husband Uncle Jim every 3 weeks even when Fiona and her family emigrated to New Zealand. I have so many happy memories of my time with Aunt Doreen especially with her warm and kind personality - she cooked me delicious foods and got me a bicycle so that we both go out daily. Every Friday I accompanied Aunt Doreen to visit her mother and brother Basil - this was when I met Tony and his Dad, Alan! Needless to say that we all had such happy times together. I have been telling Ebrahim so many stories of our fun at Aunt Doreen's with playing games, picnic outings, dog walks, cycle rides, etc. Like everyone else my life has been greatly blessed with Aunt Doreen's presence and Ebrahim feels the same when I introduced him to Aunt Doreen. Furthermore my parents and my brothers plus our spouses and children got to know this wonderful lady who would always enquire after them every time I visited her. Ebrahim and I thank God for a wonderful friend, Aunt Doreen, and may she rest in eternal peace. Amen.

From Norma Reid

When I think of Doreen, I think I might speak for many of us when I remember her as kind and caring, person, refreshingly down to earth, upbeat about life in general, not forgetting that wicked sense of humour, incredibly hospitable with her many friends and someone whose family meant everything to her, as did her church. In my experience, she always seemed to be delighted to see you or to hear from you on the phone. I can see her now, smartly dressed smartly for church, more often than not in her favourite colour that suited her so well - pale blue.

I first came across Doreen in 1961 when my mother and I moved to Walton from Glasgow following the death of my father and we ended up at number 28 Wolsey Drive, down the road from Doreen and Jimmy at No 9. My mother, Ruby, always said had it not been for the wonderful support she encountered at St Andrew's, she cannot imagine how she would have managed. Doreen played a major role in this respect. She was always there with a cheerful greeting and an invitation for a cup of tea on a dreich afternoon or a warming sherry after church, after which my mother and I would walk all of the few hundred yards home with a spring in our step. Barbara Rodgers remembers that Doreen often enjoyed a cup of tea with her mother, Janet McEwen on a Saturday afternoon. After tea, Mrs McEwen would ask Doreen if she fancied a sherry before going home. Doreen would say, "It isn't 6 o'clock yet, isn't it too early for a sherry?" At this, Mrs McEwen would quietly get up and put the clock forward to 6 o'clock and say, "It isn't too early now!"



In a contribution for the Newsletter four years ago, Doreen gave a potted account of her life, a valuable insight to her personality. I quote: "Granny Cooke never worked and had servants. A special maid dressed impeccably in black with a lacy, white apron, was in charge of meeting and greeting visitors. The kitchen staff wore blue and were consigned to the basement. Lovely Grandpa Cooke used to tie bananas on to a plant by the wall and add it to an apple tree and then say to the children: "Shall we go and see whether the apple tree has grown bananas?" This was because we didn't like apples." And again: "On Sundays we went to church in the morning, Sunday school in the afternoon and church again in the evening." She enjoyed being a nurse during World War II in the Balham area which involved nursing wounded soldiers and, to quote, "often on our knees, due to the acute shortage of beds, preparing them for the doctors, doing their dressings and medication." She married Jimmy at St Andrew's. Doreen wrote: "I wore a pale blue suit, as a wedding dress would have been too expensive. There was no official reception but all guests were welcomed at my house in Molesey Road, near Hersham station, after the wedding."

Vaska lights a candle for Doreen in her church in Bulgaria

Doreen became an Elder in March 1973 and we believe she might have been the first lady Elder at St Andrew's. She was very involved in the many activities offered by the church, including the then annual and popular Christmas Bazaar, a highlight of the Christmas season. Doreen's teddy bears of all sizes with knitted dungarees sat resplendent on the Guild stall, along with her inimitably delicious home-made fudge.

Doreen loved to entertain her friends and when this became impossible she would take them out. One of her favourite haunts was a restaurant opposite the Green at Hersham, San Marco, and it was there that Tony and his family organised her 90th birthday celebration, a truly memorable occasion. Its charming Italian owner treated her like a Queen, which was no less than she deserved. Doreen has brightened the lives of all of us who were fortunate enough to know her and we are thankful for it.

ART HEALS

SHARED LOAD. I took time out these difficult past few days to paint 'Shared Load' for my cousin because it heals and is such a stress reliever. Though the theme coincides with recent events, it was a channel for both my anger and uncertainty of the times we were going through. Art heals.

Christine Ndoro - ArtPeace (Zimbabwe)



We had a lovely afternoon. We made parachutes which we took into church and dropped them from the pulpit to make them fly. We played with a large multi-coloured parachute. The children had to make a church out of building blocks. The story was about Gideon and how he did not have the courage or confidence to do what God had asked him to do. When we went in to the church, we talked about having self-confidence and that it had to be the right kind of confidence.



Having fun with a large parachute



Dropping parachutes from the pulpit

We put the ingredients in a large bowl: courage, fear, kindness, love, trust and - most important of all - God's voice in our head telling us how we should behave. We prayed for God to help us listen to his voice and be good people.

Jean Rigden

STOP PRESS: 19 February 2019 - Extract from an update and with the kind permission of: Ben Freeth, Executive Director, Mike Campbell Foundation Harare, Zimbabwe

A month after the violent crackdown in Zimbabwe, soldiers continue to patrol the streets and monitor our movements



HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE REMAIN IN THE JAILS

Dear All, The situation here in Zimbabwe remains very difficult. Prices are going up all the time. Shortages of fuel, bread, flour, cooking oil and cash in the banks remain dire. The army and police are still moving around targeting individuals. Every large commuter bus has a number of soldiers and police on board with guns, controlling conversations. The military state is very real. Hundreds of innocent people remain in the jails or undergoing state persecution trials. We have managed to help feed and look after some of them. Your generosity has been invaluable in this regard.

Those that have been tortured or raped by soldiers are unable to get justice in any way. Doctors have been intimidated to the extent that two members of the Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights who spoke to the press had to flee the country. Clinics looking after and nursing victims have even been raided! In an interview with television news channel France24 on 10 February, President Mnangagwa asked women to prove they were raped by the soldiers - but with a compromised and complicit justice system and doctors on the run, this is no easy task! Furthermore, rape as a deliberate strategy has long been used by the ruling party to engender fear in the population, so further victimisation is a very real possibility. Since the shutdown began on 14 January, the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum has documented at least 1,803 violations of human rights, with the Zimbabwe National Army and Zimbabwe Republic Police being implicated in all categories of violations. These include at least 17 extra-judicial killings, 17 cases of rape or other violations of a sexual nature, 26 abductions, 61 displacements, 81 assaults consistent with gunshot attacks, at least 586 assaults and torture, inhuman and degrading treatment - including dog bites, 954 arrests and detention (including dragnet arrests), amongst other violations. Some of the injuries are absolutely horrific. Despite the economic meltdown, the President flew to Ethiopia for the African Union summit on a luxury 787-8 Dreamliner private jet which costs millions of US\$ to hire.

THIS AND THAT

TRONDENES CHURCH - A NORWEGIAN GEM



I have just returned from an Arctic adventure during which, apart from marvelling at the truly amazing Northern Lights, I visited this beautiful little church, a short drive north from the village of Harstad which is some 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle. It is said to be the world's worst northernmost medieval church dating from c 1250 (architect unknown). When you approach Trondenes Church, you will notice the massive wall around it. Trondenes played a decisive role in many events during Viking times, so it is easy to imagine (albeit this was proved not to be true by modern research) that the wall was part of an essential defensive system

against bandits that might be sailing by. In fact, the wall was probably set up to scare off anyone who might have had bad intentions. When viewed from the sea, the design made the wall seem stronger than it actually was. The current stone building was completed around 1250 AD and is presumed to be the third church on the site, the first stave church having been built in the 11th century. Its position by the waterside and, when I saw it, at sunrise and in deep snow, made it all the more magical.

A catholic priest took a short service with a reading of Psalm 23 in English and in German and we sang two verses of the hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of Creation", the first in English and the second in German. The church is known for its rich decorations, including three gothic triptychs, and its intensely painted baroque pulpit is equipped with an hourglass to allow the minister to time long sermons! The organ dates from the late 18th century and traces of medieval frescoes can be seen in the choir section. The church had been catholic for some 300 years before it became Protestant with the Reformation. The church was considered to be the most important Roman Catholic Church north of the stunning Nidaros Cathedral, in Trondheim (building began in 1070 as a memorial to the burial place of King Olav II of Norway). Trondenes also served as a spiritual bastion against the Russian Orthodox in the East.

Ed (with a little help from my diary, Wikipedia and Hurtigruten)



HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY JAKE!

Jake Houlihan, whose baptism we celebrated at St Andrew's on Sunday 3 June last year, came to church with his family including proud grandmother Shirley McGrath, on 17 February, on the occasion of his first birthday. I am reliably informed that they came with an "absolutely amazing HUGE home-made chocolate and vanilla marble cake smoothed in whipped buttercream frosting, mini-marshmallows, maltesers and smarties, which was distributed with coffee after the service". Portions were said to have been more than generous! *Ed*

NAME THAT TUNE

Sometimes at Sunday worship when Zacc is unable to be with us (especially at short notice) Paula or Anna have to supply the music. No easy task as some of the hymn music has a copyright and can't be used. If you don't know the tune just do your best. A few out-of-tune notes - or even if you read the words without singing - I'm sure God will not mind!
Thank you Paula and Anna for what can be a frustrating job.

Jean Rigden

Since Jean contributed this suggestion and token of appreciation to Paula and Anna, Michael did, in fact, step in to replace Zacc at the last minute on 17 February to play the organ and piano for the service and, by all accounts (as I wasn't present) it worked pretty well! As well as shuttling nimbly up and down between organ and the front of the church, he conducted the entire service with his usual vim and vigour, including to accompany everyone in singing Happy Birthday to Shirley's little grandson, Jake. Ed

A CAUTIONARY TALE

In the old days, ministers did not mince matters. One in the course of a sermon said, "A've kent o' better folk than you, efter they were deed, in the place where the worm diet not and the fire is not quenched, callin' out tae the Lord in their agony, 'O Lord, A niver kent it would be as bad as this.' And the Lord, out of His love and tender mercy, vouchsafed the answer, 'Weel, ye ken noo.'

From The Scottish Bedside Book compiled by W R Kermack, 1950, W & A K Johnston Limited, Edinburgh and London

A PRAYER

*The Maker's blessing be ours
On our road
On our Journey
Guiding us, cherishing us.*

*The Son's blessing be ours
Wine and water
Bread and stories
Feeding us, challenging us,*

*The Spirit's blessing be ours
Wind and fire
Joy and wisdom
Comforting us, disturbing us.*

*God's blessing be ours:
The blessing of the pilgrims
All the nights and days
Of our journey home.
Amen*

with thanks to the Shottery parish magazine, 'Searchlight'



FLOWER POWER

David and Mavis Netherwood much enjoyed their recent visit to St Andrew's and wish to express their thanks for the gorgeous bunch of flowers received after the service. The pink roses, chrysanthemums and white carnations were a joy to behold. They look forward to returning a little later in the year.

Nan Mercer writes:

"A big thank you for the beautiful flowers from the Communion Table, brought to me by Irene. I enjoyed her visit very much, having been indoors for weeks. The flowers are still lovely and give me pleasure. With my thanks and best wishes."

Ann Tranquillini-Gay says:

"I would like to pass on my thanks to the members of St Andrew's URC for giving me a lovely bunch of flowers from the Communion Table. I came on the Sunday just after Ian's 3rd Anniversary and to remember his Birthday on 12 February. I felt very welcome. The flowers are still looking fresh!"

Anne Lewis writes:

"I was very pleased to be given a spray from those donated by Netta recently. They blended in very well with my colour scheme - rather better than some "passed their best" daffodils - and they lasted well."

A message from **Dorothy Rushworth**:

"A belated thank you to St Andrew's for the lovely roses which dear Irene surprised me with in the Church Hall, some Sundays past. I was indeed touched by your kind thought."

Norma (aka Ed) was delighted to receive some of the flowers from the arrangement seen above a week before she went on holiday for 12 days. On her return, she was able to re-arrange a good half of them that had lasted an incredible three weeks! Thank you.

A message from **Hilary Netherwood**:

"I was absolutely delighted when Moira De Kok handed me some beautiful white flowers from Church on Sunday 3 February. It was a lovely surprise and very much appreciated. Many thanks for this kind gesture."

Jackie Rodwell has much appreciated the flowers she has received from various church members over the last week or so and hopes to be in church soon.

Susan Simpson says:

"Many thanks for the beautiful flowers sent to me by Moira. I enjoyed painting them."



*We were so very sorry to hear of the death on 14 January of Janet Lilian Rowlands, sister of Jackie, mother of our organist, Zacc.
We send our love and thoughts and prayers to all of her family.*

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT COULD NOT GET ANY WORSE: January saw many towns and cities in turmoil again as the cost of fuel increased by 150% and the price of many basic commodities was beyond the means of poor Zimbabweans. The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, the largest labour organization in the country, called for a three-day



national stay-away protest action and many took to the streets to protest. Armed soldiers, firing live ammunition, appeared on the streets of Zimbabwe's towns and cities. A reputed 17 people were killed with numerous beatings and arrests. This photo of protesters being tear-gassed in the street was taken before the Internet and social media were shut down and the country went into lockdown. Artist Christine reported. 'Hi Mr Simpson.

On Saturday we woke up to the news that a young man had been murdered. His brains were splashed on the road at the entrance of a bar near where I stay. His brother came to identify his body close to noon time. It is suspected he was killed in the area behind the bar and had his body thrown at the front of it. The following day, we woke up to the sound of hovering helicopters. We went to look for bread at \$3 a loaf but all the 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 a truck full of riot police stopped at the same bar where the young man's body was found, and the uniformed forces began disembarking. We walked quickly home with my daughter. 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.' The young man in photo (right), was savagely beaten and sought medical attention at Silveira House. For days afterwards soldiers visited homes in the dead of night dragging innocent men and women from their homes then beating them. ArtPeace members were so frightened that some left their homes to hide and sleep in their maize fields.



Artist Mike said: 'Sometimes I think that Zimbabwe is a cursed country! Tears on our cheeks everyday - nothing to eat – no money for clothing, shelter, school fees and most of all Medicare.'

Artist Lovemore stated: 'We use art as a therapy to our problems and as sculptors have a lot to tell the world. **However, John we are short of raw colourful stones - please mention this to our friends.** We cannot fight this brutal government, but our art will tell the whole world what is happening here and by so doing we will be healing ourselves.'

A CLOSE ESCAPE: It's one thing after another for our artist friends. Last newsletter, I mentioned that rainfall had arrived in the nick of time to nourish their crops: seed and fertiliser



being provided by Marlow URC. Then, disaster as a form of caterpillar called the fall armyworm started to attack their fields. This pest, rampant in much of Africa,

quickly devastates crops by eating the heart of the plant. ArtPeace turned to their UK friends for



help - once again Marlow & Kettering URCs came up trumps and within a few days had sent me enough money for ArtPeace to buy chemicals (left) and to rent sprayers (right). The artists and families worked quickly and hard - the danger looks to be contained. Below - Ignatius inspecting his crop.

Message to our UK

friends: We as ArtPeace extend our heartfelt gratitude for the kind donations made to our group at a crucial time in our lives. When the stomach is



fortified, we find strength to work for ourselves and our families: now even more so because we



have been enabled through you to diminish the effect of the fall army worm which has ravaged our country. Your donation came in time to cheer us up in the aftermath of the violence we suffered at the hands of uniformed forces. Though things are hard and painful here, we dare hold on to hope for a brighter day. This is our home and our lives and livelihood

are here. We find strength in the love and compassion you continue to show us. Your support has gone a long way in supporting ourselves and our immediate and extended families.

May God bless you all and replenish the source from which you gave.

With love, ArtPeace Zimbabwe

Johnston Simpson



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ELDERS' AND STEWARDS' ROTA

MARCH 2019

DATE	ELDERS	STEWARDS
March 3 Minister	Irene Pearson Anna Crawford	Jean Rigden
March 10 Mrs Thelma Roberts	Anne Fitzgerald Sue Groves	Nancy Hampton
March 17 Minister	Paula Walsh Johnston Simpson	Dorothy Rushworth
March 24 Mr Graham Pearcey	Anna Crawford Alan Crawford	Marigold Crampton
March 31 Minister	Jan de Kok Moira de Kok	Netta Philip