



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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 76 No 4

JULY/AUGUST 2019



"At the beach, life is different. Time doesn't move hour to hour but mood to moment. We live by the currents, plan by the tides, and follow the sun."

Sandy Gingras

Dear Friends



I've been ticking a few things off my bucket list recently, all of which demanded of me an act of considerable bravery. I've long wanted to visit the Isle of Wight and to go around Osborne House. I've also always thought that leaving Southampton Docks and sailing down Southampton Water sounded hugely romantic and would be such a fun thing to do - the gateway to a great adventure. The problem is that sailing anywhere involves boats and yours truly does not do boats, very big style. (Guess who's been sea-sick on the car ferry which crosses Lake Windermere.) You'll therefore appreciate that every last ounce of courage was called upon a few weeks ago as Mum, Janet and I boarded the ferry and set sail on our holiday to the Isle of Wight. As the ferry began to glide out from its berth the sound of the ship's hooter was drowned out in my mind by the strains of "Eternal Father, strong to save" and "Nearer my God, to Thee." This was me being super brave. Thankfully my sea legs were not tested too much since we were granted, "A calm sea and a prosperous voyage" and, for the benefit of the Scots amongst you (and anyone else who knows Tomas Campbell's poem, "Lord Ullin's Daughter" I am pleased to report that no "waters wild went o'er (this) child, and (none) were left lamenting."

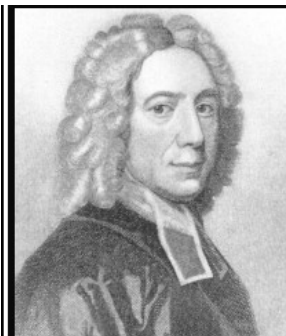
Sailing down Southampton Water was just as marvellous as I hoped it would be. Don't ask me why but it was just great and as we gently made our progress there was another hymn going through my mind. It wasn't anything to do with "foaming deep", "rock and tempest" or the Titanic. It was Isaac Watts's "There is a land of pure delight" (R&S 668). According to tradition, the inspiration came to Watts one summer day in the early 1700s whilst he was gazing across Southampton Water with the pleasant meadows of Netley stretching out on the opposite side, although it is also suggested that he was looking towards the Isle of Wight instead. I rather suspect that my view was significantly changed from that of Watts, but the romance still stirred in my soul.

Mum, Janet and I were blessed with wonderful weather whilst we were away. We had rented a lovely cottage with a beautiful cottage garden and a really great view. As soon as we left the more built-up North of the island we were in the "sweet fields beyond" and I think that we all thought that the island was a super place to be. On a couple of occasions, we went up on St Boniface Downs, the highest place on the island, from which you get the most incredible view. Again Watts's words went through my mind as we climbed, "where Moses stood and viewed the landscape o'er". Having spent an idyllic week there and having had no problems sailing over I even began to lose my fear of the return and so sailed back up Southampton Water like an old salt. Two gardens though will stay in my mind for a long time yet : Ventnor Botanic Gardens" and "Mottistone Gardens". Both were places of "pure delight" and I fully intent to return sometime, even though this "timorous mortal" may well still "shrink to cross this narrow sea". Boats and I have a lot of previous history.

So, a few more ticks on the bucket list. "Been there, done that" and even got some plants instead of a T-shirt! Once more Watts's vision and anticipation of heaven came to life after more than 300 years and the words of that hymn stirred and moved me again.

With all good wishes,

Michael

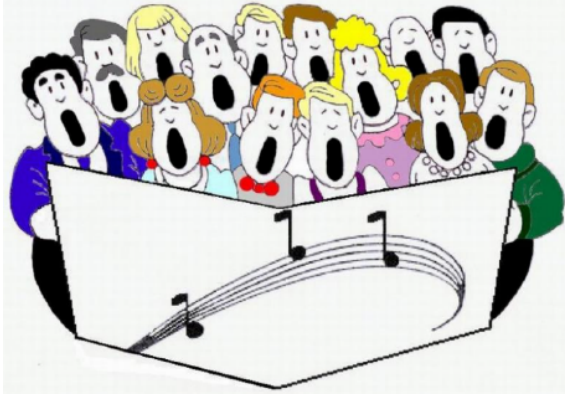


There is a land of pure delight,
Where saints immortal reign;
Infinite day excludes the night,
And pleasures banish pain.

(Isaac Watts)

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

4TH OF AUGUST@WEYBRIDGE URC



It's become tradition (well, I've done it for the last two years) to do something a bit different on "Bike Race Sunday" and so this year the service will explore a little of our tradition of singing hymns in worship. Why do we sing them? What's the story? What's in our hymnbooks? Where do they come from? Which is the oldest hymn in our book? How have things developed and changed over the centuries?

As is also tradition, it won't be a heavy service and there will be lots of congregational participation. So, put this in your diary. Do come and why not bring a friend? I promise that it will be a Brexit-free Zone and that there will be no mention of the current contest within the Conservative Party to elect a new leader and Prime Minister. I also predict that it will be better than what's on the telly.

So, 4th August 6.30pm @ Weybridge

Put it in your diary and do come and do bring a friend!

It all depends on your point of view ...

A lady from Fife has two versions of an early-morning prayer.

English version: Lord, grant that I may not be like porridge, stiff, stodgy and hard to stir; but like cornflakes, crisp, fresh and ready to serve.

Scottish version: Lord, grant that we may not be like cornflakes, lightweight, brittle and cold, but like porridge, warm, comforting and full of goodness.

Take your choice!


All free!

The nursery teacher decided to tell her class about democracy.

"We live in a great country," she began. One of the things we should be happy about is that, in this country, we are all free." One little boy stood up and looked indignant. "I'm not free," he protested. "I'm four."

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES JULY 2019

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

Tuesday 2 July	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Saturday 6 July	7.30 pm	Music for a Summer Evening Weybridge URC <i>(see page 7)</i>
Sunday 7 July <i>(Pentecost 4)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
Wednesday 10 July	12.30 - 1.30 pm	Lunchtime Organ recital at Weybridge URC with David Markby, Joint Organist, High Cross Church (URC), Camberley <i>(see page 7)</i>
Friday 12 July	12.30 - 2.30 pm	People Who Lunch Weybridge URC <i>(see page 7)</i>
Sunday 14 July <i>(Pentecost 5)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Anna Crawford
Sunday 21 July <i>(Pentecost 6)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
	3.00 pm	 Messy Church
Sunday 28 July <i>(Pentecost 7)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Mr Sydney Shore



From the Wessex URC Synod Office

Dear friends

Following the discussions at March Synod, the Children's and Youth Work Committee is in the very early stages of considering the venue and content of a Synod Day in 2021.

We have created a brief survey (just 4 questions) to gather views and opinions about a Synod Day, and would be grateful if you could forward this to members and adherents of your church.

We'd be pleased to hear the views of all ages as this will be an all-age event.

The survey is available at : <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GPVHDNX>

All responses are anonymous - we'd be grateful if we could receive comments **by 15th July**.

Alison Marshall
on behalf of the Children's and Youth Work Committee

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES AUGUST 2019

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

Sunday 4 August (Pentecost 8)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
	6.30 pm	Ride London Evening Service at Weybridge URC conducted by the Minister (see page 3)
Friday 9 August	12.30 - 2.30 pm	Ladies Who Lunch Who Lunch Weybridge URC
Sunday 11 August (Pentecost 9)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Mrs Thelma Roberts
Wednesday 14 August	12.30 pm	Lunchtime Organ recital at Weybridge URC with Christopher Beechey, Organist, St Margaret's Church, Northam Head of Performance, Kingsley School, Bideford

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE WEDNESDAY 14 AUGUST

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

Email: aristocats.2000@gmail.com

Sunday 18 August (Pentecost 10)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
No Messy Church!		
Sunday 25 August (Pentecost 11)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Reverend David Netherwood

NOTE: ROAD CLOSURES 4 AUGUST - PRUDENTIAL RIDE LONDON CYCLE RACE

Extensive road closures can be expected in the area throughout the day.
Visit <https://www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk> for the very latest information





Crosses on the hillside

We took Easter as our theme in March. Children and parents made pictures of the crosses on the hillside, decorated hard boiled eggs which we rolled in church. We waved palm branches whilst singing 'We have a king who rides a donkey'. We made cakes with the empty tomb illustrated by a half doughnut on green coloured coconut to represent grass. We spattered paint over globe pictures to denote a troubled world. The children all went home with Easter eggs and palm crosses.



Our troubled world



Painting flames

Meeting a week after Pentecost Sunday, we decided to celebrate the Church's birthday. We made cup cakes decorated with strawberry flames a candle and Beryl taught us how to ice using a piping bag. Even I took up the challenge!

We painted flames with forks instead of brushes, and made flame hats. We welcomed a Chinese student who had picked up a flier in the library and was interested to see what it was. She ended up helping the children make sun catchers.



Strawberry flame cupcakes



Making sun catchers



A flame hat for Ascot?



All ages take part

We enjoyed our time of worship and our meal together. Despite its being Father's Day we had a goodly number, all regulars. *Anne Fitzgerald*



THE SUMMER HOLS ARE HERE AGAIN!

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



Music for a Summer Evening

*Bushes & Briars,
Bluebirds & Beaches*

Saturday 6th July, 7.30pm
United Reformed Church Hall,
Queens Road,
Weybridge KT13 9UX

TICKETS £ 10.00

For more details

Contact 01932 840578

A Cappella Singers is a Registered Charity 1049088
www.acappellaweybridge.org.uk



LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITALS

Wednesday 10 July

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

This month's concert features David Markby,
Joint Organist at High Cross Church (URC),
Camberley

Wednesday 14 August

Christopher Beechey, Organist at St Margaret's
Church, Northam and Head of Performance,
Kingsley School, Bideford, is our musician today

Bring your sandwiches - enjoy the music

Tea and coffee. Free entry. Retiring collection
for Musicians Benevolent Fund



CHANGE OF ADDRESS !

Hilary Netherwood has moved to:

97 Westcar Lane
Hersham
Walton-on-Thames
KT12 5ES

Tel: 01932 840578 (unchanged)



LUNCH AT WEYBRIDGE URC 12.30 - 2.30 PM

FRIDAY 12 JULY PEOPLE WHO LUNCH

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

FRIDAY 9 AUGUST LADIES WHO LUNCH

Soup, rolls, dessert and coffee
along with convivial company just £4!
Limited availability of places and advance
booking virtually essential!

Contact Margaret Faultless
Tel: 020 8399 3402 or email

ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk

Jean Rigden reports that we have raised £50
to date for the Leprosy Mission.

Thank you to all contributors and let's keep
up the good work!

*Our cover picture of St Ninian's Isle in
Shetland - bathed in rare sunshine - was
taken by your Editor in August of last year.*

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF MISSION COUNCIL 13-15 MAY 2019

(For much more see the Mission Council pages on the URC Website)

Our Bible Studies were led by Revd Neil Thorogood, Principal of Westminster College, who spoke on the Last Supper in Mark 14, Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 and the Syro-Phoenician woman in Mark 7 and the parable of the lost son(s) in Luke 15. He gave us copies of inspirational pictures by the late Catholic priest Sieger Köder. Neil began by saying: 'We hear a cacophony of sound: deep faith and faithlessness; laughter and weeping; high hopes and sometimes stifling cynicism... We hear from the messy mass of ordinary sinners that we are. Listening to God speaking through the church and ourselves... God says: I give you open hands and reach out to you...' In reflecting on the parable of the prodigal son, Neil said God is 'more merciful than seems possible and more welcoming than seems prudent'.

Climate Change

We agreed a far-reaching Resolution in line with other churches in the Joint Public Issues Team, on Carbon emissions - urging the UK government to set a target and establish policies to achieve net zero emissions by well before 2050; and to act urgently to reduce carbon emissions across the whole of Church life.

"Mission Council calls on URC members, local churches and synods to support these commitments in word and deed."

And there was much discussion of two alternative resolutions dealing with the URC's investment in fossil fuel companies.

- **In the end we unanimously agreed the Resolution from the Synod of Scotland, expressing our wish to divest from fossil fuel companies immediately.**

Assembly 2020-30

The Assembly Task Group reported on several pieces of work including:

- the number, tenure and duties of the Moderator of General Assembly;
- the frequency of Mission Council; and the succession of the Clerk to General Assembly.

We agreed that:

- Beginning from 2022, the Moderator of General Assembly will serve for one year. Although only one Moderator will be elected at each Assembly, nominations of both elders and ministers will continue to be invited each year.
- Mission Council shall meet for one 48-hour meeting each year with a new name, Assembly Executive.
- Each Synod will send four reps to the Assembly Executive - hoping that a youth rep will be included.
- We want to appoint an Assistant Clerk to General Assembly.

Report from MIND

The Ministerial Discipline and Advisory Group (MIND) presented an outline of the suggested new process in dealing with disciplinary cases involving Ministers and Church Related Community Workers. We approved the setting up of scrutiny groups to work more on the new process, for report back to Mission Council in 2020.

Other Things

- Our General Secretary and our Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship) will be retiring in the summer of 2020. The Human Resources Advisory Group brought updated job descriptions and person specifications, which were agreed.
- We received two papers from the Education and Learning Committee - one on marks of ministry; a revised version will come to a future meeting of Mission Council. And Paper D1 put flesh on the bones of the Discipleship Development Fund. Payments from the Fund would normally be restricted to £200 a year for each applicant, managed by the Synods. We also voted to reward the policy to allow Assembly-accredited lay preachers to have access to the Fund.
- Dr Sam Richards, Head of Children's and Youth Work, gave a presentation about 'Friends on Faith Adventures', a new initiative created by CYW and Pilots. This is for children aged 5 to 11. Each session involved a game, a Bible story told through a dramatised reading which ends with an 'I wonder' question (using [props and costumes suggested) and a craft activity. Parents and carers will be invited in to see what children have been up to, everyone is given a Walking the Way challenge and the session ends in prayer. It will be trialled in eight settings in September, for a launch in January 2020.

DIAMOND CONGRATULATIONS!



Holms and Christine, seen in the centre of the photograph, celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 29 April with family and friends. Congratulations from all your friends at St Andrew's who wish you health and happiness for many more happy years in the future.



THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO HALL LETTINGS

On Sunday 28 April, in church, Michael presented Jean Smillie with an envelope as a thank you to her for looking after our Hall lettings with such competence and enthusiasm for so many years. We are incredibly grateful to Jean for her sterling efforts and success in generating an outstanding amount of money for St Andrew's through letting out our Church Hall. We will miss her enormously in this role but are happy that we will still be seeing her in church and we wish her well.

Janet Sommerville

Jean writes:

Round about 15 years ago, it came to my notice that someone was required to take over St Andrew's Hall lettings. Then, it didn't look too daunting a task, so I had words with my Elder, dear Doris Hutson, who suggested I speak to our then minister, David Netherwood. David agreed to my taking it on.

I soon found my way, thanks to help from people along the way. Soon, we were getting hiring requests from wide variety of areas such as businesses, Yoga, Judo, Keep Fit, children's groups and many more organisations who appreciated our facilities. Many of them have stayed with through the years, like Mel, who has been using the hall since long before my time - for some 40 years! He became came a good friend, as did many of the hirers. It was at times a hectic and time-consuming job but I thoroughly enjoyed it, especially dealing with different people. Unfortunately, I have had to call it a day as my health hasn't been good. It has been a pleasure to fulfil this task and I am grateful for the presentation from Michael on behalf of St Andrew's and for the appreciation shown for my efforts.



FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Marjorie Forbes 1924-2019



At an Easter conference in 1947 for the Fellowship of Youth (FOY) in the Liverpool area which was to be hosted by the newly widowed minister at Hunts Cross Marjorie, as Area Secretary, drew the possibly short straw of being his female co-host. She remembers watching him tossing peanuts in the air and catching them in his mouth, surrounded by adoring ladies. I don't think she was impressed!!

Later in July, Mum was one of three English Presbyterian delegates to attend the 10 day World Christian Conference of Youth in Oslo. There were 1800 delegates. Mum said in a statement to the Liverpool Press "It was an inspiring and thrilling experience. We left the conference realising that if Christian denominations learned to understand each other, a united church would be a tremendously important force working for world peace". The inspiration, and love and desire to unite she showed throughout her life was obviously in evidence early in her life.

On return, she entered Drake Hall in Staffordshire an Emergency Training College for teachers. (it more recently became a Women's prison!) and then, in 1948, she accepted an offer of marriage from the Young Minister at Hunts Cross in Liverpool (Edward 'Eddie' Lane). Mum told Margaret and myself earlier this year she was unsure if he wanted a housekeeper, a nanny for his young daughter (Margaret) or a wife. It was a marriage full of duty, caring, support, understanding, kindness and love and lasted 24 years.

After a call to Blyth in Northumberland, Eddie answered a call to Walton and so began the many years' association with St Andrew's.

Life at the Manse was busy and very much a full time occupation. The visitors were many and varied. "Gentlemen of the Road" who called for a warm meal, maybe a new sweater and half a crown. Newly engaged young couples who Dad would take through the vagaries of married life. Clergy of all the churches in the area who came to chat. People with problems, people with joy. I remember the parties for the FOY including one where with the help of the local Chinese restaurant in Walton Mum led the cooking of a spectacular Chinese feast. Cooking was in fact a large part of being the Minister's wife, especially making innumerable cups of tea. There were also trips to Easter Conference where Mum and Dad repeated their roles of 1947 as Host and Hostess. Dad was Youth Convener for the Presbyterian Church at this time.

I remember Mum's involvement with the Ladies of the church, especially the Ladies' Guild; her singing in the choir. She was on committees at Church House and very involved with the Women's World Day of Prayer. And last but by no means least, Mum had her own family to look after: Dad. Margaret and me as I joined the family shortly after their arrival in 1955 (a dutiful minister's son I was born early on Sunday morning and my arrival was announced at Morning Service that day). I would also add to the family the two teachers who lived with us for a number of years. Wiltrude from Germany and Teddy from Kenya.

Dad unfortunately became very ill and had to take early retirement from St Andrew's. Mum was teaching in a Middle School by then specialising in French. We moved to Weybridge and Dad acted as interim moderator at the church there, on Queens Road - the church with which St Andrew's is now united. In 1973 Dad died and a year later Mum married an old family friend (who she had actually dated in her teens!!). Ian Forbes had always visited us when back from Africa and it was a great joy to see them married (I gave Mum away!). This led to another house move and we landed in Pyrford. Mum and Ian were great believers in supporting the church where they lived and so began their long association with The Pyrford and Wisley Parish.

Mum continued to teach. I think if she had been 20 years younger she would in time have trained for the priesthood. She continued throughout the rest of her long life to serve the community where she lived, offering considered advice, showing interest in all with whom she came in contact, supporting Christian outreach and all the many local events in a busy parish. She and Ian were married for 42 years. He died last year and now, after 94 very full and busy years, she is with him again. Their ashes are together in the churchyard at St Nicholas Church Pyrford.

With love to All at St Andrew's

Andrew Lane



In the February issue of the Newsletter, we included a tribute to Iris Collins. Iris's children, Stephanie and Victor, have asked that we include this piece following the interment of her ashes in Wales.

Iris's ashes were interred in the grave of her parents at Bryngwyn Chapel, Newcastle Emlyn, Wales. A short service was held on Thursday 25th April 2019 at 2.30pm and some of her family members who were unable to make the journey from Wales for the funeral in November 2018 (due to a mixture of old age and ill health) attended the service. Mum's brother, Len, and his wife Rita also joined us and we all had a lovely family lunch together in Mum's memory.

Mum was raised in the village of Bryngwyn, played the organ at Chapel every Sunday there when she was a teenager and was married to our Dad, Robert, there too. Mum shared a strong bond of love and laughter with her mother (our Mamgu), especially after our Dad passed away in 1980 and neither of us could think of a more fitting place for Mum to be.

We would also like to share with you that just over £1,100 was donated to Marie Curie Cancer Care in Mum's memory. Although we had written directly to Michael and Anna after the funeral service to express our thanks for a wonderful service and refreshments afterwards in The Gateway, we would also like to thank all of Mum's Church friends who attended the service and helped us to give Mum a loving and fond farewell and for the love and support many of you showed Mum during her illness.

With very best wishes

Stephanie and Victor

A MEMORABLE DAY

100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE



On 17 May, Irene Pearson (Elder at St Andrew's) and Gwenda Cochrane (Elder at Weybridge URC) attended a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the Centenary of police women in the Metropolitan Police Service. Both had served in the Met but didn't meet one another until a few years ago, when they discovered they were also serving Elders in their sister churches. Together they experienced a moving and celebratory service in Westminster Abbey - a truly memorable day.

On 17 May 1919, several members of the newly-formed women police appeared in uniform for the first time at a service held at Westminster Abbey, paying tribute to the Met officers who had lost their lives in the Great War. Exactly 100 years to the day, a Thanksgiving service echoed this historical event and paid tribute to those pioneering officers, as well as celebrating the diversity and achievements of their current officers. Irene Pearson (Elder at St Andrew's) and Gwenda Cochrane (Elder at Weybridge URC) together attended this moving and celebratory service and experienced a truly memorable day.

The following is an extract from The Order of Service, written by Woman police officer, Siobhan Clark, Archivist of the Metropolitan Women's Police Association: "On 18 October 1918, Commissioner Sir Cecil Macready submitted his recommendation to the Home Secretary 'for the experimental formation of a body of Women Police'. He added: 'I wish to emphasise the fact that the above scheme is to be regarded as experimental in every sense.' ... The first patrols had no power of arrest, which did not come into being until 1923 when female officers were attested and given full powers. Today, the Metropolitan Police Service is proud to have over 8,000 females officers who have successfully followed in the footsteps of the first pioneers." How appropriate and fitting it is that Cressida Dick, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis since 2017, is the first woman to be appointed to that office.

IRENE'S STORY



My journey to being a policewoman started in March 1961 when I applied to join the Metropolitan Police and was invited for an interview to the Recruitment Office in Borough High Street, London (having previously taken an exam and medical in my local police station in Cupar, Fife). Three other girls and I were given accommodation overnight in cubicles. Next morning about eight other girls appeared. The interview was a terrifying experience in front of two female officers and one male. After we were dismissed at 5 pm, I went back to King's Cross to get the overnight sleeper home. I had never seen such crowds of people - it was rush hour.

My letter of acceptance took several weeks to arrive and I started my 13-week training at Peel House, Victoria, on 11 June 1961. There were 16 in my class - three women and 13 men. To learn I found the training really hard and challenging as there was so much to learn. We were inspected every morning and had to march round the parade ground before lessons. Practical work included directing traffic, writing reports on mock accidents, first aid and self defence, with monthly exams in which a 90% pass was required.

Every weekday morning a bus was sent to collect us from our hostel in Pembridge Square, Notting Hill and we returned at 6 pm every evening to eat then study. Weekends were free. After 13 weeks we had a passing out parade then one week's leave. I was so excited to return home as I had missed my family so much (I am the eldest of four). After that it was back to training school and we were then taken by coach to whichever police station we were allocated. My posting was to Putney Police station, where I would do my two years' probation period, with my hostel just two minutes' walk away. We were supervised by four policewomen and two female sergeants. Our shifts were 8 am to 3.30 pm or 3 pm to 10.30 pm with occasional night duty from , 10.30 pm - 6 am. Our main role was dealing with women and children but also we had to patrol a beat and to deal with any incident that required police assistance. Our only aid was a whistle and a smile! We walked for miles each day but had to report to the station every hour from a police box; if you were needed, the blue light on top of the police box flashed. We had to do school crossing patrols, direct traffic and during my probation I was involved with decoy work (quite frightening!), prison van escort duty and controlling traffic in Oxford Street during the Christmas period.

After my two years' probation, I spent three fascinating years posted to Richmond Police Station. I dealt with several suicides and once was called out to a new-born baby wrapped in a towel who had been left in the entrance to a block of flats. With no telephone to hand, I went into a nearby pub to call for assistance. I had to check every baby boy who had been registered with a date of birth that day - hours and hours of work but so worthwhile. A further three years followed at Chiswick and Brentford and during this time I got married to my husband, Jeff also a police officer. I found myself on a Selection Board for a new venture, the Juvenile Bureau at Hounslow Police Station, formed to caution juveniles who had committed an offence rather than put them through the court system, so that they would avoid having a criminal record. We were given cases and had to do a home visit and interview the juvenile and parent(s), writing a report to submit to the senior officer who made the final decision. We were in plain clothes and I loved the job, leaving it to have my first child. When my son was 13 months old, I accepted an invitation to work part-time as a telephonist on Saturday nights at Chiswick, which I did for three years before transferring to the Police Switching Centre in Hounslow. I served for 23 and a half years before being made redundant when the Switching Centre moved to Putney. Happy, happy years!

GWENDA'S STORY



I'd decided in my early teens that I wanted to be a policewoman which is a bit odd as, at that stage in life, I hadn't seen the TV series Dixon of Dock Green and I was unaware that a paternal great great aunt and a maternal great uncle had served in the Metropolitan Police Service. I had previously wanted be a Probation Officer, following the leadership of a Sunday School teacher. I can only think that my first and very positive experience of policing, which may have had an influence, had been when I was about three or four and had been attacked by a dog. My only injury was a superficial scratch near my eye, but a police officer came into our home and was obviously very concerned about me. However most probably the greater influences over the years growing up in the church and in The Girls Life Brigade, the example of leaders and family made it a fairly natural choice to want to serve, to be of use to others.

I remember waiting for the result of my application and subsequent day-long 'interview' and realising how much I wanted to be accepted - despite my great uncle's words of caution (he couldn't understand why I should want to be a policewoman and was slightly amused by my persistence!). The letter eventually came and I joined in the spring of 1964. Thirteen weeks of intensive training at Peel House led to my being commissioned as a woman police officer with the same responsibilities and powers as my male colleagues but in a separate section with special duties towards women and children, lost persons, 'aliens' (Foreign nationals resident in the UK) and shoplifters, as well as all the other regular duties of our male colleagues. My male colleagues travelled in uniform to and from their shifts whereas we were required to travel in plain clothes in case we were needed to work in situations where a uniform was considered unhelpful. My male colleagues worked eight hour shifts whereas we worked a seven-and-a-half shift although required to book on half an hour earlier to change into uniform and read the duties book to ensure continuity of service on all issues arising since the last shift served.

Thank you Iris and Gwenda for your invaluable contribution to keeping us safe!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2019

This year the focus of attention was childbirth in Sierra Leone where so many babies die before or shortly after they are born. Sierra Leone has the highest maternal mortality ratio in the world, making it one of the most dangerous places to give birth. In partnership with the EU, UNICEF is working with trained health workers like Sister Josephine Pewa to reverse these trends in child and maternal health. With 1,360 mothers dying per 100,000 live births, Sierra Leone has the worst maternal mortality ratio in the world.

On Wednesday 15 May, St Andrew's held a coffee morning for Christian Aid. The Gateway was attractively laid out with flowers on the tables and a welcoming notice and bunting outside to encourage people to join us. Anna was in charge of the coffee and tea and the selection of home-baked cakes tempted us to forget our best dietary intentions and to go back for more. We had a good turnout and enjoyed the opportunity to escape from the daily chores and indulge in a spot of "Me time" for such a good cause. The total raised was £301.00 with Gift Aid. Many thanks to all who participated and contributed.



Our service the following Sunday centred around Christian Aid. We had three readings to illustrate the huge difference that is being made to the lives of pregnant women due to the generosity of so many people all over the world. The first and sad story told of Fatmata who went into labour and had to walk for three hours under the baking sun to the nearest hospital, as there were no ambulances, Fatmata died on the side of the road. The second and more positive story featured Tenneh who was visiting a temporary health centre in Sierra Leone for a check-up, bouncing her three-month old baby, Ansumana, giggling happily, on her lap. She had lost a baby a few years ago but this time things had changed for good as Nurse Judith, who came to be

there thanks to Christian Aid's partner, RADA, was there to deliver Ansumana safely. But the health centre where nurse Judith works is not enough to meet every need. The roof leaks. There are only two delivery beds. And when mums come to deliver their babies at night, Judith has no light to see by. This makes giving birth even more dangerous. So even more help is needed.

The last story emphasised the importance of education and was about Rejoice, a teenager aged 16, who is enjoying going to school. She knows how important education is, so important that when she was younger she ran away from home and went to live with a kind uncle whom she knew would send her to school. Rejoice has a dream. By going to school and working hard she hope that one day she will be able to fulfil her dream of becoming a lawyer. Education helps girls to reach their full potential in Sierra Leone and across the world. It is a key factor in preventing early marriage and pregnancy which often leads to premature death.

The Count this year was held at St Andrew's and proved to be a most convivial occasion organised by John and Sarah Keenan, the latter of whom provided a splendid spread for the helpers. John writes:

"A huge thank you to St Andrew's URC in Walton for the lovely welcome you gave us, and for all those who came to count. Many hands made light work and we were all counted and cleared away in record time! The total raised was £2,800 including around 3,600 coins of various denominations. A great effort by all and much appreciated by Christian Aid."

I took part in the count for the first time (normally this takes place at Weybridge URC) and would thoroughly recommend it as a means of refreshing those 'little grey cells' while enjoying an hour or so of camaraderie with a great opportunity to get to know better some of our friends at Weybridge.
Ed

A MEMORABLE TRIP TO HOLY ISLAND



Jan and Moira de Kok write:

We recently drove up to Newcastle to visit friends, wonderful hosts who drove us around of Northumberland and Sunderland. We were very impressed with the beauty of the rolling hills, a patchwork of different squares in varying shades of verdant green. The different crops all looked really happy and healthy. We spent a night in the historic Doxford Hall Hotel in Chathill and, after a splendid breakfast, headed off for Holy Island. You have to cross a causeway to gain access, only possible at low tide. Warning signs along the way remind you that you can be cut off and there is even a hut on stilts for those who end up marooned. There was a strong wind and the

scene was bleak and lonely. We finally arrived on the Island, having spotted the evocative ruins of the old Priory on our approach, Bamburgh Castle visible across the North Sea and, in the distance, beyond the castle, we could vaguely make out the Farne Islands



Holy Island, originally known as Lindisfarne, was home, over the years to two quite different communities of Christian monks. First, the Celtic monastery founded by the Irish monk, St Aidan from Iona in approximately



635 AD, came to an end in the 9th Century when it was attacked by the Vikings forcing the monks to flee inland. Next, came the Benedictines and the stone ruins still in evidence are the remains of their priory. They lived on the island for about 400 years until the Dissolution of all the monasteries under Henry VIII. Lindisfarne has some 300 residents. One of its most interesting attractions is St Mary's Church which stands on the site of the wooden Church built by St Aidan in 635. There has been

worship and prayer here for almost 1400 years. St Mary's offers worship daily, morning and evening, and it is sobering to think that there has been a stream of praise and petition here since 635 AD. It is charming. As you enter you are struck by the lovely, mostly 20th century, stained glass windows behind the Chancel. The Chancel wall is the oldest human-made structure on the island, possibly more than a thousand years old. The church can lay claim to standing on a site used for Christian worship for some 1,400 years. The famous Lindisfarne Gospels were written and illustrated here by Bishop Eadfrith around 715 "to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the life of St Cuthbert".

Venerable Bede, who died in 735, wrote "A History of the English Church and People", telling of both Aidan and Cuthbert. Cuthbert a Saxon, who died in 687, became 6th Bishop and Prior of Lindisfarne, and was buried next to Aidan. When Cuthbert's body was discovered, it was found to be incorrupt 11 years after his death. Later a shrine was built in the larger church and he was elevated to sainthood. In the Church, there is a recent sculpture in elm by Fenwick Lawson which he sculpted using a chain saw, depicting six monks taking St Cuthbert's body from St Mary's across the North of England and Southern Scotland, starting in the year 875 and reaching its final destination in Durham Cathedral in 995.

At the entrance to the church you are invited in and especially to join in the church prayer.

Lord this bare island
make it thy place of peace
Here be the peace
of men who do thy will.
Here be the peace
of praise by dark and day
Be this thy island
They Holy Island
Lord, I thy servant, Aidan
speak this prayer
Be it thy care

WISH YOU WERE HERE.

I have lost count of the number of times I cycled passed Peterhead Prison as a lad on the way to a spot of fishing from the nearby breakwater (below) albeit on a less stormy day! In the mid



1800's, plans were made to build a breakwater offering safe refuge to fishing, merchant and naval vessels. The problem was how to find an inexpensive labour force to work the stone, so a decision was made to build a prison (Scotland's answer to Alcatraz!) and use the inmates. Prisoners were used to quarry stone - back breaking work but the men sentenced to Peterhead were as hard as the stone they quarried. They worked during the day at a nearby granite quarry under the watchful eyes of wardens carrying cutlasses and rifles (below). I often saw prisoners working in the nearby

fields guarded by armed warders clad in heavy long black coats. I used to peer at the small cell windows of this grim building backing on to the cold grey North Sea and wonder what life was like on the other side of the imposing pink granite walls laced with razor wire. On a recent holiday to my hometown, Susan and I had the chance to do just that as a new prison had been built three years ago and the old one turned into a museum. This former Victorian Prison is unique in that it had the first state owned railway in the UK and part of its history saw the only time the SAS (Special Air Service) were used to end a domestic siege in mainland



Britain. We were fitted with audio devices and stepped back in time walking through all the atmospheric buildings still tainted with disinfectant. The focus (via headsets) was the history of the jail, told through the words of the old prison guards and whose lives were often in danger.



The 19th century cells (far left) offered little in the way of comfort measuring 7 ft long, 5 ft wide and 7ft high. The only ventilation came via a small vent in the window. Heating came from a hot water pipe running along the back wall. At night each cell was lit by a single candle. Visits were rare. By the 1970's conditions had become more humane. Inmates had more furniture, personal effects, books and radios. The old routine was as follows: **5am** - Wake up, wash and make

beds. **5.30am** - Breakfast consisting of porridge and milk. **7am** - Prisoners searched and taken to work parties. **11.30am** - Prisoners searched before a lunch of broth with bread and potatoes. **1pm** - Prisoners searched then back to work. **5.30pm** - Prisoners searched then returned to cells. Dinner consisted of coffee/dry bread. Free time until 8.30 pm then lights out. One of the most severe forms of punishment was 'the tripod'. Prisoners were tied to the frame (photo next page) then whipped with a cat - o - nine tails which originated in the British Armed forces



during the 18th century when it was used to enforce brutal discipline and designed to tear flesh. Whippings could only be authorised by the governor but were abolished in 1939. Personally, I think this museum is a fascinating addition to the north east of Scotland's tourism. It is a site full of national interest which taps into social history, crime, punishment, architecture, and political history. On a lighter note there is a lovely tearoom



where one can savour one's freedom! The new nearby prison is unsurprisingly full of home comforts.

We stayed in a nearby village with a lighthouse. When a boy and dense haar rolled in from the sea, the lighthouse beam used to flash intermittently into my bedroom. I vividly recall the plaintiff moan of the foghorn – shades of John Carpenter's sinister film 'The Fog'.



Peterhead is the largest white fish port in Europe but the old town looks run down since we last visited, with many shops boarded up and like



Walton, drugs are sadly common place. **HISTORICAL NOTES:** Peterhead used to be a popular fashionable Spa and a thriving, elegant town. By 1820 it was one of Great Britain's two leading whaling ports. We once stayed in an elegant home originally owned by John Gray, captain of the whaling boat 'Hope' where the Scottish writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle sailed as a 20 year old



medical student for the ship's 6 month voyage to Greenland waters in 1880. As ship's surgeon, he was paid £2.10 shillings per month and 3 shillings a ton whale oil bonus. Near the town

lies the ruins of **Slains Castle** (above) where celebrities were entertained on numerous occasions in the 19th Century, most notable being Bram Stoker: it is believed the castle is the inspiration for the setting of his tale in *Count Dracula*. By coincidence he was a friend of Conan - Doyle to whom he was distantly related.



The cliffs at the **Bullers of Buchan** (above right) are a popular nesting site in spring for colonies of seabirds including guillemots and puffins. This largely unknown corner of Scotland with its history, spectacular coastline and untamed beaches is well worth a visit. **JS**

Brownies

9th

Walton

Brownies Spring news

It's been another busy few months at Brownies with three new girls joining our pack and three leaving to fly up to Guides. We are now a full pack with a substantial waiting list for places which just proves to us that Brownies really is indeed a fun place to be!

We were all delighted to receive our Easter Eggs so thank you very much for thinking of us!

In February, 9th Walton Brownies hosted the District's annual Thinking Day celebrations where we remember the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell who founded the Girlguiding movement. Girls from Rainbows, Brownies and Guide packs across Walton joined us in the hall for an evening of crafts and activities based around the international Guiding Centre in Mexico. We made mini sombreros, coloured flags, build healthy fruit-filled tacos and sewed worry dolls. It was a hive of activity and a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Since then, we have continued to work on being **Leaders of the Future** and have worked in teams to design a Zoo! It tested all the leadership, communication and negotiation skills we had been working on to make sure that everyone had their say and designed something the whole team was proud of.



On top of that, lots of the girls have been busy in their own time working on Interest Badges. The Baking Badge has been a firm favourite and we have really enjoyed sampling their creations!



Between Easter and the Summer break we are focussing our attention on understanding ourselves and reflecting on what makes us unique. The Brownies have drawn their own flags or family crests depicting how they see themselves and have come up with lots of 'Why' questions to ask their friends and families which will help them fill the gaps in their knowledge about themselves.

Our summer term ends on Monday 15th July. *Shona Hedley*





L-R. Jean Rigden, John Sheldon, Mayor of Elmbridge Mary Sheldon, John Reeves

The new Mayor of Elmbridge, Mary Sheldon has chosen Elmbridge Mencap as the charity she is going to support during her year in office. This is a great honour for our charity.

We are going to have a very busy and exciting year ahead. Many functions to attend and help with fundraising. As well as raising money for our charity, the extra profile and publicity she will raise is a great opportunity for us. Some of the money raised will be going towards the sensory garden we want to build at the back of Burview Hall. The sensory garden will have raised beds, water features, large musical instruments and seating. There will be wheelchair-friendly paths and many other features.

We are going to open this garden up to share with people with dementia, Alzheimer's, and the elderly as well as our children and adults with a learning disability. The garden will provide a restful sensory area to be enjoyed. Our landlords, Walton Charity, are allowing us an extra 8 x 45-meter piece of land on our 21-year lease so we can build the garden. It is going to cost a lot of money, but we are determined to succeed in our mission.

Last but not least, we are delighted that Paula Walsh has just taken over as our new Chairman!

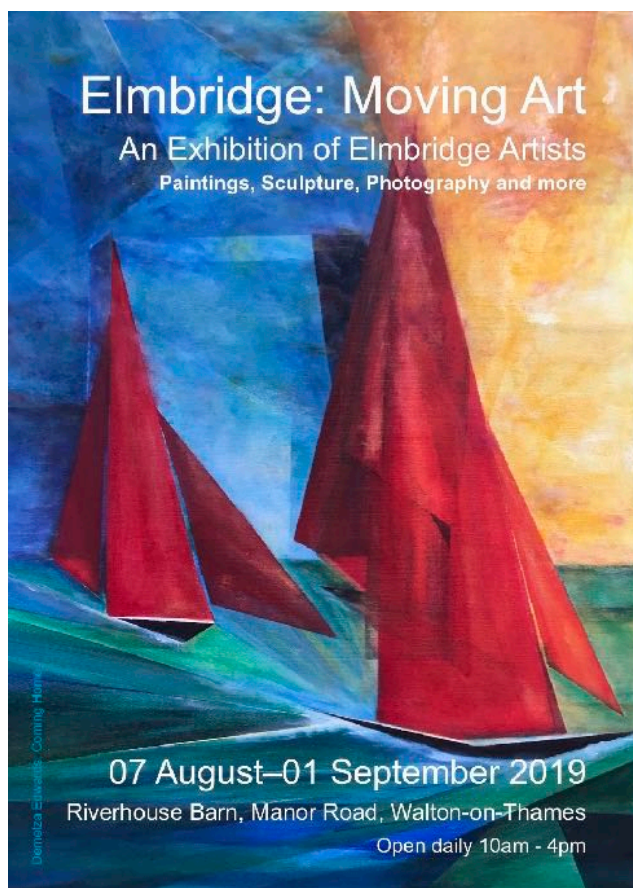
Jean Rigden



DON'T FORGET - ELMBRIDGE MENCAP GRAND JUMBLE SALE!

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER AT BURVIEW HALL, WALTON-ON-THAMES, KT12 5AB

Jean Rigden is collecting items. Please contact her on 01932 225747 with donations.



Elmbridge: Moving Art

An Exhibition of Elmbridge Artists
Paintings, Sculpture, Photography and more

07 August–01 September 2019

Robert Phillips Gallery
Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre

Monday–Sunday 10am–4pm
Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2PF
Tel. 01932 254 198, www.riverhousebarn.co.uk



This promises to be a fascinating exhibition with our own Astrid McGechan as curator. Do go along! St Andrew's is well represented as one of Susan Simpson's paintings - a landscape - has been chosen as one of the exhibits.



PETS ON THE MOVE

'The smallest feline is a masterpiece'

Leonardo da Vinci

Rosie (right) and Chloe (left) below, whose human, Hilary Netherwood, has just moved house, are having to adjust to new surroundings. They have not taken kindly to being shut in for two weeks but we can assure them it will all be worth it in the end - promise! If anyone has a tail to tell of moving with a pet, please do write in! Ed



FLOWER POWER



Pat Sims says:

"Many thanks to all members for the beautiful tulips Irene delivered to me. I hope you all enjoyed a great Easter! With love."

A message from **Eva Ramage**, who wrote to Iris.
"Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers delivered to me by Christine. The colours of the chrysanths were so vibrant and they lasted so well. Thank you to Marigold who provided them. Thank you also for the lovely flowers delivered by Iris. I have still got them. We had a good chat which I enjoyed. They were provided by Ghislaine in memory of her mother's birthday - I remember her mother very well. Last but not least, thank you for the good wishes sent to me by some of our members. I am disappointed not to be at church but who knows what the future will be. With love."

Christine and Holms Carlile say;

"We were delighted to receive a really lovely gift of flowers from the Communion Table, kindly given to us by Irene on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding at the end of April. The flowers gave us much pleasure and lasted so well. Many thanks."
(See page 9)

David and Mavis Netherwood express their thanks for the beautiful floral arrangement given on their recent visit to St Andrew's. The flowers are a lovely reminder of the occasion and will bring much pleasure. *"We look forward to returning in late summer."*

A message from **Joan McGalliard**:

"The beautiful flowers which Irene Pearson presented me with after last week's service are brightening up my living room and filling it with a lovely scent. They are much appreciated. Thank you."

Susan Simpson says:

"Many thanks for the lovely flowers given to me after the service in May."



We have been much saddened to learn of the death of Eleanor Milne and offer our condolences to her family and friends.
We hope to include memories of Eleanor's life in the September issue of the Newsletter.

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

MORE CHAOS LIKELY:

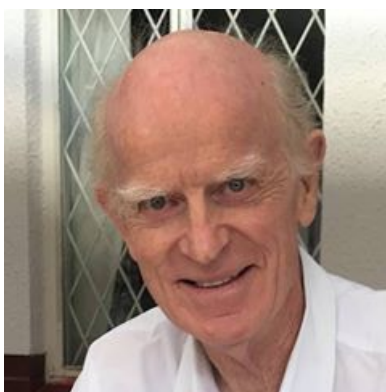
The Zimbabwe government's official inflation figure is 97% but in reality, shop prices have risen by 350%. Last week, the govt. made it illegal to use foreign currency inc. US dollars. Zimbabweans must now use the new Zimbabwe dollar. A decade ago, the original Zimbabwean dollar was abandoned due to hyperinflation. I still possess a Zimbabwe 100 trillion dollar note! This step has been greeted with alarm - memories of the lives wrecked, pensions and savings lost in 2008 - recollections of which will be hard to erase.



FORTUNE'S DILEMMA: The artists are desperate struggling to pay for even basic items and are in all sorts of trouble. Take Fortune for example whose world has fallen apart. He had borrowed around 50 USD to pay for his wife's medical treatment. Creditors arrived and took all his modest possessions away including blankets and their winter has arrived! The stress would appear to have caused his wife to have a breakdown of sorts and she has abandoned him leaving the children. Fortune (left) has his own serious health issues and is a mere skeleton of a man. And *still* government



ministers show no sign of curtailing their own extravagances: hiring luxury Dreamliner aircraft and buying thousands of weapons to quell protests. The good news is that money from some of our wonderful readers is on the way which I hope will ease Fortune's situation but so many artists are suffering. **SUICIDE:** The young man (above right, reference the last NL) who was trussed up and beaten because in desperation he stole a few items to feed his young family has since ended his life and left a note saying he simply could not carry on - that's the tragic situation some people now face in Zimbabwe.



UPDATE FROM FR DAVID HAROLD – BARRY SJ: I have been part of the John Simpson network for about fifteen years but have been rather a sleeping mole for the last four. I was living in Zambia where they have what is a distant memory here: real money. They also have fuel. There are now three filling stations within five minutes of where I lived – always open for business. And if they have power outages, they are for four predictable hours a day around which one can plan. (Global warming has given us little rain and Kariba dam hydro-electric plant can't work to capacity).

No such normal situation greets me as I return to this land (Zimbabwe) where I have lived for more than fifty years. The people are the same, so are the trees, the sky and the colours – all just beautiful. But the inheritance of freedom is tattered, and life is an unrelenting struggle for those such as our sculptors under the trees here at Silveira. They work on, relying on the sales and donations your network generates for them. They have little else to hope for.

What is puzzling - maybe it should not be, but it is - is the complete lack of a plan to remedy the situation or any sense of responsibility in high places for the wreckage we live each day. Yet it is a common feature in many countries that those who have the power to change things for the benefit of their people not only do not do so but set themselves to plunder even further an economy which is already in permanent freefall. The painful thing is that, as we have seen in country after country, change only comes through courageous protest and struggle. We all hope that struggle will be focused, peaceful and non-violent. So far there is no sign of this happening.

David will visit me in September so we shall have our customary long walk along the Thames towpath catching up on things stopping off for the usual refreshment. **Johnston Simpson**



Changing a Machismo society step by step:

Beatriz Claros is a confident woman, part of the growing number of women working and taking their full part in society. She works at the Ministry of Economy and gives technical support to small cooperatives on business and agriculture. When I met her, she was visiting the shrimp cooperative supported by Christian Aid partner PROCARES.

She explained: “Women have earned the opportunity to be in this cooperative. When it comes to fishing and agriculture they would earn about 60% less than a man doing the same job. In the cooperative, they get the same share as the men. They are learning to be more active and confident citizens.”

When asked if things are changing in the home, she laughed, “In most households, Mum still gets up first to get breakfast and then goes off to work. She comes home to prepare a meal and then returns to work. She returns in the evening to do start more cooking and washing etc.

Whereas the man, he has his meals ready for him when comes home and everything is done for him. However, in this rural community, the women generally are more empowered because of education and training from PROCARES and this has resulted in less domestic violence.”



Beatriz, her partner and their two-and-a-half-year-old son, live in San Salvador where they have a small business together. She is a fully trained agronomist, who studied at the National Agricultural College. Her mother and father were both guerrillas and she was born in exile in Nicaragua. She remembers that people then trusted you more and there was less violence. Today, she said, there is much more violence. The first time she was robbed was in San Salvador. She was on a bus and, although she made a noise, everyone just backed away down the other end of the bus and did not help. She could not understand this but has realised that most people are fearful. From an early age, her mother taught her to work.

“I sold products on a little stall when I was 7 years old. I worked whilst I was at high school. I started studying biology but could not pay. However, I managed to get a scholarship to pay my way. The war changed my mother. I come from a long line of matriarchs so I am bringing up my son differently from many of my compatriots. My partner originally saw men as superior but now he understands gender inequality much more and is happy to take care of our son when I need him to. He sees the social inequality and the injustice women face and understands.”

IMAGE© Commitment for Life: Beatriz Claros



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Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

**Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.**

I Peter 4 vv 8-10