

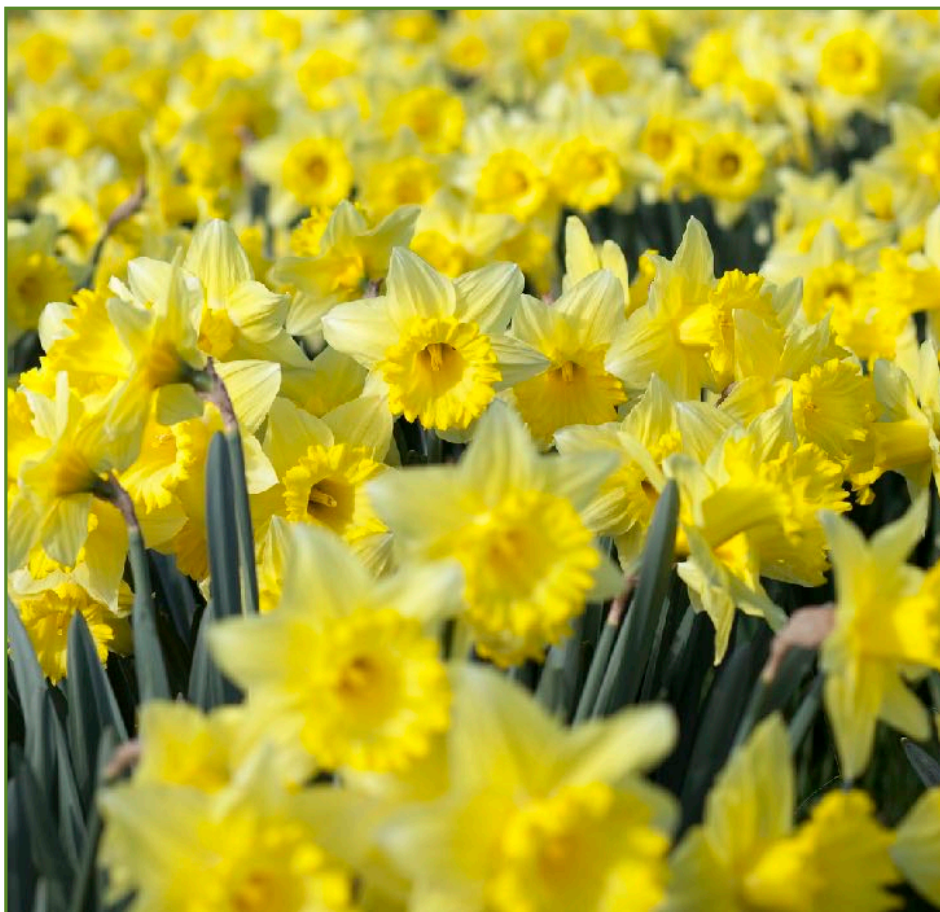


**ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
WALTON-ON-THAMES**

**NEWSLETTER**

Volume 77 No 2

**MARCH/APRIL 2020**



*"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone,  
but in every leaf in springtime."*

*Martin Luther*



*From The Manse*

*March/April 2020*

*Dear friends*

Last month, in February, I wrote that throughout this year I am going to take the opportunity afforded by the Minister's Pastoral Letter to go through the Statement of Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church and to explore a little of its meaning. I then went off on a slight tangent to say something about the roots, the formation and the character of the URC so now, let's get stuck into the statement itself.

With the whole Christian Church  
The United Reformed Church believes in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**The living God, the only God,  
Ever to be praised. (R&S 761)**

Immediately the URC affirms that we are Trinitarian, which is an understanding of God which was mainly developed by the early church to understand how God can appear to be working through three, on the face of it, separate ways/styles. I'm always grateful to CS Lewis for his explanation of the Trinity in "Mere Christianity" and remember too the late Martin Cressey (former Principal of Westminster College) once lamenting that some of his students appeared to have taken their understanding more from "Nuns on the Run" than CS Lewis!

*An ordinary, simple Christian kneels down to say his prayers. He is trying to get into touch with God. But if he is a Christian he knows that what is prompting him to pray is also God; God, so to speak, inside him. But he also knows that all his real knowledge of God comes through the Christ, the Man who was God- that Christ is standing beside him, helping him to pray, praying for him. You see what is happening. God is the thing to which he is praying - the goal he is trying to reach. God is also the thing inside him, which is pushing him on: the motive power. God is also the road or bridge along which he is being pushed to that goal. So that the whole threefold life of the three-personal Being is actually going on in that ordinary little bedroom where an ordinary man is saying his prayers.*

(Mere Christianity - CS Lewis)

Having clearly stated that the URC is Trinitarian, the congregation's response affirms a mono-theistic faith and that God is not a thing of the past, active only in the past but that God is "currently living" and more is said about that in later clauses.

Now, it may seem a little strange that, on the face of it, so little is said here about our core beliefs in God. More does come out in subsequent clauses and, as will become obvious in the coming months some of these are a bit like the final round categories in Pointless where there is more behind a clause than may initially appear. Nevertheless one could be forgiven for being surprised that this important section is also the shortest in the whole statement. There's a reason.

Our foundation document is called "The Basis of Union" and that's where you will find much more about the URC's core understandings - our doctrine. (If you want to see this, it's readily available on line.) The Statement of Nature, Faith and Order is more about setting out our ecclesiology, in other words our understanding of our church's relationship to Jesus, its role

in salvation, its polity, its discipline, its destiny, and its leadership. So, it's not that the URC short-changes what our core belief is, or even that it's a bit vague on the subject. Rather, it's that the main clauses are in a different document.

The URC does have a "Confession of Faith" though. That may come as news to you because, given our historic dislike of creeds and their use in worship, it's something few local churches use with any regularity, if at all. It doesn't appear in "Rejoice and Sing" with the other "non musical" worship material - only in the URCs current Worship Book. The original version was adopted in 1972 and an inclusive language version was hotly debated and ultimately adopted by General Assembly in 1997. It's possibly something we ought to affirm sometime, perhaps at Easter, and which would somewhat amplify our core beliefs.

So, the Statement of Nature, Faith and Order begins, as one might expect, by saying something about our understanding of God and greater amplification is actually set out in other core documents of the URC.

Our exploration of the Statement of Nature, Faith and Order of the URC continues in April as we move to the second section.

The life of faith to which we are called  
is the Spirit's gift  
continually received  
through the Word, the sacraments  
and our Christian life together.

**We acknowledge the gift  
and answer the call,  
giving thanks for the means of grace.**

There is so much behind these, apparently simple words beginning with the acknowledgement that a life of faith is a gift to us from God and that it's a gift which keeps on giving. This gift is also given to us in three ways; word, sacraments and church life. If we cut ourselves off from any of them then we restrict God's gift to us. "The word"- preaching is at the heart of most of our services and in many local URCs the pulpit is located "front-centre", emphasising the centrality of the word. (This was originally the case in Weybridge) The Sacraments too. A sacrament is "an outward sign of inward grace". These are public actions by which Christians receive grace - that is, experience the power and love of God in their lives and within the URC we recognise 2 - Baptism and Communion.

Within recent years the Communion Table in many URCs has become far more open to all. When I was first ordained in 1987 two of my first churches were still carrying on an old system where, when it was Communion, a "normal" service was held first. "Non members" then left and went home. Communion was a separate service, held after the main service and was, effectively, "members only". Although on the wane by the time I was ordained, it was not an uncommon practice. Children, too, were generally not offered communion either and, again in my first pastorate, I remember that those being prepared to come into membership were invited to remain for a communion service but went into the gallery so that they could look down and observe what happened. (The main church in my first pastorate also used to read out the roll of members on the evening of Church Anniversary and members stood

when their name was called. It was also called by how long you'd been on the roll, as I discovered to my cost when the first year I called it alphabetically and was lucky to survive! I digress.) Today we say, "the table is open to all who love and serve the Lord Jesus" but, thankfully, we do now actually mean it.

This section also emphasises the importance of the whole of church life - its worship and its fellowship. We promised to be faithful in attending worship and in taking the sacraments but we also promise to play our part in the general life of the church. This is important because general church life can be extremely enriching in all sorts of ways.

So, there's quite a bit behind this apparently straightforward section which talks about a gift which of great value and of great comfort too. It is also a gift to be shared through general church life.

With all good wishes,



## LENT COURSE 2020

I am absolutely delighted to tell you that this year we shall be running a Lent Course, picking up on the Holy Habits material from Acts 2. Split into five units, we focus on Gladness; the Apostles Teaching; Eating together; Prayer; and, finally, Fellowship. You can do the course using a booklet or via a download - the choice is yours. It can also be done in a group or on your own. As well as "input", each session includes questions for reflection and discussion. However, obviously, doing it on your own does cut out the ideas and input from others. The two groups will be:

Monday evenings:	7.45pm	St Andrew's, Hersham Room
Thursday mornings:	10.30am	Weybridge URC, Room 5.

The course starts on Monday 2 March / Thursday 5 March and runs for just five weeks.

Do come - and do bring a friend, too. You will be most welcome. If you can't come to a group, then do use the material at home, on the way into work, or even whilst working out at the gym! Let me know if you'd like a download.

*Michael*

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES IN THE PASTORATE

## HOLY WEEK



### **Palm Sunday**

10.30 am                      Morning Worship and distribution of palm crosses at St Andrew's  
and at Weybridge URCs

### **Wednesday 8 April**

10.00 – 11.00 am      Weybridge URC open for Meditation

### **Maundy Thursday**

7.30 pm                      Pastorate Communion Service – The Upper Room- Weybridge URC .

### **Good Friday**

Walk of Witness in Weybridge, leaving from the Roman Catholic Church

11.00 am                      Pastorate Service for Good Friday at St Andrew's  
(preceded by coffee and hot cross buns from 10.30am)

Like last year, the services I'll be leading for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday 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

8.00 am                      Holy Communion at Weybridge URC

Following our 8.00am service at Weybridge, there will be breakfast served in rooms 4 and 5. If you'd like to join us, please let Sarah Keenan know. If you haven't been before do come along - or risk missing a great treat!

10.30 am                      Holy Communion at St Andrew's  
Holy Communion at Weybridge URC

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark;  
the real tragedy of life is when adults are afraid of the light.

Author Unknown

## SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES MARCH 2020

<b>Sunday 1 March</b> <i>(Lent 1)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister</b>
	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>AGM Church Meeting</b>
Monday 2 March	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
Tuesday 3 March	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Friday 6 March	10.00 am	Women's World Day of Prayer service Walton Methodist Church Terrace Road, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2SR <i>(see page 9)</i>
<b>Sunday 8 March</b> <i>(Lent 2)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by Mr Graham Pearcey</b>
Friday 13 March	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
	12.30 - 2.30 pm	Ladies Who Lunch at Weybridge URC <i>(see page 9)</i>
<b>Sunday 15 March</b> <i>(Lent 3)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister</b>
	3.00 pm	 Messy Church
Monday 16 March	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
<b>Sunday 22 March</b> <i>(Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by Mrs Thelma Roberts</b>
Friday 27 March	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
 <b>CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD at 02.00 AM ON SUNDAY 29 MARCH</b>		
<b>Sunday 29 March</b> <i>(Passion Sunday)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by Mrs Anna Crawford</b>
	11.00 - 1.00 pm	MENCAP Grand Jumble Sale



Never pass a little church,  
Always pay a visit  
So when at last you're carried in  
The Lord won't say 'Who is it?'



## SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES    APRIL 2020

*Please see Page 5 for a comprehensive list of our Easter Services*

Wednesday 1 April                      All Day                      Westward School rehearsal and Service

Friday 3 April                              12.30 - 2.30 pm                      **Weybridge URC** - Ladies Who Lunch  
Queen's Road, Weybridge KT13 9UX  
(see page 9)

**Sunday 5 April**                              **10.30 am**                              **Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister**  
(Palm Sunday)

Monday 6 April                              2.00 pm                              Bridge Club    Hersham Room

Tuesday 7 April                              8.00 pm                              Elders' Meeting    Hersham Room

Wednesday 8 April                              10.00-11.00 am                              Weybridge URC open for Meditation

Thursday 9 April                              7.30 pm                              Pastorate Communion Service  
(Maundy Thursday)                              The Upper Room, Weybridge URC



Friday 10 April                              Walk of Witness in Weybridge, leaving from  
(Good Friday)                              the Roman Catholic Church

10.30 am                              Hot cross buns and coffee in the Church  
Hall, followed by

11.00 am                              Pastorate Service at St Andrew's conducted by  
the Minister



**Sunday 12 April**                              **10.30 am**                              **Easter Communion Service conducted by**  
(Easter Day)                              **the Minister**

**COPY DATE FOR MAY/JUNE ISSUE WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL**

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

**Tel: 020 8785 4392    Email: [aristocats.2000@gmail.com](mailto:aristocats.2000@gmail.com)**

**Sunday 19 April**                              **10.30 am**                              **Sunday Worship conducted by**  
(Easter 2)                              **Mr Sydney Shore**

3.00 pm                              Messy Church



Monday 20 April                              2.00 pm                              Bridge Club    Hersham Room

Friday 24 April                              10.30 am                              Prayer Group    Garden Room

**Sunday 26 April**                              **10.30 am**                              **Sunday Worship conducted by**  
(Easter 3)                              **The Reverend Roy Bones**

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HOUSE

The morning of 9 February 1945 started off much like any other at Presbyterian Church House, Tavistock Place, London. Staff arrived at their desks for a busy day of work and by the afternoon colleagues, delegates, ministers and lay people from across the country gathered for a conference with the newly formed British Council of Churches' Department of International Friendship. When the conference had finished, the Revd William Thorburn Elmslie, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England, made his way to another appointment – a church extension committee meeting which was also being held in the building, now the central office for the United Reformed Church. He never made it. Mr Elmslie, along with nine others – eight men and two women – died when a German V2 rocket struck the building.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the bombing, the URC held a short memorial service at Church House on 10 February at 11.30am and displayed a Second World War memorial exhibition in the Madge Saunders room. The Revd John Proctor, General Secretary of the URC, said: *"War takes a terrible toll of life and hope. This rocket ended many lives, including ten people in Church House. Others had to spend time in hospital, and the building was utterly wrecked. We remember these, our predecessors, with sorrow, with honour, and in thanksgiving for all who work for peace in our world."*



According to the National Archives, V2 rockets were first launched against England in September 1944. Launched from mobile units on the continent, each V2 rocket was 14 metres (46ft) high and carried a ton (900 kg) of explosives. The V2 was a new type of weapon, it travelled at the speed of sound and made no warning noise before impact, unlike the V1 rockets, which were also known as flying bombs, buzz bombs and doodlebugs. Over the next few months, nearly 1,400 V2s struck London causing mass destruction and the deaths of thousands of people. They were less accurate than V1s, but since they travelled so swiftly and silently, it was almost impossible to defend against them.

Colleagues at the then Presbyterian Church House sadly did not stand a chance.

Along with Mr Elmslie, those who died in the Church House bombing were:

Alexander James Polson, Treasurer of the Publications Committee, who also served as an Elder at Ilford and then Watford.

Ernest Henry Morris, Book-Keeper. Mr Morris had worked in the offices since he was first employed and was responsible for all book-keeping at the time of his death. He was a member at Richmond.

George Moir, Assistant to the Financial Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England. Mr Moir was also Treasurer at St Andrew's, Ealing, and Treasurer to London North Presbytery.

Ida Muriel Warner was known as the 'voice' of Church House as she was its Receptionist. She was the youngest of the ten, aged just 21.

Muriel Kenyon, Book Room Assistant, and a member at St John's Kenton.

The Revd Reginald Herman Tribe, Minister of Anglican Society of the Sacred Mission, was attending the British Council of Churches' Department of International Friendship meeting.

Wilfred Henry Wright, Financial Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England. Mr Wright had joined the staff as a school leaver and one of his responsibilities was to prepare the Report Book for General Assembly. Mr Wright also served as an Elder at Bromley PCE.

William Thomas Stubbs, Assistant to the General Secretary. Mr Stubbs had previously held office as Organising Secretary for the Youth Committee and was an Elder at Southend.

The Revd Thomas William Douglas James, Foreign Missions Secretary. Mr James used to fire-watch at Church House and was particularly concerned for the pastoral care of families whose missionary members were interned or whose fate was unknown.

The complete casualty list for the attack came to 34 dead and 121 injured.

*(with thanks to URC Website)*





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

**Sunday 1 March  
at 12 noon**



### **BRIDGE CLUB**

**Mondays 2 and 16 March  
Mondays 6 and 20 April**

**2.00 pm  
Hersham Room**

### **PRAYER GROUP**

**Friday 24 April**

**10.30 am  
Garden Room**



**CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD  
at 02.00 AM ON  
SUNDAY 29 MARCH**

### **LADIES WHO LUNCH**

**Friday 13 March and  
Friday 3 April**

**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](mailto:ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk)

### **Sign on a church door ...**

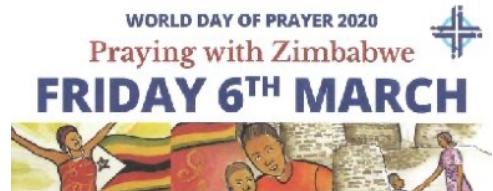
This is the gate of Heaven. Enter ye all by this  
door (This door is kept locked because of the  
draught. Please use the side door.)

### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PRAYING WITH ZIMBABWE**

**FRIDAY 6 MARCH**

**Walton Methodist Church 10.00 am  
Followed by refreshments**

**ALL WELCOME!**



**at 10.00 am**

**Walton-on-Thames  
Methodist Church  
Terrace Road  
KT12 2SR**

*Refreshments after the service*



### **LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITALS**



**12.30 - 1.30 pm at Weybridge  
URC,  
1 Queens Road, KT13 9UX**

**Wednesday 11 March**

Katherine Dienes Williams, Organist and  
Master of the Choristers,  
Guildford Cathedral

**Wednesday 8 April**

Kurt Rampton, Young Organist, Graduate of  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

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

Free entry with retiring collection in aid of  
Musicians Benevolent Fund



## SALISBURY CATHEDRAL CELEBRATES 800 YEARS

Known officially as the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Salisbury Cathedral is one of the most striking examples of architecture in Wiltshire and a major religious landmark in Southern England. It is quite possibly the largest cathedral in the UK, with the largest cathedral cloisters, the largest cathedral close, and the tallest spire. It also has the largest and earliest complete choir stalls in Britain and the oldest working clock in Europe.

The cathedrals of Europe are symbols of intense faith. It took faith to start building one. Most were not completed in one generation or even in two. Their spires, straining toward heaven, are standing prayers to God. In their windows we read the gospel story. Not a few ornaments remind us of the lurking powers of hell. Salisbury is little encumbered with such detail, and the simplicity of its decor has been described as peculiarly English in its understatement. Salisbury Cathedral, constructed in roughly 38 years, remains a testimony to an age of faith.

This year celebrates the 800th anniversary of Salisbury Cathedral, built between 1220 and 1320 with the main body of the building being completed in the first 38 years and there are many events planned for the coming year.

An 800 kg piece of rock of Upper Jurassic limestone, taken from the same seam that provided the original stones used in the construction of Salisbury Cathedral, was blessed at the start of its journey to be carved by masons and fixed to the east end of the building to mark the anniversary of Salisbury Cathedral moving from Old Sarum in 1220. The stone is said to be 150 million years old and is to be blessed three times. The Dean of Salisbury, the Very Reverend Nicholas Papadopoulos, selected and consecrated the stone from Chicksgrove Quarry in Tisbury, Wiltshire. A second blessing at Old Sarum will take place at a special service on April 25 and the blessing at a service celebrating the 800th anniversary.

A “unique and bespoke” light show, ‘Sarum Lights’, is the first event in year-long celebrations for the 800th anniversary of the Cathedral. It has already attracted thousands of visitors to Salisbury Cathedral where they can also learn its history from the 13th century to the present day. Sarum Lights was created specifically for Salisbury by Luxmuralis with its visuals inspired by the cathedral building, its history and collections inside its walls.

*With thanks to Janie Keast( who provided the idea and photographs), the ‘Salisbury Journal’ and the internet*



## NEWS FROM OLD FRIENDS



It is always lovely to hear from old friends. Vaska Ivanova, whom many of you will remember with affection from the time she spent amongst us in Walton as Doreen Drylie's carer, has sent this news from Bulgaria, where she now lives with her family. This photo of Vaska and the family was taken on her mother's recent 86th birthday (Vaska swapped the candles around!).

*"First of all thanks to Marigold and Ghislaine for the lovely Christmas card and e-mail. This past year, I had to travel more often to my parents. With my father's health was deteriorating, in September I moved to their flat because my mother could no longer cope on her own. My father passed away on 1 October last year at the age of 90. That was a good age but we all miss him very much. I took my mother*

*home with me but she wasn't feeling too well. The doctors said she needed a coronary angiography after which we were told she needed an urgent operation so, on 25 November, she had a triple bypass operation. Happily, doctors say that at her age she is doing very well and is making a quick recovery. On 9 January, we celebrated her 86th birthday. She was happy being with my family and grandson and my daughter joining on WhatsApp from Los Angeles but she misses father, as we all do, and she can't wait to go back to her own home. Doctors say she could live on her own again from this April but they advise she should be spending winters with us. Apart from that, all is well with the family. My grandson will be five in March and we are all looking forward to his party. I keep in touch with Tony and his family and hopefully they will visit us this year. I am reading the Newsletter almost regularly and keep myself posted on the church's life.*

*I miss you all! I had lovely time with the church family and I hope to be able to visit our church again. My best wishes to everyone at St Andrew's and have a peaceful and happy 2020!"*

## BURNS NIGHT

Once again the annual Burns Supper organised by the Addlestone and District Scottish Society provided great entertainment and an excellent meal for all who attended. The Weybridge Male Voice Choir sang their hearts out and everyone put their best foot forward in the dancing throughout the evening.

*Colin Duncan addresses the haggis, watched by the haggis bearer Alan Hole and a bemused piper from the Gordon Boys School*



Dear Sir

At last week's Church Council, the vexed subject of the light bulb in the church hall toilet came up. Many wanted the new halogen bulbs, but others thought a compact fluorescent bulb would be cheaper. Mabel reminisced about the good old 100W bulbs that we can no longer use. Four hours we discussed it and still no decision. Maybe next month.

Ranulf Bling

*From 'Writes of the Church' by Gary Anderson*



**CHICKEN PLEA:** In today's ArtPeace article, readers will have read about the overnight theft of



Norah's chickens (left) to which she was very attached. She used to crush maize from their field for feed, so maintenance was quite economical. They were a vital source of protein providing the family with four eggs a day. How this family have survived after all they have been through over the years beats me, but the strain is telling as Norah now suffers from bouts of depression caused by the hopelessness of their situation. Fortune struggles on but his health is deteriorating. This poor family sorely need a boost! **A good Light Sussex mature layer or Boschveld cockerel (right) would cost around £15 to £20 and any surplus eggs could be sold for eating or incubation providing a modest income.** If anyone is feeling



particularly generous, I could quickly forward donations to Fortune to replace the family's chickens which would make his wife's day! This could prove a useful future project as some artists are keen to keep chickens to add variety to their very basic diet. **JS**



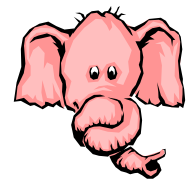
### **MENCAP GRAND JUMBLE SALE**

**SUNDAY 29 MARCH 11.00 am - 1.00 pm**

Burview Hall, Queens Road, Weybridge KT12 5AB  
(adjacent Ellesmere Place)

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**



### *Count your Blessings*

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;  
Count your gains instead of your losses  
Count your friends instead of your foes.  
Count your smiles instead of your tears;  
Count your courage instead of your fears.  
Count your full years instead of your lean;  
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.  
Count your health instead of your wealth;  
Count on God instead of yourself.



## FRIENDS REMEMBERED



*Hector Coulter*

Hector was born in Omagh, Northern Ireland, the youngest of a large family. Sadly his mother died when he was only 14 and so Hector went to live with his sister, Eileen, alongside her own children. Hector and Christina met at work in 1962 and were married on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1965 at Barons Court Parish Church in the County of Tyrone. They were blessed with two children, Darryl, who was born in Northern Ireland and Jennifer who was born after the family had moved to England.

Studying for his Institute of Fire Engineers exams, Hector worked in the fire service. He was on duty the very first night of the troubles in Northern Ireland. He became Chief Fire Officer with BP in Belfast and it was work that, in 1972, brought the family to Sunbury. The family soon started coming to St Andrew's and Hector was on the Readers' rota. He and Christina formally became church members in 1983.

A kind man who always wanted to treat others well, Hector worked hard to provide for his family and to encourage his children to make the very best of their lives, with an emphasis on the importance of education. He was a man who cared about his appearance too and the family used to catch him sneaking a peek at himself in the hall mirror whilst going up and down stairs!

After Christina, Hector's greatest love was golf, happily getting up before 5.00am in order to get a few rounds in before work. Many was the night he would stay up reading his golf books and perfecting his swing in the living room. A Spurs supporter, Hector liked to leave a football match 10 minutes before it ended in order to avoid the exiting crowds. One time, this had disastrous consequences when he and Darryl went to see England playing Northern Ireland at Wembley in the British Championship. On that occasion, three or four goals were scored in the last 10 minutes. Father and son missed the lot.

Hector was also very musical and taught himself to play the piano. He loved his holidays too, and visited a number of countries including Austria and Switzerland. His old, favourite holiday destination, however, was a visit to Bournemouth where, on one occasion, he was taken on stage at a summer show by John Inman and had to dress a model in a bikini with a roll of fabric.

Sadly, Hector's more recent years were marred by increasing poor health as the horrible Alzheimer's took over. Christina looked after him with unstinting and selfless devotion and, as a result, Hector was able to remain at home where he died in his own bed - a wonderful tribute to Christina's care. Jen records a wonderful comment from her Mother. As they prepared the funeral tribute, Christina remarked, "If it's possible, I love that man more today than I did the day we got married."

We remember Hector with fondness and hold Christina and the family in our prayers.

*Michael Hodgson*





At Messy Church in February we talked about building a good foundation in our lives.



We made lots of heart-related items including some very sticky hearts on sticks. They were made out of butter, marshmallows and Rice Krispies. They were very YUM!

In Church, we sang about the wise man who built his house on the rock and the foolish man who built his house on sand. You would all be very proud at our Minister's rendition and actions during the song. (Sadly, no photograph! Ed)

*You can't beat a sticky heart*



*This is how you do it...*



*Building our houses on a rock*



*Slime glorious Slime*



We talked about how we must try and follow Jesus' example and as Mums, Dads, grandmas and grandads, aunts and uncles and adults we should try and set our children good examples and help them to become good people in life. We told the children that sometimes they might not like it when they are told NO but as they got older they would realise why they can't have all they want. It could be for financial reasons or because of the dangers that adults see that they do not.

*Heart-shaped bird feeding rings make brilliant earrings!*

Once again, we had good attendance. This is a very valuable service to give the children who obviously enjoy Messy Church as they are all eager to attend.

*Jean Rigden*

*The trusty Works Team is always on hand to make sure things run smoothly*





## THE WAY WE WERE - EXTRACTS FROM OLD AGM REPORTS

The practice of printing St Andrew's Church Annual Reports started in 1967. Here are a few extracts from the old days, when our congregation numbered rather more than now. Although some of the comments and observations are out of date, many still ring true!

### NEWSLETTER

"The Newsletter has been chugging along in its usual fashion. In 1967, we began the practice of printing Annual Reports, which appears (as they do this year) instead of one month's issue. This mammoth effort on the part of secretaries and representatives (which I am grateful to say has been repeated this year in spite of my panic on the subject!) seemed, however, to exhaust people: contributions for the following month were lower even than usual. To underline the true situation, rather than disguise it by myself writing "flannel" to fill the vacant pages, we published a four-page newsletter instead of the usual eight. Such shock tactics seemed to have some effect for I have been delighted to receive from time to time throughout the year occasional items from new contributors "to use when there is space" ... - which often there is! ...Our most regular contributor, of course, is the minister..."

*From a reader in 1969:* "I am not so much housebound as weather-bound and attend services irregularly. The Newsletter keeps me in touch mentally with the community of St Andrew's. I have learned to know a number of folk by name and follow their thoughts and activities with interest. Enforced physical idleness gives me time for meditation and thought. The Newsletter gives me an additional means of channelling some of those thoughts; in other words, enlarging the capacity for outward-looking. Thank you." *Merrilyn Macaulay, Editor, Newsletter*

### SILVER THREADS

"First of all, may I say a big thank-you for all the loving kindness we have received from members of St Andrew's. Two lovely invalid chairs, clothes, Christmas parcels, a party given by the FOY [Fellowship of Youth], a garden party by Mrs Harrison of Weybridge and the wonderful way our drivers come each Tuesday to fetch and bring us back from the club. We had a wonderful Christmas dinner and concert at the Ellesmere Hall, an anniversary party in March, twelve outings in all during the year, including on to Stratford-on-Avon, with tea at Warwick and one to Wannock Gardens, Polegate, with tea." *M E Packham (Secretary) (1968)*

### FLOWER FUND

"The response to the new flower list in the porch is splendid - thank you. But regretfully, I must report that our reserve Flower Fund has run very low. The extra calls for which it is maintained seem to have been many in 1968 - it is maintained to enable us to send a gift of flowers from the church on any occasion when we feel the congregation would like such a gift to be made. Perhaps anyone who feels that the actual arranging for a Sunday is rather difficult might care instead to contribute to the fund this year. We tend to be a far-flung membership - this is one of the ways we all keep in touch." *G E Ormiston (1968)*

### BADMINTON CLUB

"The Club has been glad to welcome a number of new members this season and our membership has increased to 36. ... The Ladies' and Men's Singles Tournaments were won last season by Miss Barbara McEwen and Mr Maurice Gwilt. ...At the beginning of last year we decided not to enter the Presbyterian Church League, which we had played in during previous years. This was because we had not a sufficient number of ladies to make a team but we hope that now we have some new members we may be able to enter a team in the League again next season." *L F Martyn. (1968)*

### WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

"Thinking over the varied activities of 1967 it seems to me that the usual report on subjects of meetings, needlework, activity week by week producing numerous articles for the Christmas Sale, numbers attending etc would give a very inadequate idea of the fellowship which we enjoy together - a sharing of interests and ideas, concern when there is illness or anxiety, joy in the birth of a child - or a grandchild. *Marjorie Lane (our minister's wife at this time)*

"The Coffee Mornings each month have continued to be a useful meeting ground for old and new friends, as well as an opportunity to raise extra funds for Women's Work, church cleaning materials and the Ockenden Venture, the children of Martinstift, etc - although we often wish more new friends would come to meet us so that we could get to know one another better. At times we have been discouraged by apparent lack of interest. For this reason, both our proposed outings had to be abandoned and the Christmas "Tea and Sugar" coffee morning which was made so enjoyable by the singing of Mrs Joan Bradbury and the music of Mrs Isla Tait was worthy of a better attendance than twenty-five people." *Marjorie Lane. (1967)*



## I DREAMED I HAD AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD



**‘So you would like to interview me?’ said God.**

‘If you have time’, I said.

**God smiled. ‘My time is eternity. What questions do you have in mind for me?’**

‘What surprises you most about human kind?’

**God answered...**

**‘That they get bored with childhood, they rush to grow up and then long to be children again.’**

**‘That they lose their health to make money ... and then lose their money to restore their health.’**

**‘That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future.’**

**‘That they live as if they will never die and die as though they had never lived,’**

God’s hand took mine and we were silent for a while and then I asked ...

‘As a parent, what are some of life’s lessons you want your children to learn?’

**God replied.**

**‘To learn that they cannot make anyone love them.  
All they can do is let themselves be loved.’**

**‘To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others.’**

**‘To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in those they love and it can take many years to heal them.’**

**‘To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most but the one who needs the least.’**

**‘To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently.’**

**‘To learn that it is not enough that they forgive one another but that they must also forgive themselves.’**

‘Thank you for your time,’ I said, meaning it.

‘Is there anything else you would like your children to know?’

**God smiled and said,**

**‘Just to know that I am here ... always.’**

*Author Unknown (with thanks to the Minister of Ness Bank Church, Inverness)*

## FLOWER POWER



**Ghislaine Stevenson** writes

*"It was an unexpected pleasure after the service on 2 February to be given a bunch of the beautiful spring flowers which had graced the Communion Table, donated by Marigold Crampton. The lovely fresh pastel colours brought a waft of sunshine into my living room for a considerable time afterwards. Thank you."*

**Christine Carlile** says:

*"I received some lovely flowers last Sunday from the Communion Table, kindly given to me by Irene. They are a very pretty green and white arrangement. Thank you so much"*

**Ann Tranquillini Gay** was delighted to receive a beautiful assortment of flowers (from the arrangement seen in the photograph above) after the church service on 16 February. They were much appreciated and enjoyed. *"Thank you so much, St Andrew's."*

### BLUE TIT ON A STRING OF PEANUTS

Norman MacCaig (1910 - 1996) Collected Poems (Chatto & Windus 1990)  
by permission of Random Century Group

A cubic inch of some stars  
Weighs a hundred tons - Blue tit,  
Who could measure the power  
Of your tiny spark of energy? Your hair-thin legs  
(one north-east, one due west) support  
A scrap of volcano, four inches  
Of hurricane; and, seeing me, you make the sound  
Of a grain of sawdust being sawn  
By the minutest of saws.



We were much saddened to learn of the death on 25 February of May Dow, a dearly loved member of St Andrew's over many years. Our thoughts, love and prayers are with her daughters, Fiona and Valerie, and all of her family at this sad time.  
We will include an appreciation of May's life in our next issue.



## ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**EXPERTS** agree that climate

change is at the heart of Zimbabwe's worst drought for 40 years. One of my Zimbabwe contacts, Verity Johnson of CAFOD, told ITV News: 'You [can't discount climate change, it's a huge factor in what is happening.](#)

["Zimbabwe has been in economic crisis for many years now and there's been a steady deterioration, there have been further shocks this year](#)

[with currency changes which have seen food prices going through the roof. "It's an incredibly difficult situation for ordinary people to deal with.'](#) Verity is CAFOD'S representative for Malawi Zimbabwe and Swaziland. She is an essential link to me through liaising with travellers prepared to take parcels of small stone ArtPeace sculptures back to the UK which lifts their morale.

**THE GOOD NEWS** is that the rains have finally arrived refreshing ArtPeace's fields although



some maize plants were too far gone to benefit. Photo left shows a delighted Lizeni Nasho in her field and above, Fortune's photo of a spectacular sky bristling with rain clouds bringing joy to numerous Zimbabweans whose crops are the main source of food for their families for much of the year. The hope now is for normal weather until the April harvest time, free of the dreaded army worm which can devastate crops in days.



**SAD LOSS:** After a short illness Gift Tembo (left) has passed away at the young age of 35 from Tuberculosis. He was the nephew of Coster Balakasi, one of our artists. Gift was a tremendous young talent. I have sold his exquisite work on several occasions. Coster was further distressed when his youngest sister Shupikai (32) died the following day. As usual raising money to cover both funerals quickly was a nightmare. To help reduce the cost, artist Herbert (right) dug his fellow artist's grave.





**THEFT:** Fortune's wife Norah was in tears recently due to the theft of her chickens. Under cover of darkness, thieves stole the family's five chickens which provided eggs for the family of four. A



violent thunderstorm drumming on the metal corrugated roof of their home (left) drowned out her chickens being disturbed. A neighbour has since given her one replacement chicken and hopefully a donation will cover the balance. The four eggs a day added protein to the family's meagre diet. Fortune said: 'For security I will enclose some rock rabbits by the side of chicken run. Any footsteps and the rock rabbits (right) will make high pitched screeching noises which will wake me up and scare away thieves.'



**ARREST:** A few days later, Fortune said: 'My friend Martin, desperate to provide for his four children, was arrested for selling firewood (environmental issue). Right now, I am coming from the police cells where I gave him some food. I wanted to send you photos, but they took my mobile and deleted photos, but I will try to send you something later' Fortune used his

last 15 dollars to get his friend released through bribing officers – a common practise in Zimbabwe! Photo right – Martin leaving the police station with his wife Noma accompanied by Fortune in the red shirt who said: 'Martin is still frightened from his prison experience. He plus 19 other prisoners were packed into one big room. It had one small skylight window so the inmates could not see the outside world. There was an open uncovered hole in the middle of the floor where prisoners could relieve themselves. The smell was terrible. There was no wash facility unless the women's cell was free. They ate once a day in the afternoon and relatives had to bring food. They ate outside - the only time they got 30 minutes of fresh air. They shared one blanket amongst four. Mosquitos and mice made life uncomfortable.' I will try and sell Martin's jewellery and raise funds for him. He has a very good friend in Fortune!



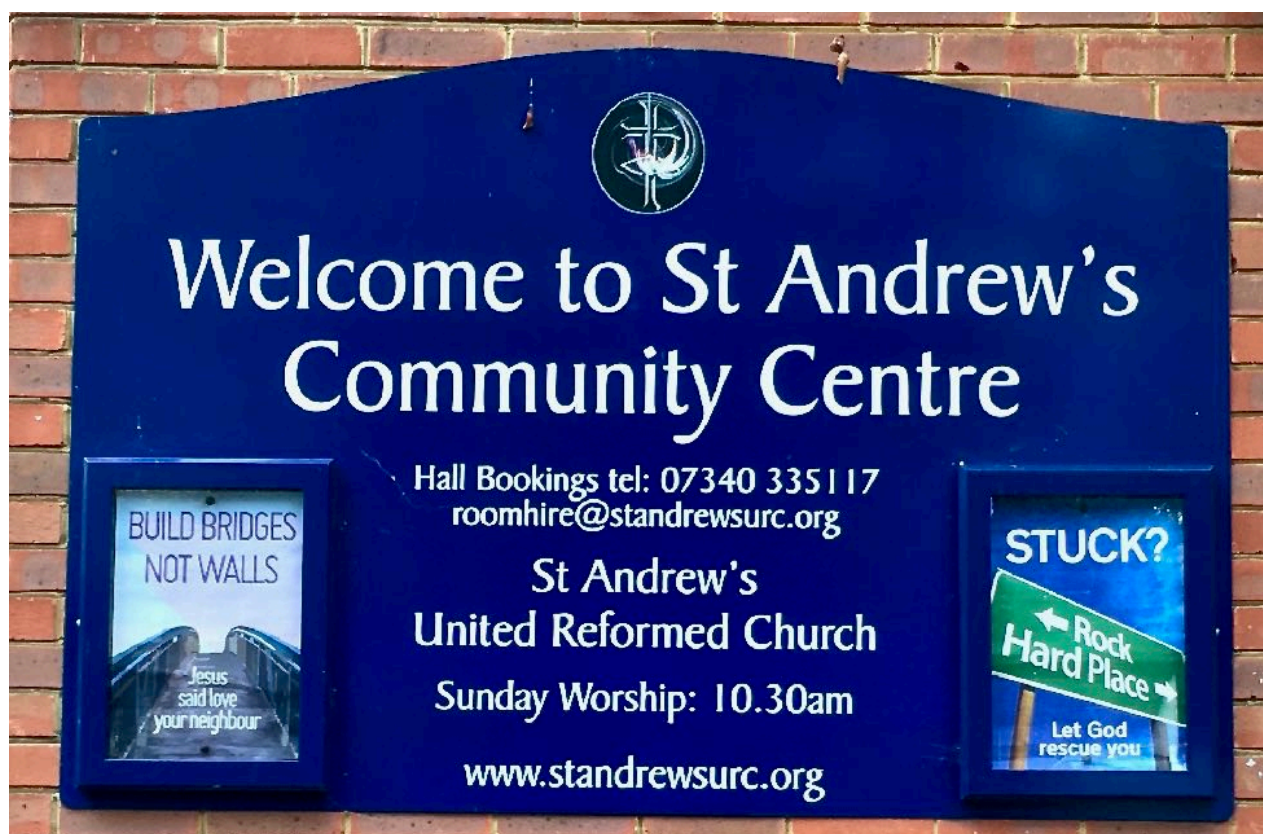
**LAZARUS (sick boy ref. Feb. article)** received a donation from a member of St A's to buy food said: 'I never expected in my life that some kind person would help me.' He was so pleased said Ignatious.

**DELICACY:** Artists gather these caterpillars called Madora from trees. Boiled with salt and dried, they are delicious. Orders anyone?



One artist thought readers might like to see his photo of a beetle he met on his travels. There is so much everyday beauty in Zimbabwe to counter man's ugliness.

**Johnston Simpson**



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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**