



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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 77 No 8

OCTOBER 2020



*"Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones.
And when you have completed your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake."*

Victor Hugo



From The Manse

October 2020

Dear friends

This time of year our thoughts can very much be tied up with harvest and with thanking God for the produce of the earth, the sea and under the sea as well. As the psalmist writes:

"You visit the earth and bless it. You crown the year with your goodness."

This year, I find myself wanting to expand that thinking a little and give thanks for the harvest of technology - a harvest we're relying on much more heavily this year.

When I was first ordained, I had a typewriter and did all office work on it. I had a pack of carbon paper and used to hope that I'd put it in the right way round if I wanted a copy of something. Multiples were done on a Roneo (O Roneo, Roneo, Wherefore art thou Roneo?). I'd never heard of emails or Google (probably hadn't been invented then) and going on line was what the washing did on a Monday morning.

We all know how the use of computers and associated technology has developed rapidly over the last decades and we've probably all blessed and cursed computers on a regular basis. A computer always knows when you're in a hurry. When you're at your most pressed is when it decides to download 63 million updates and lock you for what seems like hours whilst it does so. Looking back over the last six months though, I simply don't know how most of us would have coped in Lockdown without computers. They have allowed us to stay in touch. They have allowed us to see friends and families and many of us have also acquired new computing skills over the last six months too.

At the start of the year, Zoom was a type of ice lolly that had been popular in the late '60s/early '70s. Now I suspect that "Zoom Chat" and "zooming" are about to be added to the dictionary. Those terms are now commonly used. I also heard that this year's top fashion accessory is a "Zoom Shirt" - one which looks good on screen and can be kept by your desk and quickly pulled on over vest or T- shirt when necessary.

For six months of this year our only services have been "on line". What's really interesting is that our regular congregation grew. People no longer able to come to church have been able to join us as well, and we've been joined by former members who have moved away, some to different continents. It has been remarkable.

Business-wise we've been able to have various meetings online, including Elders' Meetings. Undoubtedly, we shall have "actual meetings" again, but I do suspect that there will now be a blend of actual and virtual. I get the impression that going out to, say, an Elders' Meeting in the depths of winter when it's cold and dark and the rain is beating against the windows, holds little attraction when it can be done with no one leaving the warmth and comfort of their own home and with a mug of tea (or glass of something) to keep them going.

So, this year I am very much thanking God for the harvest of technology and of computer technology which has been so significant for us. God has certainly blessed us with it and, in a very difficult year, a lot has been possible as a result of laptops and i-phones and tablets and all the rest of it.

With all good wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Cad", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday 4	11.30am	Communion Service led by the Minister at St Andrew's and on Zoom
Wednesday 7	10.00am – 11.00am	Weybridge URC open for private prayer
Sunday 11	11.30am	Harvest Festival led by the Minister at St Andrew's and on Zoom
Wednesday 14	10.00am – 11.00am	Weybridge URC open for private prayer
Sunday 18	11.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd David Netherwood at St Andrew's and on Zoom
Wednesday 21	10.00am – 11.00am	Weybridge URC open for private prayer
Sunday 25	11.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Anna Crawford at St Andrew's and on Zoom
Wednesday 28	10.00am – 11.00am	Weybridge URC open for private prayer

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1	11.30am	Morning Worship led by The Minister at St Andrew's and on Zoom
----------	---------	--

Want to be part of the “actual” congregation in church on Sunday?

You're very welcome. The service is for both churches of the pastorate and is held in St Andrew's at 11.30am. All you need to do is book a place by the end of the previous Thursday evening. Just phone or email the Minister - it's a simple as that. We can take up to 30.

The same also applies for the private prayer opportunity at Weybridge on a Wednesday morning. Do book in if you'd like to come. We would be delighted to see you.

By the way, in case you're wondering why you have to pre-book and are allocated a seat, the reasons include (a) to stop us getting more coming than we can legally have in the building, (b) to stop us having to turn people away from the door if we reach that limit, (c) to minimise movement within the church, (d) to organise the seating to accommodate the maximum and (e) your booking also acts as your “track and trace” record. Oh, and most importantly, it ensures we've got enough Werther's Originals for everyone!

THE STATEMENT OF NATURE, FAITH AND ORDER OF THE URC

Who is the head of the church? Who rules the church? Who controls the church? There's a series of questions which could have come straight from the court of Henry VIII - and we know the conclusion "Our 'Enery" came to! The Queen is the Head of the Church of England. The Pope is the Head of the Roman Catholic Church. In the URC we think rather differently.

We believe that

Christ gives his Church a government
Distinct from the government of the state.
In things that affect obedience to God
The Church is not subordinate to the state,
But must serve the Lord Jesus Christ,
Its only Ruler and Head.
Civil authorities are called
To serve God's will of justice and peace of all humankind,
And to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

**While we ourselves
Are servants in the world
As citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

The URC may have come into being by Act of Parliament, but that's because of certain legal aspects, including our charitable status and our ownership of property and the various property trusts. Parliament does not have any input into our decisions in matters of faith and order, though. When we decide something, it does not have to be ratified by the state. We are a "Free Church". The URC is not subordinate to the State. Instead, it must serve and is answerable only to God.

We then go on to say a little about what we do believe is the responsibility of civil leaders and rulers. Martin Luther's famous hymn for the Reformation says that they "will bind their wills to service God's end, which we, who love him treasure." (R&S 585).

Finally we say something about where we stand in all of this. We are God's servants in this world and citizens of God's eternal kingdom.

I'm always pleased that we state this so clearly on occasions when an ecumenical aspect is likely to be present. Clearly, this makes us very different from, say, the Church of England – the established church. Some would like the Church of England to become dis-established, including some within it. I'm not entering that debate, but this is where we very explicitly say that we are a Free Church - and I can almost feel the passion of my non-conformity pulsing through my veins as I write.

With all good wishes.



NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE

Traditionally, people are backwards in coming forwards when asked to give an opinion as to their preferences, particularly in these days, when we seem to be inundated with questionnaires of every type and hue.

However, in a bid to improve your Newsletter, I have drawn up a short questionnaire and would be grateful for a quick response. It should only take around 10 minutes (probably a lot less!) to complete and would be incredibly helpful to your Editor. If you would like to remind yourselves of previous issues of the Newsletter, they can be found on our website www.standrewsurc.org

Please give a score of 1 to 5 against each item where **1** is **good** and **5** the **opposite**.

1. Minister's Pastoral Letter
2. Current affairs items relating to the church - including Wessex Synod material
3. News of friends near and far
4. Good news items from the church family and our young people - such as exam successes and other achievements
5. Humour
6. ArtPeace articles
7. Personal accounts of experiences (particularly with a spiritual slant, such as one moving contribution we had a while ago about walking to Santiago de Compostela - June 2018 issue, pages 6 and 7)
8. Uplifting words such as prayers and quotations that reflect hope and encouragement
9. Fr David Harold-Barry's homilies (there is a good example in the September issue, page 12)
10. Articles with an artistic bent

Please return this questionnaire (by return email or by post), together with any of your own suggestions for improving your Newsletter **no later than Friday 16 October**. The easiest way to respond for those of you who receive your Newsletter by email would, most probably, be for you to click on 'Reply' and then, in the message box, to write the number of the question and alongside it (maybe in brackets) your score. For example: 1 (1); 2 (3) and so on.

Thank you!

Norma (Editor)

SHOE BOX TIME!



We have for many years contributed to Operation Christmas Child by filling a shoebox with gifts suitable for underprivileged children of all ages - up to a million of them - in various parts of the world. There has always been an option for donations and this year, due to the situation and difficulties of preparing the shoeboxes, the Elders have agreed that a donation will be given to Samaritan's Purse.

Members of the congregation can pass a cheque to Alan Crawford for inclusion (before 16 November), or they can go on to the Samaritans Purse website and fill a box online <https://www.samaritanspurse.org>

Please be generous!



The 9th Walton Brownie unit has just changed hands and the new leader in charge is Hannah Elton-Dobbin.

Hannah writes:

“Last term we focused on the badge 'Express yourself', making the Brownies explore their creativity and think outside the box. Throughout the term they made up stories, created inventions and solved problems individually and as a group. Sadly, this got cut short in the meetings when we entered lockdown. However, we continued to send them the activities and adapted them to be able to do individually. We also set the Brownies the task to do the 'Home Sweet Home Badge'. This badge included a number of activities for them to do while stuck indoors, including baking, putting on a performance for their family and gardening. Along with this, many worked towards interest badges that they do at home individually. Some of the badges the Brownies earned included Baking, Collecting and Performing.

We are looking forward to getting back to meetings and hoping to be able to start soon!”

Answers to last month's Biblical Quiz

1. Cain
2. Ruth
3. Moses
4. Absalom
5. Samuel
6. Simon / Peter
7. Peter's Mother-in-law
8. Elizabeth
9. Theophilus
10. Lydia

THE GOOD NEWS PAGE

CLODGAH JOINS THE BLUES AND ROYALS



Anna Crawford writes:

"I am attaching a photo of my great niece Clodgah who, after two years of gruelling army training, has passed out as a member of the Household Cavalry, Blues and Royals. We are so proud of her as is her young sister who is with her in the photo."

We all send our congratulations, Clodgah - you look wonderful in that uniform! *Ed*

The Blues and Royals are part of the Household Cavalry which is made up of the two most senior regiments of the British Army, the Life Guards and the Blues and Royals. For more than 300 years, the soldiers of Household Cavalry have acted as the monarch's trusted guardians, as well as being the public face of the British Army both at home and abroad. The Household Cavalry has also earned a formidable reputation on the battlefield, having served in iconic conflicts from Waterloo to Afghanistan. At home, its duties have ranged from providing security for the 2012 Olympic Games in London to assisting flood

victims. Whether they're riding a horse or driving an armoured vehicle, all Household Cavalry soldiers have one thing in common: excellence.

(from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) official website)

VALERY THOMPSON RETURNS TO WALTON

Johnston Simpson, whilst trying to brighten up the church garden one afternoon recently, had a happy surprise when Valery Thompson, (the charming French - American lady), called in. They had a long chat and he was able to invite her to that week's zoom service. Valery said she would be in the Walton area again for some considerable time which is great news for St Andrew's as she is like a breath of fresh air! We do hope to see more of you, Valery - you will always be made most welcome at St Andrew's! *Ed*

JAKE IS GROWING UP FAST

Jake's grandmother, Shirley McGrath, has sent us news of Jake who has just started nursery. His key worker wrote: 'Jake sat himself in the teacher chair, he rang the bell and shouted "yes we are" which is the response the children give when the teacher asks if they're listening. He then started to sing our good morning song waving his arms around just like the teachers do at circle time. I think you would make a totally awesome teacher, Jake!'

Jake, you've come a long way! *Ed*



HAPPINESS IS THE RE-OPENING OF ST ANDREW'S FOR SERVICES ...



"It went very well. It was so good to be in church again."

"We both really enjoyed being back in church today and appreciate all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to make both the 'in person' and the Zoom service run smoothly."

"It felt really good to be in church again in person."

"I thought it would be really nice to dress up for a change!"

These are just a few of the comments received after the service on Sunday 30 September, when a congregation of just 30 from our Weybridge and Walton churches - the upper limit allowed - gathered at St Andrew's for the first, eagerly-anticipated, live service in the church building since lockdown on 23 March. It

was always going to be a rather different experience, what with legal restrictions and requirements, not least having to book our place in advance so as to ensure that the limit of 30 worshippers under one roof was not exceeded. This involved some gentle and precise management on the part of those who organised the service, with the 2m

social distancing rule very much in evidence. The church was open from about 11.10 am and we were asked to arrive, if possible, not more than that in advance of the start time of 11.30 am, but, also, not to leave it until the last minute either. Suitably face-covered, we were greeted at the door with eyes that smiled welcome, offered sanitiser and shown to our named and numbered seats. A really nice touch was the Werther's Original sweet sitting alongside our name card. It was, of course, sad that we were not able to sing (the absence of hymn books ensured that no-one was tempted) but we were able to enjoy the two rousing hymns sung with feeling by other congregations and downloaded from U-tube, projected on the



screen in the same way that has been done for our Zoom services. The first - 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' - we had sung at the last service before lockdown and the second 'Lord for the Years your love has kept and guided' with its comforting and uplifting words, were thoughtfully chosen.

Michael stood at the front, next to the pulpit, to lead the service. His visor was much more user-friendly to the congregation than would have been a mask, and in church we could see the Zoom congregation projected on to the big screen (although, being seated at the very back, and having so enjoyed the Zoom services where I could see everyone who chose to log in with video 'up close and personal', I found myself wishing that the images could have been enlarged to as to bring them nearer). However, this could be regarded as only a minor drawback. One person, commented afterwards, *"The Zoom link that enabled those at home to be an equal part of the proceedings particularly pulled at our heart strings."* There was an emotional moment when Anna brought the Bible into church at the start of the service. A little "touch of normality" that meant a great deal.



There was an opportunity to leave an offertory in one of two bowls placed by the entrance and we left in an orderly fashion, guided by a Duty Elder who indicated to us when we could leave our seats. Once outside, we were able to remove our masks if we wished and chat to friends, albeit always mindful of the 2m social distancing rule. Here, a touch of the old normality returned.

The Church garden was a joy, perfectly manicured and colourful, thanks to the loving care and time spent tending it by Head Gardener Johnston Simpson and his able deputies, James and Annie Zhang.

So yes, our first post-Covid service did feel a little strange with social distancing, perhaps, unavoidably affecting the closer feeling of togetherness that we have in normal times. For all that, it was lovely to get back into church again for a service and I think we can judge this step as a great success. The number of people we could accommodate almost exactly matched the number of places we could offer and, following this trial, the intention is that this will be continued as “the new normal for the coming months” from 27 September. Places still need to be pre-booked. You can’t just turn up but this is a welcome development and new option. You can see how to do it on page 3.



Finally, a huge thank-you to all those who have worked so hard to make it all possible.

An afterthought... It would be great if technology would allow the live congregation and the Zoom participants to unite in after-service catch-up chat. Shall we dare to dream?
Ed

... AND OF WEYBRIDGE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

A moment of near normality returned at Weybridge URC when, on Wednesday 16 September, as part of our trial re-opening week, the church opened during the morning for private prayer. This has been the custom for some years and, with live organ music, eight of us took advantage of this opportunity. With the church doors wide open on a lovely autumn morning the building “came up trumps”. Walking in really did feel like stepping aside for a moment. It was lovely to hear the organ being played as well, a mixture of contemplative voluntaries and hymn tunes. Two of the latter struck me particularly apposite - “God is in his Temple” and “I heard the voice of Jesus say, come unto me and rest”.

There was a palpable feeling of peace and serenity in Weybridge and I hope that from 30 September, this will be available each week. A special time and one which also made me think of an old hymn by John Ellerton.

*Behold us, Lord, a little space
From daily tasks set free,
And met within Thy holy place
To rest awhile with Thee.*

I, for one, certainly came out feeling both rested and restored.

Michael Hodgson

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

IT'S GOOD NEWS TIME! This month, fortune has shone on our hard-pressed friends. A few weeks ago, whilst the group and their families were hard at work clearing their fields in readiness for a new season, news filtered through that following an Elders' meeting, Marlow URC



would once more cover the substantial cost of seed, fertilisers and chemicals. The artists and their families felt blessed as their last good harvest undoubtedly kept the wolf from the door and supported numerous people. Photo left: *Godwin and Ignatious with fertiliser*. Below left clockwise: *Coster's family, Lizeni, Ignatious's family, Shingi and his wife Beauty all engrossed in their work*.

More good news: Wendy from **St Mark's, Wimbledon**, alerted her congregation to the need for more mobiles.

Four members from **Toller URC, Kettering**, have sent donations supporting the group.

Wheatley URC (Oxon) Elders have shown interest in the ArtPeace project and recently held a Zoom meeting with a **Marlow URC** Elder to learn of this church's extensive experience with ArtPeace over the years.

Dean Andrew Nunn of **Southwark Cathedral** is hopeful that the Cathedral shop selling ArtPeace sculptures will reopen 1st November but there is still a pressing need for travellers to collect the artists' small parcels of work.





PRAYER OF THANKS: This beautiful prayer was written by artist Christine (left), in appreciation of all those who have supported ArtPeace and friends over so many traumatic years.

God Almighty, when our lives are overwhelmed You lessen the burden by sending people our way to help us carry the load.

When our souls are heavy, downtrodden and weary, You plant a song in our hearts and in the hearts of our brothers and sisters uniting us as a universe, reminding us that we are not alone.

When we feel forsaken, You send Your angels winged and those without to share with us moments of hope, love and empathy.

When we are hungry, Your bounty comes in the miracle of those who still dare to share the little they have with us.

Lord we thank You for the brothers and sisters You send every day to meet us at our point of need. We thank You for those who share with us, not from abundance but from a heart that beats with love for their fellow man. We thank You because in so doing, our lives are changed and the lives of our children, extended families and those we love and treasure. One seed flourished and produced many seeds that became a tree that fed and sheltered many. Lord we thank You because through the generosity of our beloved brothers and sisters, we as ArtPeace are reminded daily that we are not forgotten. Zimbabwe is not forgotten.

We speak Your blessing upon the lives of those who have been mindful of us. Bless abundantly the source from which they gave. Replenish their pantries, increase their territories and keep the light within their hearts burning for You, so that in doing so they continue to love us too.

Please be mindful of those who loved us and left us. May they rest in Your love and peace. Bless their loved ones whom they left behind. May they flourish and prosper too.

We thank You oh God because amidst the chaos of our lives, there is a miracle as age old as humanity which unfolds and manifests through Your grace and mercy. It is the miracle of love. The love that became one of us and walked among us and died upon a cross for us, the love that cleanses us from our inequities. The love that loves for its own sake despite our glaring imperfections. It is the miracle of love that someone would love us when they have never met us. It is the miracle that blesses ArtPeace to be loved by those whose hearts are moved by You and not because we are worthy... We are because our brothers and sisters in Christ are.

May Your love continue to unite us as one family. May it be the rhythm that tames our heartbeat. Were it not for Your mercy Lord a love like this we would never know.

Thank you eternally in the name of Jesus Christ. ArtPeace



SYLVESTER: Artist Mike Masedza recently met an old friend, **Sylvester Mubayi** (78), one of Zimbabwe's best-known and loved first-generation master sculptors. A few older ArtPeace members were apprenticed to these great artists. Mike said: 'I first met Sylvester in 1986 at Vukutu art gallery in Harare, the same year that I met Joseph Ndandarika (another world class sculptor). Joseph and Sylvester were close friends. Sylvester was a hardworking man. He was very humble then and still is now. Despite difficult times, he used to encourage me and treated me like his own son. I was surprised to hear he was in Tafara visiting his son. He asked the guys to look for me and told them he would not go home until he met me. What an honour from a great man!' More on Sylvester Mubayi's life and examples of his work can be found elsewhere in this NL.

Johnston Simpson

WHY WE STILL NEED “THOUGHT FOR THE DAY”

Fifty years old this week, the daily interruption to the ‘Today’ programme is as vital as ever, says Tim Stanley.

Thought for the Day has been running on BBC Radio 4 (formerly the Home Service) for 50 years, at roughly 7.47 am, Monday to Saturday, for two minutes and 40 seconds. As a presenter, I can tell you the timing is strict. There’s a common misconception that *Thought* is part of the Today programme; it’s not - it interrupts it. The whole point is to force the news to pause and, to quote the brief, “to reflect from a faith perspective on some current topic or event.”

Nothing irritates a Today journalist more than having to end an interview with Boris Johnston to cut to “The Bishop of Arundel in our Eastbourne studio”, but the slot has become a reassuring part of our national daily routine and it tells a fascinating history of religion in modern Britain.

The format has been around in one form or another since the early years of the BBC. In 1939 *Lift Up Your Hearts* launched on the Home Service, followed by *Ten to Eight* in 1965. *Thought for the Day* as we know it started on April 6 1970, at the beginning of a decade of profound change. The producers were religious, but they recognised that their audience was becoming more secular, so they decided to shift the emphasis away from “God and man” towards “man and man” - in other words to focus on ethics rather than theology.

Everything that bothers people about *Thought* now was said about it back then: when it was uncontroversial it was called “banal”, when it was on the nose it was called socialism in a dog collar. *Thought* covered abortion, sexuality, immigration war and inevitably Margaret Thatcher, and while the producers were liberals too, even they became exasperated at the politics of their regular presenters. In 1990, one of the show’s more charismatic speakers, Canon Eric James, resigned in protest at what he claimed was an attempt to censor his script. He had wanted to express sympathy with the poll tax rioters. *Thought*, finally, drew a line.

The show relied heavily on clerics from the Church of England at a time when the Anglican leadership was moving to the Left - probably further to the Left than the average congregant. In 1996, Anne Atkins, a lay Anglican writer, suggested on *Thought* that ordinations were drying up because the Church’s teaching had become too ambiguous, particularly on homosexuality. The BBC received more than 1,000 letters and calls. When this story is retold, it’s often assumed that they were complaints, but they weren’t, they were overwhelmingly supportive. “The avalanche of letters”, said producer Paul Donovan, “showed a perception that at last the liberals who run the BBC had allowed someone to express the feelings in accordance with the majority of the population.”

Multiculturalism came late to *Thought*: the first Muslim speaker, Umar Hegedus, didn’t arrive until 1992. Nowadays, the show has around 30 regular contributors, from Hindus to Sikhs, from far-Left vicars, to Right wing Catholics like me. Why was I invited to join the team? I haven’t the faintest idea, but I accepted because *Thought* is so important to anyone who cares about religion in public life. With religious broadcasting all but gone from the BBC or anywhere else, we need to keep those two minutes and 40 seconds on the air. I’d argue that *Thought* hasn’t just represented religious life in Britain, it has also shaped it in its own image.

The gold standard for presenting was Rabbi Lionel Blue, who first appeared on *Ten to Eight* in 1967. Over 30-odd years on *Thought*, he established a style of talking about religion that many of us are still hoping to imitate today: funny, honest, non-doctrinal. Blue handled big concepts in familiar language; he believed it was his job to help listeners to start the day with hope rather than to send them diving back under the duvet.

Critics might carp that there’s nothing especially religious about that, but if there is one thing fundamental to any faith, it is hope.

From the Saturday Telegraph of 11 April 2020



A LITTLE BIT OF DOORKINS

You (particularly the cat-lovers amongst you) may remember that we have, over the years, charted the life of Doorkins, the Southwark Cathedral cat (in the picture enjoying lockdown sunshine) who, around Christmas 2008, adopted it as her home and became quite a celebrity. The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, has posted recent news of her on his Blog [LIVING GOD](#). We have a special connection with Southwark Cathedral through ArtPeace and they help us to help ArtPeace by taking their sculptures to sell in the Cathedral shop, currently closed, but accessible on line and due to open again on 1 November.

The Dean writes:

“One of the things that I was pleased about as we entered the lock down was that Doorkins was already safe and enjoying her new home and didn’t have to go through the trauma of being uprooted and plonked somewhere else. It was clear that she was ready for a more gentle environment in which to live. The Cathedral is lovely, we all love it, and when you are a bit younger and a cat, a great place to run around and spend the evening doing what cats do and the day sleeping as cats do. But when age catches up with you and you want some home comforts and unhelpful clergy keep disturbing you, wanting to sit in their own stall, on their own cushions, then of course you might prefer to have somewhere else to call home. So Doorkins has spent the lock down in the home of the vergers who offered her a place to live when we decided that it was time for her to retire and put her paws up. This particular verger has a very nice flat, full of soft furnishings and seldom cold. The hallway has a lovely radiator that is just the place for a cat bed to be placed and there is plenty of space for a dish full of food and and bowl full of water. So Doorkins is in a good place. She now ventures out of the kitchen door and into the little yard, sniffing the fresh air and perhaps remembering when she would spend the day lounging in the churchyard and the evening roaming the Borough Market.

All that wandering really came to an end, as you probably know, when the terrorist attack on London Bridge and the Borough Market happened in 2017. Doorkins was out that evening in the Borough Market, enjoying herself, just like all the people packed into the pubs and the restaurants on that lovely June evening. We can only imagine what terror she went through that night – and then we were nowhere to be found for a week. She must have felt frightened and abandoned. Thank goodness for the members of the Metropolitan Police who, in the midst of so many other responsibilities, gave time to caring for her.

After that, when she got back into the safety of the Cathedral, she never went out again. I am always reminded of that lovely verse from Psalm 84:

*“Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young :
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.” (Psalm 84.3 – BCP version)*

Church is a safe house for all creation, and if for the sparrow and if for Doorkins, then for us as well.”

**God,
may our doors be open to all
and our community a reflection
of your openness and love
for the whole of your creation.
Amen.**

THIS AND THAT



MAGPIE FOLKLORE

One for sorrow... but if you salute it, you can avoid bad luck, or just stick around for a second one! Unfortunately for the magpie, piebald plumage has an association with evil and bad fortune. It is said that the magpie was the only bird not to go into the ark with Noah, instead it sat on top, swearing and chattering as the world drowned. It was also said to be the only bird not to sing to comfort Jesus on the cross and after his death the only one that did not go into full mourning possibly due to its partial black plumage. There are several variations of the verse, and the magpies go up to 20, but here is probably the most common rhyme for the first seven (I like ending with the secret!).

“One for sorrow
Two for joy
Three for a girl
Four for a boy
Five for silver
Six for gold
Seven for a secret
Never to be told “

MORE GEMS FROM THE NHS MEDICAL SECRETARIES IN GLASGOW

The patient is crying constantly. She also seems to be depressed.

Discharge status: Alive but without my permission.

Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.

While in ER, she was examined, x-rated and sent home.

IT PAYS TO HAVE YOUR GLASS HALF FULL

A gentleman of 72, but sounding older, responded to the radio presenter's appeal for people to let him know how they were finding lockdown. In a very slow, soft Western Isles accent he explained that he was shielding at his home in a small village on the tip of a remote Scottish island, because of his age and because he had had heart failure for a number of years as well as other health problems which meant he wasn't able to go out anyway. I don't think he had any family, but his neighbours had been wonderful, bringing him regular food supplies, his medication and little treats, as well as phoning frequently for a chat. The radio presenter asked him how he viewed the future; wasn't he at all despondent and apprehensive? He replied:

"No, I'm chust thankful to wake up efferry morrrning with all the old symptoms... and no new ones."

COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE : WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER
ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP
Tel: 020 8785 4392 Email: aristocats.2000@gmail.com

SYLVESTER MUBAYI: After leaving school, Sylvester worked as a tobacco grader moving to Salisbury in 1966 to seek employment. He visited the National Gallery where director Frank McEwen's workshop school had recently started and saw astonishing sculptures for the first time. On the same day, he met Tom Blomfield, founder of the Tengenenge Sculpture Community, who invited him to join the Community although Sylvester had no previous experience other than basic lessons during his school years. He worked with many household names in the world of sculpting and proved an undeniable talent so much so, that in his first year of sculpting, he won the highest award for art in Southern Africa – The Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Award and hence established himself as a leading Tengenenge artist. A fiercely independent artistic spirit was to eventually force him away from the community and join Frank McEwen's workshop at the National Gallery. He was subsequently invited to Nyanga in Eastern Zimbabwe, to lead Vkutú, a new art community set up by McEwen. In 1981 he was described by Frank McEwen as 'the greatest sculptor of this century and one of the greatest of all time.'

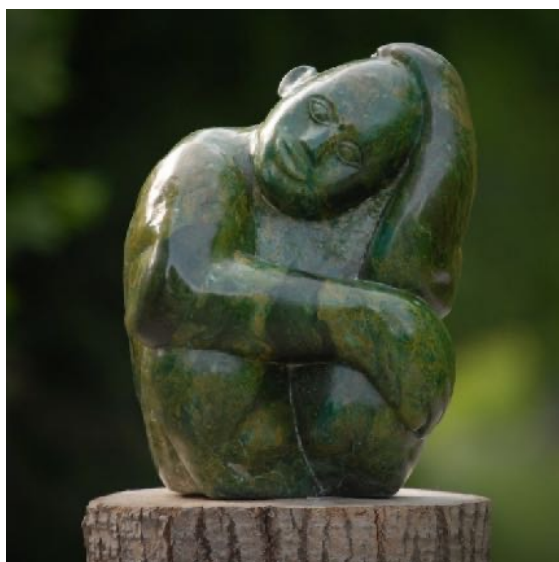


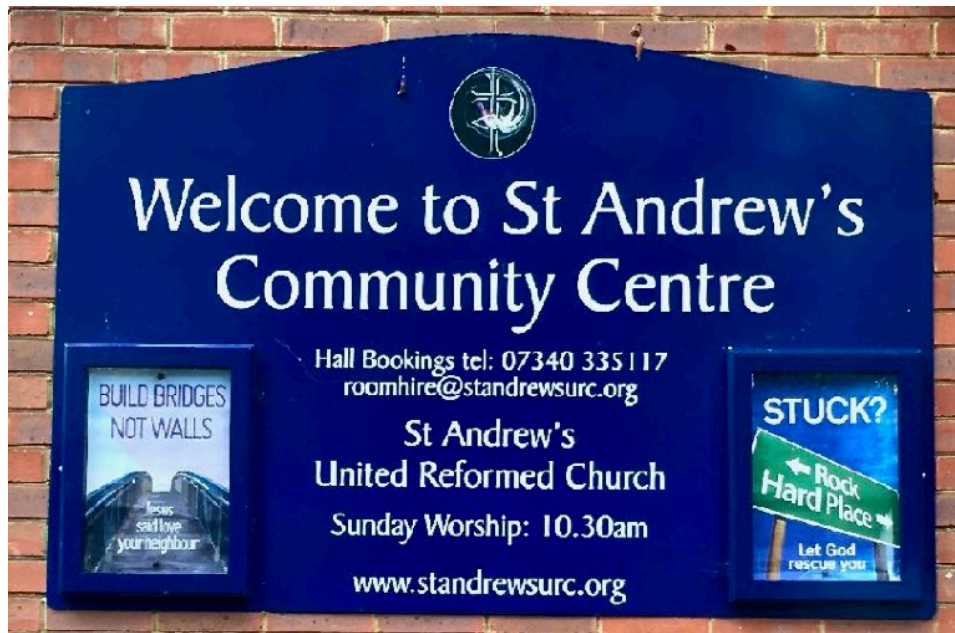
He is capable of powerful works and others so tender and emotive often with a spiritual meaning that one is deeply moved. His work (examples right and below) is exhibited in major collections around the world including the British Museum. *In 1991, The Guardian included Sylvester Mubayi as one of the top ten sculptors in the world.*



It is my hope that one day, through Mike Masedza's connection, I may obtain a small piece by this great artist to auction off on behalf of ArtPeace.

Johnston Simpson





MINISTER

The Reverend Michael Hodgson
The Manse
3 Elgin Road
Weybridge
KT13 8SN

Tel: 01932 841382

Email: michael.mah@btinternet.com

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs Anna Crawford
23 Shaldon Way
Walton-on-Thames
KT12 3DJ

Tel: 01932 244466

Email: secretary@standrewsurc.org

Website: www.standrewsurc.org

St Andrew's is now open again for services. For now, the start time will be 11.30 am rather than its original time of 10.30 am. Face coverings and social distancing are required and there will be no singing of hymns. We plan to continue with the Zoom services for the foreseeable future and a weekly "Thought for the Day" and a prayer are also available by post or email.

Please contact the minister for inclusion.

Anyone who wishes to take part in the Zoom service should contact the minister, who will be able to send them a link to enable easy participation.

You are all most welcome to join us!

If you would like the church to be opened for private prayer, please contact the minister.

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