



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

**NEWSLETTER**

**JULY/AUGUST 2021**

**Volume 78 No 6**



*St Ives Harbour Beach Cornwall*

© Budoc Goudie

*"You have to understand the sea, he said, listen to her, to look out for her  
moods, to get to know her and respect and love her.*

*Only then can you build boats that feel at home on the sea."*

*Michael Morpurgo 'Alone on a Wide Wide Sea'*



Dear friends

*From The Manse*

*July/August 2021*

The Revd Malcolm Shapland is a retired URC Minister, now living in Caerphilly. When lockdown began in March 2020 and with the churches closed, all Malcolm's preaching engagements were cancelled and so he began writing a daily reflection called, "Spare a prayer for...". He shared them with his friends on Facebook and they soon had quite a following. With Malcolm's permission, I'll be using some of them next year for the pastoral letters whilst I'm on Sabbatical but I'd like to share one this month and hope that you'll find it as thought-provoking as I did when I first read it.

### **Spare a Prayer for Brick by Brick.**

You may have heard of the three men working on a building site, each wheeling a barrowload of bricks. The first was asked what are you doing, and he answered, "wheeling this barrowload of bricks to the bricky". The second when asked replied, "I am helping to build a wall", and the third when asked replied, "I am helping to build a new house".

- 1) No vision, but doing the job.
- 2) Limited vision, and doing the job.
- 3) Full vision and doing the job

All doing the same job, but with different levels of job satisfaction.

The cleaner who cleans a ward floor can be seen as

- 1) a cleaner cleaning the ward floor, or as being
- 2) someone who keeps patients safer from infection by the cleaning, or as
- 3) part of team working for the recovery of patients.

The same job, but with a wider vision.

Spare a Prayer for those who play their part in the routine jobs, but can see a wider picture of what they do - and also for those who just wheel their barrows!

Joel 2 v 28, reads: "Your young people shall see visions, your old people shall dream dreams." I have altered 'men' to 'people', for the sake of inclusivity (big word for a Tuesday morning!) It is important to keep the vision, and to dream the dreams. Young and old have a work to do together to keep the dream alive, and to see the vision.

A World of Peace and Plenty is a vision seen by many and a dream dreamed by many, but the reality of keeping the vision and dreaming the dream needs those wheeling the barrow of bricks and those with the power to transform, seeing beyond this particular barrow of bricks, to a vision of walls or houses.

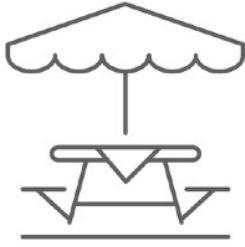
Spare a Prayer for those who work in ordinary ways to do what may turn out to be another brick in the dreamed of house. The dream and vision extend to all parts of our lives, community, church, school, work, country and beyond. Care and Prayer from all -for all,- and towards God.

May we see our vision or dream our dream by wheeling our particular barrow!

*(Revd Malcolm Shapland 20.04.21)*

With all good wishes

## PEOPLE WHO LUNCH FRIDAY 9 JULY AND FRIDAY 13 AUGUST



Since Boris has extended the Covid restrictions, I have decided to have the **July** People who Lunch once again, as it worked well in June, as a bring-your-own-picnic in the church garden at the rear of the church hall at Weybridge URC. It will start at 12.30 weather permitting. If wet we will have to cancel! Looking forward to seeing you there! We hope to resume normal service in August but, if restrictions persist, we will have a bring-your-own picnic then too!

*Margaret Faultless*

## DESERT ISLAND DISCS - CHRISTIAN AID!

In case you had missed this, Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, Chief Executive of Christian Aid was the guest on Radio 4's Desert Island Discs on Sunday 30 May (repeat on 4 July). In the programme hosted by Lauren Laverne, Amanda shares the eight tracks, book and luxury she would take with her if cast away to a desert island. Highly recommended listening to understand the journey that has taken her to this leadership position. You can listen to the programme via this link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000wjdr>



## NETTA PHILIP HAS MOVED!

Her new address is:

48 Edward Place  
14 Churchfields Road  
Walton-on-Thames KT12 2FR

## READERS' ROTA

If you would like to read the lessons in church one Sunday, please contact Hilary Netherwood ([hilary.netherwood@gmail.com](mailto:hilary.netherwood@gmail.com)) Several members of the congregation already make this valuable contribution to our services but new readers are always very welcome. Details of the lesson(s) are given well in advance so there is plenty of time for a private practice!

## OBERAMMERGAU 2022

The Revd Michael Hopkins has a small number of places still available on a trip to the Oberammergau passion play in 2022 (postponed from 2020), From 15-21 May 2022, the trip will include time in the Austrian Tyrol and is one of the best value packages available. With the increase in vaccination and hopes of normality, now is a good time to book. Full details here:

[https://www.tailored-travel.co.uk/michaelhopkins\\_austriantyrol\\_150522](https://www.tailored-travel.co.uk/michaelhopkins_austriantyrol_150522)

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.


## SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES JULY 2021



All our services are also accessible on Zoom



*Note: Weybridge URC will be open for private prayer as indicated on Wednesdays, resources permitting, so it might be advisable to double check before turning up.*

<b>Sunday 4 July</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship taken by the Minister</b>
Tuesday 6 July	7.30 pm	St Andrew's Elders' Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday 7 July	10.00 - 11.00 am	Weybridge URC open for private prayer
 Friday 9 July	12.30 - 1.30 pm	People Who Lunch - bring your own picnic - Weybridge URC garden (weather permitting!)
<b>Sunday 11 July</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship taken by the Revd David Netherwood</b>
Wednesday 14 July	10.00 -11.00 am	Weybridge URC open for private prayer
<b>Sunday 18 July</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship taken by the Minister</b>
Wednesday 21 July	10.00 -11.00 am	Weybridge URC open for private prayer
<b>Sunday 25 July</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship taken by The Revd Roy Bones</b>
Wednesday 28 July	10.00-11.00 am	Weybridge URC open for private prayer

### REMINDER OF CHURCH MEETING AND AGM - SUNDAY 4 JULY

Don't forget that a Church Meeting and Annual General Meeting  
which will take place on Sunday 4 July 2021.  
Annual Reports were included with the June Newsletter and the Minister's Report,  
sent out separately by Email, is included with this issue.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER UPDATED

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer.

Finally she decided to go solo.

I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer: "and lead us not into temptation" she implored, "but deliver us some e-mail."

## SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES AUGUST 2021



All our services are also accessible on Zoom



*Note: Weybridge URC will be open for private prayer as indicated on Wednesdays, resources permitting, so it might be advisable to double check before turning up.*

**Sunday 1 August**                      **10.30 am**                      **Morning Worship taken by Jem and Claire Ward**

Wednesday 4 August                      10.00 - 11.00 am                      Weybridge URC open for private prayer

**Sunday 8 August**                      **10.30 am**                      **Morning Worship taken by Mrs Anna Crawford**

Wednesday 11 August                      10.00 -11.00 am                      Weybridge URC open for private prayer



**Friday 13 August**

12.30 - 1.30 pm                      People Who Lunch - bring your own picnic -  
Weybridge URC garden (weather permitting!)

**Sunday 15 August**                      **10.30 am**                      **Morning Worship taken by the Minister**

### COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE: WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST

*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)*

Wednesday 18 August                      10.00 -11.00 am                      Weybridge URC open for private prayer

**Sunday 22 July**                      **10.30 am**                      **Morning Worship taken by Mr Sydney Shore**

Wednesday 25 August                      10.00-11.00 am                      Weybridge URC open for private prayer

**Sunday 29 August**                      **10.30 am**                      **Morning Worship taken by the Minister**

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said, 'You should do it because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long for our coffee. The husband said, 'You're in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that's your job, and I can just wait for my coffee.' Wife replies, 'No, you should do it, and besides, it's in the Bible that the man should do the coffee.' Husband replies, 'I can't believe that, show me.' So she fetched the Bible, opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says 'HEBREWS'.



## MINISTER'S REPORT FOR AGM 2020/2021

*(We were not able to include this with the other Reports in our June issue but it was circulated by email and hand-delivered to those who are not on-line)*

I'm taking the unusual step of writing a single Minister's Report to go to both St Andrew's and Weybridge URC's AGMs. This is because much of the time during 2020 and into 2021 we've worked together to face the Covid pandemic.

For St Andrew's, 2020 began quietly - and we did get our AGM in before Lockdown. We were beginning to think through various outreach ideas, including a concert series and, in the summer, a pop-up coffee shop to try to reach out to the many people who walk past our premises. Updating the website was already a work in progress and so we were looking to move forward, having sorted out our premises.

Weybridge URC also began the year with exciting outreach ideas, beginning with significant premises development, including the re-ordering of the church building to provide accommodation more suitable for the needs and expectations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The final proposals, including some concerning the hall building, were to come to the AGM but that never took place then because the Covid Lockdown came into force.

Suddenly, in the middle of March, with all places of worship closed as part of the Government's Covid response, both churches were in a position which was pretty unimaginable even just a few weeks earlier. Somewhat reeling and wondering what to do, I started to send out a weekly Thought for the Day and Prayer to every member and adherent of both churches, naively thinking that it would be for a month or six weeks max. Fourteen months turned out to be the answer. Easter Day saw our first Zoom Service, primarily instigated as a means of sharing Communion together for Easter. Numbers attending vastly exceeded my wildest dreams and, in the months to come, the weekly Zoom Service became a firmly established part of church life - along with the Zoom chat which followed. We were joined by others whilst their churches were closed too.

As decisions needed to be made on all sorts of things the two sets of Elders worked together, drawing strength from each other and pooling thoughts, skills and talents. It worth recording that the first Joint Elders' Meeting was held to talk about how we could best offer worship. So, the two churches have worked closely together and the Elders have sought the opinions of the two congregations to inform their deliberations. We really have got through this by working together and had we not done so then I think that both churches would have struggled.

Gradually a new type of church life evolved, responding to the realities of the situation. The two congregations gradually got to know each other - and it could be said that they have done so in quite a deep way, too. I am left wondering to what extent we have, in practice, become one church meeting on two sites now.

As I write this report the two church buildings are about to reopen on a Sunday and it's really hard to know what the situation will be like when we do. As the closure dragged on, my initial concern about what we'd have left to re-open by the end began to abate as I began to appreciate that we were actually embracing the challenge and responding in a positive way. As a result, we are in a very different position now and so some reassessment and reappraisal is going to be necessary as we move to the future. Weybridge being open on a Wednesday morning for private prayer has, I know been appreciated.

Although 2020 was a hard year, I do think that we've come a long way and that we've learnt all sorts of new skills too. We've discovered some very different ways of being church and will undoubtedly be a "hybrid pastorate" in the future, making more use of online opportunities. We have regularly led more people in worship on a Sunday on line than we would have through our combined pre-lockdown congregations and so there's lots to think about in the future. You'll perhaps realise why I refuse to look back in a negative way because there have been so many positives emerging as well.

Another of these was my being able to preach to both congregations each week. This enabled me to preach some sermon series, particularly one on the development of the early church through the opening chapters of Acts, specifically asking what those first Christians might be saying to us today. I simply couldn't have done that normally and the different "sermon" format also enabled a much deeper look at the texts than a normal sermon would have facilitated.

So, I do not look back on 2020 and the first part of 2021 in a negative way and I can't begin to thank adequately those who "stepped us to the mark" and used their skills to help us move forward. Liz Grimsey proof-read all the Thoughts for the Day and dealt with the weekly distribution to the Weybridge congregation. Carol, Hilary and Paula gave us all so much help with computer technology, showing us great patience as we learnt how to mute and unmute ourselves. Hilary has downloaded all the music we've used and sent it to our tech team and that team was joined in the autumn by Anna, Norma, Fiona and Hillary B.

The Elders of both churches have worked hard, sometimes having to make difficult decisions on complex subjects. They have done this with great care and diligence and our Elders are, I think, are much to be congratulated. The URC as a denomination has also been exceptional in the way in which it has tried to issue guidance to local churches and Ministers. Our governance doesn't really work in the way in which it's had to during the Pandemic and the problems that causes immediately became obvious. The Synod Moderators and Officers of the General Assembly quickly put in place a way forward and that has worked really well. I suspect that our Elders are grateful for it - I know that I am.

The pressure has also been on Church Officers, particularly on the financial side, as they coped with an overnight, significant income drop. As carefully prepared budgets became not worth the paper they were written on, a lot of work became necessary to ensure that funds were in the places they now needed to be and that we needed to get what income we could. How fortunate we are that our reserves meant that running out of money wasn't an issue. At St Andrew's, Anna is finally able to pass her Church Secretary baton to Carol. This should take place in October, following ratification at the AGM. In welcoming Carol to her new role, I also say a heart-felt thank you to Anna who has done a superb job, whilst coping with her Lay Preaching Qualifications, the departure of a Minister and the vagaries of a new Minister too.

In both churches we have been saddened by the deaths of church members. At Weybridge this includes Gordon Faultless who played the organ for us for many years but his picture is now on the wall behind the console and his service is remembered in this way.

A list of "thank yous" will always overlook someone and I apologise for that but finally I want to thank everyone for their staunch support, contributions to discussions and for their tolerance whilst we learnt new skills and sometimes made mistakes. 2020 may well be a year we don't want to live through again but I think that we came through it remarkably well - and I think that we're probably on a new path as well - and that's because we all pulled together, supported each other and ministered to each others' needs in the best ways we could.

*Revd Michael Hodgson*



### St Augustines's Prayer

Blessed are all your saints O God and King, who  
have travelled over the tempestuous sea of life and  
have made the harbour of peace and tranquillity.

Watch over us who are still on the dangerous  
voyage. Frail is our vessel, and the ocean wide, but  
as in your mercy you have set our course, so pilot  
the vessel of our life towards the everlasting shore  
of peace and bring us at last to the quiet haven of  
our heart's desire, through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen

*Augustine of Hippo (A.D. 354 - 430) was an Algerian-  
Roman philosopher and theologian of the late  
Roman/ early Medieval period. He is one of the  
most important early figures in the development of  
Western Christianity, and was a major figure in  
bringing Christianity to dominance in the previously  
pagan Roman Empire.*

*Thanks to Sydney Shore who used this prayer in a recent  
Sunday service at St Andrew's.*

### TRAINING IN FOOD HYGIENE

In the light of our thinking about Outreach and future coffee sessions after church on Sundays, this information from the URC Wessex Synod might be of interest.

Our colleagues at Guildford Baptist Church are running in-person courses and have spaces available.

#### **Level 2 Food Hygiene Training - Guildford Baptist Church**

Two Monday evenings, 5th and 12th July 2021, 7.30pm – 9.45pm OR Saturday 25th September 10am-4pm. 12-14 spaces for each date. 20 question multiple choice exam at the end. Cost £20 per person per church with 1 booklet included, additional booklets £4 each .

Please book your place by contacting Ruth Heine on [development@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:development@urcwessex.org.uk)

**Closing date for bookings** for the July course is the 3rd July.



## THE SCOTS KIRK IN AMSTERDAM

*When we lived in Amsterdam we worshipped at the very unique English Church, as it is commonly known . The church comes under the Church of Scotland's International Presbytery. It is also known as the Scots Kirk in Amsterdam. Moira de Kok*

In 1578 Amsterdam came under Calvinist rule. The church was situated in the Begijnhof (Beguin courtyard) and belonged to the sisterhood of Beguines which was a group of unmarried, religious Catholic women living in a closed community under vows of chastity . They had more freedom than nuns but attended Holy Mass daily. They lived in the tall houses in the courtyard and were allowed to leave to get married. Albert of Bavaria and then Albrecht van Beiren took the Begijners under his wing in 1393 and provided funds for their needs.

Since they owned the property, the Protestants could not take it away as they did with most of the other Catholic Churches, except a few which were allowed to stay as long as they were hidden and the worshippers went to them in secret. Consequently, the Beguines built a concealed church opposite the English church and you would not know it was there except for an inconspicuous door. It is still a working Catholic Church and when you enter it, it is a surprise to see how large it is.

After the Reformation the Commune Chapel in the courtyard lay empty for over 30 years until it was ceded to the English speaking community of the city in 1578 by the City of Amsterdam. It has remained an English Reformed Church ever since. The courtyard remained a dwelling place for the Begijn women for centuries. The last woman of the order, Sister Antonia, passed away in 1971 at the age of 84. The lovely old houses were occupied by single women and to this day they are sought after by them. I have a friend who lives in one and she is really lucky to have been given tenancy. The gate to the courtyard was always locked at night to keep the women safe. It dates from 1574 and has been restored. It is still locked at night but the residents have keys. There is a gate stone of St Ursula, the patron saint of the Beguines.

The oldest house in the courtyard has stood since the 16th century. This place is a haven of peace right in the centre of the busy city. The hof comprises 47 town houses and most facades date back to the 17th Century but the buildings behind these facades are much older. Eighteen of the houses still have the Gothic wooden framework. The oldest house in the Beginhof is the "wooden" house and was built in 1420. There are beautiful trees and the communal garden is always well maintained. There is a statue of a Beguine in the centre of the courtyard. The individual houses have a small garden and these are always lovingly planted and tended. The church is open daily from 9am - 5pm and there are volunteer guides on hand for tourists. This is a popular tourist spot but mostly respect for the inhabitants is shown

In 2007, HM Queen Elizabeth II and Beatrix, Queen of the Netherlands, attended a special 400th anniversary service in the church. The church is fairly plain but has some lovely stain glass windows depicting the Pilgrim Fathers who probably worshipped there before they left on the journey to Plymouth and finally the New World. Several of the wooden pulpit panels were designed by the famous Dutch artist Piet Mondrian. There is wooden panelling all around the church and upstairs there is a balcony where the rather famous organ stands.

The church seats about 350 people and the congregation is made up of members from 30 different nationalities. We found this very attractive and there was a feeling of all being welcome. Whilst we were there, the foundations of the church were sinking and had to be underpinned. Remember, everything in the city was built on wooden stilts. There was a huge fund-raising effort and the congregation really stepped up to helping. Cake sales, raffles, ceilidhs , auction evenings etc were arranged and the large amount of money was raised to save the church from sinking. At an auction evening Jan successfully bid on a tray of baked brownies being delivered to the house every week for a year. Well, I went to the lovely American lady who had offered them and told her there was no need to do that but thank you. Imagine!

The church is still regularly used for concerts and is a platform for young artists to perform chamber music of all periods. There are about 70 concerts a year and there is an orchestra named the "Academy of the Begijnhof" which was founded by a former organist. It has given an opportunity for many young musicians to launch their careers. Most Sundays, when we worshipped in the church, a young musician would play an instrument during a time of reflection in the service. Many came from the well known Amsterdam Conservatory.



## RECIPE CORNER

*"For health and strength and daily food we praise thy name O Lord"*

In 1999, The St Andrew's Cook Book was produced with an introduction by the then Minister, Revd David Netherwood, the start of which is quoted below.

*"We are what we eat? I wonder how true this is - and what those who read this book will make of us at St Andrew's Church, Walton-on-Thames. As we go forward into the new Millennium this book could be an important document. In hundreds of years' time, it could be discovered and people will say 'Ah, this is what the people of Surrey used to eat in those days.'"*

A part of the proceeds of the St Andrew's Christmas Fair of that year, of which the book was a part, was given to the Walton Community Hospital to be used to purchase a 'Doppler' machine."

I have picked two of the recipes at random. Do send in your recipes for future issues! Let's cook! *Ed*

### MAIN COURSE

*"Abundance, like want, ruins many."*

#### CIDER BAKED PORK CHOPS (*Gill Refoy*)

4 oz mushrooms, sliced	4 pork chops
2 cooking apples, cored and sliced	1/2 pint cider
1 onion, sliced	2 oz breadcrumbs
Salt and pepper	4 oz grated cheese
	Watercress

Preheat oven - Gas mark 6, 200°C, 400°F.

Grease a 3 pint shallow overproof dish. Place mushrooms, apples and onions in base of dish. Season with salt and pepper. Lay pork chops on the bed of vegetables. Cover with cider.

Mix together breadcrumbs and cheese. Sprinkle over chops. Bake for 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 hours until chops are thoroughly cooked and the topping a golden colour. Garnish with watercress.

### DESSERT

*"Gluttony kills more than the sword"*

#### CHOCOLATE BOMBE (*Doris Hutson*)

3/4 pint whipping cream  
6 oz good plain chocolate  
6 eggs separated  
1 oz castor sugar  
1 oz butter  
Rum or Creme de Cafe

Whip cream with sugar until it holds its shape and spoon into a 3 pint domed pudding basin. Line basin with cream and freeze.

Break chocolate into bowl over saucepan of hot water. Add butter and stir until melted. Add liqueur to taste. Stiffly beat egg whites and fold into chocolate mixture. Pour into frozen cream-lined basin and freeze hard.

To unmould. Two hours before serving, put basin up to rim in cold water. Loosen sides with palette knife and turn out. Thaw in fridge and cover with grated chocolate.

Note: This dessert uses uncooked eggs. It could be made with another flavour. It never fails to come out beautifully.

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**EXTREME POVERTY:** Feedback from ArtPeace recently has been depressing to say the least. Life is miserable as they are in lockdown yet again. To make matters worse their main shopping area in Caledonia normally full of stands (flimsy stalls) selling food far cheaper than city shops was demolished by the authorities (left). The number of Zimbabweans in extreme poverty has reached 7.9 million as the pandemic has delivered another economic shock to the country. According to the World Bank's economic and social update report, almost half of Zimbabwe's population fell into extreme poverty between 2011 and last year. 'Extreme poor' are defined as people living under the food poverty line of US\$29.80 (£21) per person a month.



Unemployment is even higher than normal, and some are forced to take menial jobs breaking boulders (above right) into small stones for road aggregate for the princely sum of two dollars a day.

Some parents have abandoned their children as they cannot put food on the table or pay school fees. Take for example, the two children below who are helped by a neighbour who earns a crust selling cigarettes by the roadside. Photo provided by Coster. Fortunately, our friends had a good harvest this year – see Lizeni's Harvest (right) before she took it to the miller to be ground into



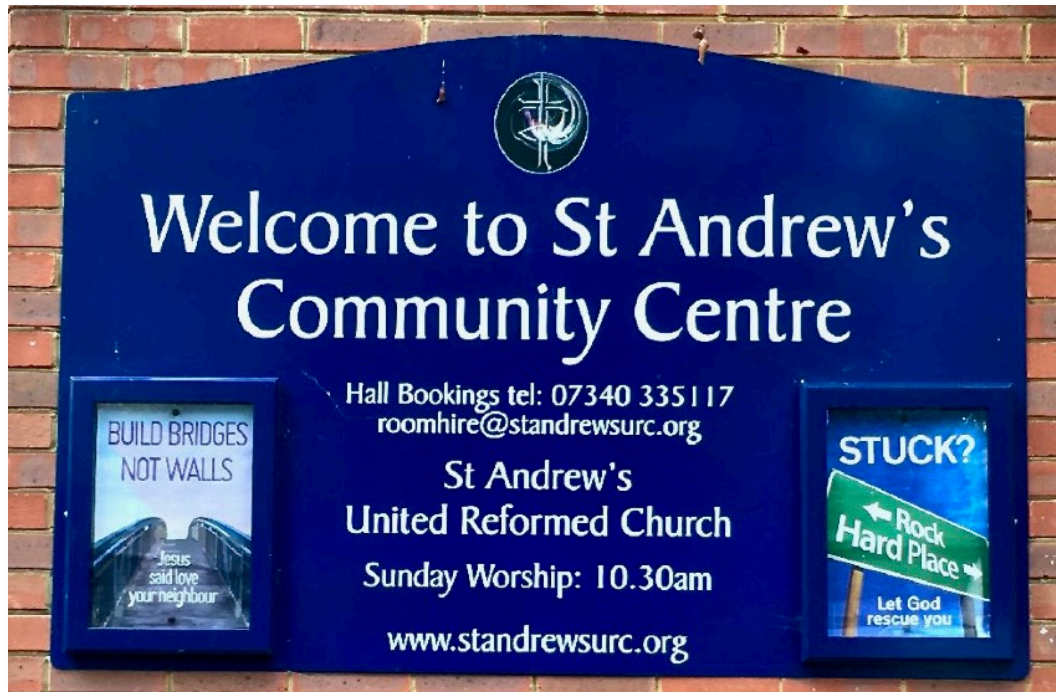
mealie meal. However, they cannot afford basic commodities and sculpture sales for the past two years have been zero. Their one highlight recently in these troubled times when their churches are closed has been the occasional 'WhatsApp' almost 'live' recording taken at St Andrew's. Comment from artist Fortune. ['Wow that's a great service! We are now feeling great thanks to Mr Shore - please pass on our](#)



[greetings and bless him with good health in the sacred name of our Lord Jesus Christ.'](#)

Donations are hard to come by now so profuse thanks to the three friends who make a donation each month – this, along with our services, helps to keep heart and soul alive. **Johnston Simpson**





#### MINISTER

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#### CHURCH SECRETARY

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Website: [www.standrewsurc.org](http://www.standrewsurc.org)

We re-opened our church building on 23 May and Covid-safe services now start at the original time of 10.30 am. Services are also accessible on Zoom. 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!

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