



THE WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE PASTORATE

THE GRAPEVINE

MARCH 2022

Volume 1 No 2



*"I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who abide in me
and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me,
you can do nothing."*

John 15 v5

From The Manse

March 2022



Dear friends

I don't know about you but I was excited to receive my copy of the first edition of our new magazine - and I certainly wasn't disappointed. I knew that it was going to be something of a bumper edition - and I knew, too, that putting it together and editing it had been quite a daunting task - so the first thing I want to do here is express my warmest thanks to everyone who contributed to it and to Mollie and Norma for producing it. A real tour de force, with lots of interesting and helpful information in it as well as a chance to reflect back over the various Christmas services and the coming together of St Andrew's and Weybridge URCs.

I read through "The Grapevine" with interest but was totally unexpected to be so moved by the penultimate page, with Christine N's letter on it (page 27). It was, in part, a thank you letter for some of the clothes we gave the ArtPeace children at Christmas - but it was far more than that. Christine's letter is one of such joy and hope. She told us of a day she'd overslept and of how, by the time she woke up, it was really too late to go to church - so she'd decided not to - and then came the knock at the door. What happened next energised her and motivated her - and it also boosted her faith as well. It's an incredible story she tells.

The letter also speaks of the joy of two children, clearly living in difficult circumstances, joyously wearing their new clothes and wanting to go somewhere special and to wear them proudly. The letter tells us about a spiritual experience; a blessing; of God speaking through all that happened, and of people responding positively to it. As I read the letter, I was reminded of the Biblical Parable of the Mustard Seed.

Earlier in the magazine we'd read about how appreciatively our gifts had been received by the ArtPeace children. We'd seen pictures of some of the children proudly modelling their new clothes - and didn't they look smart? We'd seen pictures of the other gifts we'd organised for them. St Andrew's had wanted to do something nice for those children. We wanted to give them something for Christmas which would bring them joy and excitement - and which would be fun. Quite what to do and how to achieve it wasn't easy. The logistics and the hassle of this exercise were not insignificant but Johnston knew the person whom he thought could make it happen - and happen it did. The lady to effect this for us is not a lady who broaches obstacles. Page 14 made it all worthwhile and we had also received the film clip showing crops being given the fertiliser that our harvest appeal supported. Page 27, however, blew my mind! It just seemed to say that God took our action and blessed it and used it in a much greater way that we could ever have dreamed of.

I've no idea what will happen next. I've no idea if we'll ever even hear anything more about Christine N or about Judith and Beata although, knowing Johnston, I suspect that if it's at all possible, we shall. We appear to have planted a seed at Christmas though, through the gifts we managed to get to the children and through the love that was shown. We also managed to give at least one adult's faith a lift. As Christine says, "Their enthusiasm lit a fire in my heart. ... but without saying a word God is moving me to help these children."

All of this began from such a simple starting point. Could we give some children, who have very little, a Christmas present which would be joyful and fun for them? God appears to have done rather more than that and I'm sure that we couldn't be happier.

With all good wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Johnston", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES MARCH 2022


For information on the Lent Course and Lenten group meetings see page 4

Tuesday 1 March		SHROVE TUESDAY
Wednesday 2 March		ASH WEDNESDAY
Friday 4 March	10.30 am	Women's World Day of Prayer, Walton Baptist Church, Winchester Road, Walton KT12 2RG (<i>see page 13</i>)
Sunday 6 March (Lent 1)	10.30 am	Morning Worship taken by the Minister
Tuesday 8 March	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Bill Topping Room, St Andrew's
Wednesday 9 March	12.30 pm	Organ Recital with Gillian Lloyd, Weybridge site (<i>see page 6</i>)
Friday 11 March	12.30 - 2.30 pm	People Who Lunch at Weybridge site (<i>see page 13</i>)
Sunday 13 March (Lent 2)	10.30 am	Morning Worship taken by the Minister
	11.00 am - 1 pm	MENCAP Jumble Sale at Burview Hall, Queens Road, Hersham KT12 5AB (<i>see page 16</i>)

COPY DATE FOR MARCH ISSUE WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH

ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR (provided they do not contravene copyright regulations)
NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP
 Email: aristocats.2000@gmail.com

Or ASSOCIATE EDITOR, Mollie Henham Email: 18amh65@gmail.com

Sunday 20 March (Lent 3)	10.30 am	Morning Worship taken by the Minister
	3.00 pm	 Messy Church

Walton Art Club Spring Exhibition is at Riverhouse Barn, Walton, from 23-27 March (*see page 13*)



CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD AT 01.00 AM ON SUNDAY 27 MARCH

Sunday 27 March (Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday)	10.30 am	Morning Worship taken by the Minister
---	-----------------	--

! SAVE THE DATE !

AGM 2022

The AGM will be held on Sunday 10 April 2022 at 12 noon

ELDERS' OPENING DEVOTIONS - FEBRUARY 2022

We were thankful to come together as one church. We hadn't forgotten the difficulties of the past months in our own lives and the changes in our church's life in such a short time. We were grateful we were able to continue worship in different ways, particularly for the work done by the Minister and the Tech Team for using Zoom in our own houses.

We read some verses from Romans 12 about life in God's service and how we have to come together to help one another in God's name.

Romans 12, vv 4-8

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity, the leader, in diligence; the compassionate in cheerfulness.

Loving Father,

As we are encouraged in our bible reading, we come together in prayer.
We are still getting to know each other but know we share our faith in you.

Be with us now as we remember our past and pray for our future together.
There will be varied ideas and views about this going forward but we ask for your guidance.

We pray for Michael, our minister. Give him strength and vision and the support of the Church as he leads us. Bless our meeting now in Jesus' name. Amen

Sue Groves

LENT 2022

A Lent course is once again available this year, both in printed and electronic form. It is based around each Sunday's Bible readings, drawing on their content and upon their themes/subjects. The course itself is designed with personal use in mind, rather than for use in Lent Groups although it would be possible to use the material in that way if a group of people so wished. There is something for each day, from Ash Wednesday (2nd March) through to the day before Maundy Thursday (15th April). Sometimes it's a Bible reading, sometimes it's a reflection, or a prayer, or a verse from a hymn, or a poem - all sorts.

I hope that you find it helpful. My thanks to Hilary N who proof-read it and to Norma, who dealt with the printed copies.

Michael Hodgson

Also during Lent, in the week commencing 7 March, the Methodists will be running a study of Andrew Roberts' book along the theme of "Holy Habits," based on Jesus' life habits reflected in Luke's gospel. There will be two groups meeting by Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm and Thursday afternoons at 3 pm. For more information email Jeannette Curtis jeannettecurtis@googlemail.com

William Johnston, a former Moderator, tells. how an elderly lady once said to him, "I'm glad to meet you. I have heard you often on the wireless. It's funny from the voice you imagine what the speaker is like. But now that I see you, you're not at all what I imagined. On the wireless you have such a *young* voice."

from 'Holy Wit' - The Revd James A Simpson

News of the Church Family

In Memoriam

We were so sad to hear the news that Tony Allen died at the end of January. Tony and his wife, Irene, first came to Weybridge URC about 12 years ago and soon became involved in the life of the church. Tony's cheerful, friendly approach and his irrepressible sense of humour were memorable and were guaranteed to 'lift the spirits' of everyone he met. Please remember Irene at this time. A tribute to Tony may be found on page 12.

Sadly, just as the magazine was going to press, we received the news that James Erwin died on 17th February. James was very much a part of our church family having been received into membership at Weybridge URC in 1990. Please remember his sister and family in Northern Ireland at this time of sadness for them. A tribute to James will appear in the April issue of the magazine.

Prayers

Please remember these friends in your prayers – Irene Allen, Brian & Kate Ashfield, David Cheeseman, Chris Goddard, John Langdon, Lilian Smith and Michael Stevens.

Top Tips and all that Chat – Your comments on life today

I was a bit sceptical about singing along whilst doing the housework (as recommended in last month's magazine) but decided to give it a go. 'Grease' has always been a favourite show of mine and I chose 'Summer Nights' as my inspirational song. As I flitted around the house in my mind I saw myself as Olivia Newton-John dancing along in a tight-fitting black outfit with John Travolta. All was well until I caught sight of my reflection in a full-length mirror and the illusion came to an abrupt end!

The combination of the picture of the lovely 'Super Star' rose and the suggestion of singing whilst doing the chores in the February issue of The Grapevine inspired me to try out the routine by singing some of the lyrics from 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. Initially I admit there was a bit of 'tra, la, la' when I couldn't remember the words but eventually I managed to recall them; so I have had a memory boost as well as an energy boost and, yes, it did make me feel better. Choose your music and try it for yourself.

I like the choice of 'The Grapevine' as the name for our new church magazine.

I think the new name for the magazine is just right. It symbolises everyone keeping in touch.

It is only 11th February but already the miniature daffodils in my garden are in full bloom.

Stamps for the 'Save the Children' Fund

Claire Ward's brother collects stamps, including used ones, that he is able to sell on and raise money for 'Save the Children'. He is a keen stamp collector, like his father before him, and helps to run local stamp auctions. Last year, these did not take place due to COVID, so he only managed to raise £83. Usually he raises about £200.

Claire and Jem will be pleased to receive any donations of stamps and pass them on to him. Stamps should be cut off the envelope leaving a ¼ inch margin. He can also sell postcards, foreign stamps (please donate the whole envelope) and any old stamp collections that you might have hanging around at home and want to get rid of to a good cause.

ORGAN CORNER

Organ Recital - 12.30pm on Wednesday 9 March - Weybridge URC site

It is with great pleasure that once again we welcome Gillian Lloyd for the opening occasion in the last series of organ recitals to be given at Weybridge.

Gillian was born in Portsmouth. She began piano studies at the age of six, taking up the 'cello at 11 years old. She studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Sidney Harrison and Derek Simpson and subsequently worked for some years as a 'cello teacher for Hampshire Education Authority. She began to play the organ as an adult, studying with Carey Humphreys and Jack Evans and, more recently, with Andrew Millington, Anne Marsden Thomas and Stephen Farr. She holds the FRCO and LRAM (organ teaching) diplomas. Gillian came to Guildford in 1988, upon her marriage to Jeff, and was appointed Organist and Choirmaster (later Director of Music) at Guildford URC. She has given a number of recitals in the Guildford area and in some of the London churches, including Southwark Cathedral, in addition to her church work and private teaching.

Please come along to support the organist and to get this season of recitals for our own united church and community off to a good start. Bring your friends and your lunch (if you wish to do so) – coffee, tea and soft drinks will be provided – and relax whilst listening to what is guaranteed to be an hour of superb music. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection. After running costs have been deducted the balance will go to the Woking and Weybridge branch of Parkinson's UK.

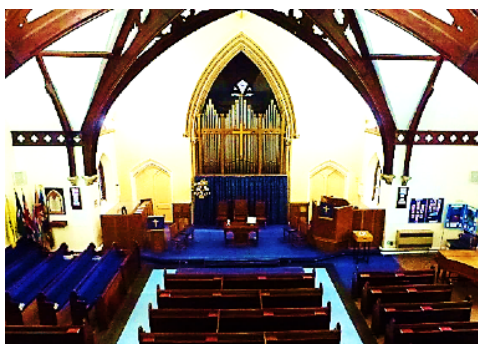
Programme for Organ Recital by Gillian Lloyd

TIMES AND SEASONS

Offertoire in C major	Antoine-Édouard BATISTE (1820-1876)
Prelude in C major BWV 547	Johann Sebastian BACH (1685-1750)
In dir ist Freude BWV 615	J.S. BACH
Prelude on 'Melcombe'	C Hubert H PARRY (1848-1918)
Prelude on 'Eventide'	C Hubert H PARRY
Trumpet Tune (<i>from 'Three Piece Suite'</i>)	Martin SETCHELL (1949 -)
Dancing Toccata	Christopher STEEL (1938-1991)
O Mensch, beweine dein' Sünde groß BWV 622	J S BACH
Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn BWV 630	J S BACH
Meditation on 'Brother James' Air'	Harold DARKE (1888-1976)
Von Liebe kommt groß Leiden	Flor PEETERS (1903-1986)
Adeste fidelis	Jeanne DEMESSIEUX (1921-1968)
We wish you ...	Noel RAWSTHORNE (1929-2019)
Hornpipe Humoresque	Noel RAWSTHORNE

Simply the Best – a beloved instrument

Before we have to say a final ‘good-bye’ later this year to the magnificent organ at Weybridge it seemed appropriate to give a ‘portrait of the organ’ – particularly for those of you who may only recently have become acquainted with it or may never have heard it played. Perhaps it might encourage you to come along to the last series of monthly lunchtime organ recitals. If you do come you will definitely not regret doing so.



People have sometimes been surprised to find a Willis organ in such a moderately-sized church and, even more so, to discover that it is a ‘Father’ Willis organ built by the founder of that great dynasty of organ builders stretching across four generations and all called Henry. The answer lies in the influence, contacts and generosity of Benjamin Scott who donated the instrument as a personal gift to the church he founded in 1865. For him only the best was good enough for the church. He even persuaded Henry ‘Father’ Willis to play the organ at the evening service on 17th May 1865 – the second commemorative service on the day the church was opened. Thus Weybridge

Congregational Church joined the list of illustrious buildings with a ‘Father’ Willis organ including – the Royal Albert Hall, St Paul’s, Salisbury and Truro Cathedrals, Blenheim Palace and the Great Exhibition of 1851 in Hyde Park (this organ was later reduced in size and installed in Winchester Cathedral). Henry Willis Ltd, Organ Builders still exists as a company today (although no longer headed by a member of the family) and continues to build organs around the world.

Over the 156 years of its life the church has had nine organists (including Benjamin Scott’s son and the daughter of François Baron (the first Minister) but most of them only served for brief periods. There were, however, three ‘giants’ when it came to time spent on the organ bench – James Fitzwater (1876-1924) who in parallel also did a stint as Church Secretary (1911-1924); Wilfred Rogers (1927-1993 and Organist Emeritus 1993-1997) who was appointed when he was 19 years old and Gordon Faultless (1999-2020) who had previously served as Deputy Organist (1978-1998).

The functioning of the organ begins in the boiler house beneath the church where the organ blower is installed and supplies air to the organ chamber located above in the church. This high chamber is packed with equipment – strong wooden beams which support the pipes and moving parts plus some large bellows inflating and deflating with a slight hissing sound when the organ is active. In some ways it is an eerie, shadowy almost claustrophobic place as I know from time spent as a torch-holder shining a light into the dark, extremely narrow recesses while temporary, emergency repairs have been carried out to keep the organ going until the organ builders were able to attend. All the original Victorian engineering has been upgraded a few times over the years and now works alongside 21st century solid-state technology. Following one of these major upgrades in 1957 the organ console (where the organist sits) was moved from in front of the organ pipes (where the organist had his/her back to the congregation) to its present location. At the following service of celebration the famous organist and composer, Dr Harold Darke, was the guest organist. A few years ago Gordon wrote an article about the organ – a kind of layman’s guide – and extracts appear below.

“The organ has two manuals (key boards), a Swell, the Great and a Pedal organ. The manuals encompass five octaves (61 notes) and the Pedal two and a half octaves (30 notes). Although the congregation can only see 29 pipes there are a total of 1231 hidden away in the organ chamber. The pipes for the Swell organ are located inside a louvred box and the organist can open and close the louvres by means of a pedal altering the volume of the sound. The Swell has eight stops, each with its own rank of 61 pipes, the Great has nine stops and the Pedal also has nine stops. One of the Swell stops is a bit of scientific magic being a so-called ‘resultant’ stop which doesn’t have any pipes of its own. Instead when a ‘doh’ and a ‘soh’ of a rank of pipes are played together you also get the sound of the ‘doh’ played an octave lower. This gives very low notes without having to install very expensive large pipes (and possibly having to knock a hole in the roof to accommodate them)!”

Each manual has three pistons operated by the thumbs which will engage pre-set combinations of stops thereby allowing quick changes from one registration to another. Supplementing the stops are various couplers which allow the organist to play two keyboards at once. For example, engaging the Swell to Great coupler results in the Swell and Great both sounding when the Great is played. It is also possible – at the ‘flick of a switch’ – to have the Swell playing an octave higher or lower along with the Great. Similarly ‘Swell to Pedals’ and ‘Great to Pedals’ couplers link the manuals to the Pedal and give a much richer tone to the Pedal sound,”

As I write this article I have the pleasure of listening to a recording of Wilfred playing the organ – pure delight. This recital demonstrates not just the tremendous range of the organ but the feelings of a man for an instrument he loved. (The recording was made by Geoff Cooper and issued as a memento of Wilfred’s service to the church in 1995.) A fun memory I have of Gordon at the organ is when he played ‘Twinkle, twinkle little star’ at the request of children from Manby Lodge Infant School on their visit to learn about the church. He played it entirely on the Pedals whilst waving his hands in the air! The children were amazed and completely mystified! Both Wilfred and Gordon felt it was a great privilege to play such a fine instrument and their feelings were echoed recently by a visiting organist who said “It is wonderful for me to have the opportunity of playing a **real** organ”. Those words say it all about our beloved organ. How fortunate so many generations in the church have been to be its custodians for such a long time.

Mollie Henham



I am delighted to be sharing the organ bench with Zacc following the decision to unite the Weybridge URC and St Andrew’s URC church families. Thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome at St Andrew’s.

I was a reluctant organist (a pianist trying to avoid those annoying pedals) for many years at Woking URC. This suited me rather well, as I was busy with my job and family commitments. Prompted by the purchase of a new digital organ at Woking URC, I booked a set of ‘taster’ lessons through the Surrey Organists’ Association organ student scheme about seven years ago. My organ teacher encouraged me to broaden my experience by playing at different churches in the area – there are more churches than organists these days – and I have had a lot of fun from playing very different instruments and taking part in different styles of church service. I also carry several church keys around with me.

Following my retirement, I treated myself to a ‘virtual pipe organ’. The organ is run by a Mac computer and via some clever software, the sound of famous organs from around the world can be simulated. Having an organ at home has made life so much easier for me. With a busy church like Woking URC, I often found that the only time I could practice was late at night, which was not exactly ideal.

My organ lessons continue, and I have been working my way through the exam grades. I plan to take Grade 8 later this year – you will probably get to know those exam pieces almost as well as me in the months ahead. (Apologies in advance...)

Teresa Bacon

Grapevine Gleanings

The name of the new magazine for our united church will no doubt evoke many memories. For some of you these may be of large slopes with orderly rows of vines in southern France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain or Portugal, perhaps for others even Australia, New Zealand, California or South Africa. For me walking round a vineyard on the banks of the River Douro in Portugal on a glorious summer's day with one of my former students, whose family has owned and cultivated it for several generations, is a particularly happy memory. Still in place on the estate is the trough where the workers used to trample the grapes as part of the wine-making process. Now there is a more modern way of doing this and they have a laboratory to check the production process.

It is said that the Romans brought grapevines to England but there is no continuous link with present times. (I wonder if the Roman occupiers of St George's Hill were imbibers?) In Surrey today, however, we do not have to go far to get the 'grapevine experience' as since 1984 we have had a local vineyard – the Denbies Wine Estate near Dorking. This modern set-up is put into historical context almost on our doorstep. Living so close to Hampton Court Palace no doubt you are all familiar with the old grapevine there. You may even have been told that, planted in 1768, it is the oldest vine still producing grapes in the world today – a claim sometimes made for it. I probably believed that when I first saw it but learnt otherwise later.



The Old Vine, Maribor

For a few years I was a visiting professor at the University of Maribor in Slovenia and made several visits to that lovely country. Naturally, on my first visit I was shown various places of interest in this compact city and the surrounding countryside by my hosts in the faculty. It just so happens that the oldest noble vine in the world, verified by the Guinness Book of Records as more than 400 years old, is on the waterfront of the River Drava as it flows through Maribor; so that was one of the first places to see. It still produces 35-55 kg of grapes for winemaking every year – the resultant wine is decanted into special miniature bottles. The vine is trained along the front of a building, originally part of the city wall, which now houses a museum dedicated to the 'Old Vine'.

Appropriately to the period of the year that we acknowledge in this issue of *The Grapevine*, this part of the Maribor waterfront is named '**Lent**'. That the vine has survived so long is somewhat miraculous since the city wall was the scene of several conflicts. There were also many fires in the days of thatched roofing, then came phylloxera which destroyed most of the vines in Europe in the 19th Century, followed by part-destruction of the Old Vine House by Allied bombing in WW2.



Lent, Maribor

When a dam was built on the river and the water level rose considerably the vine was only saved because experts from the Institute of Agriculture saw what was happening and used their knowledge to give it professional care. You can understand why Slovenians are so proud of the vine historically (it even has a song dedicated to it) but also that it and their wider wine industry is alive and well to this day.

It was the practice in the university to provide visiting academics with a flat in a wing of the post-graduate residences on the edge of the city. From the balcony there was a lovely view of a vineyard and the mountains beyond with small white-painted churches on the lower slopes. (Every mountain village seems to have an almost identical church.) Later I discovered that the vineyard belonged to the university when I was presented with a bottle of its product suitably labelled with the logo!

Alex Henham

156 Years – 8 Months – 26 Days

The story of Weybridge URC

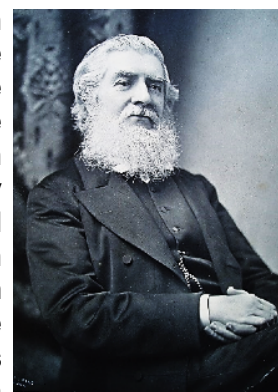
In the reign of Charles II and soon after the momentous events of 1662 Archbishop Sheldon recorded an 'Independent Conventicle' held at the house of John Tilley in Weybridge. Later it is recorded that Congregationalists '*possessed a commodious chapel in the parish*' (date unknown) but because of failure to put it into trust it was '*alienated from religious use*' on the death of the owner. The congregation then held its services in a cottage in Thames Street under the leadership of the Minister from Hersham Congregational Church. In 1854 local opposition led to the cessation of these services when a notice to quit was issued. The negativity of this situation was to change that same year when Benjamin Scott, Chamberlain of the City of London, his wife, Kate, and their family moved to a newly-built home, Heath House, in Hanger Hill, Weybridge. Twice each Sunday he and Mrs Scott walked to Hersham Congregational Church as he would not allow his coachman to work on a Sunday. Concerned that servants working in the big houses in Weybridge were unable to attend church



Scott in his robes

on Sunday mornings (the only service of the day) Benjamin Scott, with help from other people, started open-air evening services in Weybridge and the surrounding villages in 1860. These were popular with both the middle and working classes and a week-night service was started, held in the large billiard room in the grounds of Alfred Wilson's house, Fir Grove, (1860-1862). In 1863 Sunday evening services took place in the new music room at Heath House and increasing numbers led to the adaptation of a building in the grounds into a lecture room (seating 200). Sunday morning services were also started along with a Sunday School and in 1864 Benjamin Scott invited François Baron (a lecturer from London) to help with the work. It was at Heath House, too, that the Surrey Congregational Union was formed in 1863 with Benjamin Scott as its first President.

The development of what is now Queens Road and the surrounding area gave Benjamin Scott the opportunity of purchasing a large corner plot of land for £200, following which he encouraged his friends and other contacts to join him in financing the cost of building a church. The required sum was £2100 plus the cost of the Henry Willis organ at £360. The foundation stone was laid by the prominent Dissenter, John Remington Mills MP, on 4th July 1864 but completion of the church was delayed when on 29th October the spire collapsed as the last stones were being put in place causing considerable damage to the building and unfortunately injuring two workmen. Consequently the formal constitution of Weybridge Congregational Church took place at Benjamin Scott's house on 5th April 1865. The new church building was opened on 17th May with François Baron as Minister (although he was not ordained until a year later) and the lecture hall behind the church was completed in June. The church was Victorian Gothic in style but incorporated memories of the early days of Congregationalism with effigies inside of John Milton and Isaac Watts carved into the stonework of the 'chancel arch' whilst outside the main door and by the choir transept window effigies of the Congregational martyrs executed for their beliefs in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I were carved – John Penry, Henry Barrowe and George Greenwood. Several other effigies of martyrs are carved on other parts of the building but their names are not specified in the church records.



François Baron

François Baron was especially interested in the provision of a Sunday School and weekday activities for children at the church and wanted to extend its influence across a wider area. In 1870 the Oatlands mission hall (operating until 1921) was established along the same lines on Sundays and weekdays with reading, art, crafts and music for the children and reading and sewing classes for the mothers. Around the same time a mission hall, known as Sandpits, was opened in Waverley Road with a similar programme plus the later addition of a Scout Troop. (François Baron was an artist and musician who, way ahead of

his time, wrote a musical version of *The Pilgrim's Progress* which was performed by 150 local children!) At the time there was no free education for children without an Anglican church connection so a British School was established for them in the church hall in 1871 until state provision became universal in 1903. These are examples of the continuing process of meeting the changing needs of the surrounding community which extends from the church's foundation to the present day. Over the years this support has included a nurse employed to help the poor, sick people; off-duty provision for servicemen in both World Wars; founding the Weybridge Male Voice Choir in 1921 to give concerts raising money for charity; initiating and housing in 1964 the North West Surrey Samaritans; accommodating and providing transport and other help for the PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied) group; setting up a club for the blind and partially-sighted people of Walton and Weybridge; a Sure Start Centre, a toddlers' group in various forms, joining with other local churches in several community projects, knitting blankets for the neo-natal unit at St Peter's Hospital and most recently the provision of a defibrillator (attached to the church wall) to serve the residential and business communities of the Queens Road area. A major contribution to the community has been the provision for Scouting and Girlguiding. The Scout Group is sponsored by the church but, whatever the nominal connection, all units have been regarded as part of the church family and many of the leaders have come from within the church. At this time there are Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, two Rainbow units and Brownies while our 4th Weybridge Guides has combined with the 1st Weybridge (meeting at the local Guide Hut) but remains under the leadership of a church member.

The buildings, too, have been adapted to meet developing needs. The original church, designed by a well-known Victorian architect of non-conformist churches, became too small for the congregation six years after it was opened and a transept was added to match that in the original plan followed in 1887 by the addition of a gallery. For the Centenary in 1965 the church was remodelled, the traditional central pulpit was removed to open up the space in the chancel area for special services and drama and the organ was converted from tracker action so that a remote console could be used. At the same time an equal amount of money to this cost was raised by church members as a gift to South African churches required to move by apartheid laws. (Before 1924 when the electric blower was installed the organ had to be pumped by a man or boy during the services often for three services a week. At one time all bills were presented to the Deacons' Meeting for approval and regular payments for this particular job are included. A typical entry reads '*Organ blown for 3 months: 15/6d*'.)

Other building developments have been undertaken over the years to meet changing needs and rooms were added to the original lecture hall in 1887. The stables of the house next door were given to the church by the then Minister (along with an additional piece of land) and converted into a hall. In 1957 a new small hall was built behind the lecture hall with access to its kitchen but, by 1984, the set of buildings was far too small to accommodate the large number of children attending Junior Church on Sunday mornings and unsuitable for the increased demand for weekday activities for children and adults. As various other pieces of land had been added to the site as they became available over the years it was possible to build a new hall complex with better facilities. This also provided an improved venue for the very active drama group and many other church social activities. A larger car park was included to suit the changed way people travelled to church. Of course these are only the more significant items of development in the church and other buildings: for example heating and lighting systems have also been upgraded several times in 156 years – electric lighting was not a possibility in 1865! – including flood-lighting in 2002 which has enhanced the beauty of the church building. In 1972 the church became part of the United Reformed Church – a union of the Congregational Church of England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England which was expanded to include the Churches of Christ in 1989 and the Scottish Congregationalists in 2000.

This is just a snapshot of the life of the church over the past 156 years and in that time it has been served by 15 Ministers – four of whom have been ordained in the church. The vision of witness and service to the community envisaged by Benjamin Scott has been continued by each succeeding generation. Now the history of Weybridge URC becomes part of the history of our new joint church as it continues the work of witness and service to the communities of Walton and Weybridge.

Alex Henham (Archivist: Weybridge URC)

Next month, The Story of St Andrew's



FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Tony Allen

It was as a result of the pastoral care shown by the Minister, Phillip Jones, following a family funeral that Irene and Tony Allen became regular worshippers at Weybridge and they quickly forged bonds of friendship amongst us. They were regulars at "People Who Lunch" and Tony always had a smile on his face. It was never dull sitting having coffee with him and Irene after the service, there was always so much to talk about – his great love of music and the theatre, last night's "Strictly" and of course his great love of football as he was a season ticket holder at Arsenal.

Tony grew up in Wood Green, London, where a small group of friends became fascinated by the steam trains on the local railway. They set up a Railway Club which led to trips to many places involving visits to railway sheds. They continued to meet through the years doing so even last year. It was also through the group that Tony met Irene resulting in their marriage over 50 years ago.

Professionally Tony was an accountant and it was not a surprise that he became treasurer of a local drama group, taking part also in the group's performances at The Playhouse, Walton. He was also a member of the local Probus. Wherever Tony and Irene went they formed valued friendships which often led to holidaying with others.

In the church magazine we often read Tony's informative, lively and humorous accounts of holidays which not only revealed his gift for writing but also his ability to entertain. He was always present at Christmas services and will be remembered particularly for the occasion when in a packed church he appeared as Father Christmas in a specially written version of the Nativity story. At the door afterwards, a little girl stared at him and said "I don't believe you are Father Christmas. I think you are Tony from next door"! At the crib service he always dressed up as one of the Wise Men and took the role very seriously managing to always remain regal when the donkey had other ideas!

We remember and give thanks for one who enriched our lives with a warm friendship which will be treasured by all who were privileged to know him.

Angela Woods

The Prayer Tree

In The Gateway you will find our Prayer Tree. Prayer Trees have become very popular in recent years as an aid to prayer life. Sometimes we'll use it during a Sunday Service, perhaps as part of our intercessory prayers, like we did on 2nd January. It is always available as an aid to private prayer though.

There are coloured luggage labels by it and what you might like to do is write a prayer or a prayer request on a label and then tie it loosely to hang on a branch of the tree. Alternatively, (or additionally) you may want to spend a moment looking at the tree, praying quietly. There are lights on it so the tree is always a source of light and, as you know, in Christian understanding, we equate light with hope.

We don't have a prayer corner in church, nor a space that could readily be adapted but we can perhaps use some of the Gateway space as an area to step aside and enjoy a private moment.

Michael Hodgson

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE



LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

Wednesday 9 March

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

The March concert features Gillian Lloyd

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

Free entry with retiring collection after costs to
Parkinsons (Walton & Weybridge Branch)

*A full list of concerts can be seen in the
February issue, page 6.*



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Friday 4 March 2022 at
10.30 am**

Walton Baptist Church
Winchester Road, Walton
KT12 2RG

The service will be
followed
by refreshments

Programme materials for 2022 are being
designed by the women of EWNl (England, Wales
and Northern Ireland)

PEOPLE WHO LUNCH

**Friday 11 March
12.30 - 2.30 pm**



**At Weybridge URC site
Queens Road, KT13 9UX**

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

Even if you have never been before
you will be very welcome and will find yourself in
the midst of a friendly gathering. We look
forward to seeing you.

Advance booking essential.

Reserve your place(s) with Margaret Faultless
email: margaret.faultless@blueyonder.co.uk

WALTON ART CLUB 2022 Spring Exhibition



Wednesday 23rd March
- Saturday 26th March
10am to 4pm

Sunday 27th March
10am to 1pm

The Riverhouse Barn, Manor Road,
Walton on Thames KT12 2PF
Free admission. Refreshments available.
www.waltonartclub.co.uk



British Summer Time begins at **1.00am**
on **Sunday 27 March**.

Please remember to put your clocks
forward one hour the previous evening.

mencap
JUMBLE SALE
SUNDAY 13th MARCH
11am - 1.00pm



ENTRANCE 50p
BURVIEW HALL
QUEENS ROAD KT12 5AB
(adjacent Ellesmere Place)
HERSHAM / WEYBRIDGE
Telephone 01932 225747

PLEASE WEAR A FACE MASK IF YOU ARE ABLE

Prayer Corner

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

27 March



On this special day we give thanks for all the love and care given to children both today and in the past by mothers, step-mothers and foster mothers and by grandmothers and other carers.

A Litany for Biblical Mothers

Eve, mother of our humanity,
teach us true wisdom, that all life is precious in God's sight

Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth, yearning for a child,
comfort and strengthen all who know the pain of infertility.

Hagar, condemned to the harshness of exile,
sustain those who struggle to feed their sons and daughters.

Rebecca, bride from a far-off land,
welcome women who must bring up their families among strangers.

Rachel, weeping for your children,
weep with all mothers whose children have disappeared.

Jochebed, mother of Moses and Miriam,
lend your ingenuity to women who seek protection for their children.

Naomi and Ruth, bound together by a love greater than blood,
show us how bitter disappointment can become the sweetness of hope.

Mary, daughter of Israel, mother of Jesus,
share with us God's secrets you have pondered deep within your heart.

www.stanneswithstjames.co.uk
(New Start Worship Resources for the Millennium)



Wessex Synod – Prayer Calendar for March

- | | |
|----|---|
| 6 | St Martin's, West Moors
Meeting of Synod at London Street, Basingstoke |
| 13 | Summertown, Oxford;
Bracknell;
Christchurch, Walkford
<i>(Closing in March – Thanksgiving Service tbc)</i> |
| 20 | Fordingbridge;
United Church of Egham |
| 27 | East Cliff, Bournemouth |



Ever seen a biscuit with earphones?

The theme for Messy Church this month was Listening to God, based on the story of the Boy Samuel in the temple. We decorated biscuits with a face and marshmallows to represent ear phones, decorated muslin squares with fabric markers for Hannah's handkerchief, made a megaphone, experimented with the sound from different percussion instruments (including a 'Guero' percussion frog where you scrape a wooden bar across its back to make a perfect croaking noise) and made big ear head dresses. Jean got out her mother's antique sewing machine and the children were thrilled to make a pillow for Samuel using the precious machine.



Just look at those eyelashes!



Making Samuel's pillow



Happiness is a squeezezy tube



Hannah's handkerchief



Budding thespians

During the celebration in church we acted out the story, with one boy standing in the pulpit being God, another child took the part of Hannah, and showed us how sad she must have been leaving her boy in the temple. Two others were Samuel and Eli and all responded to their parts as I narrated the story.

Joyce and one of our Messy Church mums took over the kitchen and served up fish fingers, chicken drummers and a pasta bake, plus the usual pizza, which went down well with children and adults alike.

We did not have so many families this time but it was a very happy afternoon. Many thanks to all our volunteers and to our Messy Church family.



Guero Frog Duet

And last but not least, a special thank you to the young couple who hire the hall on Saturday mornings. Storm Eunice created havoc not only Britain wide but the dustbins at the back of the church were blown over leaving a trail of devastation, glass, rubbish, bottles, jars. I saw it but went home to get picker, brushes, and gloves. By the time I got back it had been cleared.

Anne Fitzgerald

WEYBRIDGE PREMISES

February's Church Meeting was so helpful in enabling a number of things to happen and giving us a firm idea of our timetable too. We know that the premises will remain open until the end of the academic year. We know that we must empty the premises by 1st September and we know that after that date we shall no longer have access to them nor be responsible for them either.

Thanks to a lot of hard work by a few willing volunteers (!) we have an inventory of the contents of the church and hall buildings at Weybridge. We can now use that to go through everything and see what to keep and what needs to be re-homed. We can also use those lists to help with the re-homing task. That's really helpful and has made certain things fall into place. It has also given us a clearer idea of the task before us.

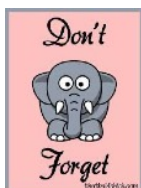
Following on from that, at St Andrew's a number of cupboards are being turned out to make room for the things we want to keep and bring over from Weybridge. Church cupboards, like nature, abhor a vacuum. Things are quietly happening in the background. Time is currently on our side and personally I'd like to keep it that way.

Obviously there are a number of things to keep and bring over to Walton from Weybridge. We've got the prayer tree, the original Pulpit Bible and the communion trays in Walton already, all of which are in use, but with the premises in Weybridge still open, still in use and with the final service still to be set, I don't want to bring a whole stack of stuff over now, only to have to take it back for the final service and then take it to Walton again. My apologies, therefore, if you think that more should have been brought over right from the beginning but that was my logic. Things are coming together, but I didn't want to leave Weybridge bereft of what's still needed there.

One thing that is quite important now is that if you still have any personal possessions in the Weybridge premises you should remove them as soon as possible or else let me know of them. I'd hate anyone's personal property to go missing.

As always, any questions or any concerns, please ask.

Michael Hodgson



MENCAP JUMBLE SALE ON SUNDAY 13 MARCH

Jean Rigden would welcome saleable goodies for MENCAP'S Spring Jumble Sale. Clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac but NO electrical items.

Contact Jean on 01932 225747 - she is willing to collect.

WALTON ART CLUB SPRING EXHIBITION

Do come along to this uplifting exhibition which takes place at The Riverhouse Barn, Manor Road, Walton from Wednesday 23 to Sunday 26 March.



The Very Revd George Duncan, the year in which he was Moderator of the Church of Scotland, was invited to say a few words at the centenary of a temperance society. In his distinctive, sheepish voice he said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a great day in your history, a hundred years old today. Why you remind me of that other great Scotsman, Johnnie Walker, still going strong."

from 'Holy Wit' - Revd James A Simpson

SHROVE TUESDAY - SOME TRADITIONS

(with thanks to Ellen Castelow and the internet)

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins). This also gave them the opportunity of engaging in a last round of merriment before the start of the sombre Lenten season. A bell would be rung to call people to confession. This came to be called the “Pancake Bell” and is still rung today. Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday, so the date varies from year to year and falls between February 3 and March 9. In 2022, Shrove Tuesday will fall on March 1.

The pancake has a very long history and featured in cookery books as far back as 1439. The tradition of tossing or flipping them is almost as old: “And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne.” (Pasquil’s Palin, 1619).

The ingredients for pancakes can be seen to symbolise four points of significance at this time of year:

Eggs ~ Creation
Flour ~ The staff of life
Salt ~ Wholesomeness
Milk ~ Purity

Why do we eat pancakes on pancake day? It was the last chance for a spot of indulgence before 40 days of fasting, and also an opportunity to use up food that couldn't be eaten during Lent. This included eggs, fat and milk, which were made into pancakes and eaten on that day.

...AND NOW FOR THE PANCAKE RECIPE



Sophia Swanson has sent this favourite recipe of hers with an American twist ("bigger and thicker than usual").

1	egg
*1 cup	all-purpose flour
3/4 cup	milk
2 tablespoons	sugar
2 tablespoons	shortening melted, or vegetable oil
3 teaspoons	baking powder
1/2 teaspoon	salt
* If using self-raising flour, omit baking powder and salt.	

Beat egg with hand beater until fluffy; beat in remaining ingredients until smooth. For thinner pancakes, stir in additional 1/4 cup milk. Grease heated griddle if necessary. (To test griddle, sprinkle with few drops water. If bubbles skitter around, heat is just right.)

For each pancake pour about 3 tablespoons batter from tip of large spoon or from jug on to hot griddle. Cook pancakes until puffed and dry around edges. Turn and cook other sides until golden brown. Nine 4-inch pancakes; 100 calories per pancake.

Sophia's favourite ...

Buttermilk Pancakes: Substitute 1 cup buttermilk for the milk. Decrease baking powder to 1 teaspoon and beat in 1/2 teaspoon baking soda. 10 pancakes.

For the English alternative, our minister, Michael, goes for Delia Smith "plain" with sugar and lemon juice. "4oz flour, 2 eggs, 1/2 pint of milk. Make up night before or else morning of Shrove Tuesday because the batter is better made in advance and left to stand in the fridge - according to St Delia"

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

LEG IRONS! A strike by Zimbabwean teachers that has crippled learning entered a third week, with no resolution in sight after the government suspended 135,000 state teachers (out of 140000) for failing to report for work. Zimbabwean authorities arrested



sixteen teachers and dragged them to court in leg irons for demanding decent pay. Members of the Amalgamated Rural Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe were charged with 'Gathering to promote violence and bigotry'. Currently earning the equivalent of just US\$125 a month the teachers were earning US\$540 a month in 2018 but were reduced to



paupers when the Minister of Finance converted US dollar to Zimbabwe dollars. **'We are being pushed (to protest) by the hunger in our stomachs'**, a teacher said, now earning a quarter of



what he used to earn. Zimbabweans appear to be suffering as much if not more under President Emmerson Mnangagwa as under Robert Mugabe. Neither does the PM appear very popular with the goat! (top right)

Some children unable to attend school, are kept busy at home herding cattle – photo left, was taken by artist Herbert from Kwekwe. Others help to weed their parents' fields, but this is not without danger said Shingi quote: **'I took this photo**

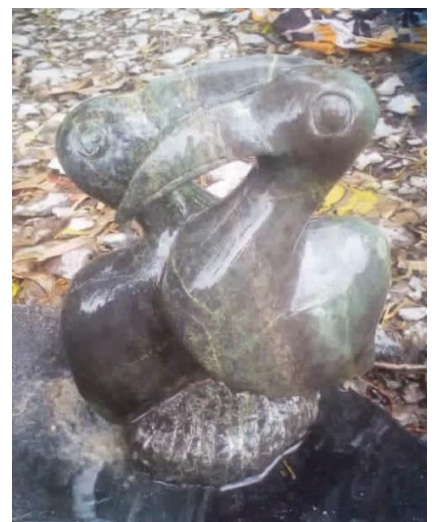


of a 1.7 metres long cobra which tried to attack a woman leaving the fields. The snake was killed.'



On a brighter note, artist Lizeni (left) is delighted with the growth of her maize but needs all the help she can to keep her crop healthy - any spare time she has is spent carving. Her latest creation (right) is titled 'Loving Birds'. I recently visited the Southwark shop to open, polish and price three boxes of pieces kindly taken over by travellers, without whose efforts there would be nothing to sell.

Donations: I thought there would be little in the way of donations to send this month but a certain lady within the congregation rose to the occasion with a



very generous cheque which reached ArtPeace a few days later. Mike Masedza said: **'this was such a relief and put smiles on all our faces as we struggle through each day.'**



Artpeace and Friends continues to grow with the addition of three more artists some of whose work now graces the Southwark Cathedral Shop namely Friday Chingwarus (left), Richard Chimbi and Panashe Wadawareva – work displayed (right). Doubtless they will wish to join our service via WhatsApp enjoyed by many.



I asked artist Christine N. how Zimbabweans coped with trauma for decades having such a corrupt government with one of the world's worst human rights records. Through forgiveness she said. Forgiveness is a loop - it's a never-ending cycle. Man will err no matter how seemingly perfect he is. In our current situation I think it is important still to forgive but never forget. If we forget, then we lose our ability to move forward as better citizens. If we forget, it means our children are doomed in a black hole of moral degradation and economic oppression.

We must however forgive as Jesus forgave Paul. We must always pray for the rising of men and women after God's own heart to lead our nation. Strategically and with God's wisdom, we must plant into the generations after us, thus it becomes pertinent to invest in the ideology of our youth. Nation building and healing is a collective feat. This is where the concept of ubuntu (a Bantu term meaning 'humanity') becomes so important. If I am because you are, then a nation of grudge carrying broken individuals is because we are. We must always seek the greater good.

I recently had a conversation with one of my 'Sisters in Christ', a group to which I belong, and she was hurting. The source of her pain is unforgiveness and as a result, she is constantly sick and in pain which cannot be medically classified. I am drawn to two readings in the Bible.

1. Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
2. Matthew 5:23-24 - So, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

We often think that forgiveness is an act that sets the other person free therefore we refuse them that liberty by holding on to the wrongs they did us and not forgiving them. Life and grace, however, have taught me that forgiveness is not for them but for us and the transformation that happens within us as God allows and works in us. It's not easy. It's not overnight either but with continual practice and calling on the grace of God, we learn to forgive and eventually are set free from the heavy, back breaking burden of unforgiveness.

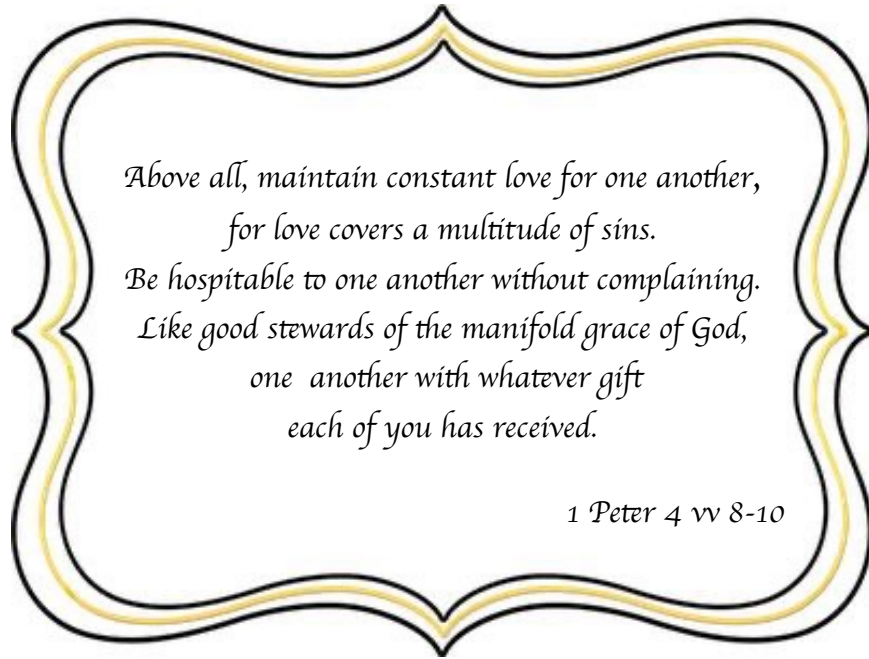
Johnston Simpson

P.S. Follow up from Christine reference Michael's pastoral letter: Yes, the girls (Judith in red and Beata in white next to me) are still attending church and baptism lessons. I bought



stationery for their lessons. I am also committed to having their baptism dresses made by a woman in our parish. What is even more beautiful is that Judith's mother has also made an appearance these past two weeks. She stopped coming when she lost her firstborn son. I am helping to get her a birth certificate for Judith so that the young lady can go back to school. She has had less than two years schooling her entire life, although she is quite bright. I have made payments to enable her to begin classes and access tutoring before she is let into a mainstream school. Beata's case is difficult as her mother abandoned her, and her father is an alcoholic. She also doesn't have a birth certificate, but I pray for a way for her and her five siblings. Having birth certificates will enable them to get into schools - Beata and Tawanda, her brother in blue in the photograph, are eager to go to school. I am very confident God will make a way in the wasteland. This is a story

unfolding, and I am so privileged to have people like the URC assisting in making a change to these children's lives. May God bless you all and may He bless the source from which you give.



MINISTER

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

Tel: 01932 841382
Email: michael.mah@btinternet.com

THE SECRETARIAL TEAM

Mrs Carol Lee
Email: secretary@standrewsurc.com

Mrs Gwenda Cochrane
Mrs Liz Grimsey
Mrs Shirley Morley

Hall Hire Walton and Weybridge: roomhire@standrewsurc.org hallhire@weybridgeurc.org.uk

Website: www.standrewsurc.org

Covid-safe services start at 10.30 am.
Services are currently accessible on Zoom on the first and third Sunday of the month.

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!