



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



THE GRAPEVINE

JULY/AUGUST 2022

Volume 1 No 6



One aspect of neighbourly love is that we must not merely will our
neighbours good, but actually work to bring it about.

[Thomas Aquinas](#)

PASTORAL LETTER

July and August 2022

Like last month we are drawing on the Revd Malcolm Shapland's "Spare a Prayer" series for our pastoral letter. He is a retired URC Minister living in Wales and for some years he has written a regular column which he shares with many people via Facebook – some of you may have come across his column. The article we are using this month he has called "Spare a Prayer for saying Thank you".

Dear Everyone,

There is a story in Luke chapter 7, verse 11 which tells how Jesus was travelling to Jerusalem, on the border between Galilee and Samaria, when he was called out to by 10 people who had leprosy. They wanted to be healed. The religious laws demanded that anyone who claimed to be healed, went to see the priest and was declared cured – or not. Jesus told them to go to the priest and, as they went on their way, they were healed. One of them came back to say 'thank you' and Jesus asked the question: "Ten were healed; where are the other nine?" But, Jesus appreciated the thanks from the one who came to say 'thank you' and blessed him and sent him on his way.

A 10% 'thank you' rate – not very good!

Spare a Prayer for those who do good for us, and say a 'thank you' prayer for them, as well as a face-to-face 'thank you'.

Good people will not stop doing good even if we don't say 'thank you', although we hear it said sometimes, "All I did for her/him, – and not a word of thanks" – sometimes with the rider, "And that's the last time I help them!" That's a natural and often a felt reaction.

Spare a Prayer that the Giving of the Gift and the help and joy it may bring may be our motive.

In Matthew, chapter 5, verse 5, God causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and his rain on the righteous and unrighteous. We cannot be selective in whom we help if we are to follow the teaching of Jesus. Loving the good and the righteous is not the only duty – it is loving enemies; too, even if the only enemies are the 90% who didn't say "Thanks".

The motivation for doing good is to help those in need, not to gather the thanks and adoration of the crowd – tempting though that is!

Spare a Prayer for being able to help when we can.

Spare a Prayer for remembering our benefactor – and remember to include God's goodness to us in your thanksgivings.

Malcolm Shapland

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES JULY 2022

The Minister is on Sabbatical until mid-August.

On the first and third Sunday of the month services will also be on Zoom.

Coffee/Tea is served in the hall after the service.

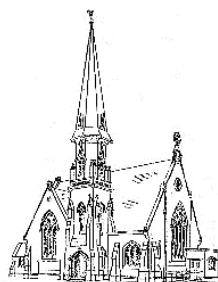
There is no meeting of 'People Who Lunch' in July.

Saturday 2 July	7.30 pm	Oatlands Singers' Concert <i>A Time to Celebrate</i> St Mary Oatlands Church Hall
Sunday 3 July (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion Revd Alison Toplas
Sunday 10 July	10.30 am	Morning Worship Mr Graham Pearcey
	11.45 am	Church Meeting
Tuesday 12 July	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Bill Topping Room, Walton site
Wednesday 13 July	12.30 pm	Organ Recital by John Wood Weybridge site (see pp14&15) (Last recital before the closure of the Weybridge URC building.)
Friday 15 July	11.15 am	Memorial Service for Mr John Hutson St Andrew's URC, Walton & Weybridge Revd Dr Michael Hopkins (see p5)
Sunday 17 July (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship Revd Julia Monaghan
	3.00 pm	Messy Church 
Sunday 24 July	10.30 am	Morning Worship Revd David Netherwood
Sunday 31 July	10.30 am	Morning Worship Mr Sydney Shore

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES AUGUST 2022

There is no Elders' Meeting in August.

Sunday 7 August (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion Mrs Anna Crawford
Friday 12 August	12.30pm	People Who Lunch Walton site (see p13)
Sunday 14 August	10.30 am	Morning Worship Revd David Netherwood



Sunday 21 August (No Zoom)	10.30 am	Final Service in the Weybridge URC building The Minister (see p7) <i>Refreshments served in the hall after the service</i> (No service at Walton.)
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3.00 pm	Messy Church
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Sunday 28 August	10.30 am	Morning Worship The Minister
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COPY DATE FOR JULY/AUGUST ISSUE WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST

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

***and ASSOCIATE EDITOR: MOLLIE HENHAM Email: 18amh65@btinternet.com
(Please note amended email address for the Associate Editor)***

News of the Church Family

In Memoriam

Ronald Parker

We were so sorry to hear that Ron Parker died in hospital on 29th May following a short illness. He is a former member and Elder at Weybridge URC whose cheerful presence is remembered with great affection by his friends in the congregation. His funeral service and thanksgiving for his life was held at Lymington URC on 20th June and it was good that Weybridge was represented there. We send our love and sympathy to Margaret and their children, Andrew and Caroline, and their families. Please remember them at this sad time in their lives. Donations in memory of Ron may be made to the British Heart Foundation – the charity chosen by the family. You will find a tribute to Ron on p8.

John Hutson

We were much saddened to hear of the death of John Hutson on 1st June at Katharine House Hospice in Banbury. We send our love and condolences to his children, Lorna, Nora and Robin and to his wider family and friends. There will be a Memorial Service for John at St Andrew's on Friday 15th July at 11.15am. The service will be conducted by the Revd Dr Michael Hopkins who is Minister of The Spire Church (URC/Methodist) in Farnham and Elstead URC. An appreciation of John's life will be in the September issue of The Grapevine.

Éva Mikesi

A few weeks ago we heard from the Revd Károly Mikesi in Hungary that his beloved wife, Éva, died on 30th April. Many of you will remember when she and Károly and their daughter, Tünde, visited Weybridge following the establishment of the partnership with his church at Kiskunhalas. On retirement they moved to Kecskemet (near Lake Balaton) where Károly works as a hospital chaplain. During the past year Éva had been undergoing extensive medical treatment (including operations) for a series of complicated health problems. She appeared to have made a good recovery and her sudden death was a great shock to the family. Please remember Károly and their son, Tibor, and daughter, Tünde, and their families as they mourn Éva.

Thanks

Brian and Kate Ashfield would like to thank everyone for all their good wishes, cards, phone calls and visits over the last few weeks. We have felt very blessed by the love, warmth and support you have all shown. Brian has made a very good recovery and is back to his 'normal' self! He just has to come to terms with the fact that, at 80, he must slowdown and listen to his wife!! Thank you all so much.

Prayers

Please remember these friends in your prayers – Brian & Kate Ashfield, David Cheeseman, Chris Goddard, the Hutson family, John Langdon, Károly Mikesi and his family, Margaret Parker and her family, Lilian Smith and Michael Stevens.

Your prayers are also asked for John & Marion Whitton and their family. (John is a Minister and former Deputy Chaplain General to the Army who led many services at Weybridge over a period of 25 years and he and Marion became very much part of the church family there.)

(If you have any family news you would like to share with the wider Church Family please give the details to the Editors. Also, if you know of anyone who would like to be included in the Prayer List please let the Editors know. We always seek permission from the person involved before any name is added.)

Church Meeting

The next Church Meeting is on **10th July** following the morning service. Please make a note of the date and do your best to be there.



Keys

As the Weybridge site is closing on 31st August please will those of you who have keys to the church and hall return them to Claire or Jem Ward when you have finished with them? Alternatively, please put them in an envelope addressed to Jem and including your name and post them back through the church letterbox.

Celebrating two Anniversaries

Good wishes to the members of the congregation at Cobham United Church (URC/Methodist) as they celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Cobham URC and the 160th Anniversary of Cobham Methodist Church over the weekend of 16th and 17th July. Although the church is not in the same Synod as us it is a close neighbour.

Wessex Synod: Prayer Calendar for July



- | | |
|----|--|
| 3 | The Meeting of the URC General Assembly;
Brill;
Cornerstone, Hythe |
| 10 | Trinity, Abingdon;
Maidenhead |
| 17 | United Church, Faringdon;
Lymington;
London Street, Basingstoke |
| 24 | Christ Church, Henley-on-Thames;
Bitterne Park, Southampton |
| 31 | Blackbird Leys, Oxford;
Three Legged Cross;
Guernsey |

Prayer Calendar for August

- | | |
|----|--|
| 7 | Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury;
Lower Earley, Reading |
| 14 | Windsor;
Havant and Emsworth |
| 21 | Thatcham;
Skinner Street, Poole;
St Columba's, Gosport |
| 28 | St Andrew's, Reading;
Normandy, Guildford;
Wimborne |

TWO IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



SUNDAY 21 AUGUST at 10.30am **Final Service in the Weybridge URC building**

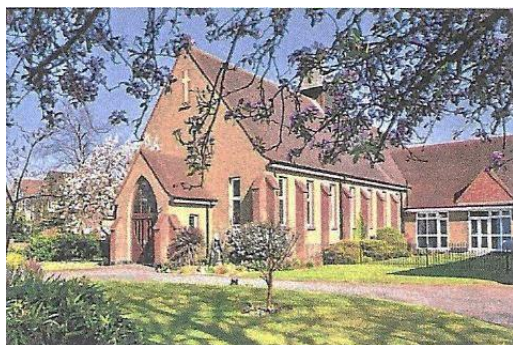
Thankfully the congregation is not closing. The fellowship continues as part of St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Walton and Weybridge. It is, therefore, not going to be the last time we are all together. It's the building which is closing although inevitably that is going to be an emotional occasion for us all.

The service on 21st August will hopefully be 'simple but sincere' in style as we give thanks for all that has happened within the church's walls since 1865 and, before that, at Heath House. Inevitably a number of things will have already been removed from the building by then but we shall still gather there.

I am hoping that **the service will include the opportunity for you to share memories of events there in the past.** It may be a memory of a special service- or perhaps of a family event (baptism/wedding etc). It may be a social event – or of a fundraising event. It may be a funny story or it may be a very poignant moment – whatever – but it would be lovely to include a time in the service to remember fondly all sorts of things that have happened there and to have a personal aspect to the service. **So, do come prepared to share something if you can – and if you have any pictures or other memorabilia then please bring them as well.** The service is not intended to be overly starchy or formal – instead the idea is to be a simple but sincere act of remembering and giving thanks.

Tea/Coffee and cakes will be served after the service in the church hall so do put this date in your diary and do come – and please invite any past members you are still in touch with to come along and join us, too. They will be most welcome. This is not going to be a 'great and the good' occasion, followed by 'big eats'. Instead, it will be a time for quiet sincerity and an opportunity to worship there, one last time, honouring the many memories we have of it.

SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER at 10.30am



Our Synod Moderator, Clare Downing, will be leading our worship on this day. Clare has not led worship in the pastorate since my induction service in 2017 and this date has been in her diary for some time – long before our church union discussions began. What's rather nice, though, is that Clare will take this opportunity to sort of commission and dedicate our new church for the future. It will be a different kind of service. Perhaps a human analogy is helpful. On 1st January we gave birth to a baby. On 2nd January we brought the baby home (first

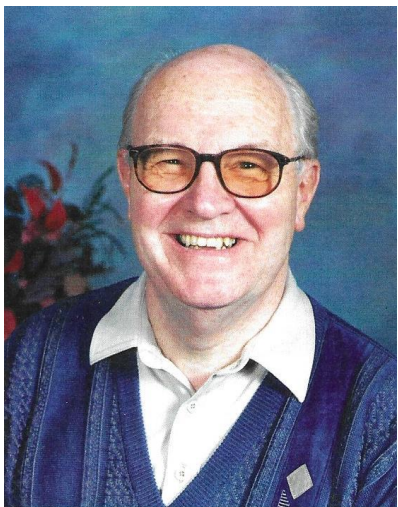
service). We have decided on a name and now on 11th September the Moderator will 'baptise' our baby.

Again, do come along to the 'baptism service' and, who knows, there may even be a Christening Cake with coffee afterwards.

Michael Hodgson

A Friend Remembered

John Gilbert Ronald Parker



As you can see from the above Ron used his third name and the abbreviated version he adopted somehow really suited his personality. Inevitably there were times when it was confusing such as when Mollie and I dashed over to Caterham one Sunday afternoon to visit him in hospital only to be told they did not have anyone named Ronald Parker there. Fortunately the situation was eventually clarified.

Ron grew up in Preston and lived there until the early years of his marriage to Margaret when they made the first of many moves around the country. (He once commented that they didn't live long enough in any one house for it to require re-decorating!) He did, however, remain loyal to his Preston roots particularly in relation to football. While other people chose to support the more elite clubs he was consistent and active in his support of Preston North End. Football had always been a passion for him and in his schooldays he played in the youth team associated with a nearby professional club.

After a compulsory spell in the Armed Forces (as was usual at that time) serving in the Royal Army Pay Corps Ron began his working life. This led to positions in a number of different companies culminating in his appointment as Sales Director of Lenthéric Morny Ltd which was later combined with Yardley and he proudly displayed a copy of the company's Royal Warrant on a wall at home. It was towards the end of this period that he and Margaret moved to our area. As soon as they moved to a new place they made contact with a local church but their connection with Weybridge URC came about by accident. One Sunday morning, soon after their arrival at their new home overlooking the Thames at Chertsey, they set-off to find a local URC and when on their way to another church they discovered Weybridge. They thought the building and grounds looked exceptionally attractive and decided to go inside. The stewards on duty made them feel very welcome, found them seats and introduced them to the other people in the pew. Talking with people over coffee after the service they realised that they felt very much at home and decided it was definitely the church for them. They were received into membership in May 1995 by transfer from London Street URC, Basingstoke and Ron was elected as an Elder in 1997. They soon became enthusiastic members of the Social Events Group helping to arrange various social activities for the congregation, notably the church's celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It was a great joy to them when their daughter, Caroline, and her family joined the congregation with grandsons, Daniel and Thomas, being in Junior Church.

Around this time they also bought a holiday home in Florida spending a few months a year there. As always they attended a church but this one had over 2,000 members and a team of Ministers. Although they made a few friends there generally they found it somewhat overwhelming. Their next move was to Caterham-on-the-Hill but they still came regularly to church in Weybridge. Their final house-move was to a lovely new bungalow in New Milton in Hampshire where they enjoyed being close to the sea and countryside. Although they linked up with Lymington URC they still came to church at Weybridge once a month. Eventually the early start required for the journey became difficult for them and they gave in to requests from friends at Lymington to transfer their membership there – doing so in 2016.

We give thanks for everything Ron did for our fellowship at Weybridge, for his service as an Elder and his ever-giving friendship. He never forgot the welcome he and Margaret received and did his best to ensure that every newcomer to the church had the same experience.

Alex Henham

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

We went for a walk with a little girl recently – a two-year old – and it turned out to be a real voyage of discovery. We ‘swished’ through some long grass and we counted the cows in a field (24 in total although the counting process was a bit random after 14). We watched a bee going from flower to flower and found the empty shell of a snail and looked at its intricate pattern. We discovered a stream trickling across some pebbles making them glisten in the sunshine and we saw the birds searching for food and flying (some very fast) through the air – blackbirds, jays, wood pigeons and a nut-hatch. We went through a gate into the next field (“Shut the gate” our small companion said) and picked daisies – sitting on the grass to make a daisy chain necklace – and held a buttercup under our chin to see its glow. We looked at the dappled patterns on the footpath made by the sun as its rays flickered through the leaves on the trees. So much to see, so much to do, so much to talk about – it was a simple and magical outing giving us the chance to look at the world through the freshness of a child’s eyes. If you have a small child in your family we recommend this activity to you. If you don’t have a small child try ‘borrowing’ one for an hour from a friend promising, of course, to take great care of him or her!

In the hot weather I put out a dish of water for the birds. Word obviously got round and they flocked to it, so top-ups were regularly required.

We have noticed that in the recent heat-wave a few people have been thoughtful enough to put bowls of water by their front gate for any passing dogs. For those dogs that can read one even had DOG engraved on it!

Thanks for the Royal Quiz – great fun,

We used the Royal Quiz when we had people round for coffee and made it part of our Jubilee celebrations. It got a bit competitive, in a friendly way, but we still didn’t know all the answers.

We passed the Royal Quiz on to friends to use in their church’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations and they were very grateful.

I love doing quizzes, crosswords and so on. Keeps my mind working!

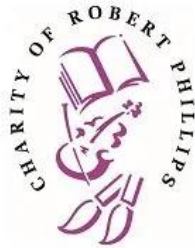
I missed going out for my daily walk because of the hot weather and very high pollen count. It was not only the lack of exercise I missed but also the ‘Good Morning’ greetings from people I met. I began to feel like a hermit. We all need personal contact and it made me realise how hard life must be for those who are shut-in and lonely. It is so easy to forget them when we have a fulfilling life of our own. Spending a few moments on the phone or paying a brief visit and perhaps giving a bit of help could make such a difference to them. Some of you I know already make this a regular part of your life and I have decided to follow your example and try to do the same.

As a few of us sat ‘sunning’ ourselves in the garden someone remarked that it was a good thing the wearing of masks was no longer compulsory when mixing with other people because otherwise we could all end up with two-tone faces.

As the day for the closure of our beloved church building at Weybridge gets nearer I have been thinking about all the friends I met there. Some are sadly no longer with us. Others have moved away but emails and, even better, telephone calls keep us in touch. Then there are those who fortunately have stayed in the area. Personally I feel that with these bonds of friendship we have a lot to thank the church for.



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A Time for Celebration

**An uplifting programme of choral and instrumental music
in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a
selection of repertoire from across the British Isles.**

With guest ensemble the London Saxophone Choir

Conductors: Stuart Whatton and Stuart Longley

Accompanist: Angus Cunningham

Date: Saturday 2nd July 2022 at 7:30pm

**Venue: St. Mary Oatlands Church Hall,
Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge KT13 9TJ**

Tickets: Adults – £10 (includes refreshments)

Children – Free of Charge

Oatlands Singers is a Registered Charity – 1049088



**Oatlands Singers rehearse on Tuesdays, from
7:45-9:45pm in St Mary Oatlands Church Hall,
Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge KT13 9TJ
Would you like to sing with us? Please contact
us on 07900 907738 or visit our website at:-
<https://oatlandssingers.club>**

Proclamation – Coronation – Platinum Jubilee

Celebrating 70 Royal Years

The year before the Coronation some friends and I had the opportunity of going to see and hear the Proclamation of the Accession on 8th February 1952. We went to Trafalgar Square but the same ceremony took place in other venues around London and, of course, across the Commonwealth. The Proclamation was read by one of the Royal Heralds several of whom had travelled in horse-drawn carriages in a procession from St James' Palace escorted by the Household Cavalry. It was an impressive sight and, thinking about it since, I suppose it was a dramatic indication of the continuation and constancy of the monarchy – one monarch dies and immediately another accedes to the throne. Masses of people had turned up to watch the ceremony and I remember very clearly that my friends and I were squashed right in the middle of an enormous crowd and had to 'go with the flow'. Afterwards, we young lads returned home full of what we had seen and done. As for big crowds – for us – no problem!

My family was given a very old television set (unbelievably dating from the late 1930s) by my uncle so we were able to watch the Coronation. (He was an electrical engineer and had upgraded to the latest model!) Our inherited set was housed in a large wooden cabinet with space for both a radio and television set. The radio (long, medium and short wave) was on the left and a very small television screen was on the right – an ingenious design which I have not seen since. In order to get a reasonably stable picture (black and white, of course) various dials had to be perfectly adjusted – patience required! Anyway we and the neighbours my parents had invited to join us all thought it was marvellous despite the fact that in order for everyone to get a good view we all had to sit well back!

Alex Henham

I was seven when the Coronation took place. We lived in a block of flats and the family in one flat on our balcony had a TV. Their living room was turned into a mini-theatre – children at the front, then a row of chairs, then crates with timber between them for seats. I had a 'silver-faced' Life Guard's breast-plate and hat and a cardboard sword. All the children were given commemorative cups and saucers plus a bag of sweets.

Peter Duncombe

At the time of the Coronation I was 14 years old and we had no television set! However, a neighbour did and invited us to watch. The programme was in black and white which we thought to be amazing! There was no street party then as we were still feeling the effects of the war.

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee we had a fantastic street party. Our road was closed outside my house from 11am till 4pm. Several neighbours turned out at 9am to finish putting out the bunting across the road. BP lent us 24 trestle tables which we lined up along the road. We all brought our own food. (I made Coronation chicken followed by lemon possets.) We were all amazed at the entertainment that a neighbour had organised – from 'Pin the tail on the Corgi', a coconut shy, a live band, professional singers and an opportunity for anyone to sing. It was a gift to one of our neighbour's children to sing several pop songs with great vigour! A 10 year old was delighted to show off his clarinet skills by playing 'God Save the Queen'! We had a candy floss machine, an ice cream van and to cap it all we had a bouncy

castle. The children had a wonderful time. The adults seemed to parade around with a never-ending glass of wine in their hands and a big smile on their faces! We met many neighbours whom we were previously on 'nodding terms' with, so it was good to have time to chat to them. Some of us dressed for the occasion. I had a 'Queen' mask and 'Charles and Camilla' also appeared. I recorded all the Platinum TV programmes. Each and every one was amazing. The Queen has served us well over 70 years. She topped it all with her performance with Paddington Bear. A rare moment to get to know her sense of humour, a wonderful memory.

Margaret Faultless

My memories of the Coronation are rather hazy. Like many people, my parents had acquired a television shortly before the big day and then invited neighbours, friends and family to join us in watching the Coronation. We children sat on the floor, with rows of chairs behind us, as people crammed in to watch on our 9 inch (!) Ekco TV set. Of course, the broadcast was in black and white, and we peered at the grey images of the procession moving through the rain towards the Abbey and then the spectacle of the Coronation itself. Mum busied herself passing round refreshments. Perhaps I drank something out of my brand new Coronation mug, a gift received by all the children at my school.

How very different from this year's celebrations! My next-door neighbours were put off organising a street party by the amount of bureaucracy involved, but kindly invited people living along the road into their back garden on the Sunday afternoon. Everyone brought a contribution to the feast. The weather was better than expected, so we were able to spend time in the garden but we could also wander into the large summer house, where a huge flat screen TV was showing the pageant in all its glorious colour. In chatting, we reviewed the celebrations of the previous few days: everyone had loved the film of the Queen having tea with Paddington and also the account, which popped up widely on social media, of her encounter with a couple of American tourists who did not recognise her. (The ex-bodyguard who described it was called Richard Griffin, if you want to look it up.) Both films show she retains a strong sense of humour!

At the Coronation there was an air of optimism, the start of a new era. Now we cannot disguise the fact that the era is in a late phase. But people recognise the sense of duty which the Queen has exhibited throughout her long reign, and people came together to show their respect. After the last few years, it was especially good to have something to draw people together to celebrate.

Liz Grimsey

I remember watching the Coronation on our family's new television (it had a very small screen) along with our neighbours. My grandmother was there, too, and was amazed that you could watch 'moving pictures' in your own home. (This led her to predict that the cinemas would close as people would no longer need to go to them!) In fact it was an amazing experience for all of us and no one wanted to miss a moment. Consequently we balanced plates of food on our laps (not easy for the young ones) and tried not to knock over our drinks! My grandmother was always a mine of information on the Royal Family and remembered Queen Victoria, as a very old lady, as well as Edward VII. For her George V was recent history (especially as Queen Mary was still alive). She was concerned about the new young Queen with all her responsibilities but watching the Coronation ceremony felt she would do well. I recalled all these musings as we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee and thought how accurate her predictions had been.

Mollie Henham

A Special 'People Who Lunch'



On 10th June 'People Who Lunch' was held, for the very first time, at St Andrew's church hall after 14 very successful years of 'Ladies Who Lunch' and (occasionally) 'People Who Lunch' at Weybridge. There was a bumper turnout and everyone had a thoroughly good time.

Margaret Faultless writes:

"I was delighted to have 22 participants. Several of our regulars were unable to attend and there were some newcomers. This makes it all worthwhile. I was very grateful to Anne who made a delicious Jubilee trifle. We had a themed Jubilee lunch with flags and bunting. Judging by the chatter everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was a bit of a challenge getting to know the kitchen layout and the workings of all the equipment! I was very grateful to everyone who stayed behind to help with the clearing up. We made a profit of £43 due to the good numbers of people there. The next lunch will be on the 12th August. (I'm on holiday in July.)"



Margaret takes the money suitably dressed for the occasion

Margaret would be absolutely delighted if she could have some extra help. Please let her know if you are able to lend support in any way whatsoever – and particularly in the kitchen – to this very popular monthly event.

Floral Art



We all appreciate having flowers in church each week and these photographs show some recent arrangements. Sometimes the flowers commemorate special occasions – the display shown on the left was for the wedding anniversary of Holms and Christine Carlile.

ORGAN CORNER

Organ Recital given at Weybridge URC on 8 June by David Oldfield

Brian Ashfield, in introducing and welcoming David, thanked him warmly for deputising for Peter Breaven at very short notice.

The recital was almost entirely of music by British composers, and included the opportunity for the audience to sing both the English and Welsh national anthems, all of these features being to echo the Queen's Platinum Jubilee that had just been celebrated. First we heard the *Trumpet Minuet in D* by Alfred Hollins which was well served by the fine trumpet stop on our organ. Hollins was a blind organist who had the distinction of designing a console for blind organists, one of which is still in use on the organ in St John's Church, West Byfleet. Next we heard *Two Hymn Tune Preludes*, the first by Charles Stanford and the second by Healey Willan. These were followed by the *Prelude and Fugue in C (BWV 537)* by J S Bach, written in his time at Leipzig. The next short piece had a very interesting birth. It was written by George Thalben Ball who was organist for the BBC Radio Morning Service. Towards the close of one service the producer was very concerned to find that there would be a gap at its end. He managed to get a message of his predicament to the organ console and Thalben Ball improvised the now popular *Elegy*, which we then heard. A lovely story which is just one memory of that much-loved man. The penultimate work was by another blind organist (what remarkable people they are – I once knew one who, to my great fascination, showed me his very large collection of organ score manuscripts which were published in Braille). The recital concluded with a piece called *Hornpipe Humoresque* by the recently-deceased composer Noel Rawsthorne. This turned out to be an arrangement of the famous *Hornpipe* that we hear on the last night of the Proms. It was complete with the 'honks' provided by the audience at those concerts.

It really was a pity that there were so few in the audience to enjoy this fine recital given by a man whose whole life has been in music, right from his school days to the present, when he is actively engaged in what he obviously loves. I would encourage you to attend the next recital on 13th July given by John Wood. Not only will this be the last of this series but will be the last ever given at Weybridge before this very fine and historic Willis organ is removed.

Geoff Cooper

Organ Recital Weybridge URC site

12.30pm 13 July

We welcome John Wood for a return visit to Weybridge on 13th July to give the last in our series of organ recitals. **This will be not just the last in the series but the last ever recital to be given on the magnificent Willis organ in the beautiful setting of our church at Weybridge.**

Essentially a self-taught organist, John Wood has been playing the organ on and off since the age of 14 having reached Grade 8 piano. He first played at churches in his home town of Carlisle (Lanarkshire, Scotland). He gained a BSc (Chemistry) at Glasgow and a PhD at Keele, then spent most of his career with BP.

Prior to the building of High Cross Church, Camberley (URC/Methodist) in 1990, he accompanied services at the United Reformed Church in Southwell Park Road from the late 1970s. He also plays occasionally at other churches in Camberley, Windlesham, Fleet, Farnham and Sandhurst plus wedding and funeral services in his local area. For many years he has helped to lead the High Cross Church Choir.

On the home front – he married Andrea in 1971 and they have three boys who are now married with children of their own, ranging between 2 and 10, living around the periphery of London. He and Andrea have lived in Sandhurst pretty well since marrying and have a pleasant house and garden which they both enjoy tending. Both are long-term members of

High Cross Church where John and David Markby share the organ bench. John sings bass with the Surrey Heath Singers and is also a member of the local Christians in Science (CIS) group. John shares David's interest in Jaguar cars and owned a 1967 Daimler Sovereign – sadly now sold.

Please come along to support the organist and share in this event for church and community. 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 an hour of popular organ 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. *Brian Ashfield*

Programme for Organ Recital by John Wood

12.30pm 13 July

La Réjouissance
from Music for the Royal Fireworks

George Frideric Handel
(1685 – 1759)

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba arr: Noel Rawsthorne

Siciliano
from the *Temple Church Suite*

John Stanley
(1712 – 1786)

Gigue Fugue in G Major
No: 2 from Eight Short Preludes & Fugues

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 – 1750)

Arioso from Cantata BWV 156 arr: Colin Hand

Finale from 1st *Symphony for Organ*

Louis Vierne
(1870 – 1937)

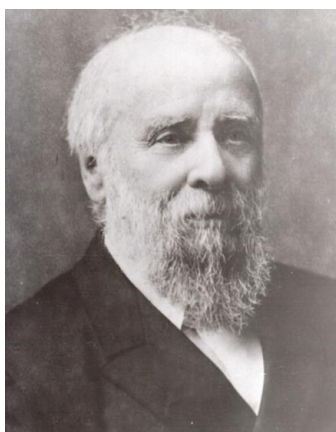
•
Sortie in Eb

LJL Lefébure-Wély
(1817 – 1869)

(The Organ Recital scheduled for August in the original programme plan will not take place.)

A man who understood the Art and Science of Organ Building

Henry 'Father' Willis (1821-1901)



- Founder of the dynasty of four generations of organ builders (all called Henry).
- Regarded as the foremost organ-builder of Victorian times.
- Invented several distinctive features which were used by later organ builders.
- Built or re-built about 1,000 organs (in the UK and abroad) for cathedrals (including St Paul's); palaces; public buildings (including the Royal Albert Hall, St George's Hall, Liverpool and the 1851 Great Exhibition in Hyde Park); churches (including Weybridge Congregational Church (URC)!! where he played the organ (including some of his own arrangements) at the opening of the church on 15th May 1865.
- All four members of the Willis dynasty have visited the church at Weybridge – sometimes working on the organ themselves.)
- The company still exists (HQ now in Liverpool) but with no member of the family involved.
- Benjamin Scott (founder of the church) was determined that the best possible organ should be installed in the church and knew his friend, Henry Willis, was the man for the job. A delightful thought to keep in mind at the final service on 21st August. *Mollie Henham*

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN: Last month's account of the dire living conditions experienced by artist Mike Masedza and family prompted heart-warming donations from seven readers from as far apart as Edinburgh, Fleetwood, Kettering, Leeds, Newark on Trent and St Andrew's. Mike felt that life could not get much worse on learning that his daughter Daniella (33) had been mugged on her way home. He said: *'She spent the whole night in hospital. Luckily the doctor said the eye is safe from damage. I did not sleep last night. I have to pay the hospital 50\$ for treatment.'*



However, news of these generous donations has restored his faith in human nature. He was over the moon with delight, as this has enabled him to buy most of the materials – bricks, cement, door and window frames. We will scrape up the balance somehow to finish off two rooms and enable Mike, Emma and son Maita to move in. The seven donors were sent a video of

thanks from Mike taken on the site but if you look at the photo on the right you can see one of his neighbour's homes in the foreground and Mike's dwelling in the background.



Mike proudly says his home will have TWO doors! The photo below shows another less fortunate neighbour a little distance away where two young boys 'live' by themselves. Mike will try and visit them sometime.



Mike said: *'I feel very emotional about this project. I was born in a family of six boys and two girls. None of my late brothers owned a house, not even in a small town or village. I am the first. This is going to change my life for ever and my children and grandchildren as well. I feel this is not my project alone but for the whole family. It's a gamechanger! God bless the hands and souls that made this project a success. I feel like I am now someone on this earth. It's never too late. Who knows, one day I might even be able to rent*

out a room to provide income for my retirement as there is no State pension or support in Zimbabwe. I will keep you abreast of my progress. God is great!'

ECONOMY: Zimbabwe's economic crisis has escalated at a frightening pace. Schools have also reached a new crisis point with most teachers in dire straits; the last review of their salary was back in February when the rate was Z\$210:US\$1 and its now 600:1. The Zimbabwe Teachers Union said: 'A month's salary cannot even buy a formal pair of shoes from local manufacturers.' Artist Lovemore said: 'Life is very tough for a Zimbabwean mother as the economy is performing badly due to very bad governance. Mothers are doing all sorts of work to try and keep the family happy. The photo I took (right), shows a mother helping her daughter with some schoolwork whilst cooking. She told me she cannot send her daughter to school some days



as individual teachers are asking for more money from parents even if you have paid the monthly school fees. Some are boycotting classes in protest at poor salaries. School heads distance themselves when parents complain. Junior, the lady in photo, works 18 hours a day doing menial chores. She can't use firewood or gas for cooking as cost has rocketed so she is forced to use dried maize cobs.'

NEEDS MUST: Artist Shingi commented: 'Even some mounted police are charging a few dollars to give children a ride on their horses to supplement their

meagre incomes and make ends meet!'

HARVEST: The photo below shows our artist Godfrey William (56) with wife Hilda bagging their maize to take for milling into mealie meal, their main source of food. Godfrey said he had a good harvest and is very grateful for our support in buying seed and fertilisers etc. Godfrey is the oldest artist in the group and one of the best. Nowadays, however, he struggles to carve owing to stiffness in his arms and wrists. Nevertheless, he perseveres and rose to my challenge to carve quality frogs to meet the demands of some ladies from the congregation who are 'into frogs' so to speak! He has just finished these three in semi-precious Lepidolite and Leopard



Rock which look tremendous! I am hopeful that Verity from CAFOD, Harare will take these and other carvings over later this year which should enable us to hold another comprehensive sale in the Gateway.

Johnston Simpson



Holiday Memories

Last month there was a request for you to share your holiday memories with us by writing an account for inclusion in our magazine. Anne Fitzgerald has kindly written about a very special holiday she and her sister enjoyed recently in Germany and her fascinating article appears below. If you are able to get away for a holiday or a short-break or to have an interesting day out please share it with us. Not everyone is physically able to get out and about to enjoy such activities and being able to read about your experiences brings great pleasure. Please send your contribution to the Editors – long, short or just a few lines – every article is welcome.

OBERAMMERGAU

One of my Father's ambitions was to go to Oberammergau to see the Passion Play. Sadly, he died before he could achieve this but this year, after a wait of four years since booking the trip, my sister and I managed to go. We joined a group led by Michael Hopkins of mainly, URC members on a tour to the Austrian Tyrol and ending with the performance of the world-famous Passion Play.



The tour was extremely well organised. We were based in the pretty Tyrolean village of Niederau and had daily trips, visiting Salzburg, Kitzbuehl, Achensee and Innsbruck. For many of us, though, a highlight was going up in the cable car in the village on to the mountains, surrounded by glorious scenery on a beautiful sunny afternoon. Eleanor and I walked over towards a small chapel where we met our minister, Michael, also out enjoying the scenery.

Inside the chapel was amazing with beautiful stained glass windows and such a feeling of peace. We spent some time there just absorbing the atmosphere before making our way up to the cross perched on the top of this peak and back down in the cable car to our hotel.



Our last day was in Oberammergau with free time in the morning to explore the town and then going to the purpose-built theatre in the afternoon. The opening scene had me in tears. It seemed the entire village had turned out from babes in arms to the very old to greet Jesus riding into Jerusalem. We were given a script in English which I initially tried to follow but eventually had to give up on. We had a three-hour break in which we were bussed to Ettal, where our overnight accommodation was based, to have dinner. Then it was back to the theatre for the final scenes with the Crucifixion and, what I gather recently added, Resurrection. A truly amazing experience and a very memorable tour.

Anne (on right) with her sister, Eleanor

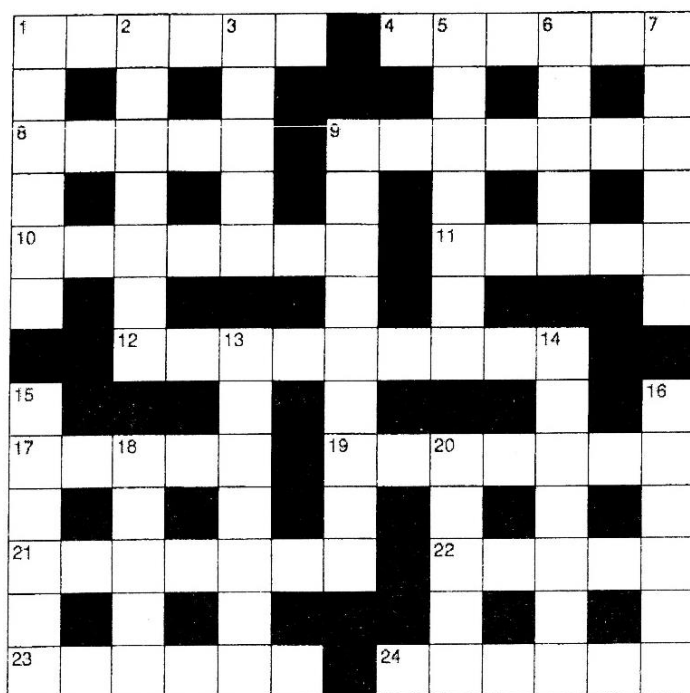
As an early riser, I was able to have a quick tour of the town of Ettal, with its wonderful monastery and school where many of the performers had been trained, before the coach picked us up and made its way to Munich for our flight home.

Anne Fitzgerald

Time to Relax

Answers are on p20

If you have a few minutes to sit down and relax why not give this crossword a go? You might find you know the answers without having to look up the references in the clues!



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks ____ hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry ____ (7)
 11 'Look here is _____. Why shouldn't I be baptised?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)

- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
 19 Moses was not aware that his face was ____ because he had spoken with the Lord (Exodus 34:29) (7)
 21 Roonwit, C S Lewis' half-man, half-horse (7)
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the ____ apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in ____ and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rock faces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
 7 He reps (anagram) (6)
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
 15 The human mind or soul (6)
 16 'O Lord while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is _____. (Graham Kendrick) (6)
 18 'We played the flute for you and you did not _____. (Matthew 11:17) (5)
 20 Bared (anagram) (5)



Messy Church

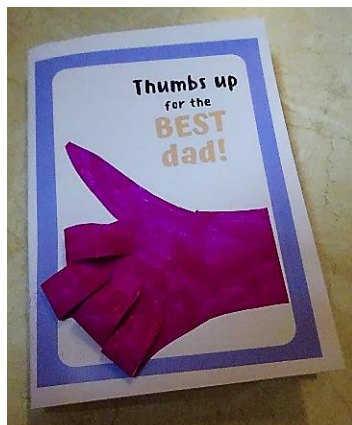
The theme of Messy Church this month was Jairus's daughter. Activities included colouring sheets and making moving pictures. Using Jean's antique sewing machine, the children sewed round eye masks and then decorated them. I was impressed with their creativity, one said 'dream on' and another 'sweet dreams'. We prepared an obstacle course with equipment borrowed from



MENCAP which was a great Margaret Faultess was making favourite. As it was Father's Day, to the best Dad". Not a favourite with all the children! When I asked one of the boys if he would like to make one, he replied "No way, I made one at school".



success. Cooking with crispy cakes, always a we made cards "Thumbs up



The children listened well to the story and then enjoyed a meal together. Afterwards they had fun with animal masks and other toys Jean had been given. They went home happily with their completed work and a promise of some more of these exciting tasks next time.

Anne Fitzgerald

Answers to crossword on p19

Across

1: cosmic 4: Thomas 8: in his 9: Delaiah 10: Falwell 11: water
12: recovered 17: Sidon 19: radiant 21 Centaur 22: broil 23: eleven
24: prison

Down

1: cliffs 2: scholar 3: issue 5: holy war 6: moist 7: sphere
9: deliverer 13: Candace 14: deacons 15: psyche 16: stolen 18: dance
20: debar



URC Minister appointed as World Council of Churches Director

The Revd Dr Peter Cruchley has been appointed the new Director of the World Council of Churches (WCC's) Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME). Based in the United Reformed Church West Midlands Synod, Dr Cruchley is currently the Mission Secretary for the Council for World Mission. He has served in this role since 2016.

Speaking about his new post, Dr Cruchley said: "I am delighted to take up this role with the WCC. Mission is at the heart of the hope and purpose of the ecumenical movement. CWME brings together the fullest range of Christian expression, from Pentecostal to Orthodox, Protestant to Roman Catholic; these traditions are all seeking to honour the call to love and serve the Lord visibly and tangibly. These centres of Christian identity and power are called by Christ in our world to re-centre themselves in the light of all we are facing and fearing: climate catastrophe, post-pandemic economic inequality, systemic racist power, war and religious division, cry out for Christian communities to come together in relationships that are re-shaped, seeking justice that repairs, offering repentance that restores and witnesses to the new world Christ promises. CWME is a key place to dream and plan how we press forward in this reparative witness and work, led by Christ's world transforming Spirit".

As the new Director of the WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, which is composed of 35 members nominated by the WCC central committee, Dr Cruchley will foster conferences, consultations and visits, correspondence or other forms of contacts for the sake of mission and unity of all Christians. The Revd Dr John Bradbury, URC General Secretary, said: "The ecumenical vision that lays behind the formation of the United Reformed Church is still strong within us. It is wonderful, in this year of Jubilee, that one of our ministers has been appointed to the significant role of Director of the WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. It is often said that as a small denomination we punch above our weight ecumenically, and we do. Within the WCC the Revd Dr Susan Durber serves as Moderator of the Faith and Order Commission of the WCC; the Revd Sarah Moore serves on the Central Committee of the WCC and now Peter joins the staff of the WCC in this vital role."

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

— URC 2023 Buildings Calendar

Following on from the fantastic success of the 2022 URC Buildings Calendar, photographs of URC church buildings are again invited for the 2023 Calendar. The theme is 'Inside our churches' – photos from LEPS are also warmly welcomed.



The calendar aims to give a flavour of the length and breadth of the denomination from Victorian churches, to post-war pre-fabs, to churches opened in the last couple of years – all interior photos will be considered, especially close-ups of architectural features or parts of the building such as crosses, flowers, altars, banners, organs, organ pipes, stained glass or memorial plaques.

Please don't send pictures full of empty chairs or pews (like the great image on the left). This is a newly-developed church and close-ups of the windows and the cross would be better for the calendar, or the church when it's full of people! Pictures of people are also welcome but please ensure you have everyone's permission before sending in the image.

Submit your photos

Please send landscape photos for preference but square and portrait images are welcome. JPG or PNG file format, all by the middle of July 2022. Please include the name and location of the church and the name of the photographer. No bigger than 3600 pixels wide, about 3Mb.

Please email them to andy.jackson@urc.org.uk. If photos are submitted, the photographer is granting the URC permission to use the photographs in print and digitally.

Footprints in the Sands of Time

When I was young a summer day
Was like a happy song,
And every sunshine holiday
Was all a summer long.
Oh then I took no heed of time
Or passing of the hours;
The transient pleasures of my youth
Fell soft as April showers.



Now that I'm old time holds me fast
With unremitting measure,
But every day so swiftly sped
Reveals some hidden treasure.
For though my aged eye has dimmed
I have more time to relish
Beauty of sky and leaf and wing
Which nature does embellish.



And though I sometimes mourn my youth.
Age has its compensation
In keen awareness of the things
Which make up God's creation.
Visions and triumphs of days long past
Remain a precious story,
But oh how much more precious are
The days which lie before me.

*Harry Wilson
'Reform' 2008
(URC magazine)*

PRAYER CORNER

A Prayer for Summer

Relax and Enjoy Time

Summer comes
with holidays:
at home and
tours and trips abroad,
days out with the family
or time spent with friends.

Loving God, this summer,

When our lives have become pressured and busy,

**Thank you for time to rest
and recover our balance.**

When our ordinary days are routine and boring,

**Thank you for a chance
to do something out of the ordinary.**

When lonely hours drag by,

**Thank you for time with people
whose company we enjoy.**

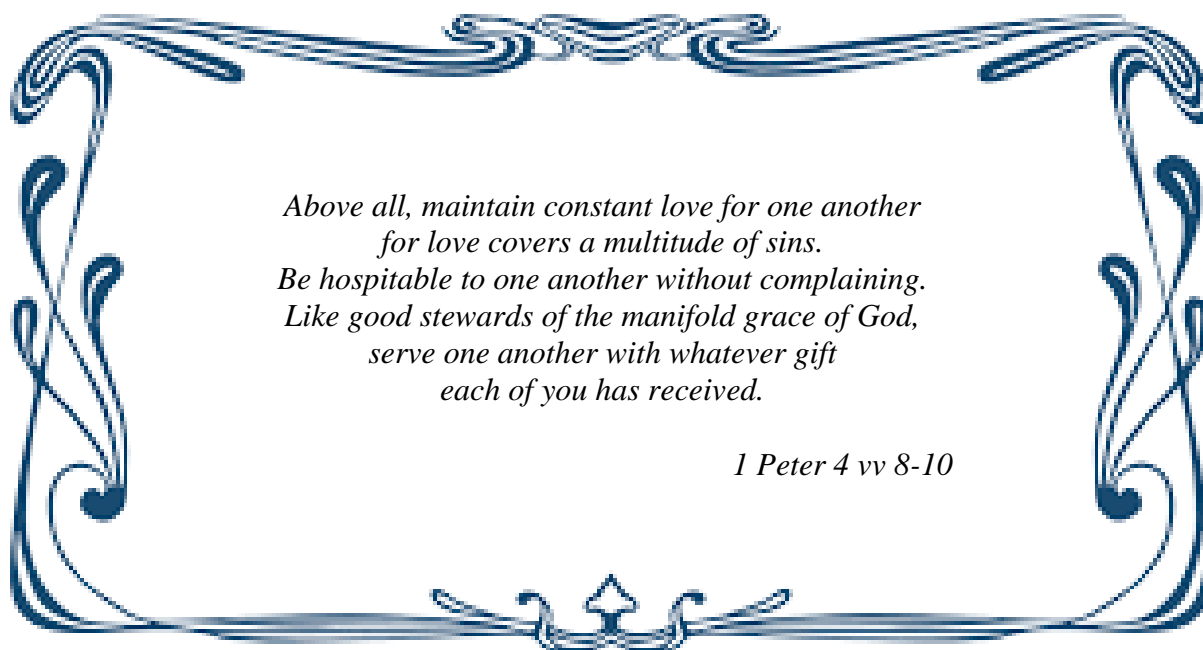
Forgive us
for the arrogance of our busyness.

Teach us
how to relax and enjoy time.

Release us
into the company of friends.

Amen

*Janet Wootten
URC Prayer Handbook 2008*



*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.*

1 Peter 4 vv 8-10

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 Secretarial Team
who will be able to send them a link to enable easy participation.

You are all most welcome to join us!