



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

**NEWSLETTER**

Volume 75 No 5

**JUNE 2018**

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*Camino de Santiago , Galicia: "Those who come to the Camino with a heavy heart leave with a lighter load."*



Dear friends

I've just been watching an unexpectedly gripping and thought-provoking programme on the television. It was broadcast to mark the first anniversary of the terrorist attack at the Manchester Arena when a male suicide bomber targeted children and young adults at the end of a concert given by US singer Ariana Grande. Twenty-two people lost their lives; many more were injured. Having lived in Manchester for so long, I have a close affection for the city. I'd seen the trailers to the programme and decided not to watch it, but the telly was on that channel when I turned it on and the programme had caught my interest by the time I'd found the zapper to change it.

I thought it exceptionally well produced, allowing some of those affected to tell their stories very simply and honestly. There were people who'd lost their children, people who had helped, people who had been there and been wounded, nurses and doctors who'd heard what had happened on the news and rushed into their hospitals to go on duty. There was a taxi driver who helped organise free taxis to take people where they needed to be that evening after the attack and there were some of the social media posts where people offered support and emergency accommodation. Some were offering beds and one simply said, "I've a sofa and a kettle." I thought that the producers chose their style well. There was no hype; no hysterics or anything like that. Instead it was both powerful and moving as the stories of great horror were quietly told.

Sadly, a year ago a number of terrorist attacks were carried out in the UK. On 22nd March, six people, including the attacker, died and 50 people were injured in a terrorist attack near the Houses of Parliament. Khalid Masood mounted the pavement in a hired car and drove into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge. He then ran towards Parliament and stabbed a police officer to death before being shot dead by officers.

June 3rd saw an attack in London which left seven people dead and 48 injured. A white van hit pedestrians on London Bridge before three men got out of the vehicle and began stabbing people in nearby Borough Market. The suspects were shot dead by police minutes later.

On 19<sup>th</sup> June, a group of Muslim worshippers were hit when a van mounted the pavement and drove into them in Finsbury Park. The attack happened during Ramadan when many people were in the area attending evening prayers.

Going back to Manchester and to the bomb at the concert, it was something that one of those telling their story said which particularly struck me and which has prompted this letter. The man's wife and daughter had both been injured in the blast, his daughter being exceptionally lucky to have survived her injuries. The man, however, said that he didn't think about the bomber. He didn't think about the dreadful thing the terrorist had done. Quoting him from memory, he said that that dreadful act had instigated ten thousand acts of kindness, and that was what he remembered now: that was what had restored his faith in human nature.

The same was true following the attack on Westminster Bridge, at Borough Market and in Finsbury Park. Although a different cause, the same is also true following the fire at Grenfell Tower. Tragedies do occur but thankfully the responses they draw often tell a very different story - one of love.

With all good wishes,




A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Lead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

## SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES JUNE 2018

***Please note the next Quarterly Church Meeting will be  
at 12 noon on Sunday 1 July!***

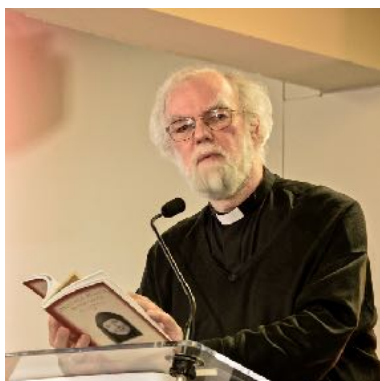
<b>Sunday 3 June</b> (Pentecost 2)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship with Holy Communion conducted by the Minister</b>
Monday 4 June	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
	7.45 for 8.00 pm	A Summertime Concert, Walton Methodist Church (see page 5)
Tuesday 5 June	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Friday 8 June	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
	12.30-2.30 pm	Ladies who Lunch at Weybridge URC
<b>Sunday 10 June</b> (Pentecost 3)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by Mrs Thelma Roberts</b>
Tuesday 12 June	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room
Wednesday 13 June	12.30 pm	Lunchtime Organ Recital at Weybridge URC with organist Jonathan Melling (see page 5)

***COPY DATE FOR JULY/AUGUST ISSUE WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE***  
***ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP***  
***Email: [aristocats.2000@gmail.com](mailto:aristocats.2000@gmail.com)***

Saturday 16 June	8.00 pm	"From Weybridge to Washington" Christ the Prince of Peace Church, Weybridge (see page 5)
<b>Sunday 17 June</b> (Pentecost 4)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by the Revd Iain Stewart</b>
	3.00 pm	 Messy Church
Monday 18 June	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
Friday 22 June	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
<b>Sunday 24 June</b> (Pentecost 5)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by Mr Sidney Shore</b>
 <b>Fairtrade after the service</b> 		
Tuesday 26 June	2.00 pm	Ladies' Guild Hersham Room
Saturday 30 June	7.30 pm	A Cappella Singers "Last Night of the Proms" Summer Concert Weybridge URC (see page 5)



## URC SYNOD - MINISTERS' SUMMER SCHOOL 2018



*The Revd Dr Rowan Williams*

Each year the different Synods of the URC organise a week-long, in-service training opportunity for the ministers in their Synod, called "Ministers' Summer School." There are generally extremely useful courses, able to pick up on a variety of topics and also provide the ministers a valuable opportunity to network and to chat with each other - so important when you actually see your colleagues quite rarely. This year, however, the 13 Synods all came together for the first denominational Ministers' School, which was held at a training centre in Staffordshire. The main speaker was Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury who, over three sessions told the stories of three different women and their radical discipleship, with its costs and significance.

A second speaker, Dr Peggy Kabonde shared with us something from her church in Zambia and there were also sessions of worship and Bible Study. The final night was "Cabaret" with the comedian Paul Kerensa, and after all the concentration required in the main sessions it was great to have an evening of fun and laughter. I think that we were all a bit shattered by then and ready for some light relief!

As well as the main sessions there was also a range of workshops you could opt to attend. I went to one on "Holy Habits" which is a series of resource books on subjects such as "worship", "gladness", "sharing", "prayer", "serving" etc. This was really useful because I have wanted to find out more about it for some time and to see if we could use it at St Andrew's. I was, therefore, pleased to be able to learn about it from the author and to be able to buy a set of the booklets at a discounted

price! (Ever the good Scot!) I also attended a very useful workshop on copyright and the church - not a thrilling subject but one which, if you get wrong, could have serious and costly consequences. Thankfully, the leader was an accomplished deliverer so such sessions and the time went by very quickly. At the end we were all given a wonderful pen from which the idiot's guide to which licences you need for what pulls out. (Little things please little minds.)



*The Choir*

As you may imagine, it was also an incredible chance to catch up with people you'd not seen in years and to share stories. I jokingly said that I was a bit worried by it all because it's said that before you die your life is supposed to pass before you - and mine was done just that at the summer school! It was a superb course though and one from which I greatly benefitted. Next year we shall be back to the normal pattern of individual Synod-based events but I think that there is a strong feeling that occasional "national" schools could be worth pursuing. It was certainly a week to remember and to think back on positively.

*Michael Hodgson*



*Dr Peggy Kabonde*



*The Communion Table*

## ADVANCE NOTICE!

### QUARTERLY CHURCH MEETING

**Sunday 1 JULY**  
**at 12 noon (after the service)**



### BRIDGE CLUB

**Mondays 4 and 18 June**  
**2.00 pm**

Hersham Room



### LADIES' GUILD

**Tuesdays 12 and 26 June**  
**2.00 pm**

Hersham Room

*Please note there will be no  
Guild meetings in July and August.*

### PRAYER GROUP

**Fridays 8 and 22 June**  
**10.30 am**

Garden Room

### A Summer Time Concert

**Monday 4th June - 7.45 for 8.00 pm**

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

An invitation from the Methodist Church  
Friendship Society to this concert featuring  
the Treble Clef Choir accompanied by  
Hannah Stanley under the musical direction  
of Tim Woodford.

Admission free. Retiring collection for  
Action for Children. Refreshments.

### LADIES WHO LUNCH WEYBRIDGE URC

**FRIDAY 8 JUNE**  
**12.30-2.30 PM - £4.00**

Book your place with Margaret Faultless  
Tel: 020 8399 3402  
[ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk](mailto:ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk)

### LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

**Wednesday 13 June**

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

This month's concert features Jonathan Melling,  
Organist and Director of Music at  
All Hallows by the Tower in London

Bring your sandwiches - enjoy the music.  
Tea and coffee. Free entry. Retiring collection  
for Musicians Benevolent Fund.



Treble  
Clef  
Choir

presents



**"From Weybridge  
To Washington"**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE**  
**8pm**

**Christ the Prince of Peace Church**  
Weybridge KT13 8JD

Special Guest Soprano  
Camilla Jeppeson  
Musical Director: Tim Woodford  
Accompanist: Hannah Stanley

TICKETS £10 including wine  
(accompanied under 12s free)

Call 01252 326514  
or on the door

More choir details at [www.trebleclefchoir.org](http://www.trebleclefchoir.org)



**"Last Night of the Proms"**  
**Saturday 30 June**  
**7.30 pm at Weybridge URC**

A Summer Concert with the A  
Cappella Singers featuring music by British  
composers and celebrating the centenaries of  
the end of WW1 and the birth  
of Leonard Bernstein

Tickets (including refreshments) £12 on the door  
(in advance by telephoning 01932 840578)

# PILGRIMAGE

## Hamish's 2017 Camino de Santiago experience



*Dusk over the Chapel of San Fructuoso*

Last year, while I was somewhat idly browsing through a brochure for HF Holidays, I spotted “Camino de Santiago”, a five day walking tour during the first week of October, along a seventy mile stretch of the “Way of St James.” I had long wished to visit Galicia, in north western Spain, since while at university, I had heard a fellow student describing the area. I was particularly struck then by his photograph of the magnificent carved stone façade of the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. This was a trip I could not miss!



HF (Holiday Fellowship) “other holiday operators are available” was an important feature of my childhood, having at an early age aroused my interest in country walking and the natural landscape. It could be said that I owe my existence to the organisation, my parents having first met at one of their guest houses in the Lake District in the 1930s.

*On the trail*

In every way, the Camino was a memorable experience - the scenery, the atmosphere amongst fellow “pilgrims” on the route, the steady and healthy exercise of the trek, the conviviality within our small walking group, with its expert leader, the comfortable hotels reserved for us along the route, the blue skies and warm weather (great for us, but during an unseasonal drought which worried the local farmers) and - not least - the spectacular architecture within the city of Santiago. (The cathedral itself is undergoing major restoration work and it could yet be some years before the present extensive scaffolding is removed from the stonework.)



*Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela  
(restoration in progress)*





*Galician shepherdess with her flock*

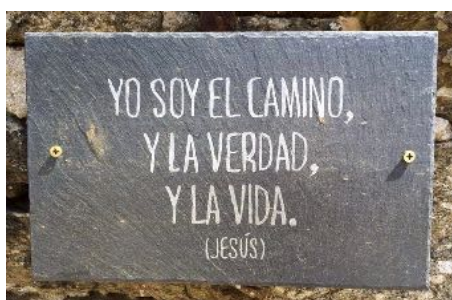
During the Friday evening service, packed with worshippers and tourists from all over the world and featuring the renowned giant swinging censer, I was particularly moved by the crystal clear, solo voice of a nun, unseen from our position, singing as part of the liturgy; also, at the conclusion, by the spontaneous and serial handshakes amongst members of the congregation, strangers until that moment. A tour of the city the next day was followed by a wonderful excursion to Cap Finistere, where the trail finally reaches the Atlantic coast.

It is hard to comprehend the inspiration behind the builders and craftsmen responsible for the cathedral and other magnificent religious buildings in the city, derived from a commemoration of St James, whose remains are believed to lie within his shrine. (I am less comfortable with the legend which arose later of James returning during the religious and ethnic conflicts of the Middle Ages to lead battles against the Moors.)



*"Journey's End" Obradoiro Square (Hamish on extreme right)*

Newsletter readers may have seen the recent television series about the Camino, featuring a group of "celebrities" joining the Camino trek, each with a separate motivation, and view of faith, and each seeking and deriving his or her own personal or spiritual experience. My memories were stirred as that group approached Santiago from the hills above the town, and the anticipation of their final steps through the city streets, before arriving at and being overwhelmed, as I had been, by that magnificent Cathedral Square. Hamish McGechan





We celebrated the Church's birthday in style with balloons, streamers, birthday cakes, and, at tea, ice cream and jelly which the adults enjoyed as much as the children. One older girl spent a lot of time making circles of various sizes which were labelled 'my home', 'my town', 'my country', 'my continent', and 'the World', each circle being appropriately illustrated. The family are Polish and she carefully cut paper to make a Polish flag. The other children spent time threading small and cross shaped beads to make key rings or bracelets. As usual, they all enjoyed icing and decorating small cakes and finishing them off with a birthday candle. We painted flame pictures using forks with very effective results.

There was a very happy, relaxed atmosphere in the hall, and we had time for tea and chat, both amongst ourselves and with the parents. The words of the final hymn from Sunday is still echoing through my mind: "Go tell everyone the news that God's Kingdom has come". Messy Church is one way to fulfil this, even if there are only a few families present.



## THE LIGHTER SIDE

### *From Rules for Reverends by Jeremy Fletcher*

Wars have been fought over the right way to announce a hymn.

You will receive your first complaint about a service you thought was brilliant within ten minutes of arriving home.

Other people's Pet Services look like such a good idea, don't they? But yours will be the one where the snake escapes.

### **GONE FISHING**

The rain was pouring down. Standing in front of a big puddle outside the pub and looking very down and out was an old chap holding a stick with a piece of string dangling in the water.

A passer-by stopped and asked. "What are you doing?" "Fishing" replied the old man. Feeling sorry for the old boy, the gent says, "Come in out of the rain and have a drink with me." In the warmth of the pub, as they sip their whiskies, the gentleman can't resist asking, "So how many have you caught today?" "You're the eighth" said the old man.

### **HELPING HAND?**

A vicar is walking in town one day when he notices a very small boy trying to press the doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the vicar moves closer to the boy's position. He steps across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and, placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder, leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring. Crouching down to the child's level, the vicar smiles benevolently and asked: "And what now my little man?" To which the boy replies: "Now we run!"



## *LET LOVE BE REAL*



Let love be real, in giving and receiving,  
without the need to manage and to own;  
a haven free from posing and pretending,  
where every weakness may be safely known.  
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,  
give me your love wherever we may go;  
as God loves us, so let us love each other  
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,  
that strange embrace that holds, yet sets us free;  
that helps us face the risk of truly living,  
and makes us brave to be what we might be.  
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness,  
give me your love in spite of all you know:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other  
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real with no manipulation,  
no secret wish to harness or control;  
let us accept each other's incompleteness,  
and share the joy of learning to be whole.  
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments,  
give me your trust when all my failings show:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other  
with no demand, just open hands and space to grow.



*Michael Forster*

*Anna read this poem most movingly, to the tune of the Londonderry Air, at the service she took at St Andrew's on 6 May. We reproduce it by popular request. Ed*

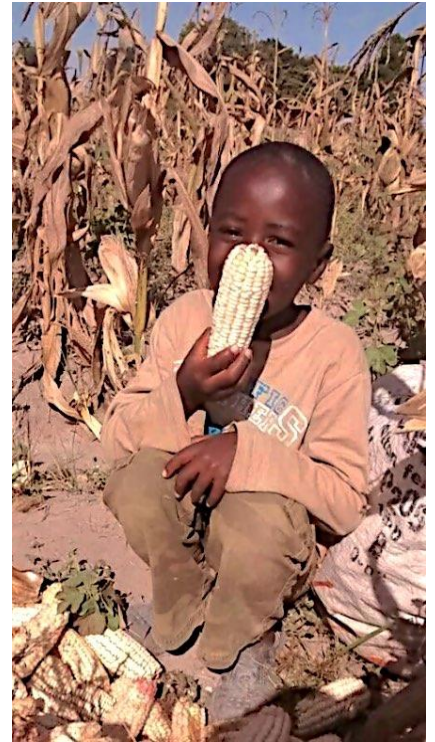
# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

## Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

is the United Reformed Church's exciting focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission. It moves beyond a set of programmes into the world, where each step we take is accompanied by Jesus, helping us to bring about change in our own lives and, ultimately, in Church culture and society; see the new logo above left.

I daresay some poor people in Zimbabwe heard or watched parts of the Royal Wedding on television and would have enjoyed the spectacle, but I wonder what went through their minds seeing all the opulence on display not least dresses reputed to cost tens of thousands of pounds, but they enjoy celebrating and would be too polite to criticise. There is an old Scottish saying in my neck of the woods – 'the world and its money are sair pairted' referring to the grossly unfair distribution of wealth. It certainly made me think as the past few months have been depressing in terms of poor sculpture sales with funds at an all-time low, but our friends just grit their teeth and make the best of things. However, recent news cheered me immensely. Firstly, this lovely mischievous photo of Takudzwa, Shingi's son – all thanks to Marlow URC'S generous funding of seed and fertiliser last November. Shingi said: [This year I got less harvest than last year because of the long heavy rains followed by intense sunshine which burnt some plants but we will still eat for 4 or 5 months.'](#)



**More good news** came in the form of a generous cheque from Hazel Bambridge on behalf of one of Toller (Kettering) URC's activity groups. Toller treat ArtPeace as one of their own and it's heart-warming. **Also**, artist Coster Balakasi sent this photo of his new home which he is



building himself brick by brick after scrimping and saving over two years. He is now working on the roof but needs more money to fix windows and plastering. The family had a good harvest. Look at Emma his wife, breaking down the cobs to take to the mill for grinding into meal.



**Artist Fortune on church involvement:** ‘Our church has a congregation of around eighty comprising of plumbers, electricians, builders, motor mechanic, bakers, barbers - those who are qualified in their fields although there is not much work around. Our church organised

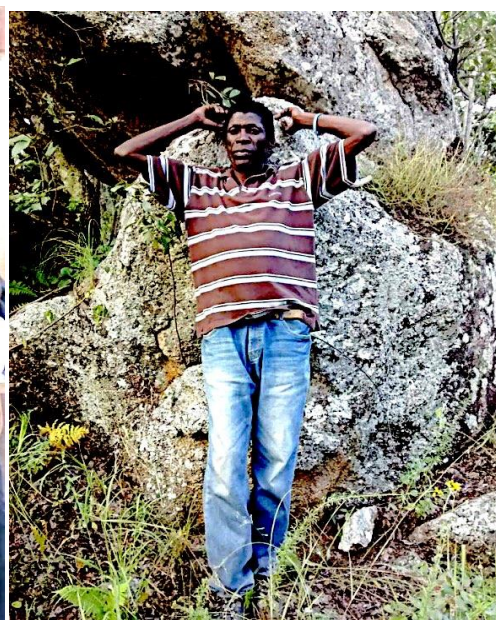
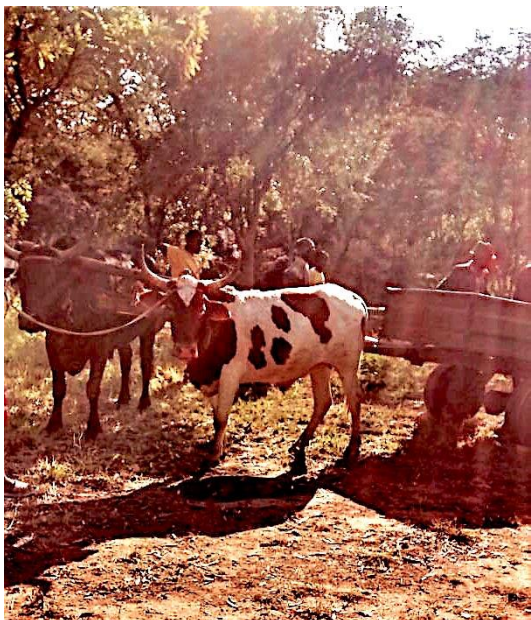


courses for these tradesmen and women to teach other members their skills. E.g., if you are a motor mechanic then a barber can teach how to cut hair – it’s like an exchange program. I attended a course on how to make doors, window frames etc. Our church are encouraging people to learn more skills so I in turn, will have to teach others on sculpting. Our church helps to equip each other with basic skills like baking bread, cookery, sewing cloths. Next time we cover building, plumbing and roof maintenance – our church wants our country to be



better equipped for the future. The church supplies refreshments but materials are a challenge.’

**I try** to give a balanced view of the artists’ relentless problems incorporating occasional good news but soon after I had written the above, news came in to remind us all just how hard life is



for many Zimbabweans. Shingi and Mike Masedza attended the funeral of Moud, a 30-year-old cousin. Shingi said: ‘There are two children (centre) left behind, the first born Tariro and the second born is called Munashe which means God with Us. Those cattle and cart (left) are for transporting the body of Moud. Her husband ran away after she died because he didn’t pay lobola so by now the children are looking for help with school fees and food. These orphans have no one to look after them.’ Right: Artist Mike Masedza – tired and contemplative after the funeral. ArtPeace are comforted that some Churches and friends are **‘Walking the Way’** and still supporting them – it makes such a difference!

**Johnston Simpson**





## FLOWER POWER

A message from **Susan and Johnston Simpson**

*"Many thanks to Anne Fitzgerald for the lovely flowers she gave us on her birthday weekend. They lasted for about two weeks."*

**Holms and Christine Carlile** write:

*"We were delighted to receive some lovely flowers from the Communion Table recently. They were beautifully arranged and still looked lovely a week later. It was so good to get them on our anniversary. Many thanks."*

*Congratulations Holms and Christine!*

## THE STORY OF THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

*"The lovely flowers embarrass me, They make me regret I am not a bee "*

*~ Emily Dickinson, 1864*

The first Royal Horticultural Society Great Spring Show was held in 1862, at the RHS garden in Kensington. Before this date, the RHS had held flower shows from 1833 in their garden in Chiswick, which themselves had been preceded by fetes. The Great Spring Show was held at Kensington for 26 years, but in 1888 the RHS decided to move the show to the heart of London. The site chosen was the Temple Gardens, situated between the Embankment and Fleet Street, which had a recorded history dating back to 1307 and which were said to date from the time of the Knights Templar. In 1912, the Temple Show was cancelled to make way for the Royal International Horticultural Exhibition. Sir Harry Veitch, the great nurseryman, secured the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for this exhibition. The Great Spring Show was moved there in 1913, where it has taken place almost every year since.

The RHS first became involved with the Chelsea Hospital in 1905. The Royal International Horticultural Exhibition of 1912 demonstrated what an excellent site for a show the grounds of the Chelsea Hospital provided. Accordingly, for 1913, the Great Spring Show was moved there and the first Chelsea Flower Show opened on May 20, 1913. By the roaring 1920s, the Chelsea Flower Show was in full swing, the famous Chelsea tea parties were established and Royal visits resumed.

In 1937, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth celebrated their Coronation Year, and to mark the occasion, a superb Empire Exhibition was staged. The show was cancelled during the Second World War, as the land was required by the War Office for an anti-aircraft site. Some doubt arose as to whether the show would resume in 1947. However, Lord Aberconway (then RHS President) and the RHS Council felt strongly that it should continue. The show went ahead in 1947 and it was a great success.

The Coronation in 1953 was a sufficient cause for a flower show that reflected the celebratory mood of the country. The Show went on to increase in popularity throughout the second half of the 20th century – until its popularity became its major problem. In 1988, a limit of 40,000 visitors per day was imposed – a reduction of 90,000 in total from the previous year – and members were charged for tickets for the first time. The takeover of the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in 1993 increased options for both members and for exhibitors. The Chelsea Flower Show today is attended by some 157,000 visitors each year (a number limited by the capacity of the 11-acre ground), and all tickets must be purchased in advance.

*(with thanks to Wikipedia)*