



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



THE GRAPEVINE



SEPTEMBER 2022

Volume 1 No 7



September skies over the beach at Luskentyre, Isle of Harris

*"There is one spectacle grander than the sea, that is the sky; there is one
spectacle grander than the sky, that is the interior of the soul."*

Victor Hugo

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES SEPTEMBER 2022

and including 1 OCTOBER

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.

Sunday 4 (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion The Minister
Wednesday 7 (Zoom)	7.30 pm	URC Hybrid Church Meet-up (see p10)
Friday 9	12.30pm	People Who Lunch Church Hall (see p19)
Sunday 11	10.30 am	Morning Worship Rev'd Clare Downing Moderator of Wessex Synod (see p5)
Monday 12	8.00 pm	Treble Clef (Ladies' Choir) <i>Come and Sing Evening</i> (see p19) St James' Parish Centre, Weybridge
Tuesday 13	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 18 (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship The Minister
	3.00 pm	Messy Church 
Sunday 25	10.30 am	Morning Worship The Minister
Wednesday 28 (Zoom)	6.45pm	URC Wessex Synod Autumn Gathering (see p10)

OCTOBER

Saturday 1	Throughout Day (in London)	URC 50 th Anniversary Celebrations (see pp8-9)
------------	-------------------------------	--

COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER (Publication Date: 25 September)

The Editor, Norma Reid, is stepping down temporarily (see note on p5) and material for the October issue should be sent to the Associate Editor – details below. Items for the magazine are always welcome provided they do not contravene copyright regulations.

Associate Editor: Mollie Henham Email: 18amh65@btinternet.com



Welcome Back

Letter from the Minister

September 2022

Dear Friends,

I can't decide if I should begin this letter by saying, "I'm back" or else, "Hi Honey, I'm home"! My long-awaited and twice postponed sabbatical has finally happened and it's been an incredibly fulfilling time. I am so thankful to have finally taken it and I am also so grateful to those who have picked up and dealt with all sorts of things whilst I've been away. During my sabbatical I have managed to do most of what I had hoped to – so let me share with you a bit of how it all turned out.

Writing down the story of my ministry thus far was a task which brought great, personal satisfaction and reminded me of all sorts of things. I began by writing down the story of how I felt the call to ministry and about the candidating process I went through as that call was tested by the church. Recalling it was actually remarkably difficult – it was a long time ago and so I am pleased to have it down on paper now. I didn't write much about my college days but instead moved to a chapter on each of my pastorates and a chapter on how I began to discern that the time had come to move from there to the next – and how that call process was tested. As I was writing I quickly found that one thing after another came to mind. Trying to get a logical order in each chapter proved quite a challenge but I've tried to write about the happy times and about the sad times, the joyous times and the frustrating times – and about the weird and wacky times too (and knowing me you may guess that there have been plenty of them). I have also tried to reflect on it all asking myself, with the benefit of hindsight, what I felt I'd got right and what I'd got wrong. I have tried to do a little analysis as well.

As chapter followed chapter in the story of my journey I was reminded of the chorus of an old hymn:

"Count your blessings, name them one by one,
and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

I have been so fortunate in having been called to such a varied ministry. This exercise merely strengthened a feeling of blessing – even if a few of the "blessings" I could have done without!!!

Turning to the second part of my sabbatical labours, I have been able to make a start on writing something which I have seen the need for, for quite a time, which I hope can be developed and used as a practical resource to help newly-ordained ministers. Over the years I have been asked to help a number in their first years after leaving theological college and they have all tended to have asked the same sorts of practical questions of me, and they have all wanted help in much the same general areas. What I've done, therefore, is written up some suggestions, guidance, thoughts, tips and hints that have arisen from those discussions and which I think could help other newly-ordained ministers. I am now going to send it to several contacts within the wider URC to see if it could be worked up into something

helpful for wider distribution. I hope it can be since, with my own retirement now only three years away, it would be nice to be able to share some of my experience with those who will take up the baton next.

I wanted to use a physical journey on my sabbatical to replicate a spiritual journey and that has worked very well. I have met up again with a number of people. I have spent time in Manchester, where I trained and where I spent my second pastorate. I have spent time in Bideford, where I was ordained and where I intend to live again in retirement. Sadly, the trip to Wales had to be cancelled as Mum's health deteriorated and I needed to go to Somerset quite frequently but perhaps I can go there for a short time next year. It would be nice to complete the journey because I've also asked my previous pastorates how my ministry equipped them for their futures and what the legacy of my ministry there is. That certainly drew out some interesting responses, not all of which were expected, and that certainly gave me some different perspectives for reflection.

I'm a great believer in taking the opportunities that come your way. In May I took advantage of one and was able to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau and to visit the beautiful Austrian Tyrol for the first time. It was a fabulous trip and the play itself certainly set me thinking about aspects of the Passion story that had never occurred to me before. Be warned – I have an idea for next year's Maundy Thursday Communion already.

So, I return to pastoral charge refreshed and energized. I return as St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Walton and Weybridge moves forward in a new way, with energy and with resources focused on mission. I am looking forward to the Moderator's visit on 11th September which, I think, will be a very significant occasion for us. However, as I conclude this letter the words of the hymn-writer, Joseph Hart, come very much to my mind.

"How good is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable friend
We'll praise him for all that is past
and trust him for all that's to come."

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Further Notes from the Minister

1 My immediate priorities

So much has changed since the start of lockdown in March 2020. It's been hard work and obviously with Covid restrictions home pastoral visits have been either illegal or ill-advised. Aware of how few I've been able to do in the last few years I should like to try to give pastoral visiting a fairly high priority for a few months. Don't be surprised if I contact you to ask if you would like a home visit. I shall not be offended if you say that you'd rather not because you are worried about Covid – and don't forget that if you would like a visit from me you can always ask me for one – I'll gladly come. I am happy to wear a mask if you wish. I am also happy to meet you in your garden if you would feel happier to meet outdoors. I should like to try to catch up on some rather overdue pastoral work, though, so let's hope that I can.

2 A Special Service: Sunday 11 September 10.30am

A reminder that our Synod Moderator, Clare Downing, will be leading our worship on 11th September. Clare has not led worship in the pastorate since my induction service and this date has been in her diary for some time – long before our church union discussions began and our decision was taken. What's rather nice, though, is that Clare will take this opportunity to sort of commission and dedicate our new church for the future. Knowing Clare, it will probably be a different sort of service but I'm thinking of it by using a human analogy. You see, it could be said that on 1st January (the date of our union) we gave birth to a baby. On 2nd January we brought the baby home (first service). We have decided on a name and so, on 11th September the Moderator will "baptize" our baby.

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

3 Can we help?

We've had a request from High Cross Church, Camberley to see if we can help with something. One of their young members, Jamie, is looking for accommodation in the Weybridge area for a year, since he has a placement at Samsung. Of himself Jamie writes,

My name is Jamie and I'm currently a student at the University of East Anglia studying environmental science. I'm on a placement year starting in September, working for Samsung and I'm looking for a church family to lodge with. I'm originally from Camberley and go to High Cross there, or Bowthorpe URC in Norwich. I like walking and musical theatre and I like to think that I am tidy and organised. I'm probably not a typical student as my idea of a good time is playing board games and in bed by 11pm.

The Revd Helen Everard, who knows him well, adds that as a teenager Jamie volunteered at High Cross helping out with the Youth Club for quite a few years and that she can vouch for him as being a quiet and reliable young person who just needs somewhere a bit closer to work for a year. Jamie does not drive. He has just finished his 2nd year at UEA doing environmental science and can only afford a student rent.

Does anyone have a room they would be prepared to rent him for a year? If you do then let me know or else give Helen Everard a ring – 01252 516622

A Note from the Associate Editor

Unfortunately problems with her vision mean that Norma is unable to edit the magazine at the moment. We wish her well and hope very much that she will be able to resume her duties later this year. Until then the editorship of The Grapevine is in my care. (See p2 for contact details.) Norma is not switching off entirely, however, and she will continue to upload the magazine to the website for electronic distribution and print the hard copies. I look forward to receiving all your contributions!

Mollie

News of the Church Family

Celebrating Some Very Important Milestones

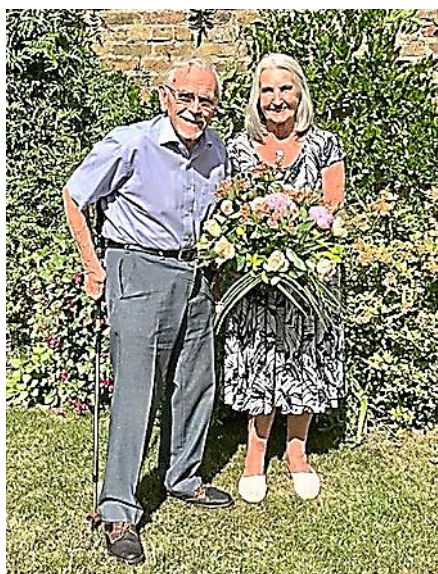
Special Birthday Congratulations

We send love and best wishes to our friend and former member of St Andrew's, Valerie Rodden, who celebrated her 90th birthday on 9th July over a lovely lunch with close family. Valerie and her late husband, John, moved a few years ago to be nearer to their family in Oxfordshire.



Diamond Wedding Celebrations

Many, many congratulations from all of us to Jim and Janet Sommerville, who celebrated 60 years of marriage on 14th July.



Ruby Wedding Celebrations

Congratulations and all good wishes to Anna and Alan Crawford who celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on 10th July.

Family Celebrations

Among recent family events Margaret Faultless has had two particularly special occasions to celebrate. On 26th July she became a great-grandmother again with the birth of her great-granddaughter, Ivy Olivia. Little Ivy arrived several weeks early and has to stay in hospital for a while but she and her mother, Alys, are both doing well. We send congratulations and best wishes to all the family.

Keeping up the family rowing tradition – Margaret's grandson, Matthew, was selected to be 'stroke' representing GB at the World Rowing Championships in Varese, Italy.

A Message from China

Just wanted to write a quick message to say hello and update for everyone at St. Andrew's. I am currently in Xiamen on the last day of my quarantine 'hotel', and heading to Guangzhou tomorrow. Unfortunately, that's not the end of isolation as there are 3 more days of that once I'm in Guangzhou, but at least I'll be in my apartment then, so a touch more freedom. Lost count of the amount of Covid tests, temperature checks etc but I got into the country no problem (my paperwork held up thankfully!) and I've remained negative throughout so no extra quarantine on top of this thankfully!

It's certainly been a strange week or so, and it's weird to think I'm in China as it feels as though I've yet to properly step foot in the country – just a series of travel corridors and whatnot – but it's all been fine and I'm keeping well otherwise. I will email everyone with a

proper update when I have some actual news and experiences to report but, yes, arrived safely and all going as well as can be expected.

I also wanted to say a big thanks for the £100 gift; it was quite the surprise and very much appreciated. Paula said some lovely words during my final service (that feels an absolute lifetime ago now) and there were obviously lots of nice words and well wishes from everyone so do please accept and pass on my thanks. I look forward to visiting when I'm back! And will be in contact soon enough I'm sure.

Love to everyone,
Zacc

In Memoriam **Marion Whitton**

We were very saddened to receive the news that Marion Whitton died on 18th July. Marion and her husband, John, were very much a part of the Weybridge church family as they visited the church regularly over a period of 25 years when John was conducting services. Marion supported John through his varied career as a Minister in pastoral charge and as a Chaplain in the Army serving around the world. Sometimes she and their children, Susan and David, were able to be with him on his overseas appointments but at other times the assignments were in places of high danger and she had to remain at home keeping the family life calm. Marion was a loved and highly-valued teacher throughout her career but retired slightly early a few years ago when their first grandchild was born because she wanted to have time to enjoy being a grandmother. She also spent a number of years as a leader working in Girlguiding including as District Commissioner. In recent years she took on the role of Church Secretary at the village church in Elstead where John (in retirement) became Associate Minister. Despite living a considerable distance from the village they worked together to encourage the outreach of the church into the local community and Marion became involved with the village playgroup which meets at the church. Four years ago they celebrated their Ruby Wedding surrounded by family and friends and the future looked bright. Sadly, a few months later John developed a sudden and life-threatening illness. Once again Marion was his 'rock' and her quiet strength and loving care were crucial in his return to good health. We send our love and sympathy to John and their family as they face life without Marion. Please remember them in your prayers and remember, too, the people of the church at Elstead who have lost a special and dearly-loved friend.

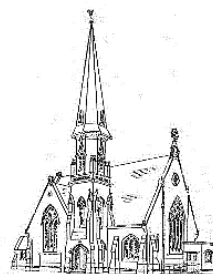
Mollie Henham

John Hutson

Tributes to a much-loved member, John Hutson, whose passing on 1st June was recorded in last month's magazine, may be found on pp22-24.

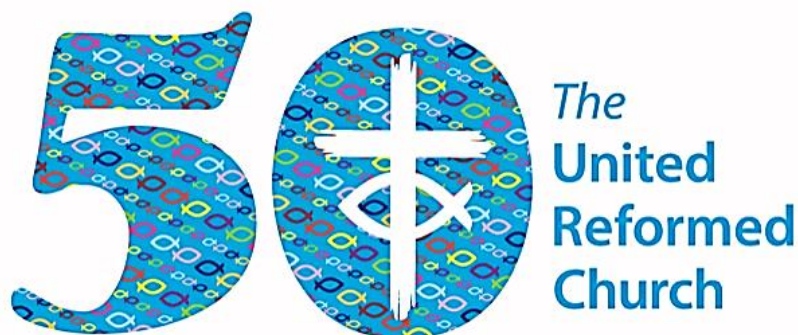
Weybridge – Final Service

Many of you attended the last service to be held in our church at Weybridge on 21st August. A commemorative account of that important and memorable occasion – and its place as another step in our journey as a new church – will appear in next month's issue of the magazine.



Prayers

Please remember all these friends in your prayers – Brian & Kate Ashfield, Val Cave, David Cheeseman, Chris Goddard, John Langdon, Lilian Smith, Michael Stevens and John Whitton and his family.



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

50th anniversary events

Saturday 1 October

On Saturday 1st October, a number of events are taking place to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the URC.

They include a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, Open Church House events and a Walk to Westminster. **Tickets for all these events are FREE.** Below is information about the events and details of how to book your tickets.

If you are willing to volunteer for a part of the day – either to help with stewarding or serving communion – then please contact the communications team at 50@urc.org.uk

Book your tickets online

Book your tickets for the Service of Thanksgiving, Open Church House events and the Walk to Westminster through the Eventbrite booking system here: bit.ly/urc50

Once booked, you will receive an email from Eventbrite which you must bring on the day – either printed out or on the Eventbrite app – to take part in the event.

If you need to make changes to your booking, please log into Eventbrite.

If you have any questions, please email 50@urc.org.uk



Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration

At 2.30pm on **Saturday 1 October 2022**, in Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London SW1H 9NH where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took place in October 1972, a chance to give thanks and to celebrate the five decades of the United Reformed Church. We want as many people as possible from across the denomination to attend.

Open Church House

On Saturday 1st October, from 10am – 1pm at the United Reformed Church House at 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT an Open Church House event will be held, with dozens of activities and crafts related to the jubilee including:



- a Living Library
- our Mersey Synod with LICC/LYCIG
- Free-to-Believe
- GEAR
- the URC History Society and Westminster College Cambridge
- a Prayer Labyrinth
- an Enquirers' Conference
- Greenbelt
- a café
- Christian Aid
- Roots for Churches
- Single Friendly Church
- The Trussell Trust
- an exhibition from the archives
- Church Related Community Workers offering activities around Café Church,
- community work and engagement
- many staff teams offering conversations and discussion activities
- Fresh Expressions plant-based activities and reflections
- badge-making and craft activities
- a puppet show
- an exhibition of Reform magazine's 50 years
- the URC Bookshop, and more.

Walk to Westminster

On Saturday 1st October, between Church House and Methodist Central Hall, there is a Walk to Westminster with self-guided tours for all ages packed with buildings of interest to the Church and things to find for younger walkers.

More news from the URC

URC General Assembly

At the meeting of General Assembly held in July the Revd Fiona Bennett was inducted as Moderator and will serve until July 2023. As a URC Minister she has worked in local churches with both the Methodist Church and the Church of Scotland before being inducted as the Minister of Augustine United Church in Edinburgh in 2009. As well as being a Minister she has a busy family life and also finds time to enjoy music and singing!





Hybrid Church Meet-up

Wednesday 7th September 2022
7:30-9pm

Come along to
YOUR space to
share and learn..

- Share ideas and good practice 
- Hear valuable, experienced input 
- Gain inspiration on Children's and Youth Work, Community Outreach, Technology and Worship 




For more info, email:
jenny.mills@urc.org.uk;
dan@media4ministry.co.uk




Meeting ID: 892 8553 7599
Passcode: 655777



Wessex Synod: Prayer Calendar for September

- | | |
|----|---|
| 4 | Christ Church, Woodley;
Longham |
| 11 | Cumnor, Oxford;
Bordon;
St Francis, Valley Park, Chandler's Ford |
| 18 | St Francis, Banbury;
Beacon Hill, Hindhead;
Shanklin, Isle of Wight |
| 25 | Wheatley, Oxford;
United Church, Dorchester |

Wessex Synod: Autumn Gatherings

The Autumn Gatherings as well as involving Ministers and elected delegates from churches within the Wessex Synod are also open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the wider work of the church. The topics for informal discussion this time will be based on the recent meeting of URC General Assembly including information provided by the Wessex Synod's delegates to that Assembly.

The dates are:

- Tuesday 20th September – Trinity United Church, Ringwood
- Monday 26th September – St Paul's, Bracknell
(Both 6.30 for tea/coffee with meeting starting at 6.45pm.)
- Wednesday 28th September - Online session – 6.45pm start
(The online code for this meeting will be notified on the Synod website
www.urcwessex.org.uk)

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

Iced Coffee – if you can't manage without your caffeine fix this is a must on very hot days. For a little touch of luxury just add a small scoop of ice cream to a glass of iced black coffee.

A gardener suggested placing a mulch around the base of my shrubs to help retain the moisture when watering and stop them wilting in the hot weather.

I was given the tip to make a shallow circular dip around the base of the plants in my garden to ensure that any water (from rain or watering) is directed straight to the roots for maximum benefit.

What a summer!! Normally I don't watch much sport on TV but in recent weeks it has almost been a priority. So much to celebrate – the Women's European Football; the many successes for the 'home nations' in the Commonwealth Games; Cameron Norrie reaching the men's semi-final at Wimbledon What a lift to the spirits they gave us.

I was not a 'footie' fan but the recent success of the English Lionesses changed all that and now I count myself as a supporter, particularly for women's football.

I am going to have to learn all the words of 'Sweet Caroline' if I am to be a real follower of the Lionesses. Miming is just not good enough!

The television coverage of the Commonwealth Games was compulsive viewing – such talent and determination with no giving in to the excessive heat even in the multi-part events. How the gymnasts and the divers (particularly in the synchronised diving) manage to do such complicated twists and turns is beyond comprehension. Like so many people we were awestruck!

Church and Community

Knitting for St Peter's Hospital Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit

I am pleased to tell you that we were recently able to deliver 18 hand knitted-blankets to the Neo-natal Unit at St Peter's Hospital for the tiny babies in its care. They are much appreciated as each baby is given his or her own blanket to keep and many are kept as a memento for years afterwards. This outreach project was initiated several years ago by Thelma Roberts in our church in Weybridge. Over the years many knitters have been involved in making the blankets and we have added to our gifts at times with appropriately sized matinee jackets etc. New knitters are always welcome – see information below – and this is something you can do in your own time at home. I am always willing to answer any questions and, of course, to receive your blankets etc.



Gwenda Cochrane

Pattern for premature baby cot blanket

Final measurements – 14 inches square.

Materials

Double Knitting yarn – DK – and either size 4 or 4.50 mm knitting needles (old size 8 & 7)

Pattern

Cast on 80 stitches.

Knit 6 rows.

Then create a knitted border by knitting 5 stitches at the beginning and end of every row throughout. The stitches between the border can be a mixture of knit and purl stitches to create a pattern of your choice. For example:

Row 1 – knit 5 stitches for the border and purl the next 10 stitches, knit the next 10 and repeat to the last 5 stitches on the needle, knit for the border.

Row 2 – knit 5 stitches for the border and knit the next 10 stitches, purl the next 10 stitches and repeat to the last 5 stitches on the needle for the border.

Repeat the last 2 rows 8 times (you will have squares of stitches within the border)

Row 11 – repeat row 2

Row 12 – repeat row 1

Repeat the last 2 rows 8 times

(you will have alternate squares of stitches within the border)

Continue alternating squares of 10 rows until the work measures just over 13 inches long and then knit 6 rows and then cast off.

Alternative pattern – using same needles and yarn.

Cast on 80 stitches.

Purl 5 rows.

Row 1 – Purl 5 stitches, knit to last 5 stitches purl the remaining 5 stitches

Row 2 – purl 5 stitches, knit to last 5 stitches purl the remaining 5 stitches.

Repeat till work measures 13.50 inches. Purl 5 rows and cast off.

Bigger blankets are also welcome at 17” and 19” square. These bigger sizes can be created by adding extra stitches when you cast on and knitting a longer length. Don’t worry if the measurements are not exact as we all know that babies actually come in a variety of sizes, even premature babies.

Please be as creative as you wish and all colours of yarn are welcomed. The important thing to remember is not to have holes in your pattern which tiny fingers can get snagged in – that is why most crochet patterns are best avoided.

ORGAN CORNER

Organ Recital given at Weybridge URC on 13 July by John Wood

In introducing this recital, Brian Ashfield reminded us that the current series had been started by Thelma Roberts in 2014 and in that time there had been 14 visiting organists, some of whom had played on two or three occasions. He said there had been ‘a lot of music out of this beautiful instrument’ – a sentiment shared by us all.

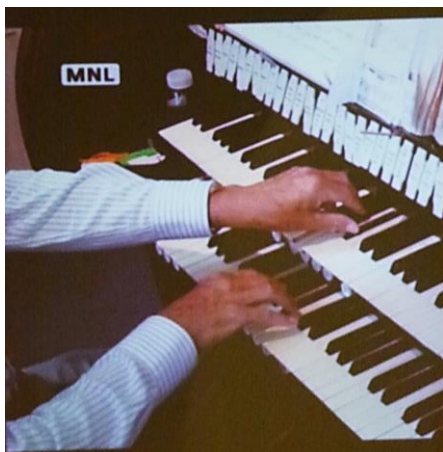
John Wood, who has been playing the organ since he was 14 years old, has played – and still plays – in many churches. He is currently one of two organists at High Cross Church (Methodist/URC) in Camberley where for many years he also led the church choir.

He described the first two pieces, by Handel (1685-1759), as popular choices for ‘In’ and ‘Out’ at weddings. The first, *La Rejouissance (The Rejoicing)*, was from the *Music for the Royal Fireworks Suite*, a commission from King George II in 1749. The second, originally written for oboes and strings, was *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, from the oratorio, *Solomon*. A feature of this was the contrasting ‘voices’ on the organ’s two manuals.

Two works by another London-based composer followed. John Stanley (1712-1786) – almost blinded in an accident at the age of two – deputised for the organist in All Hallows Church in London at 11 years old and was appointed organist there with a salary of £20 pa (not at all a bad sum for those days, as John remarked). Stanley went on to gain a BMus degree from Oxford at 17 – what an amazing young man! He became organist of the Temple Church in 1734, a post he retained until he died and where Handel might have attended a recital as he is known to have heard Stanley play in London. John played the *Siciliano* from the *Temple Church Suite* and the *Allegro Moderato*.



29 of the 1231 pipes (some very small) within the organ loft



The next set of pieces gave different examples from what John described as 'Bach's prodigious output' (1685-1750). The recurring theme of the *Gigue Fugue in G Major* was effectively demonstrated on the two organ keyboards, giving an effect of echoes. *No. 2 of the Eight Short Preludes and Fugues* provided a further example of a fugue, a musical composition with a repeated theme, beloved of organ composers and demonstrated clearly by John. An arrangement of the *Arioso from Cantata BWV156* was the third Bach piece.

A work by Louis Vierne (1870-1937), another partially sighted organist, came next – the *Finale from the 1st Symphony for Organ* in which John demonstrated

On-screen view of John at the recital numerous tonal variations on the organ. Vierne died as he wished – at the organ – during his 1750th recital. John told us that the Minister at his church in Camberley hopes this doesn't happen to him or his fellow organist, both of whom are in their eighties!

The recital concluded appropriately with a light work, described by John as 'fun to play' and 'something to send us on our way'. It was fairground-type music, the *Sortie in E♭* by L.J.L. Lefébure-Wély (1817-1869), another organist who, like John Stanley, was playing for services from a very young age. He accompanied Mass aged eight and after his father had a stroke deputised for him from the age of 10. Lefébure-Wély was closely involved in the development of the Cavallé-Coll organ, in particular the huge instrument in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Incidentally there is a Cavallé-Coll organ quite near us – in Farnborough Abbey.

Marion Cooper

Postscript

This was a very special recital, its being the last ever at our church on its splendid 'Father' Willis organ, which we heard on our family's first visit to a service in 1975 and have enjoyed ever since. The instrument was built by the almost legendary Willis organ building firm (Henry Willis & Sons Ltd), who also built the magnificent organ in the Royal Albert Hall in London. Henry 'Father' Willis gave a recital on it at the opening of the church in 1865. Marion and I have heard many organists play on this instrument, but those particularly remembered by us are Wilfred Rogers and Gordon Faultless. Wilfred was the dedicated church organist for an amazing period of 64 years having been appointed aged 19. He was a talented but self-effacing man who, only after much persuasion, allowed me to make a recording of his playing. Before Gordon became another highly-valued organist we knew him primarily as a trombone player in a jazz band and an extremely competent pianist. Evidence of the commitment of both these men to the role of organist was shown by both of them when they took the trouble to have organ lessons in their own time while working in London. Let us hope that many future organists will enjoy playing this fine instrument and that our precious organ will have the same love in a new home that it has enjoyed with us.



Organ Console

Geoff Cooper

At the end of each recital there was a retiring collection to cover the fees and other expenses involved with any profit going to the local branch of Parkinson's UK as part of the programme of community service and outreach undertaken by the Weybridge church. At the end of this series of recitals the amount forwarded to the charity was £162.50 including Gift Aid.

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

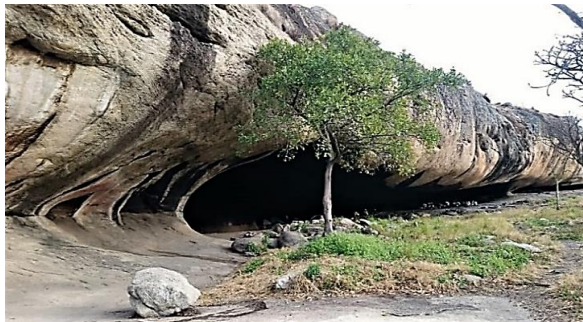
THE SAYING 'LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES TWICE' rings hollow with Kwekwe artist



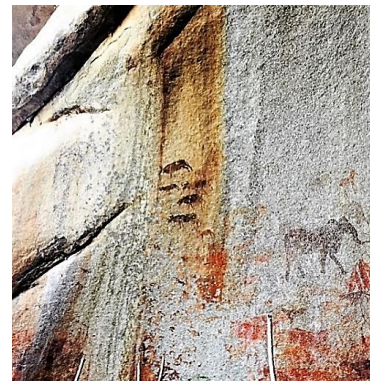
Herbert Mhlangu. Last year, he was savagely beaten (right), robbed of his mobile and a small sum of money. Last month, he was again attacked (left), this time by two men in their twenties using machetes who robbed him of a few dollars and even the clothes he was wearing – shirt, trousers, and shoes – items they can sell. Although his nasty head wounds are healing, poor Herbert is depressed, and his faith is being sorely tested. He is worried for his family as he could so easily have been killed and all for a few dollars! It shows the depth some people will stoop to commit dreadful crimes in these times of desperate hardship for numerous Zimbabweans.



PRAYER MOUNTAIN: On a brighter note, Lovemore James (bottom left) writes [Morning John, you may find something interesting about my Church journey yesterday to](#)



[a holy mountain in Domboshawa](#), a place of rocks and caves where we spent all night praying 🙏. Note babies on some mothers' backs as they set off on their climb after breakfast. I visited Domboshawa many years ago – the caves were peppered with ancient rock paintings (right) thousands of years old by the San people or Bushmen using dyes from plant roots. I visited a nearby village and shared a lunch of boiled cobs with a family – a memorable occasion.



HOME PROGRESS: Update from Mike: ['Very soon, I will be moving into my new two roomed house. I managed to buy all the materials. I am just waiting for the builder to finish – he has been slow due to other commitments. I will forever remember the wonderful people who kindly donated and have changed my life. I might not know you personally, but the Almighty God does. Thank you very much'](#)



🙏 Mike Masedza.

SWEETS ANYONE? Peter Kananji (right) who read the lesson at one of our Zoom services



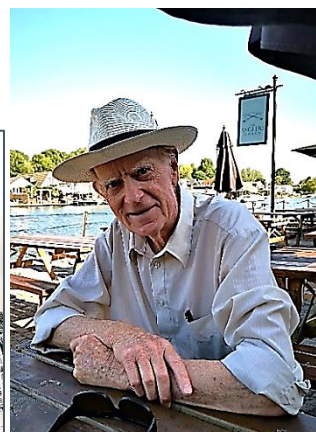
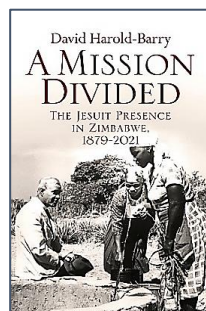
is struggling. He said: 'Hi John my friend, I hope all is well with you and Susan. Life in Zimbabwe is becoming even harder as our economy is driving everyone into vending. I'm now helping someone to sell her sweets to get money to cover cost of grinding cobs into meal to feed my family of seven (left). I make 3\$ (£2.50) a day on average, assuming I can outrun the police as they do not like kerbside trading and would fine me – if they caught me! I wish to start my own business rather than work for someone else but have no capital'.



A SPECIAL VISITOR: I recently walked along the Thames towpath with Fr David Harold-Barry SJ, stopping for refreshments at 'The Anglers'. We had



earlier revisited the large sculpture in the courtyard of the Riverhouse Barn – the result of a competition in 2008 amongst Artpeace denoted by the plaque left. David has addressed our congregation several times over the years in his then capacity as the Director of



Silveira House, Chishawasha – a centre for Social Justice and Development where Artpeace are based. Covid curtailed David's visits, but he finally made it, fresh from his latest book launch in Harare titled 'A Mission Divided' (now available on Amazon). It promises to be a fascinating read. He has spent fifty-five years in Zimbabwe, the first fourteen in Rhodesia, is on a whirlwind tour of the UK and Ireland catching up with old friends.

INDISPENSABLE: Travellers, without whose help I could not operate, remain few but we have been very fortunate this month. **Verity**, CAFOD's Zimbabwe representative (right) is involved in regular visits to other African countries. She brought over 25kgs Artpeace carvings and is a big support to me in other ways.



Cherish (extreme right), recently noticed the Artpeace display in the Southwark Cathedral Shop and offered to take pieces back later this month. Writer, educator, advocate, teacher of philosophy is only a few of her hats. She supports educational initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa and has promised to contribute an article on her work for our next Newsletter. They are

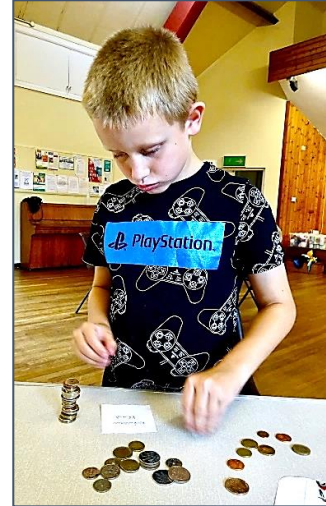


a small sample of the interesting people from all walks of life prepared to go the extra mile for our Zimbabwean friends making such a difference to their quality of life. **Johnston Simpson**

Messy Church



Our theme for Messy Church on what was probably the hottest Sunday of the year with red warnings being issued was 'The Widow's Mite'. We had money-based activities, making purses with Jean on the antique sewing machine, piling up coins, sorting coins from different countries, designing coins on large chocolate buttons, making puppets from wooden spoons and designing bracelets.



The hall was cool and the children mostly stayed indoors though a few ventured briefly into the garden to blow bubbles with various shaped wands and try out the sit-on toys. They all worked hard and one of our boys was delighted to find Polish money among the coins and helped me find some Norwegian coins which I was able to spend on holiday.



able to cool off with ice lollies.

They contributed well in the celebration and we tried to teach them "golden oldies" from our own days at the Seaside Mission: 'Wide, Wide as the ocean' and 'Do you want a pilot?'. After the meal, we were



Our next session will be on 18 September. Do join us then!

Anne Fitzgerald

Holiday Memories

Our thanks to Margaret Faultless for this month's article. 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 in your contribution – long, short or just a few lines – every article is welcome.

In July I spent one week on holiday in Laugharne in Wales at the Dylan Coastal Resort. This is a complex run by Hoseasons and is mainly a time-share company. I went with a friend and we had a villa overlooking the Taf Estuary. The scenery is beautiful and the view changed as the river is tidal. We also had a hot tub in the courtyard which was fun at the end of a busy sightseeing day. We visited much of the surrounding countryside. One such trip was to the Aberglassy Garden. This was a real delight to wander through and enjoy a delightful lunch as well.

I also had another short stay with my cousin and her husband who live near Witchampton, Dorset. They took me to 'Sculptures by the Lakes' which was mind-blowingly beautiful. The sculptures were situated around the three lakes and made the walk around the lakes so rewarding. There is the opportunity to rent out a variety of picnic sites and they will also supply the food! It was a lovely day out.

My most recent visit was to Cockermouth in Cumbria for my niece's wedding in August.

Margaret Faultless

Our Ukrainian family



It all started with a phone call from Lucy Brierley, minister at Woking URC. "Have you registered for the Government's 'Homes for Ukrainians' scheme, and if so, would you be able to host a family from Kharkiv? By the way, there are four children aged between 3 and 12 plus both parents."



Ian and I were keen to help given the horrific war in Ukraine, and so the waiting game started. The family are Russian speakers, and managed to cross the border to reach Poland just as the war started on 24 February; Ukrainian law allows fathers who have three or more children to leave the country. Visa application forms were completed online via Zoom. Fortunately, both parents (Volodymyr and Mariia) spoke some English and the three older children had taken English classes at school. The weeks passed, and then the first visa arrived, for Livai, aged 3. A couple of weeks later, a second visa appeared, for

Martin, aged 7. And so it continued until all six visas were received. We started to chat regularly to the family using an app called Viber that provides instant translations. And then we heard that the family had left Poland and were on their way to Woking!

We didn't know when the family would arrive because they wanted to spend time with some family members in Germany. There were no phone calls or chats on Viber for a few days, so we began to worry about what might have happened crossing from France to the UK. But on 1 May, a large car pulled up onto our driveway just after lunch. There were lots of hugs all round. I found it very emotional – families should not have to go through this ordeal, leaving friends, relatives, schools, and jobs behind, everything that is familiar, just because an autocratic dictator makes a bad decision to invade their country. We showed the family

around our house and provided lunch. The children were very quiet and withdrawn, but we were able to communicate with the parents using Viber to help out when necessary.

Over the next few days, British Residency Permits were applied for and we took the family to Woking Park and Goldsworth Park Lake, both having good playgrounds for the children. We also visited Tesco and Marks & Spencer at Brooklands for shopping (Woking URC had provided a lot of vouchers for the family). We visited the Lighthouse in Woking where there is hub for Ukrainian families on Tuesdays to allow the parents to network and meet representatives from Citizens Advice, Woking Borough Council, the Job Centre, plus hosts for other refugee families. There was a lot to organise over the first few days and a key priority was to find school places – not easy, as several schools had no places available.

The children settled in and became more confident in speaking a few words in English with us. We had a good range of toys for them and discovered that Martin, aged 7, loved games of any sort from chess to Twister and on to swingball and football. The girls, Naomi and Liia (10 and 12), were both very musical. Liia sat down at the piano one day and rattled through a Scott Joplin ragtime piece without any music, and Naomi loves to sing. Volodymyr (Vova) is musical too, and some evenings after dinner he would play Frank Sinatra songs on the piano and sing along! The children all attend local state schools now, and have places for next year; Livai is in a nursery school for 15 hours per week.



Mariia is an excellent cook and produced some superb Ukrainian meals. Whenever another Ukrainian family popped round to visit, there was always enough food to go round. Bread is



served with every meal. It was the tradition for Livai to say the grace in Russian before a meal while we all held hands. The family come from an evangelical background and attend the Emmaus Road Church in Guildford most Sundays. They have warm links with Woking URC too. Martin asked me for a copy of the Bible in English one day; I managed to find an illustrated copy of the Good News Bible. And there he was, sat down reading it a few minutes later. It was a delight having the family with us. The family was always very polite and respectful and the children were a real credit to their parents. They rarely watched TV, one notable exception being the Eurovision Song Contest. I heard them cheer when Ukraine won! The family liked to have a film night now and again. Naomi celebrated her 11th birthday while she was with us, so Mariia organised a party and we were joined by several other girls from the Woking area, Ukrainian and English. It is traditional in

Ukraine to sing 'Happy birthday' – in English, which came as a surprise. Cake with candles, far too much food, some music for the girls to dance to, and lots of fun unwrapping the presents. Another day, Liia and I made a very large batch of rocky road bars – it took us a long time to eat our way through it – but it was extremely good!

Before the family arrived, we knew that a charity in Woking had agreed to support the family for 1 year by renting a house for them, so after 6 weeks with us, the family moved into their new home. Although it is a small house, it is their own place and they are now independent. Back in Ukraine, their home in Kharkiv is only a few miles from the Russian border. A neighbour has been cutting the grass for them and picking the strawberries, but who knows

when it will be safe for them to return? I wouldn't want those four children anywhere near to the Russian army.

Would we host a family again? Vova and Mariia looked very doubtful when we first spoke about this because they assured us that no other family would be as special! However, another (smaller) family has left Poland and is now in Germany, hoping to come to Woking too. The two families know each other well, and this second family has now been recommended to us. Our answer is yes – so watch this space. *Teresa Bacon*

Postscript

A few minutes after I finished writing this article, the doorbell rang. Liia and some of the family called in on their way home from school because Liia, now 13, wanted to say thank you in person for the birthday present we had given her earlier in the week.

People Who Lunch Church Hall

12.30pm 9 September



Everyone is welcome at People Who Lunch which is held on the second Friday of the month in the church hall. For just £4.00 the menu covers soup, roll, dessert, cheese and biscuits and coffee. Everyone is welcome and if you have not been before you might like to try it out this month. Please note that advance booking is essential as otherwise there might not be enough food to go round! To book your place contact Margaret Faultless by email margaret.faultless@blueyonder.co.uk or see her in church.

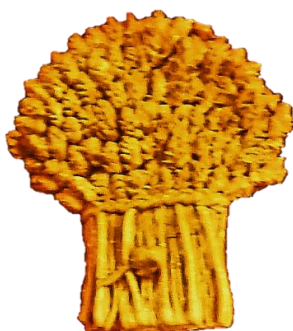


Ladies!
A New Term, a New Idea ..
.. to join our friendly choir and sing with
us at our
Come and Sing Evening
- with cake!
Monday 12th September 2022
8.00-9.30pm
St. James' Parish Centre
Churchfield Road Weybridge KT13 8DE
More information about the choir at www.trebleclefchoir.org



Hilary Netherwood and Gwenda Cochrane are members of Treble Clef and if you want any further information about the choir they will be pleased to help you.

Parking (free in the evening) is available in the Churchfields Car Park (behind Weybridge Library) and the entrance to the Parish Centre leads off there.



Celebrating Harvest

Our first celebration of Harvest as a new church (including Church Parade) will take place on **9 October** at 10.30am.

Make a note of the date.

Full details will appear in next month's issue of The Grapevine.

(The harvest loaf in this picture was made by Thelma Roberts for the harvest celebrations at Weybridge a few years ago. Spot the harvest mouse.)

A Friend Remembered

John Whiteford Hutson



John Whiteford Hutson was born on 21st October 1927, to John and Jean (Laird) Hutson, in Hamilton, near Glasgow. He was the eldest of three boys: sadly his youngest brother, Alan, died of illness in childhood, not long after their father died in 1934, leaving John's mother, a teacher, to cope on her own during the Great Depression.

She and the family were sustained by her husband's extensive family, and her sisters and their families, so John and Graham enjoyed a sociable and outdoorsy childhood with many cousins. He used to talk with

enthusiasm of family holidays on the Isle of Arran as a boy, and on his cousin's farm, Crosslees, near Eaglesham, with wild swimming and games. John did very well at school, being academic as well as sporty, and through the National Bursary competition, was awarded a place at Glasgow University, aged only 17, to study Modern Languages. There he met the woman who was to become his wife, Doris Kemp, also a linguist and whom he loved throughout 60 years of marriage.

John joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in 1954, after Military Service, although with his usual modesty, he always said he was lucky to get in. He was an excellent linguist, and over the years learned Bulgarian and Russian, and easily picking up some Italian and Spanish, as well as keeping up his French and German. His various roles took him all over the world: Prague, Berlin (where both his son, Robin, and his elder daughter, Lorna, were born), Saigon (where his younger daughter, Nora, was born), San Francisco, Sofia, Baghdad (unfortunately, the Iraqis broke off diplomatic relations only a few months after they arrived, necessitating a hasty departure just before Christmas 1971), Moscow, Frankfurt and Casablanca.

John had many very enjoyable postings, albeit some were challenging. One particular highlight was San Francisco, a wonderful posting in the early to mid-60s, an exciting time to be in California. The Royal Visit by Princess Margaret took place in 1965, and John, as Vice Consul General, had to take charge of what was politically a very important event for Great Britain, as the Consul-General was indisposed. It all went very smoothly, and not long after, he received an OBE. It says much about his character that most people, even close friends, and ones he had known for a very long time, had no idea he had been awarded this honour. In between some of these postings, John worked for the Inspectorate division, which required him to travel alone to a number of other British Embassies and Consulates, to assess

the effectiveness and efficiency of the posts, which he very much enjoyed, although of course he missed Doris and his family. He also spent some years at the FCO in London, commuting home by train to Molesey, more often than not walking the mile or so along the towpath, before being immersed in family life. He was a patient and affectionate father, always interested in whatever his children got up to. In spite of having a high-powered career, he was very much a 'new man' and would roll up his sleeves to do the washing-up and help with any household chores. He had utmost respect for Doris as a languages and TEFL teacher. He knew he was very lucky to have such a wonderful cook as his wife, a skill he never mastered!

It was during their time in Molesey that they began to attend St Andrew's, and the church and its members became an anchor for both John and Doris in what was otherwise a nomadic lifestyle, albeit one they enjoyed. John was Treasurer, Secretary and an Elder, and they both made life-long friends there. It was a real blow for John when the pandemic struck and the church was closed, and the lifeline that it had become was significantly weakened. Due to his deafness and worsening memory, caused by vascular dementia, he had ceased to be able to manage his laptop, and he struggled to access the online community, in spite of much help from sympathetic friends.

John was deemed by all who knew him to be a kind and empathetic listener. He really was the Good Samaritan who would stop to talk to a homeless person or anyone in distress. That's not to say he would suffer fools gladly. He was quite self-disciplined, doing his morning exercises every day into his 90s. He had a lifelong love of rugby, being a useful player in his youth. His coordination and fitness made him a good dance partner for Doris, and they shared a love of dancing throughout their married life. Both at Ash Lodge, where he moved after Doris's death, and at Penhurst, the care home, he was renowned for always being the first to ask a lady to dance at the slightest opportunity. Astonishingly, the day before he was rushed into A&E with respiratory difficulties and found to have terminal cancer, he had been dancing with fellow residents.

John had a stoical nature and was not given to complaining. His faith in God sustained him, although he never stopped grieving for Doris. His deafness was a sore affliction, making communication so difficult for everyone, and was a source of great sadness to him and to us all. However, he was luckier than many, enjoying a very full, long life; a great and exciting career; a long, happy marriage; children and grandchildren. He will be remembered with great fondness by all who knew him. *The Hutson Family*

I didn't know despite having known John for years that he had an OBE. Unlike some people he never used it. He was a very reticent person. He came from a single parent family, his father dying when he and his brother were quite young, and he was very proud of his mother, a teacher, who struggled to bring up the two boys. Latterly he referred to this a lot at prayer group when it was a very small group.

John never really got over Doris' death. They were a very hospitable couple who worked tirelessly for the church. They first joined St Andrew's in May 1975 and were away for a while but came back in 1983. John was elected Elder in 1989 and became Church Treasurer in November 1989. He was also Church Secretary for a few years from 2008. He was a trustee for Walton Street Angels and also, I believe, Walton Homeless Charity. He was a volunteer at the Contact Centre, joined Bible study groups and regularly came to the prayer group. He played badminton when we had a badminton club. He was also Synod Elder. He was my Elder for many years and latterly I was his. He loved all church events: coffee mornings, church lunches, Burns' Suppers, enjoying dancing. He came to Messy Church and chatted to Mums and children. He regretted not being able to do so much as he got older but did help to wash up after morning coffee.

When we were able to go out after Lockdown I met him outside to go for walks or coffee. I am a fast walker but even in his nineties I had difficulty keeping up with him. My lasting memory of John is as reader, standing at the lectern. Right up until he moved to Oxfordshire he read the lesson clearly and with expression. When I contacted him once on Komp we talked about poetry and he was able to recite some word perfectly. *Anne Fitzgerald*

John, like me, had many happy memories and stories of interesting, sometimes difficult, times during his working life with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In recent times, we would on occasion get out our respective FCO diaries over coffee in the Church Hall and fix an after-church lunch date at Carluccio's in Walton. It didn't take long to cover the distance with John's extraordinarily fast walking pace and I always enjoyed reminiscing with him about his many and varied postings with Doris (who had the reputation of being a wonderful hostess) and comparing notes from my own experiences. We met for the first time at St Andrew's only after he had retired and we had never coincided in a posting overseas, although we did have two postings in common – Saigon (my first) and Moscow (not without its challenges during the communist regime). I looked forward to these get-togethers and putting the world – in particular the FCO – to rights over a dish of delicious pasta washed down by a generous glass of vino. His charming and cheery, easy-going presence is a great loss to us all. I miss him. *Norma Reid*

Floral Art

These photographs show some of the recent beautiful flower displays in the church which have been very much appreciated by the congregation.



*A tribute to a remarkable man.
Flowers for John Hutson's
Memorial Service. (left)*



Commemorating a birthday



*On the steps in front of the Communion Table for
a service which included Holy Communion.*

PRAYER CORNER

A Great Prayer of the Church (Ancient and Modern Versions)

A Prayer of General Thanksgiving (Traditional Version – Book of Common Prayer 1662)

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end.

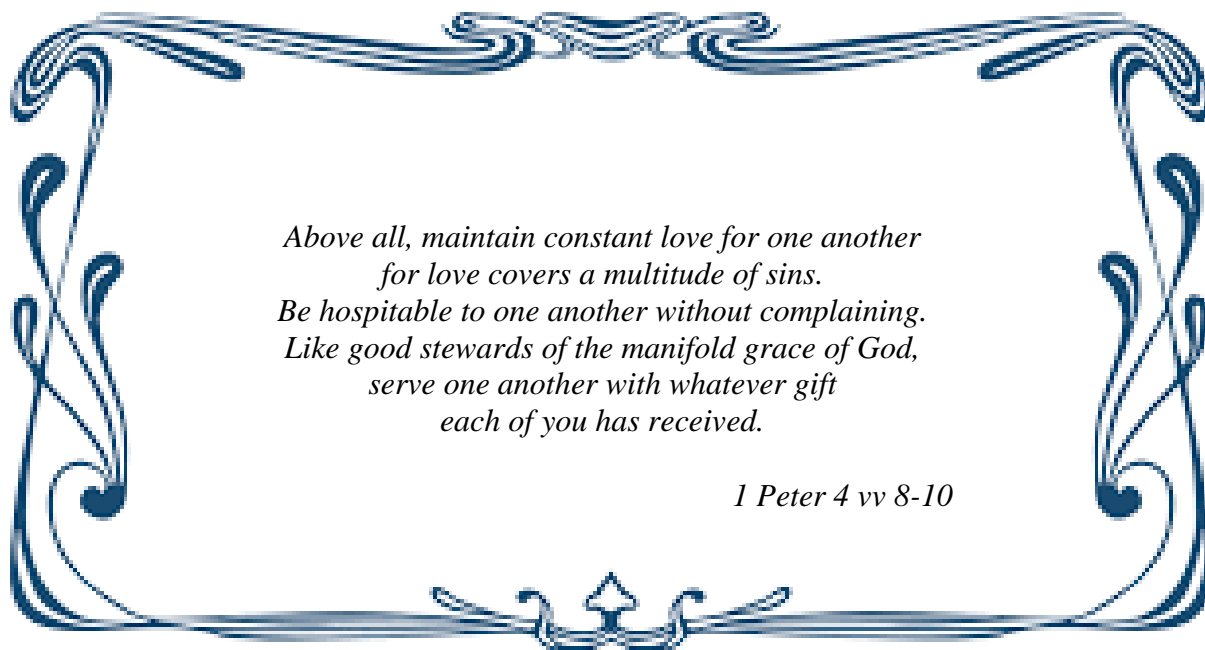
Amen

The traditional prayer of General Thanksgiving was composed by Edward Reynolds (1599-1676), Bishop of Norwich. It was possibly inspired by a private prayer of Queen Elizabeth I which was made public in 1596. Prior to the revision of the Prayer Book in 1604 the Puritans had complained that it did not contain enough prayers of thanksgiving. This particular prayer was added to the Prayer Book published in 1662 under the heading "A General Thanksgiving".

A Prayer of General Thanksgiving (Modern Version – Book of Common Prayer 1979)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory throughout all ages.

Amen



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.org

Mrs Gwenda Cochrane
Mrs Liz Grimsey
Mrs Shirley Morley

Hall Hire at St Andrew's URC, Walton and Weybridge: roomhire@standrewsurc.org

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 send a link to enable easy participation.

You are all most welcome to join us!