



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



THE GRAPEVINE



NOVEMBER 2022

Volume 1 No 9



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*"In perfect honour, perfect truth,
And gentleness to all mankind.
You trod the golden paths of youth,
Then left the world and youth behind.
Ah no! 'Tis we who fade and fail -
And you, from Time's slow torments free,
Shall pass from strength to strength, and scale
The steeps of immortality. "*

from 'Fratrī Dilectissimo' - W.H.B. John Buchan

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES NOVEMBER 2022

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.

Tuesday 1		All Saints Day
Sunday 6 (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship The Minister
	11.30 am	Artpeace Sale (see 15) The Gateway
Tuesday 8	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting Bill Topping Room
Friday 11	12.30pm	People Who Lunch (see p16) Church Hall
Sunday 13	10.30 am	Remembrance Sunday (see pp8&9) The Minister
	11.00 am to 2.00 pm	Mencap Christmas Fair (see p11) Burview Hall
Sunday 20 (Zoom)	10.30 am	Christ the King The Minister
	3.00 pm	Messy Church 
Sunday 27	10.30 am	1st Sunday in Advent The Minister

***COPY DATE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE:
WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER
(Publication Date: 27 November)***

The Editor, Norma Reid, is stepping down temporarily while the problems with her eyes continue and material for the December/January 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

Front Cover Photograph: Courtesy of The Royal British Legion



Letter from the Minister November 2022

Dear Friends,

As you know, Wednesday 5th October saw the 50th anniversary of the formation of the United Reformed Church. To mark this the URC has produced two, quite different, books and so I thought that I would do a quick summary of them – knowing that Christmas (and Christmas shopping) is coming. The first is called “*Golden Threads*” and is a collection of memories and reflections from the URC. There must be about 50 different contributors, including Phillip Jones and me, and I am sure that some, possibly many, of the other contributors will be names that are familiar to you. In the main it’s a series of stories and memories from the last 50 years which give a lot to reflect upon in a very anecdotal style. It certainly called to my mind all sorts of things I’d not thought about for years and the list of contributors reminded me of all sorts of old friends as well (some of whom I thought were dead – but don’t tell anyone). It’s not a detailed, theological reflection but it does make quite a nice non-taxing book to dip into with a cup of tea (other beverages are available).



Of much more academic rigour is “*Traditions and Transitions*” which is a series of papers covering different aspects of the URC’s history, uniting traditions and theology. Its contributors include a number of academics but they write in an accessible way and so it is not a ‘heavy’ tome. Michael Hopkins, for example, has written the paper about the development of Presbyterianism in England, including the formation of the Presbyterian Church of England in 1876. Stephen Orchard wrote the companion paper about the development of Independency and Congregationalism and Margaret Thompson the one for the Churches of Christ. “*Traditions and Transitions*” makes for an interesting read to stimulate the brain and is certainly written a little more along the lines of a more formal journal. I enjoyed reading it and also found that it helped explain certain things about the URC which I either didn’t understand or else didn’t even know. It also corrected my understanding of certain facts as well.

Both books are readily available from the URC bookshop www.urcbookshop.co.uk and the bookshop is very efficient in dispatching orders. “*Golden Threads*” is £12.99 and “*Traditions and Transitions*” is £14.99. (Other 50th anniversary goods are available from the same site including a jigsaw, socks, scarf and even URC soap!)

So, two very different books are currently available to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church and I can certainly recommend both although I should make it clear that, despite being a contributor to one, I receive no royalties from the sales!

With all good wishes,

News of the Church Family

Ordination of an Elder – James Zhang

On 2nd October James Zhang was ordained as an Elder. James has waited a long time for this important occasion having been elected an Elder in 2020 when it was intended that he would be ordained on Easter Day. Covid and lockdown caused it to be postponed but the positive side of this delay meant that James is the first Elder to be ordained in our new church of St Andrew's URC, Walton and Weybridge making it a particularly significant and happy occasion.



Liz Grimsey (Member of the Secretarial Team) presents James with his certificate



In Memoriam

When the Revd Derek Nuttall died suddenly in July 2020 Covid restrictions were in force which meant that only a few people were able to attend his funeral service. The family promised then that they would hold a wider thanksgiving and celebration of his life when the restrictions were lifted. This celebration eventually took place this year in East Sussex on 24th September when the gathering included people from many different places who wanted to pay tribute to this remarkable man. It was apparent that through the very varied aspects of his ministry Derek had touched the lives of so many people, often in extremely difficult circumstances, and some of his friends from his time as a member of Weybridge URC were present to join in the celebration. (see p18)

Prayers

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

The Grapevine

The next issue of The Grapevine is a combined edition covering December 2022 and January 2023. Please send in any notices, articles, dates etc relating to that period by Wednesday 16th November.

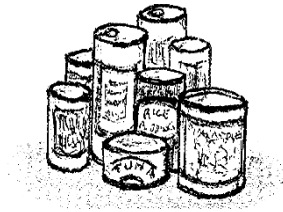


Wessex Synod – Prayer Calendar for November

6	Twyford (Bucks); Cheap Street, Sherborne
13	Jersey; Woodley Airfield Church; Drayton United Church, Portsmouth
20	Christchurch, Thame; Hedge End, Southampton
27	St Columba's; Oxford; St Peter's, Guildford



Celebrating Harvest



Harvest Service – 9th October

An auspicious start to a new era for the new church arose when Michael was able to take his first Parade Service at the St. Andrew's site.

With the transfer of 4th Weybridge Scout Group to the site (where they now meet on Thursday evenings in the church hall) and the commissioning of new colours, there was much to do.

The proceeds from the service are to go to the local Food Bank. Some items had been set out on the steps below the Communion Table before anyone arrived and more were placed there by members of the congregation before the start of the service. (We are also grateful to others who made monetary donations which will boost the Food Bank's coffers.)

The present flags of 4th Weybridge Scout Group, 4th Weybridge Rainbows and 1st Weybridge Guides were carried in during the singing of *"Come, ye thankful people, come"*, making a stirring sight as they processed down the whole length of the church. (The height of the entry at St. Andrew's dispelled any fears of flag staffs getting caught in the doorway – a problem which caused many a "near miss" in Weybridge URC!)

As the singing moved on to *"Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer"* (sung to Bunessan, the tune for *"Morning has broken"*) the uniformed organisations and more members of the congregation brought their gifts forward, so that the steps and both the long tables at the front were covered.

After prayers and the Lord's Prayer, two Rainbows and their leaders read the poem *"Harvest Time"* and then it was on to the reading from Psalm 65 v9-15. The service sheet said *"read by a Cub or a member of the congregation"*. Michael had already advised us that the Cubs were away on a weekend camp, so Claire, who was listed to read the lesson this Sunday, had prepared herself. However, thanks to the miracles of modern technology, the Cubs sent a video recording from their camp, which the ever-excellent Tech Team were able to display on the screen. The Cub Pack gathered round a table at the camp site and stood attentively as several of their number read a line of the psalm each.



Readings by the Rainbows



The Beavers get some help



The Scouts are completely confident

1st Weybridge Guides, who joined with 4th Weybridge Guides some years ago, then read *"Think of a world without any flowers"*, before the Beavers stood forth and delivered the poem *"Autumn Time"*.

I have to say that the readings were all delivered very well including *"The Vegetable Song"* by three Scouts, which announced that all three liked vegetables but they did not like sprouts – a vegetable which produces some division in our family!

For his talk Michael drew on a conversation he had had with Wyn, a farmer in his former pastorate in Mid-Wales. Farmers had a good year last year, but costs have risen substantially due to the war in Ukraine affecting fertilizer prices. Also, this year's weather has reduced the amount of the crops that they grow to feed their animals, which in turn has led to a reduction in the number of animals that they will be able to rear in the future. In farming it is important to take the long view and adapt to changing circumstances – a lesson for us in our church life – but we should also be grateful for the food that we do receive and thankful to those who produce it for us.

Next came the hymn *"Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field"* – a Fred Kaan hymn sung to Stowey, the tune to *"When a knight won his spurs"* – followed by the prayers of intercession.

At this point it was time to the Scout Group, so stoically Leader at Remembrance come to the end of its life and was in an even worse agreed, earlier this year, to pay present it at the Harvest Platinum Jubilee. However,

The new flag had been laid on service and the standard new King's Colour aloft whilst said. The various units then their Promises in front of it. The moving, as several former the congregation to join in, the Promise had changed



*The new Union Flag:
the King's Colour*

The final hymn was, of course, *"We plough the fields and scatter"* and, after it, the new King's Colour led the procession of flags, Bible and Minister out of the church to form an honour guard seen by all those passing along Hersham Road.

Jem Ward

dedicate the colours. The Union Flag of held aloft by Southy, the Group Scout Services over the past few years, had the other Union Flag from Weybridge condition. The Elders had therefore for a new one as a "Queen's Colour" and Parade to celebrate Her Majesty's Royal events overtook us.

the Communion Table throughout the bearer was called forward to hold the appropriate prayers of dedication were came forward to repeat the words of Guides' contribution was particularly Guides and leaders came out of discovering that the wording of somewhat over time!



The Colour Parties assemble



The Scout Group gets together

Footnote: Thank you to everyone who brought food and household items to the service for the Walton and Hersham Foodbank. Thank you as well to those of you who made a financial gift. The amount collected was £260 including Gift Aid.

*Taking a photo call
There are so many cameras
we are not sure which way to look!*



4th Weybridge Scout Group – A significant logo

Those of you who were at the Harvest Service with its Church Parade on 9th October may have noticed that some of the Scout Group members had a badge on their scarves while others did not. What is the story behind this obviously significant logo? In 1986 the Minister of Weybridge URC, the Revd Norman Kew, undertook a ministerial exchange with the Minister of Broken Bay Parish of the Uniting Church in Australia, the Revd Tony Baker. (Broken Bay is a seaside area north of Sydney.) Several people (including the Scout Leaders) were intrigued by the logo on the stole Tony wore with his robes and asked him what it represented. He explained that it was the emblem of the Uniting Church of Australia and he told them what the various parts represented. The Scout Leaders subsequently decided to use the concepts of this emblem as the basis for the design of a logo for the scarves worn by members of the Group. The constituent parts of the badge are:

the Cross – signifying the Word of God

the bird – the Dove of Peace

the red portion (in the shape of the bird's wings) – the flame of the Holy Spirit

the white arc at the bottom – the world.



Therefore the whole badge 'signifies the world at peace united by the Word of God'. The badge is available to all three units in the Group – Scouts, Cubs and Beavers – so why, you might wonder, was everyone not wearing it? The answer is that it is only awarded after attendance at three church parades and with a limited number of church parades each year that takes time.

The Uniting Church in Australia is a union of the former Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches and, like the URC, it is a member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. It has a similar structure to the URC with a national assembly (with a President), state synods (with Moderators), local presbyteries and congregations.

Footnote: The 4th Weybridge Scout Group was registered with the Scout Association in April 1932 and met at the former St Michael and All Angels Church in Pine Grove, Weybridge. The Group moved to Weybridge Congregational Church (URC) in 1970 and following the establishment of sponsored groups it became a Church Sponsored Group (Scouts, Cubs, Beavers) on 1st February 1991.

The 4th Weybridge Rainbows is the only other uniformed organisation which is an officially Church Sponsored Unit and that sponsorship took effect on 17th July 1991. *Alex Henham*

ST ANDREW'S URC, WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE – NEW BANK ACCOUNT

The change to the new church bank account is progressing, though more slowly than I had hoped! I have managed to get the Weybridge URC Direct Debits moved across to the new bank account, though those paid via NatWest from the old St Andrew's bank account will take longer to sort out.

However, it has not been possible to change Standing Orders over between bank accounts.

A significant number of you kindly make your offertory to the church via Standing Orders, which makes things much easier for me – and, I hope, for you! If you do so, please can I ask you to get in touch with your bank and cancel your current Standing Order? You will then need to set up a new one, using the following details:

Account Name: St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Walton and Weybridge

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Account Number: 00035141

This can also be done on-line, if you are confident in doing so.

Despite its reserves, the Church mainly runs on income from hall hires and the money that you generously give; so, if you have any queries about this matter or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. *Jem Ward*



A TIME FOR REMEMBERING

Remembrance Sunday

10.30am 13 November

Red and White Poppies for Remembrance and Peace

We remember all those who have died in the wars of the 20th and 21st centuries and innocent civilians who died through acts of terrorism. We remember, too, those who have to live with the horrific consequences of war – the bereaved and those who suffer physical and mental disability.

While violence and wars remain a part of daily life for so many people around the world we continue to pray for peace and an important part of all our services is the lighting of the Peace Candle.

A Note from the Minister

Remembrance Sunday

Like previous years, our Remembrance Sunday will include the parading and dipping of colours although it will not be a full parade service since the uniformed organisations are on parade for two services in the afternoon (a) at the War Memorial in Weybridge and (b) the Civic Service at St James' Church, Weybridge. I am expecting that the war memorial will be in place in our building by then and that the name from the 2nd World War from Weybridge will have been added as well. There is also a rather touching story to tell this year, too. So, 10.30am on Remembrance Sunday, and our service will include the Act of Remembrance at 11.00am.

Remembrance Sunday Offertory

Once again we are glad to support Combat Stress as part of our commemoration on Remembrance Sunday. Combat Stress is the leading UK charity for veterans' mental health and was founded in 1919 (opening its first care facility in Putney in 1920) as the Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Society. It seeks to achieve a return to positive health for ex-service men and women suffering from mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression. The support it gives is vital for those veterans seeking help when at their lowest ebb. For many people this happens years after they have left the armed forces – on average it takes a veteran 14 years to ask for help and following Covid this help and support for veterans and their families became even more critical. On average Combat Stress helps 14,000 veterans a year with 11,000 using its telephone helpline. It employs its own clinical staff to provide highly specialised treatment to UK veterans at its centres in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Veterans with complex mental health conditions need a specialist team made up of different mental health professionals to help them and the clinicians work closely with each other and with the veterans to develop a treatment plan that best suits the individual veteran's needs. Treatment is available online, in the community, through outpatient appointments and also on a residential basis when required. The aim of Combat Stress is to treat veterans' symptoms and improve their quality of life and to help them tackle their past and take on the future. Sometimes it has been known to have saved their lives. Donations made to Combat Stress ensure that veterans of all ages get the specialist treatment, care and help they need. 81p of every £1 raised is spent on veterans' treatment and support, 16p on fundraising and 3p on raising awareness and improving access. Please see page 9 for details if you would like to be part of our church's support for Combat Stress in its vital work with veterans and their families.

Other Local Acts of Remembrance

in which our uniformed organisations will be taking part

2.30pm Weybridge War Memorial

3.00pm Civic Service at St James' Church, Weybridge

Financial Contributions to Combat Stress

How to make your donation through the church.

If you decide to do this, please either pay by:

- a) Bank Transfer
(Details of the church's bank account are given in the finance article on page 7.)
Please indicate that your donation is for Combat Stress.

or by

- b) a cheque made out to "St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Walton and Weybridge".
Please put this in an envelope marked 'Combat Stress' and address it to the Treasurers.
It may be placed on the offertory plate as you leave.

or by

- c) cash
Please put this in an envelope marked 'Combat Stress' and address it to the Treasurers.
It may be placed on the offertory plate as you leave.

The Treasurers will add Gift Aid (where appropriate) to your personal donation (making it worth 25% more to the charity) and your gift will then be included in the total payment made by the church to Combat Stress.

Elmbridge Eco Hub

I recently had a bagful of spent batteries and ink cartridges. I was able to dispose of the batteries in my local Sainsbury's but the shop where one could get rid of the cartridges had shut. Walking home I suddenly thought about the community hub and going behind the Elmbridge building found the hub with its doors open; a couple were emptying their car of donated food.

They do not normally take ink cartridges but relieved me of my packet. What interested me was when they described what they do recycle there. They had a box full of spent tablet containers. We usually put the many we have in the bin. Other boxes contained old pens and pencils, milk bottle tops, crisp packets and Pringle boxes. They suggested I picked up an envelope in Tesco to send off my cartridges post-free and get extra points on my club card and told me that Specsavers now take glasses and contact lenses.

You can also hire things there and there is a repair shop. For more information give them a visit or look on their Facebook page. I was lucky to catch them open. I hadn't found them on my early morning walks before.

Anne Fitzgerald

Website: elmbridgeecohub.org.uk Email: info@elmbridgeecohub.org.uk

Location: Opposite the former Elmgrove Hall in the old stable block
(behind the Stagecoach/Montessori School).

Elmbridge CAN

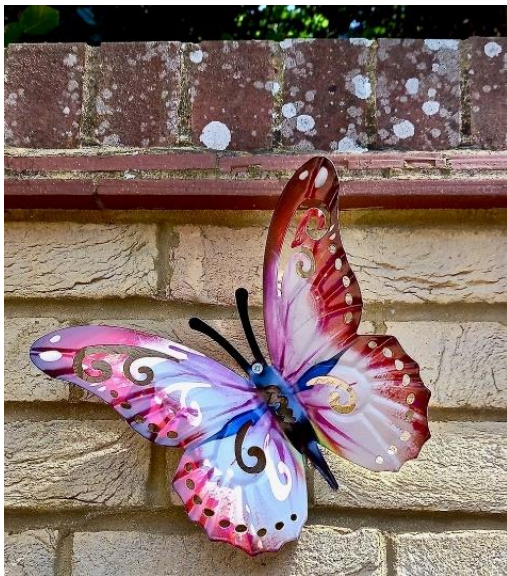
The Ukrainian hub in Weybridge (part of Elmbridge CAN) is looking for accommodation for Ukrainian families in the area. Many of the Ukrainians invited over here are coming to the end of their six-month housing term and the hosts are now wanting the space in their homes back. New hosts are, therefore, required urgently as the children are in local schools and the mothers in local jobs. If you have spare rooms or separate annexed accommodation to offer a mother and one or two children do please contact the charity. Ukraine continues to be a very unsafe country so returning there at the moment is not an option for these families.

<https://www.elmbridgecan.org.uk/lesiasstory.html>

Sensory Garden at Burview Hall



On 29th August we had a soft opening of our new sensory garden. It was a wonderful day with many supporters attending including many of our friends from St Andrew's. The garden was full of colour with the flowers bright and cheerful, the musical instrument, bubble machine, water feature, butterflies, ladybirds and even a monkey and tortoise giving fun and joy.



Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair is taking place on Sunday 13th November and it would be nice to welcome any of you who could pop in after church. If any of you have Grandchildren a visit to Santa's Grotto when Santa visits our sensory room is a magical place. We are always on the lookout for good saleable items or unwanted gifts that could bolster up our Tombola.

Christmas Party-time

Then it will be Christmas Party time for our clubs, with presents and party food.

Pantomime in January 2023

Our yearly visit to The Playhouse in January to see the pantomime is next. This time it will be CINDERELLA. We purchase the whole theatre for the night and we are the best audience ever. OH YES WE ARE!!!!!!!

So, you see we are very busy and to top it all we are going to open our own Day Service very soon. The Day Service, a new venture for us which will take place three times a week, will be for adults with a learning difficulty. There will be the opportunity to learn skills such as cooking with many other activities to enjoy. Exciting times ahead.

Jean Rigden



Reg Charity No. 109466
Charity of the Mayor of Elmbridge 2019/2020



CHRISTMAS FAIR - LOTS OF BARGAINS!

SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER - 11.00 AM TO 2.00 PM

at Burview Hall, Queens Road

Walton-on-Thames KT12 5AB

COME AND MEET SANTA IN HIS GROTTO!

(It would be lovely if anyone would like to pop in after church!)



REFRESHMENTS

Gifts Toys
Tombola Raffles

Crafts and Cushions Toiletries Jewellery

All donations of good quality items (unwanted gifts, jewellery, bottles) are hugely appreciated and should be given to Jean Rigden.

REMEMBER AUTUMN

In our shopping expeditions we are already surrounded by evidence of Christmas and the shelves vacated by Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes goods will soon be overflowing with Christmas items as well. All this is, of course, exciting as we look forward to Christmas. On the other hand, Autumn should not be overlooked as John Keats reminds us in his beautiful and sensitive poem 'To Autumn' with its famous phrase 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'.

Robert Browning in his poem about Autumn takes a less romantic view and, whilst seemingly contemplating the passing of the years in his life, also strikes an eminently practical note.

How well I know what I mean to do
When the long dark Autumn evenings come,
And where, my soul, is thy pleasant hue?
With the music of all thy voices, dumb
In life's November too!

I shall be found by the fire. ...

Mollie Henham

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN when our friends' families busy themselves clearing their fields in readiness for the next maize sowing. Hopefully the rains will arrive in November. As in past years we may be able to provide the cooperative with seed, compound fertilisers and chemicals although prices have escalated. Photo shows artist Ignatious's wife Sarah with baby and daughter Faith hard at work.



HAPPINESS IS A WALKING STICK: Below photo shows a smiling Fortune standing outside his home – a wooden shed – holding his walking stick. He could not afford to buy one, so I managed to get an old stick with Fr David Harold -Barry's help. He is often in pain thanks to



Mugabe's thugs smashing his leg many years ago.

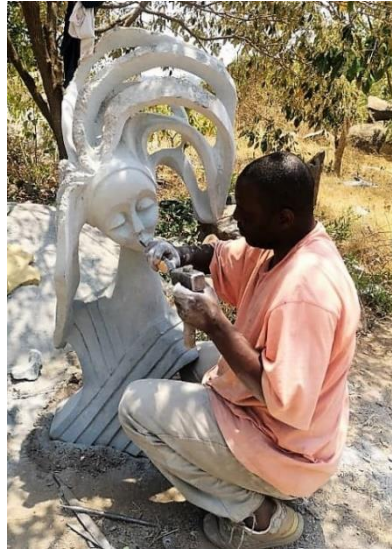


THANK YOU FROM HERBERT: 'Hie Everyone. Sincere thanks to the lovely people who donated after hearing I was attacked and robbed of my clothes, a few dollars and my phone by thieves armed with machetes. My



head wounds are healing although I still have problems but thanks to God I have survived. (see photo). Thanks also for the used mobile John sent over which is essential for my art.

‘SPIRITUAL CONNECTION’ is the name of Lovemore James’s two-metre-tall latest creation. He said: *‘Natural rocks and trees gives me more inspiration. I hear people singing and praying in*



the mountains calling for God's grace, so that's why I found a Serpentine stone asking me to make what I'm

seeing and hearing around me which is a Spiritual connection between God and his people. God sends his holy spirit to heal the sick and overcome evil spirits that torment his children.’

NEW SIDELINE: Artist entrepreneur Peter Kananji has another string to his bow. Thanks to a donation from a couple in the congregation which delighted Peter, he has now set up his own



small street vending business instead of working for someone else. He sells anything from sweets and drinks to toothpaste. He said: *I am starting small as I have to be very careful and check the price of goods from supplier as prices fluctuate every day and I can undercharge customers. It's tricky but I make a few dollars. I carry everything John so when I get tired I display my goods at the road side. However, if corrupt police pass through, I have to pay a bribe.’*

Peter must get exhausted as he still manages to turn out tremendous pieces of art and works hard in his field to feed his family of seven.

SALE ON SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER:

I have now accumulated quite a good selection of Artpeace sculptures ranging from frogs, tortoises, leopards, elephants, birds to figures – all unique.



This is a great opportunity to help our needy friends whilst solving the gift problem of what to buy for family or friends for Christmas. For further details see page 15.

Johnston Simpson

MESSY



The Sun



Recycling bottles to make mini greenhouses



Making a floral display



My painted glass jar



Sticking making a world picture



Science Experiment



This is what it is meant to look like

CHURCH



Leaf Printing



My flower arrangement



Look what I made

We were thinking about God's wonderful world. We talked about the Creation story and had activities using natural products. We cut the bottom off plastic bottles and planted seeds in them, then used the tops as a mini greenhouse. We painted recycled glass jars and added a light. All the children loved making beautiful floral arrangements and were so proud of their creations.

We tried leaf printing and made happy sun pictures with wobbly eyes. We had lots of different animals which even the youngest member, who was nearly two, enjoyed sorting and some of us made up stories involving animals.

As usual we finished with a meal. A very happy afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Anne Fitzgerald

ARTPEACE GATEWAY SALE – SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER.

Another opportunity to help support our friends in Zimbabwe. Our artists are growing in numbers which presents a wider choice of pieces to bring to St Andrew's. Ideally



the group prefer working with far larger stones as can be seen in the main article but nowadays, we are limited to the traveller's luggage capacity. Lovemore along with some of the more senior members of the group served their apprenticeships with the old first-generation sculptors whose talents were recognised in the

late 1950s by Frank McEwen, the director of the National Gallery of Art in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe), in order to encourage local African artists. McEwen first opened a studio for five painters, then a larger studio for many painters and sculptors. The workshop

was successful and attractive to Africans because he did not impose artistic theories on them or their works. Firmly believing that any formal teaching was inappropriate, he set instead an example of energy, enthusiasm, and criticism, teaching the artists to evaluate their own works. It is believed that Pablo Picasso may have been influenced by this art form. Some of these artists became world famous and



were listed in the top six – artists like Joseph Ndandarika, Bernard Matemera and Nicholas Mukomberanwa to whom a few of our artists were apprenticed. [I hope to be able to display a few examples of their masters' work on sale day.](#) Payment by cheque or cash only please and rest assured the artists will receive all sales money direct and within a few days. Photo top left shows 'Welcome' by Peter Kananji, next a 'Family Group' by Ticha Madhau and 'Leopards' by Simba Mabwe – all available for sale on the day. See you there!

Johnston Simpson

People Who Lunch Church Hall

12.30pm 11 November



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 very welcome and if you have not been before you might like to try it out this month. You will find yourself enjoying lunch in friendly company.

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.

A Note from the Minister Advent and Christmas

Advent Sunday this year is at the end of November – 27th November. It therefore falls just a few days before St Andrew's Day and shortly after we made our important decisions last year. I am, therefore, intending in our service to pick up all these themes as we begin a new year in the church's calendar and move into the ecclesiastical season of Advent.

Christmas Services' details will all appear in next month's magazine since Church Meeting has not yet approved them for inclusion this time. You may, however, wish to note that Dignity Funeral Services will be holding their annual, memorial Carol Service in our church on Monday 5th December at 6.00pm or 6.30pm (tbc). Anyone who would like to come and remember a loved one is most welcome – the funeral does not have to have been organised by Dignity, nor does it have to have been taken in this area. More details in the next magazine but since it will only be out a few days beforehand I thought it was a good idea to put in something this month.

(The service was previously held at Weybridge URC for a number of years and was much appreciated by those who attended.)

Holiday Memories

The article originally scheduled for this month has been delayed by illness. Following last month's article on an historic walk someone was kind enough to ask if any other similar walks were on offer. This particular trip took place (and was recorded) a few years ago although the writer and his family still make visits there. It requires a drive of about an hour from Weybridge/Walton into the Sussex countryside but the end result is an interesting experience involving both good food and exercise!

When we lived near Chobham many years ago the furthest point shown on the map in the local telephone directory was Wisborough Green. It seemed a long way away to be classified in the local call range. Some years later that apparently distant place was to become familiar territory when family members set-up home in a nearby village.

Wisborough Green, lying between Billingshurst and Petworth, is the quintessential English village. It is set around a green – hence its name – which apparently comes from the Saxon words 'wisc' (meaning a river meadow) and 'beorg' (a hill) with a duckpond (including an island duck-house) where small children regularly count the ducks and ducklings to check they are all there. It also has a primary school, a shop and post office, historic pubs, farms, a blacksmith's, a village hall and, on a hill watching over it all, the ancient church.

We sometimes have a family get-together over lunch or an evening meal at either The Cricketers' Arms or The Three Crowns. In the summer months at the first pub there is often a chance to watch a cricket match on the green whilst enjoying a meal and in winter you can warm yourself by its huge, old, double-sided, open fire. The latter pub has the benefit of a lovely garden and occasionally on summer evenings you can tuck-in to your meal in the open air whilst also watching

a film. Both pubs are very popular with the locals, which is probably the best possible recommendation!

On our most recent visit after lunch at The Three Crowns we decided to get some exercise and take a walk to explore the village. This started up the slope on the village green, going past the duck pond and leading first to the village hall. This building, which started life as a Poorhouse in the early 1700s, was once used as a doctor's surgery, public library and a local company office as well as accommodating a few flats. In the 1970s it was altered and extended to provide a larger space for the village hall. It houses many activities including Messy Church, a Toddler Group, coffee mornings, harvest supper, markets, numerous clubs and societies. There are also several outdoor activities such as sports clubs, fêtes, an annual lawn-mower race and hot air balloon festival. The diaries of Wisborough Green residents are obviously full!

Leaving the village hall and still climbing we entered the walled churchyard of the Parish Church of St Peter ad Vincula (St Peter in Chains). The earliest documents referring to the church are both dated 1227 and the list of vicars begins in 1273. The west end of the nave with its Norman windows and doors is the oldest part of the present building although it is likely there was an earlier Saxon church. The nave is substantial with walls 1.35m (4ft 6in) thick and it is thought that for a time it was a Norman keep guarding the weald and the River Arun which was an important means of transport. Some of the doorways (now internal) are, therefore, high enough for a soldier on horseback to ride through! By the time of King Henry I (1100-1135) it was once again a church. Next to the chancel arch there is a wall painting dating from the time of King John (1199-1216). At some point in the next hundred years or so it was covered over. This was probably in the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) when alterations were made to the chancel arch and the aisles were added. It was not until 1867 that the painting was re-discovered. The story is that two workmen involved in a major restoration of the church had an argument about a girl living in the village during which a stone was thrown dislodging the filling covering the painting!



A period of particular interest in the church relates to the Reformation when Henry VIII (1509-1547) ordered all stone altars to be destroyed and replaced by wooden tables. Rather than destroying their altar the parishioners took it on a cart to the nearby village of Loxwood where they hid the altar stone by disguising it as the chimney breast of the new vicarage then being built. When this vicarage was demolished in 1901 the stone was returned to Wisborough Green but was not restored to its old position for another 30 years. Now with the top covered by a plate of glass the original small consecration crosses scratched into the surface of the stone are still visible.

An effect of the Dissolution of the Monasteries was the removal of 'relics' in 1538. Small churches on the various pilgrim routes had raised money towards their upkeep with offerings from the pilgrims to the 'relics' of particular saints. At Wisborough Green the 'relics' claimed to include samples of St Peter's beard and hair, a comb of St James and a crystal cross containing '*a lytyll of our Lady's milk*'. A fascinating modern addition to the church is a beautiful tapestry made by local people (men, women and children) and unveiled in 1958 showing the life and history of their village.

Throughout its history the church has been adapted and extended to meet the needs of the time and the good news is that today it remains at the centre of village life. At one time the village was part of the manor of Bury which the Saxon King Edward the Confessor (1042-1068) gifted to the Abbey at Fécamp in Normandy and the vicar would then have been a Benedictine monk. Legend has it that one house, a forerunner of The Three Crowns, was called 'The Benedictine'. The arms of that Order include three crowns on a blue background which brings us back to the start of this walk through so many centuries of history.

Alex Henham

Floral Art

This lovely arrangement was on display in the church on 2nd October.



*Flowers donated by Norma Reid
in memory of her mother*

*If you would like to provide the flowers for
one Sunday please sign on the Flower Rota
in The Gateway.*

A Friend Remembered

Revd Derek Nuttall

Derek passed away in July 2020 during the Covid period but it was not until 24th September this year that a memorial thanksgiving was held.

Derek graduated from Overdale Theological College in 1965 and was appointed Minister at Falkirk Church of Christ in that same year. In 1966 disaster struck Aberfan in Wales resulting in the death of 116 people of whom 114 were children. This changed the direction of Derek's life as he was asked to become Minister in Aberfan following the tragedy and spent the next seven years helping the village to recover. At his memorial gathering we heard that his work is remembered to this day with testaments from survivors and family members of those lost.

Following on from his work in Aberfan Derek became Director of Cruse Bereavement Care and under his guidance Cruse grew and had 135 branches covering the whole of the UK. During this time he and his family moved to Addlestone where he became a member and Elder at Weybridge URC.

Derek retired from Cruse in 1990 and was awarded the MBE presented to him by our late Queen at Buckingham Palace. In that same year he answered the call and became Minister at Windsor URC where he stayed until 2003. On his retirement he moved to East Sussex where he continued to serve by taking services at many churches in area.

People came from all over the country to attend Derek's memorial thanksgiving – a testament to how loved and respected he was.

Peter Duncombe

Dates to Note

Artpeace Sale 6 November (see p15)

People Who Lunch 11 November (see p16)

Remembrance Sunday 13 November (see pp8&9)

Mencap Christmas Fair 13 November (see p11)

Memorial Carol Service 5 December (see p16)

PRAYER CORNER



All Saints Day – 1 November

Eternal God
of the living and of the dead
we give thanks for all those people
who by their love, their inspiration
and their kindness
have made the world a better place;
or have made us better people
by their influence and example.
We pray that we may honour them
and bring to our own times
whatever God asks of us. Amen
Susan Durber (URC Prayer Handbook 2012)



Remembrance Day – 11 November

Remembrance Sunday – 13 November

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish
and those whose names we will never know.
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world
and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.
As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope now and for ever. Amen
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Christ the King – 20 November

(Stir-up Sunday) The last Sunday of the Church Year.

Collects for the Day

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory. Amen

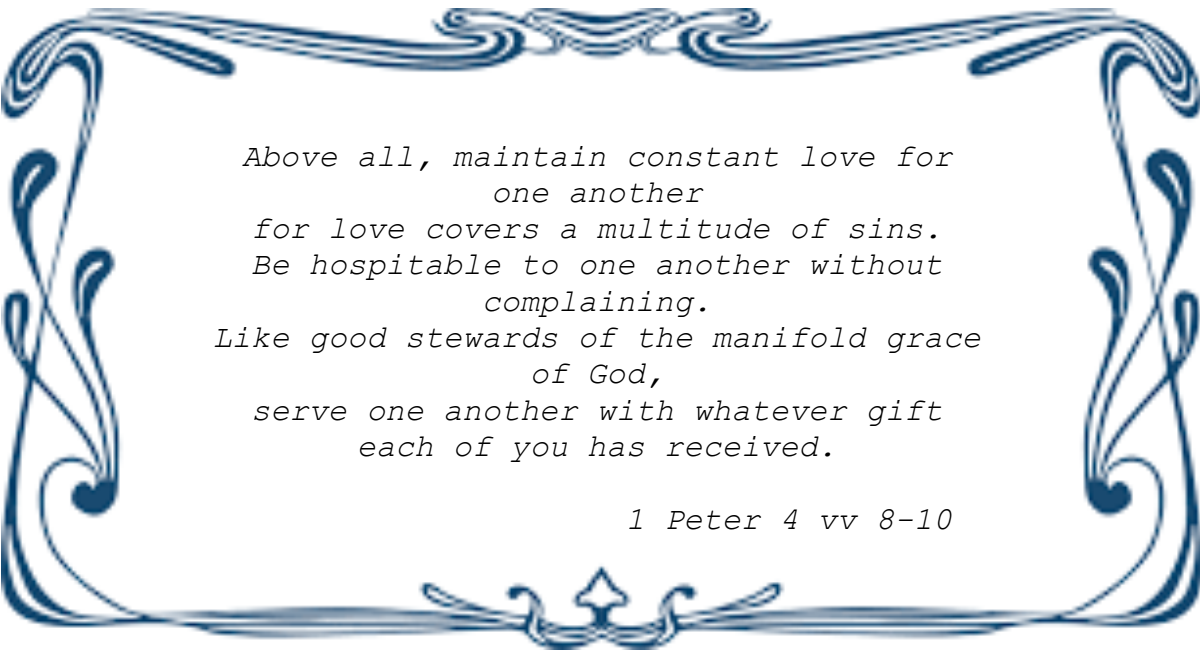
Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people,
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Common Worship C of E*

First Sunday in Advent – 27 November

You challenge us this Advent time
This season of preparation
To put aside our pride
And understand our need
For repentance, forgiveness and mercy
Less of self, more of you
Preparation for our journey
To the stable and beyond
Purify our hearts
Sanctify our lives
That we might serve you
Faithfully this day and all days.

Amen
John Birch (faithandworship.com)





*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

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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!